

# Botanical Tours



## 10. Mountain Aloe

*Aloe marlothii*

A single-stemmed aloe from the southern part of Africa, this robust species generally reaches six feet tall. As a mature plant, the height lifts the moisture-filled leaves out of the reach of browsing animals. It has many spikes on both the upper and lower sides of the leaves.

### Fun Fact

The flowers on this species are slanted in such a way that another name for the plant is “flat flowered aloe.”



## 13. Silver Thicket

*Euphorbia stenoclada*

This plant’s color depends on its location: green when growing in shade, silver when in full sun. Native to central Madagascar and the Mozambique Channel Islands, this succulent generally measures 6 feet tall, with some reaching 12 feet. Its name means narrow branch—a reference to the short, spine-tipped limbs.

### Fun Fact

Poinsettias are related to this plant—both belong to the genus *Euphorbia*.



## 11. Zig Zag Plant

*Didierea trollii*

Juvenile plants are a jumble of ground-hugging, spiny stems. As the plant matures, it produces more upright stems. The young, horizontal stems stake out a no-grow zone for other plants—meaning less competition for moisture. In its native Madagascar, this plant is part of spiny-forest thickets.

### Fun Fact

“Octopus plant” is another common name for this succulent.



## 14. Jeweled Aloe

*Aloe distans*

Long, trailing stems of blue-green leaves edged with golden “teeth” radiate from a central point. This sprawling succulent creeps along the ground and climbs over rocks or other obstacles. Held aloft on stems, tubular flowers form brilliant salmon-colored tufts that look like a fireworks display.

### Fun Fact

There are about 500 species of aloe known today, all well adapted to the arid environments they inhabit.



## 12. Welwitschia

*Welwitschia mirabilis*

Endemic to the coast of Namibia, this plant begins as a single pair of permanent leaves growing from a woody crown. As the plant grows, the two leaves spiral to many feet long while the crown stays at soil level. It requires regular watering, and is dioecious, meaning it has separate male and female plants.

### Fun Fact

One of the oldest living plants, some live to be more than 1,000 years old, lending to its nickname the Living Fossil.



## 15. Medusa's Head

*Euphorbia caput-medusae*

Named for the mythical being, the multiple, snakelike branches of this aptly named succulent grow from a central point, reaching, twisting, and sprawling across the ground. Horticulturists have created interesting hybrids of this species. They look a bit like sea stars and octopuses—look for them as you explore this garden.

### Fun Fact

In spring and summer, white flowers bloom on stalks rising from the ends of young branches.



# Old World Succulent Garden





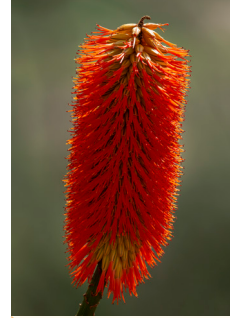
### 1. True Aloe

*Aloe vera*

Nearly stemless, this aloe can grow to about three feet tall. Like other aloes, it has a symbiotic relationship with a fungus, which helps the plant access soil minerals. Native only to the southwestern Arabian Peninsula, it is now cultivated all over the world.

#### Fun Fact

In ancient Egypt, aloe vera was revered as the “plant of immortality.”



### 4. Bottlebrush Aloe

*Aloe rupestris*

The leaves of this fast-growing aloe measure a little more than two feet long. In late winter, the rosette produces a 4-foot-tall candelabra-like inflorescence, which holds the 10-inch-long fluffy spikes of flowers this plant is named for. Native to South Africa, Swaziland, and Mozambique.

#### Fun Fact

What habitat does this species prefer? Spoiler alert: rupestris is Latin for “of rocky places,” which says it all!



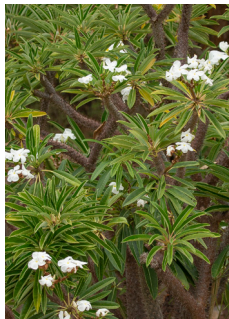
### 7. Eastern Cape Blue Cycad

*Encephalartos horridus*

Endangered due to habitat loss and over-collecting, this cycad belongs to an ancient group of plants. The stiff, sharp leaves give it a reputation—horridus is Latin for “bristly, dreadful, horrible.”

#### Fun Fact

Porcupines and baboons are the only mammals known to work around the ferocious fronds to feed on these plants.



### 2. Madagascar Palm

*Pachypodium lamerei*

This plant is a type of stem succulent—the “trunk” stores water, swelling greatly as it does so. There is some similarity to the leaves and flowers of plumeria, yet the plants are not related.

#### Fun Fact

The palm-like leaves are where the common name comes from. In Madagascar, local people call them Half Men, because they look like short humans from a distance.



### 5. Madagascar Ocotillo

*Alluaudia procera*

Although similar in appearance, this plant is not related to the ocotillo found in North America. The small size of the succulent leaves reduces water loss in the plant’s native, arid home on Madagascar. It can reach 50 feet tall, but 15 to 25 feet is more common.

#### Fun Fact

During winter and/or drought, it drops its leaves and photosynthesizes through its trunk, but leafs out as soon as rain falls.



### 8. Tree Aloe

*Aloidendron barberae*

Most people think of aloes as low growing plants, but this species can reach heights of 50 feet or more. It grows naturally in the eastern part of southern Africa. The blooms are pollinated by sunbirds, whose long, curved bills can reach the nectar better than other animals.

#### Fun Fact

There are no sunbirds in Southern California—hummingbirds fill the pollinator role in this garden.



### 3. Candelabra Tree

*Euphorbia ingens*

At maturity, this species can reach heights of 30 to 40 feet with a trunk diameter of 2 feet. Native to southern Africa, this plant’s spines and stinging sap are its defense. In some areas, humans plant candelabra trees close together to form a living fence as their branches intertwine.

#### Fun Fact

The Latin word euphorbus means “well fed,” aptly describing the fat, succulent appearance of many members of the genus Euphorbia.



### 6. Bullock's Bottlebrush Aloe

*Aloe tauri*

The gracefully curving leaves start out green, but “blush” red in extremely dry or cold conditions and in fierce sun. The red color becomes more vivid when the plant is stressed, such as during colder winter nights. Leaves grow in dense rosettes; inflorescence is a dense cluster that looks like a bottlebrush. Native to rocky outcroppings in southern Zimbabwe.

#### Fun Fact

The specific species tauri comes from the Latin taurus, meaning a bull.



### 9. Quiver Tree

*Aloidendron dichotomum*

Native to the rocky hillsides in the Northern Cape of South Africa and Namibia, this distinct tree aloe can soar to 20 feet (6 meters) tall. Its impressive 3-foot (1-meter) wooden trunk, adorned with a golden-brown hue and scaly texture, matures for 20 to 30 years before blooming with vibrant yellow flowers in December.

#### Fun Fact

The tree earned the name “quiver tree” as indigenous peoples fashioned quivers, or arrow holders, from its robust forked trunk for their arrows.