Fun Fact

11. Honeypot Dryandra
Banksia nivea

Most Banksia species produce elongated, cone-shaped flowers and can be made up of hundreds or thousands of individual flowers. Their flowers can be yellow, orange, red, green, violet, brown, and even multicolored.

Fun Fact

Banksias belong to the Proteaceae, the protea family, along with the famous proteas of South Africa.

15. Firewheel Tree
Stenocarpus sinuatus

This is another member of the Proteaceae and gets its common name from the scarlet flowers arranged in a wheel-like formation. A native of Australian rainforests, this tree makes a striking ornamental in coastal Southern California landscapes.

Fun Fact

14. Silver Princess
Eucalyptus caesia

A graceful, weeping mallee from southwest Australia, its beautiful dangling red flowers are pollinated by insects and birds. The silver coloring of its branches and stems gives this plant its common name. Many eucalypts will form lignotubers, woody growths at ground level, from which they can grow back after a fire or damage.

Fun Fact

The protea family contains almost 80 genera and about 1,700 species. The family is known for its unusual flowers. The family is named after Proteus, a Greek water god who was able to take many forms.

Fun Fact

10. Menzies' Banksia
Banksia menziesii

This beautiful, flowering tree provides nectar to many native birds. The sweet nectar was also used by Indigenous Australians to make delicious beverages for celebrations.

Fun Fact

Because they grow in areas of constant wildfires, many banksias need fire or heat to release their seeds. Watch this botanical wonder via the link inside.

Fun Fact

12. Lord Howe Island Tea Tree
Melaleuca howeana

This species is endemic only to Lord Howe Island, where it is found along cliffsides, ridges, and seashores, growing under harsh conditions. These conditions severely stunt growth, however in cultivated, protected settings, the plants can grow more than 12 feet tall.

Fun Fact

13. Pink Rock Orchid
Dendrobium kingianum

As noted by its common name, this orchid in nature is typically a lithophyte or epiphyte, which means it can be found growing on rocks or on other plants. The specific epithet kingianum refers to Captain Phillip Parker King, a naval officer and friend of the botanist John C. Bidwill who described and named this species.

Fun Fact

Once thought to be extinct, the Lord Howe Island stick insect was rediscovered in 2001. This species of Melaleuca is a key food source and habitat for this insect.

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Botanical Tours

Australian Outback
This tour begins at the totem poles in Australian Outback, next to the aviary, and continues to koalas, ending at the Queenslander walkway.

### 1. Red-Flowering Gum
*Corymbia ficifolia*

Covered by red blossoms, this flowering gum tree is well known as a spectacular street tree in Mediterranean climates. It was thought to be in the genus *Eucalyptus* until the mid-1990s, when it changed to *Corymbia*.

**Fun Fact**
Unlike most other eucalypts, the leaves of red-flowering gum are odorless and lack oil glands.

### 2. Little Kurrajong
*Brachychiton bidwillii*

This rare, small-growing tree is from coastal Queensland and New South Wales. Like most brachychitons, this tree flowers before the leaves emerge in the spring.

**Kurrajong** is a term Indigenous Australians used for several species of trees in the genus *Brachychiton*. The bark fibers of these species were used to make fishing nets, ropes, and baskets.

### 3. Red Silky Oak
*Grevillea banksii*

A coastal Queensland species with spectacular flowers, this plant has become a parent in the development of new colorful hybrid plants in the nursery trade. There is also a form that bears a white flower.

**Grevillea** is in the *Protaceae* or protea family with fellow Australian natives such as *Banksia*, *Hakea*, and *Macadamia*.
This tour begins at the totem poles in Australian Outback, Australian natives such as Protea family with fellow fishing nets, ropes, and baskets.

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1. Red-Flowering Gum
   Corymbia ficifolia
   This species is native to the subtropical rainforests of eastern Australia. The leaves emerge bright red and gradually turn green. It is listed as rare by the Australian government, as it is limited in distribution.

4. Honeybush
   Hakea lissocarpha
   This species is native to southwest Australia, and produces a mass of white to pink flowers in winter. It can regenerate from its underground root structures after fires.

The strong, sweet scent and profusion of flowers make this plant very popular with pollinators.

5. Honey-myrtle
   Melaleuca densa
   Honey-myrtles and paperbarks belong to the Myrtaceae or myrtle family. The species within this family are separated by two distinct growth habits: tree forms known as “paperbarks” and the smaller forms known as “honey myrtles.”

The Melaleuca genus is predominately endemic to Australia, with a few species extending as far as Southeast Asia. The family is comprised of roughly 300 species and a number of cultivated varieties.

6. Long-leaved Tuckeroo
   Cupaniopsis newmanii
   This species is native to the subtropical rainforests of eastern Australia. The leaves emerge bright red and gradually turn green. It is listed as rare by the Australian government, as it is limited in distribution.

This species is in the Sapindaceae or soapberry family, the same family as carrottwoods, maples, horse chestnuts, and lychees.
7. Queensland Kauri  
*Agathis robusta*

A species from two locations in Queensland (Atherton Tableland and Fraser Island), this towering coniferous species is threatened by extensive logging.

Kauris are part of an ancient group of trees once found worldwide. However, these trees disappeared from most of the Northern Hemisphere.

8. Cluster Fig Tree  
*Ficus racemosa*

The figs on *Ficus* trees are usually produced singularly, meaning one fig per attachment to stem or trunk. However, in *Ficus racemosa*, the figs are clustered together along the trunk, an unusual characteristic.

This tree is a staple food for numerous birds, animals and butterfly larvae who feed on the fruit and leaves.

9. Blue Hibiscus  
*Alyogyne huegelii*

This shrub is a member of the *Malvaceae*, or hibiscus family. Like many species within this family, the flowers last for just one day. Over the course of the long blooming season, blue hibiscus will produce hundreds of flowers.

The specific epithet *huegelii* was named in honor of Charles von Hügel, an Australian botanist who botanized in parts of Australia between 1833 and 1834.
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