



Gardens of San Diego and Anza Borrego Desert extension April 5-10, 2018 and extension to April 13

Take a break from the usual and enjoy Southern California in its most delightful season. Join host Susan Mahr, Wisconsin MG Program Coordinator, on a special trip back to her hometown for great scenery, mild temperatures, and world-class attractions!

Thursday, April 5 [D]



After arrival at San Diego's Lindbergh Field, you may enjoy optional visits to area attractions such as Old Town San Diego, a state park and the original center of the city with historic buildings, a real haunted house and old cemetery, plus lots of shops; the historical Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá; or other locations (time permitting,



depending on arrival times) before our tour starts with a visit to a private, uniquely San Diego garden set on a hillside with several levels and a lot of steps (over 300) followed by tonight's welcome dinner at The Tequila Factory in Old Town (or similar).

Friday, April 6 [B T]

We start the day with a big breakfast at The Mission restaurant, then spend the day in Balboa Park, one of the most lushly planted urban parks in America, with stately rows of palms, forested lawns, and ever-changing floral displays enhancing this public resource. There are about 15,000 trees on approximately 1,200 acres in the Park, which includes the San Diego Zoo which we visit this morning. The Zoo is famous not only for its pandas



and other rare animals, but also for the luxuriant and diverse tropical and subtropical landscaping. The rest of the day is free to visit other horticultural attractions in Balboa Park, including the Conservatory and adjacent lily pond, Japanese Friendship Garden and plantings of exotic succulents, and for those who wish, some of the many museums in the Park. In the late afternoon we'll have tea at nearby Extraordinary Desserts. If you still have room later that evening, explore the diverse restaurants of the Gaslamp District or nearby Little Italy, a hip foodie

destination.



Saturday, April 7 [L D]

We start the day at the Little Italy Mercato Farmers Market where you'll have time to peruse the more than 200 vendors covering five blocks (or enjoy coffee or breakfast in a local café instead). Then we attend the San Diego Horticulture Society's annual spring garden tour to see several private gardens in the Encinitas area north of the city. This evening we'll enjoy a pre fixe multi-course dinner (menu changes weekly, with choices

for each course) at the Wine Vault & Bistro (or similar).

Sunday, April 8 [B D]

This morning we enjoy brunch before driving north again – going through a section of Torrey Pines State Park with its eponymous endemic trees, *Pinus torreyana*, found only here and on one of the Channel Islands – on our way to the San Diego Botanical Garden in Encinitas, boasting the country's largest bamboo collection,



plus more than 35 acres of California natives, exotic tropicals, palms, cacti, and other unusual collections.



The afternoon includes a visit to Mission Trails Regional Park where indoor displays and short interpretive trails provide an introduction to the native chaparral habitat that used to cover

much of San Diego County. There will be time to relax at our hotel before dinner at Ironside Fish & Oyster in Little Italy (or similar).

Monday, April 9 [L D]

Today we focus on the coastal environment as we visit the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla. Keeping with the fishy theme,



for lunch we'll head south and enjoy what might be San Diego's signature dish, the fish taco, at Rubio's, a chain started in Mission Bay in 1983, considered "the Godfather of the fish taco". Then it's on to Cabrillo National Monument in Point Loma – where Juan Cabrillo, the first European to set foot on



the west coast, first sighted the point in 1542 – for the spectacular view of Coronado Island and San Diego's harbor and downtown skyline framed by the Cuyamaca mountains, as well as native coastal sage scrub habitat along the Bayside Trail. Our farewell dinner will be at the acclaimed Juniper & Ivy which offers refined



American cuisine with unique iterations of the classics (and a constantly changing menu depending on seasonal, local ingredients) (or similar).

Tuesday, April 10 [L D]

Depending on your departure flight, there may be time for additional stops on your own before you head home. Or begin the optional **DESERT EXTENSION:**



This morning we head east, first stopping at The Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon, a compact public demonstration garden with award-winning exhibit designs, themed sections and how-to displays on nearly six landscaped acres adjacent to Cuyamaca College. Then we experience the diversity of ecosystems in eastern San Diego County, as we go through chaparral up into the oak woodland forests, pines and

creeks of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park in the beautiful Laguna Mountains. We'll stop for lunch in the picturesque town of Julian, renowned for its apple pie, and then continue down the winding, boulder-strewn Banner Grade to the Imperial Valley floor and Anza Borrego Desert State Park, California's largest state park. We explore this stark and wild country in the eastern side of San Diego County this afternoon, taking a short hike on the Cactus Loop trail to see ocotillo, beavertail, barrel, fishhook and other cacti and then on the Park Visitor Center where indoor displays and outdoor gardens provide an introduction to this unique habitat. Then we head to our accommodations at the Borrego Springs Resort Golf Club & Spa where you can relax by the outdoor pool or just enjoy the stunning views of the Santa Rosa Mountains before dinner on site.



