**The Gardens of Balboa Park**

**HOURS**
The Balboa Park grounds are open 24 hours a day, the Visitors Center is open 9:30am to 4:30pm daily, and museum hours vary by institution. The Botanical Building is open 10am-4pm Friday through Wednesday, closed Thursdays and holidays.

**FREE PARK TOURS**
Explore the park's rich history, spectacular architecture, and botanical wonders during a one-hour walking tour led by a Park Naturalist. Meet the Visitors Center staff on Tuesday at 11am. Meet at Visitors Center.

**CUSTOM TOURS**
Book a one-hour custom tour of the Central Mena. Fees apply, large groups can be accommodated. Advance reservations required by contacting tours@balboapark.org.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCE**
San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation | sdbgf.org San Diego Horticultural Society | sdhs.org San Diego Floral Association | sdflora.org

**VISITOR CENTER**
(619) 235-0913 1565 15th St Balboa Park San Diego, California 92101
info@balboapark.org

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Balboa Park was first established in 1888 as a 1,400-acre parcel called City Park. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the first two plantations began on the West Mesa and in the Golden Hill area. In 1915, the park was renamed after Spanish explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa.

The central area buildings, landscape, and Cabrillo Bridge were developed as part of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition to commemorate the opening of the Panama Canal. Preparation for the 1935 California Pacific International Exposition brought new buildings and landscaping to the park. Closed for military use during both World Wars, the park has undergone extensive renovation and reconstruction in recent years.

Balboa Park now boasts 20 distinct garden landscapes, ranging from the historic Botanical Building and award-winning H.E. Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden on the Central Mesa to the California Native Plant Garden on the park’s East Mesa and the Marston House Garden on the West Mesa. Use this guide to explore some of the most breathtaking gardens in the region.