

Botanic itinerary around the thematic gardens of Montjuïc



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Montjuïc, Barcelona's mountain

Montjuïc is more than just a rocky sierra that rises up from the sea giving the city of Barcelona a unique silhouette. It is a place full of meaning for the people of Barcelona, a silent witness to their history and a reflection on the city's commitment to nature, history, sport and culture. Montjuïc is the symbol of its citizens' ability to survive and face challenges and difficulties. In recent decades, it has gone from being considered a cursed mountain (from where popular movements in the city were spotted and suppressed) to being a source of pride for the people of Barcelona, one of the most emblematic locations in the city's heritage, the result of their ability to envisage and materialize new worlds. The 1992 Olympic Games brought Montjuïc into the international limelight.

The many labels that Montjuïc has received over time (the city's ancestral site, its essence, its green crown...) illustrate its central position in the collective imagination.

**Montjuïc,
the ancestral
site of
Barcelona**

At the beginning of the Miocene epoch, millions of years ago, a collapse of the coastline caused the sea to invade the low-lying areas of the coast. Later, a tectonic shift occurred, rising up to form the mountain of Montjuïc, and at the end of the Tertiary period, the sea transformed the mountain into an island. Quaternary sediments from the erosions transported by torrents and rivers, swept along by the sea current, slowly settled on the seabed. The contour of the coastline gradually changed as the land reclaimed area from the sea. Over time, the plain of Barcelona was formed.

**Montjuïc,
the essence
of Barcelona**

The mountain of Montjuïc contributed in retaining these sediments due to its location, consolidating its presence as the ancestral site on which Barcelona would be built. Montjuïc has now become home to an important collection of gardens, museums, and sporting and leisure installations.

Due to its geologic richness, the mountain was exploited by several stone quarries from the times of the Iberians and the Romans, right up to 1957, when stone quarrying was finally stopped. Montjuïc and its stone quarries are bound to the history of a city that has arisen and grown at its feet; they would supply Barcelona with stone until the 1950s and a good part of the buildings in the old Ciutat Vella quarter and in the Eixample were built with stone from the mountain.

**Montjuïc,
the green
crown of
Barcelona**

Currently, there are more than twenty different parks and gardens scattered across Montjuïc, which illustrate a chapter of Barcelona's urban and landscaping history with their diversity. The mountain's location, contour and its geomorphology, as well as the various interventions that have taken place in the past, have given rise to an extensive variety of habitats, currently home to a wide diversity of flora and fauna. There is a remarkable assortment of plants, both indigenous and from other bio-geographical regions of the planet, that make up green spaces with different levels of intervention, ranging from pastures and small wooded areas to very unique gardens. The magnificent collection of green spaces that you can discover on Montjuïc, together with the mountains of Collserola, make up one of the city's main greenbelts.

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The botanical trail around Montjuïc

Discover Montjuïc	The botanical trail around the mountain of Montjuïc recommends a route for visitors around its main gardens. It uses the existing paths to enable visitors to discover the mountain's ecological, landscaping, geographical, archaeological, historical and cultural values.
Live and enjoy the mountain	The aim is to (re)discover Montjuïc as the city's living heritage, full of experiences and fun.
Allow yourself to be guided	Discover the trail on your own, following the signs posted along the route. You can also check out updated information on Medi Ambient website (www.bcn.cat/mediambient) and on different media: mobile phones, informative billboards found in the gardens and leaflets...
Personalise the trail to suit you	There are a wide range of resources and materials before, during and after the trail, which will enable you to get the best out of your visit according to your profile and interests.
Share the experience	You also have the chance to exchange your impressions and experiences with other visitors, sharing your knowledge.
Let your senses go wild	The six sections of the trail (Porta de Montjuïc, Hortes de Sant Bertran and Forestier's Stairs, Jardins de Mossèn Costa i Llobera, Jardins de Miramar and Cami dels Cims, Jardins de Joan Brossa, and Jardins de Mossèn Cinto Verdaguer) allow you embark on a rich and interesting adventure. At the end of the trail, you can obtain more information about other visits to other parks and gardens.