Wednesday, April 11 [B L D]

Today we start with an optional 3.25 mile loop hike in the cool of the morning to a natural oasis of California fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*) with a chance to see the endangered native bighorn sheep that often come down to drink in the pools of water there. Later that morning we drive past

the Salton Sea and into the Coachella Valley in Riverside Co., where irrigation has transformed the desert into one of Southern California's most important agricultural regions, producing dates, table grapes, citrus, vegetables and other crops. We'll enjoy lunch at Shields Date Garden in Indio where you can learn about this unusual crop. This afternoon we tour The Living Desert, a remarkable combination garden, zoo, and natural history museum dedicated to the flora and fauna of the desert. In late afternoon we'll arrive at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage



where you can enjoy two outdoor pools (with full-service outdoor WetBar), visit the casino, or just relax until we enjoy dinner at the onsite *The Steakhouse*, a Wine Spectator award winning restaurant.



Thursday, April 12 [B L D]

This morning we drive over the coastal range to Temecula, San Diego's wine country. You'll have some time to explore the quaint western Old Town and enjoy a tasting of locally-produced olive oil before lunch at one of the best area wineries, followed by wine tasting there. Then we return to the city for our final farewell dinner at Dobson's Bar & Restaurant (or similar).



Friday, April 13

Depending on your departure flight, there may be time for additional stops before you head home. Contact Susan or Kari for suggestions.

Itinerary and restaurants subject to change.

Tour Guide: Susan Mahr semahr@wisc.edu

Susan Mahr has degrees in Biology and Entomology and has been the state coordinator for the Master Gardener Program in Wisconsin for nearly two decades. As part of her responsibilities there, she has lead numerous educational tours to Costa Rica, New Zealand and South Africa, and has hosted garden-related tours for HTT to Italy and New Zealand. In addition to leading tours, she has also done extensive personal travel throughout the world, especially to see plants in habitat. Susan is also an avid gardener, with personal interests that include tropical plants, vegetable gardening, bulbs and perennials.

<p>Pricing – Main Tour \$2,400/per person based on double occupancy +\$575 single supplement</p> <p>Optional – Extension Tour \$1,500/per person based on double occupancy +\$250 single supplement</p>	<p>Included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodations • Entry fees to gardens and parks • Meals and beverages as specified • Tour transportation (beginning with private garden visit on April 5 and concluding with return to hotel on April 9 or April 12) • Gratuities for drivers during tour
<p>Contact Info Hidden Treasures Tours, L.L.C. 6324 N Chatham Ave #333 Kansas City, MO 64151 573-303-2872 (p) kari@hiddentreasurestours.com hiddentreasurestours.com</p>	<p>Not Included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flights • Travel Insurance • Meals other than those specified • Alcoholic beverages other than those included with particular meals • Airport transfers • Personal expenses



Please select one: _____ San Diego – April 5-10 OR _____ San Diego & Extension – April 5 -13

Passenger Information Please record name **EXACTLY** AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT and attach a photocopy to this registration form. Passport photocopy may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

TRAVELER 1

Name _____

Passport # _____ Passport Exp. Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home and/or cell) _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone _____

TRAVELER 2

Name _____

Passport # _____ Passport Exp. Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home and/or cell) _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone _____

ROOM ARRANGEMENTS

- Single Room (*Single supplement fee will apply*)
- Double Room (Roommate: _____)

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: EACH TOUR REQUIRES A MINIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TO BE VIABLE. PLEASE DO NOT BOOK FLIGHTS UNTIL TRIP IS CONFIRMED.

Please mark your preferred travel arrangements:

____ I will make my on airline reservation/arrangements

____ I would like Hidden Treasures Tours to arrange airline reservations from the following airport and bill me for the airfare. Departure Airport: _____

OPTIONAL BOOKINGS:

- Yes, please book additional nights at the arrival hotel prior to the start of the tour ____ # of additional nights
- Yes, please book additional nights at the departure hotel at the conclusion of the tour ____ # of additional nights
- Please contact me to make other custom arrangements

PAYMENT INFORMATION (deposit \$1,000 per person)

If paying by check: make payable to *Hidden Treasures Tours, L.L.C.*

Amount \$ _____ check no. _____

If paying by credit card we will assess an additional 3.5% surcharge

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Amount to be charged \$ _____ 3-digit security code from back of the card _____

Signature _____

Final payment is due 90 days prior to trip departure. A full refund will be given up to 90 days prior to the departure date, minus a \$250 administrative fee. There are no refunds within 90 days of trip departure as all invoices have been paid in full at this time on a non-refundable group rate basis.

Hidden Treasures Tours reserves the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances. This trip is custom designed and very inclusive with no hidden costs. Mail this form and direct inquiries to:

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