

THE DESERT DOME

SELF-GUIDED TOUR



MAP OF DESERT REGIONS AND SHOWCASED PLANTS

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| ■ A. MADAGASCAR: Alluaudia | ■ E. MEXICO: Ponytail Palm |
| ■ B. CANARY ISLANDS: Aeonium | ■ F. SONORAN DESERT: Saguaro |
| ■ C. SOUTHERN AFRICA: Pencil Plant | ■ G. BAJA DESERT: Boojum Tree |
| ■ D. SOUTH AMERICA: Peruvian Apple Cactus | ■ H. CHIHUAHUAN DESERT: Sotol |

Details on the reverse side.

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A: MADAGASCAR

- ALLUAUDIA (*ALLUAUDIA PROCERA*)

Alluaudias only grow on the island of Madagascar. Even though they are covered in sharp spines, lemurs are able to climb them, jump from branch to branch, and eat their tiny leaves.



B: CANARY ISLANDS

- AEONIUM (*AEONIUM ARBOREUM 'ATROPURPUREUM'*)

These succulents look like little daisy flowers, but the “petals” are actually their leaves. When they do bloom, it is a spike of little yellow flowers.



C: SOUTHERN AFRICA

- PENCIL PLANT (*EUPHORBIA TIRUCALLI*)

This tree euphorbia is very sculptural but is also very poisonous. When it is cut, it bleeds a milky latex that can make skin burn and blister, and cause temporary blindness and damage eyes.



D: SOUTH AMERICA

- PERUVIAN APPLE CACTUS (*CEREUS PERUVIANUS VAR. MONSTROSUS*)

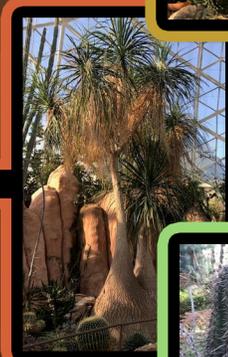
In most plants, new growth starts at one point at the tip of the stem. But in a monstrose form, like this Peruvian apple cactus, all different parts of the plant try to grow at once, making it look lumpy and crinkled.



E: MEXICO

- PONYTAIL PALM (*BEUCARNEA RECURVATA*)

These trees are part of a unique, dry forest ecosystem in eastern Mexico. Their wide, round bases store water.



F: SONORAN DESERT

- SAGUARO (*CARNEGIEA GIGANTEA*)

Our biggest saguaro is made of metal because our oldest living specimen is approximately 16 years old and very small. Saguaros must be at least 50 years old to start forming their first “arm.”



G: BAJA DESERT

- BOOJUM TREE (*FOUQUIERIA COLUMNARIS*)

This plant is known for its curious growth form. It usually produces a single, thick trunk covered in twiggy, thorny branches, and can grow up to 70 feet tall.



H: CHIHUAHUAN DESERT

- SOTOL (*DASYLIRION WHEELERI*)

Sotols are found in both the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts, and are grown in many places for their ornamental value. They are dioecious, meaning that each individual will be either male or female. Here in the dome, we have one of each.



EACH DOME HAS A UNIQUE TOUR CARD! PLEASE RETURN TO RACK WHEN FINISHED.