Technical considerations for following the trail using a mobile

Be led by your mobile	Visitors can be guided through the trail with a mobile phone using a number of options according to the specifications of their phone.
Use QR codes	If you have a camera phone and an Internet connection, you can receive trail information on your phone by using the QR codes shown on the informative billboards along the trail. To access this information, you need a QR reader that can be downloaded free from the Internet or by using your smartphone's application store. Once you have accessed the reader, take a photo or zoom in on the QR code to decode it. Finally, open the link shown to view the information for the section of the trail selected.
Download the application	If you have an iPhone or a smartphone with Android OS, you can download the "rutesbcnverda" application free from the App Store or from Android Market.
Learn and investigate	The mobile application will guide you through the trail, showing your position on a map and giving you information about the different routes, the points of interests and the plant species found along the trail.
Follow the quest and test your knowledge	You can participate in the quest, answering the clues given along the different routes of the trail. Finally, you can take part in a quiz to test your knowledge of what you have seen.



Botanic itinerary around the thematic gardens of Montjuïc

Map

Route 1
Porta de
Montjuïc

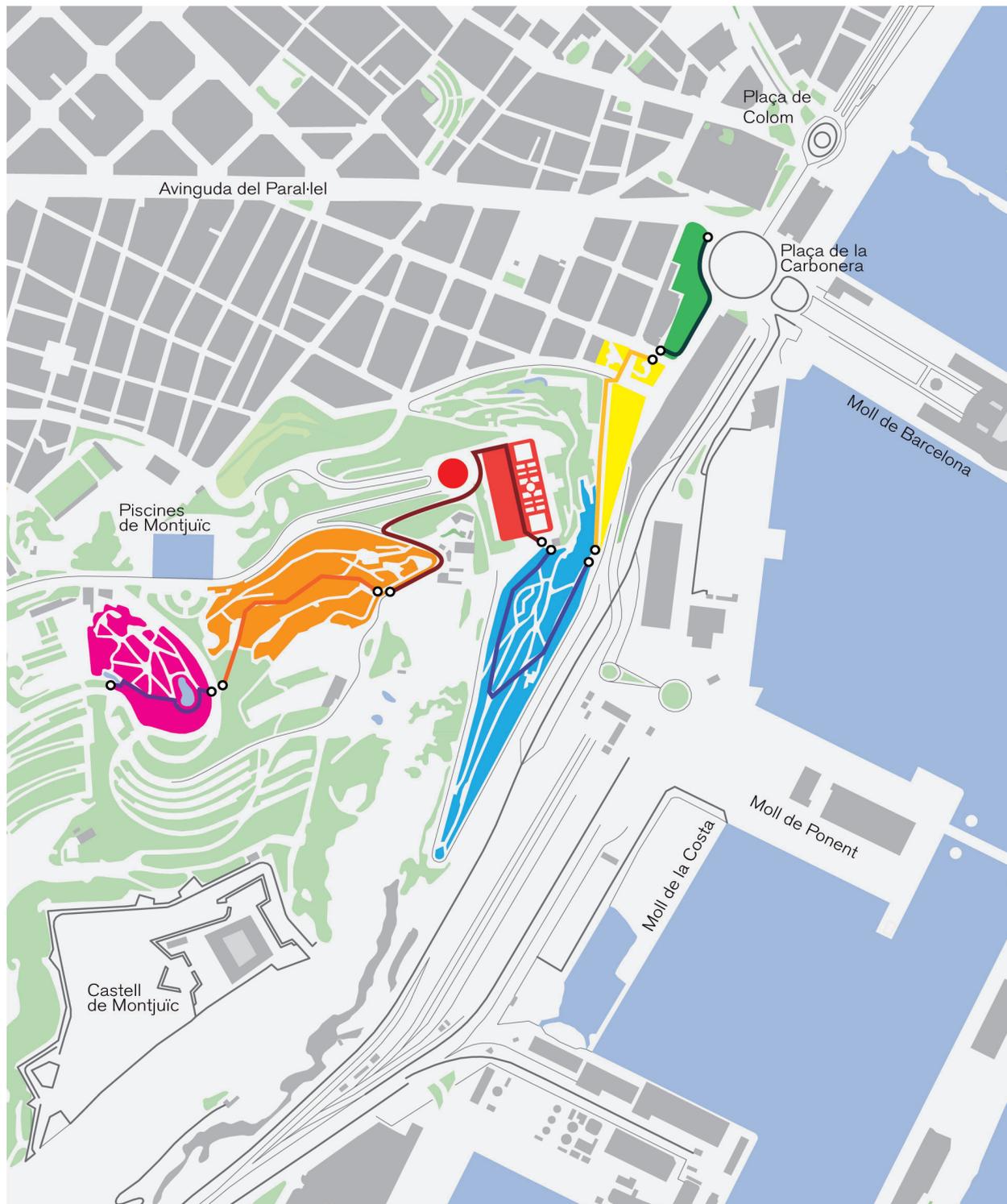
Route 2
Hortes de Sant
Bertran and
Forestier's
Stairs

