



## San Diego Botanic Garden Launches Smartphone App with Medicinal Plant Self-Guided Tour

*The app features an interactive map along with hundreds of plants found throughout the property, including highlights from SDBG's new Medicinal Plant Garden*

SAN DIEGO (June 3, 2024) – [San Diego Botanic Garden \(SDBG\)](#) announces the launch of its first [smartphone app](#) designed to help visitors find their way around the Garden's 37-acres and deepen their connection with SDBG's medicinal plant collection through a self-guided tour.

"Since launching the Medicinal Plant Project in 2022 with funding from The Conrad Prebys Foundation and the Dickinson Family Foundation, we have worked collaboratively with our partners, to create the first medicinal plant collection and research consortium of its kind in the United States. While most of that work has been done behind the scenes in laboratories and nurseries, we hope that the launch of this app will offer guests a deeper understanding of plants and their medicinal uses throughout history, and the opportunity to explore the Garden in a new way," said SDBG Director of Medicinal Plants Research Ben Naman, PhD.

As many as 40% of all drugs found in modern pharmacies today are directly or indirectly derived from plants. Yet, the rate of plant-based drug discovery has declined in recent decades, in part due to lack of readily available medicinal plant collection resources. The Garden's App, featuring the Medicinal Plant Self-Guided Tour aims to educate and expand this conversation around both traditional and modern uses of plants from around the world.

The SDBG App currently showcases a **Medicinal Plants Self-Guided Tour** across .7 miles highlighting some of the 2,000 known medical plants within the Garden, and features stops at 16 different plant locations. Highlights include **Foxglove, Skyflower, Rosemary, Prickly Pear Cactus, Aloe, Pink Jasmine, and Anna Apple**; Medicinal Plants of California such as **Lemonade Berry, Jojoba and Torrey Pine**; along with internationally-sourced plants including **Natal Plum** (South Africa), **Mānuka or New Zealand Teatree** (New Zealand), **Guinea Flower** (Australia), **Ephedra** (Mediterranean Region), **Mexican Cardinal Flower** (Mexico), **Grape Leaf Passion Flower** (Central America & tropical South America), and **Elephant Tree** (Madagascar). Details on the medicinal uses of each plant, including the pharmaceutical development of some of them, are found on the SDBG App, along with accessibility features like audio recordings in both English and Spanish. By enabling GPS tracking while in the app, visitors can be alerted to different stops along the tour in real time. Plants are also labeled with a green icon for ease of locating.

Additional useful features include a PDF map of the entire Garden and its 29 unique, themed gardens and glass conservatory, all set along a 4-mile trail. Garden areas include the largest children's garden on the West Coast and North America's largest public bamboo collection, along with geographically-themed gardens, including Mexico, South America, and South Africa. Points of interest are also identified on the map, including the iconic Toni's Tree House, Bamboo Pond, Overlook Tower, and more. Amenities including the Gift & Plant Shop and the Cork Oak coffee cart can also be found on the map, along with locations for restrooms, shuttle stops, drinking fountains, and more.

The development of the SDBG App and Medicinal Plants Self-Guided Tour is made possible by The Conrad Prebys Foundation, the Dickinson Family Foundation, and other philanthropic donors.

More tours and features will be added to the app in the future as a way to continually enhance guest learning experience. The SDBG App is available to download for free in the [iTunes App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#). For more information on San Diego Botanic Garden, please visit [www.sdbg.org](http://www.sdbg.org).

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#### **About San Diego Botanic Garden:**

Established in 1970, San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) is a 37-acre urban oasis located in Encinitas, California, just north of San Diego. The Garden's four miles of trails and 8,000 square foot glass conservatory display more than 5,300 plant species and varieties. A premiere institution for botanical science and conservation, SDBG is actively involved in conservation horticulture, botany, and applied plant sciences to address our biggest local and global challenges, from biodiversity loss to climate change, food insecurity to environmental degradation. SDBG has the largest public bamboo collection in North America; gardens representing different regions and flora of the world; and demonstration gardens showcasing fruits and vegetables, water-smart ornamentals, and native plants. Through an array of educational programming, events and activities for both children and adults, the Garden aims to create, share, and apply plant wisdom to the world. Learn more at [sdbg.org](http://sdbg.org). | FB [@SDBotanicGarden](#) | Instagram [@sandiegobotanicgarden](#) | Twitter [@SDBGarden](#) | TikTok [@sandiegobotanicgarden](#)