Naked Coral Tree
Erythrina coralloides
Native to eastern Mexico, this coral tree bears red flowers in the early spring when the tree is leafless, hence the name naked coral tree.

Coral trees are members of the pea family, Fabaceae, which is the third-largest land plant family.

Common Coral Tree
Erythrina lysistemon
Medium-sized, almost evergreen tree growing to 22 to 30 feet. Red flowers bloom January to June. Native to southern Africa.

Coral Tree
Erythrina steyermarkii
You might see this coral tree in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Venezuela. It was named in honor of Julian A. Steyermark for his research in tropical American botany.

This tree is famous; it was mentioned in a prestigious botanical publication as an outstanding specimen.

Showy Coral Tree
Erythrina berenices
This particular tree is over 30 years old. Native to Veracruz, Mexico, the species bears bright red flowers in late winter and early spring.

This tree is the largest known Erythrina brucel in North America.

Coral Tree
Erythrina brucel
This tree is endemic to Ethiopia and bears orange-red flowers from April through May when the leaves are present.

This tree is famous; it was mentioned in a prestigious botanical publication as an outstanding specimen.

Discover the secret to growing a coral tree from a bit of branch, by visiting this link: sd.gozoo.org/coral

Made possible through the generosity of The Daphne Seybolt Culpeper Memorial Foundation.
Red-hot Poker
*Erythrina abyssinica*

A small, deciduous tree with unique flowers that bloom April through May on bare stems. Native to Tanzania.

**FUN FACT**

Many coral trees bloom for several weeks or months. Yet, this species has a very short flowering period and you are lucky if you see it in bloom!

Cock’s-spur
*Erythrina eggersii*

This endangered shrub is native to Puerto Rico, the British Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The red flowers bloom with the leaves from March through April.

**FUN FACT**

The San Diego Zoo received its first cock’s-spur branch cutting in 2001 from Waimea Valley on Oahu, Hawaii.

**Match the numbers to the plant ID signs. The tour begins at Safari Kitchen, continues through Reptile Walk, past Wegeforth Bowl to Rio 4-D Theater.**

1. **Brazilian Coral Tree**
   *Erythrina falcata*
   Look for showy, drooping racemes of dark red flowers from April through June.
   
   **FUN FACT**
   The very rough bark of this species supports various orchids and air plants in their native home in South America.

2. **Coral Tree**
   *Erythrina tajumulcensis*
   
   The pinkish-red flowers of this species are unusually long and narrow and stand out among the foliage.

   **FUN FACT**
   This species was first described in 1970 from the slopes of the volcano Tajumulco, near the northern border of Guatemala.

3. **Immortel Coral Tree**
   *Erythrina coralloidendron*
   
   This species is native to the West Indies and was propagated from cuttings of a tree at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens.

   **FUN FACT**
   Not all coral trees are large trees. Some, like this species, grow as shrubs or short trees.

4. **Mountain Imortelle**
   *Erythrina poeppigiana*
   
   Native to Central and South America, this species is pollinated by perching birds. Through our DNA barcoding project, we’ve learned this is one of the oldest species of Erythrina.

5. **Guatemala Coral Tree**
   *Erythrina guatemalensis*
   
   As the name suggests, this species is native to, and occurs only in, Guatemala. The showy inflorescences stand above the foliage and have a coarser, bolder look to them than other American species.

   **FUN FACT**
   Some trees in the San Diego Zoo are moved when new exhibits are built. This particular tree was relocated from its old home in Urban Jungle for the building of Australian Outback.

6. **Cardinal Spear, Cherokee Bean**
   *Erythrina herbacea forma albiflora*
   
   Although most coral trees have red blooms, this form bears white flowers. This species is found from North Carolina to Florida and west to Texas and Mexico.

   **FUN FACT**
   This is one of only two coral trees native to the US. The other, *E. flabelliformis*, is found in southern Arizona, southwest New Mexico, and northern Mexico.

7. **Cock’s-spur**
   *Erythrina eggersii*
   
   The pinkish-red flowers of this species are unusually long and narrow and stand out among the foliage.

   **FUN FACT**
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8. **Immortel Coral Tree**
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   **FUN FACT**
   Not all coral trees are large trees. Some, like this species, grow as shrubs or short trees.

9. **Coral Tree**
   *Erythrina elenae*
   
   Native only to Cuba, this species is extremely rare. In 1980, Fidel Castro shared seeds with a nature park in Oahu, where they were sprouted and nurtured. This specimen came to us as a branch cutting from one of those trees.
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You might see this coral tree in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Venezuela. It was named in honor of Julian A. Steyermark for his research in tropical American botany.

Coral Tree
Erythrina brucei
This tree is endemic to Ethiopia and bears orange-red flowers from April through May when the leaves are present.

Common Coral Tree
Erythrina lysistemon
This species was introduced into Southern California before Erythrina caffra, however the latter is the type most commonly seen in parks and along freeways in the area today.

Coral trees from the New World, like this one, are pollinated by hummingbirds.

This tree is famous; it was mentioned in a prestigious botanical publication as an outstanding specimen.

This is the largest known Erythrina brucei in North America.

Exclusive Video
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