Route 3
Jardins de
Mossèn Costa
i Llobera

Route 4
Jardins de
Miramar and
Camí dels Cims

Route 5
Jardins de
Joan Brossa

Route 6
Jardins de
Mossèn Cinto
Verdaguer



Botanic itinerary around the thematic gardens of Montjuïc



Route 1 Porta de Montjuïc

Distance
250 m

Average time
25 min

Garden opening times
All day

Starting point
Avinguda del Paral·lel with Plaça de les Drassanes. This route can also be accessed from Carrer de Vila i Vilà, following the trail in reverse order.

Points of interest
The biodiversity of the gardens of Montjuïc

The trail starts at the junction between Avinguda del Paral·lel and Plaça de les Drassanes. On the right, you can see the entrance to the harbour breakwaters, overlooked by the sculptures *Ones (Waves)* by Andreu Alfaro, and *La Carbonera (The Coal Bunker)* by Pedro Barragán.

The grassy area that opens the trail contains a number of interesting foreign trees, for example, the floss silk tree and white floss silk tree, from South America. Montjuïc is particularly rich in plant species, both in indigenous (parasol pine, carob, evergreen oak...) and exotic (*Jacaranda*, Indian fig, Mexican agave...) specimens.

If you go on a little further, you reach the Gardens of Walter Benjamin, also known as Porta de Montjuïc (Montjuïc Gate). It is a small shady area consisting of three tree-lined squares, with four small stone pyramids distributed throughout the gardens. There is a fountain with a stone basin in the central area, which was originally part of the Avinguda de la Reina Maria Cristina, designed by the landscape architect Jean-Claude-Nicolas Forestier. The fountain was transferred to its current location in 1980. The distribution of the vegetation and the benches invite visitors to meander through the gardens, pausing along the way to rest.

At the end of the clay path that crosses the gardens, you can find some trees that are common in Barcelona — Mexican palo verdes, Judas trees and black locusts.

This route finishes on Carrer de Vila i Vilà, just in front of Hortes de Sant Bertran, the start of the next section.

Route 2 Hortes de Sant Bertran and Forestier's Stairs

Distance
350 m

Average time
30 min

Garden opening times
All day

Starting point
Carrer de Vila i Vilà, near the Gardens of Walter Benjamin. This route can also be accessed from Passeig de Montjuïc, following the trail in reverse order.

Points of interest
Forestier's stairs

The route starts at Hortes de Sant Bertran, a garden that is located in the old vegetable gardens around the chapel of Sant Bertran, no longer in existence today. The vegetation is predominately Mediterranean: trees (holly oak, parasol pine) and shrubs (strawberry tree, mastic, buckthorn). Climbing up, you reach the Mirador del Poble-sec park, consisting of terraces. Here you will find climbers, such as Chinese wisteria and blue passion flowers, and deciduous trees, like *Jacaranda* and Japanese pagoda trees.

The route continues along the Passatge de les Bateries until reaching a majestic set of steps designed by the French landscape architect Jean-Claude-Nicolas Forestier (1861–1930). He was responsible for some of the best gardens in Barcelona dated from the beginning of the 20th century (Laribal, Amargós...). Together with his protégé Nicolau Rubió i Tudurí (1891–1981), he created a new style of Mediterranean garden inspired in the ancient Moorish gardens (terraces, ponds...) that influenced landscaping in Barcelona at that time. The stairs, conceived by Forestier as a way of accessing the maritime section from Miramar for the International Exhibition of 1929, have been hidden by the construction of the Ronda del Litoral ring road, which acts as a barrier between Montjuïc and the sea.

Almost at the end of this route, you can find some deciduous trees, like the Brazilian coral tree, used in city gardening for the shade it provides and its spectacular flowers, and the coarse and resistant common fig. This route finishes at one of the gates of the Gardens of Mossèn Costa i Llobera, the starting point for the next section of the trail.

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Route 3 Jardins de Mossèn Costa i Llobera

Distance
700 m

Average time
50 min

Garden opening times
From 10 am until
nightfall

Starting point
Passatge de les Bateriaes. You can also access this garden from Carretera de Miramar and from the Mirador de Miramar viewing point, located in Plaça de l'Armada, following the trail in reverse order.

Points of interest
Mirador de la Puntaire viewing point, Unique species, Succulent plants

The starting point for this section of the trail is the entrance to the Gardens of Mossèn Costa i Llobera at the end of the Passatge de les Bateriaes. It is the most exotic garden in the city, perched on a cliff, containing one of the most extraordinary collections of succulent plants and cactuses in Europe.

On the first part of the route through this garden, you can see an African fig tree and a Mexican fan palm. When the path splits into three, if you continue along the central path, just before reaching the Mirador de la Puntaire viewing point, there is a tree aeonium and a resin spurge. Taking its name from the sculpture *La Puntaire (The Lacemaker)* by Josep Viladomat which is located there, this point of observation gives a breathtaking panoramic view of the port of Barcelona and El Morrot sea cliff. El Morrot is a sheer crag surviving from the old stone quarries. It has been colonised by Mediterranean and foreign vegetation, which are prized for their richness in fauna, especially birds.

Descending from the viewing point and returning to the path, you come across a group of unique plants (Sago cycads, old man cactus...) and a little further on, several specimens of golden barrel cactuses, one of the most cultivated cactuses in the world. In the central square, you find some varieties of succulents that range in colour, shape and size, and with spectacular flowering. It is an enchanting spot that transports us to far-off desert climes.

The route finishes at the top of the steps where there is a door that goes to the Gardens of Miramar, the start of the next section of the trail.

Route 4 Jardins de Miramar and Camí dels Cims

Distance
800 m

Average time
45 min

Garden opening times
All day

Starting point
At the end of the Carretera de Miramar. The route can also be accessed from Avinguda de Montjuïc, following the trail in reverse order.

Points of interest
The plain of Barcelona

The route starts at a wide public esplanade in front of Hotel Miramar, an old palace originating from 1929. At 60 m above sea level, the Mirador de Miramar viewing point provides a panoramic view of the city and the port of Barcelona. The centre of the garden contains a fountain, a point to which three feminine sculptures face: *Fertilitat (Fertility)* and *Serenitat (Serenity)* by Josep Clarà, and *Pomona* by Pau Gargallo. The vegetation in this area includes a number of ombus, catalogued as Local Trees of Interest.

Following the path parallel to the hotel, you can find a number of peach trees, *Dombeya tiliacea*, ladies of the night, cherry plums, avocado trees, angel's trumpets, *Phymosia umbellata*, luckynut... This small tree-flanked terrace finishes with a magnificent Russian olive, with its trunk and branches almost touching the ground, and an African tamarisk, a common shrub near torrents and rivers close to the sea. The path flows out onto another balcony, a magnificent viewing point looking out over the plain of Barcelona.

Plaça de Carlos Ibáñez has been developed as a landscaped roundabout, with some specimens of beefwood and a tunnel that frees up the gardens from the traffic. Climbing the steps or walking up the ramp, continue along to the start of the Camí dels Cims, a panoramic walk that leads to the other side of Montjuïc and enables visitors to access the west slope of the mountain. Once you have crossed the Carretera de Montjuïc and passed the turn, you will come across oleanders and a group of *Polygala myrtifolia* at the entrance to the Gardens of Joan Brossa where the next section of the trail starts.

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Route 5 Jardins de Joan Brossa

Distance
350 m

Average time
25 min

Garden opening times
From 10 am until
nightfall

Starting point
Carretera de
Montjuïc, near
Plaça de la
Sardana. The
route can also
be accessed
from Carrer
dels Tarongers,
following the trail
in reverse order.

Points of interest
The riparian
plants

The path of this section of the trail starts at the entrance to the Gardens of Joan Brossa. On the left, you can see the monument *La Sardana (The Sardana Dance)* by Josep Cañas, located in Plaça de la Sardana, in front of the Mirador de l'Alcalde (the Mayor's viewing point).

Just inside the entrance to the gardens, there are some perennials, such as *Hylotelephium telephium* or native hops, and a little further in, a group of riparian plants. Continuing along the path and going down the stone steps on the right, you will reach an area previously occupied by the Álvarez de Castro gunpowder magazine and, more recently, the Tunnel of Terror attraction of Montjuïc's former fairground. A metre-thick by seven metres wide wall still remains from that old gunpowder magazine, which nowadays displays a visual poem. The space has musical games that form part of a collection of instruments and experimental acoustic devices. The vegetation is mainly Mediterranean: walnut, narrow leaf ash, downy oak...

A little further on, you arrive at a wide-open space with a bronze sculpture that pays tribute to the clown, previously in the fairground. The last stretch of this route contains plants from the Middle East (date palm), the Far East (Korean velvet grass), Europe (wild olive tree) and America (Monterey cypress).

The route finishes at gate of the garden found on Carrer dels Tarongers, just in front of the gate going to the Gardens of Mossèn Cinto Verdaguer, the starting point for the next section of the trail.

Route 6 Jardins de Mossèn Cinto Verdaguer

Distance
550 m

Average time
35 min

Garden opening times
From 10 am until
nightfall

Starting point
Carrer dels
Tarongers, in front
of the Gardens of
Joan Brossa. The
main entrance is
at the crossroads
between Avinguda
de Miramar
and Carrer dels
Tarongers, but
they can also be
accessed from
Carrer del Doctor
Font i Quer. The
trail can be done in
reverse order.

Points of interest
Aquatic plants,
Bulbous plants

The route starts at the grassed area in front of the park's pond. Following the path, there are both deciduous trees (such as Bolle's poplar) and evergreen trees (pineapple guava and bull bay), and a particularly noteworthy specimen, the maidenhair tree, of Chinese origin.

Near the sculpture *Noia dels Lliris (Girl of the Lilies)* by Ramon Sabí, the garden opens up onto a wide stairway that has terraces on both sides, with small, interconnected basins containing a host of aquatic plants (pickerel weed, great water plantain, water lilies...). At the top of the stairs, there is a small pond with a bald cypress. You can cross the pond over the wooden bridge and continue your visit to other interesting areas of Montjuïc such as the Tres Pins Nursery, the Gardens of Petra Kelly or the Botanical Gardens. Returning to this garden, you will find foreign deciduous trees and some indigenous trees from riverside woods, such as the black poplar.

The route finishes at the main gate of the gardens, out onto Carrer dels Tarongers where you can see the coat of arms of Barcelona city, planted with seasonal flowers, mainly bulbs. Large bull bays surrounding the bed, which create a spectacular image when in bloom at the end of spring. Together with the aquatic plants, the bulbous plants are another major attraction of this thematic garden.

From the main gate of the garden, the last section in the trail, you can continue on to other spaces, such as the Gardens of Laribal, the Acclimation Garden, the Gardens of Teatre Grec, the Gardens of Joan Maragall, the Historical Botanical Gardens or the Foundation Joan Miró.

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List of species

Route 1

Porta de Montjuïc

Very common

Cercis siliquastrum (Judas tree)

Common

Parkinsonia aculeata (Mexican palo verde)

Robinia pseudoacacia (black locust)

Unusual

Ceiba insignis (*Chorisia insignis*) (white floss silk tree)

Ceiba speciosa (*Chorisia speciosa*) (floss silk tree)

Route 2

Hortes de Sant Bertran and Forestier's Stairs

Very common

Arbutus unedo (strawberry tree)

Ficus carica (common fig)

Jacaranda mimosifolia

Quercus ilex (evergreen oak)

Common

Styphnolobium japonicum (*Sophora japonica*) (Japanese pagoda tree)

Styphnolobium japonicum (Japanese pagoda tree)

Unusual

Erythrina falcata (Brazilian coral tree)

Route 3

Jardins de Mossèn Costa i Llobera

Very common

Aeonium arboreum (tree aeonium)

Brachychiton acerifolius (Australian flame tree)

Ceratonia siliqua (carob)

Chamaerops humilis (dwarf fan palm)

Euphorbia candelabrum

Ficus rubiginosa (littleleaf fig)

Grevillea robusta (Australian silky oak)

Opuntia ficus-indica (Indian fig)

Punica granatum

(pomegranate)

Syagrus romanzoffiana (queen palm)

Washingtonia robusta (Mexican fan palm)

Yucca guatemalensis (giant yucca)

Common

Agave salmiana var. *ferox*

Alluaudia ascendens

Bauhinia forficata (cow's foot)

Brahea armata (blue fan palm)

Butia capitata (jelly palm)

Cereus forbesii

Cleistocactus strausii

Cylindropuntia tunicata

Dasyliiron serratifolium

Echinocactus grusonii (golden barrel cactus)

Echinopsis spachiana (golden torch)

Hechtia texensis (false agave)

Kalanchoe behariensis

Oreopanax nymphaeifolius

Pachycereus marginatus (Mexican fence post cactus)

Sabal bermoudana

Wigandia urens var.

caracasana

Unusual

Cyphostemma juttae

Dracaena drago (dragon tree)

Euphorbia resinifera (resin spurge)

Ficus cyathistipula (African fig tree)

Strelitzia reginae (bird of paradise)

Xanthorrhoea glauca

'Bedford' (blackboy)

Route 4

Jardins de Miramar and Camí dels Cims

Very common

Broussonetia papyrifera (paper mulberry)

Casuarina cunninghamiana (beefwood)

Cestrum nocturnum (lady of the night)

Cydonia oblonga (quince)

Nerium oleander (oleander)

Phytolacca dioica

Prunus cerasifera 'Pisardii' (cherry plum)

Prunus persica (peach tree)

Tamarix africana (African tamarisk)

Common

Abutilon striatum 'Thompsoni'

Brugmansia arborea (angel's trumpet)

Diospyros kaki (Chinese persimmon)

Elaeagnus angustifolia

Sambucus nigra (black elder)

Persea americana (avocado tree)

Polygala myrtifolia

Vitex agnus-castus

(chasteberry)

Unusual

Dombeya tiliacea

Montanoa heracleifolia (daisy bush)

Phymosia umbellata

Lophostemon confertus

(brush box)

Tecoma stans (trumpet bush)

Thevetia peruviana (luckynut)

Ziziphus jujuba (Chinese jujube)

Route 5

Jardins de Joan Brossa

Very common

Fraxinus angustifolia (narrow leaf ash)

Olea europaea subsp. *europaea* (wild olive tree)

Phoenix dactylifera (date palm)

Platanus X hispanica (London plane)

Common

Cupressus macrocarpa

(Monterey cypress)

Juglans regia (walnut)

Miscanthus sinensis (eulalia)

Quercus pubescens (downy oak)

Unusual

Achillea millefolium (milfoil)

Dodonaea viscosa (native hops)

Hylotelephium telephium

Persicaria amplexicaulis

Petasites fragrans (winter helitrope)

Phyllis ericoides

Zoysia tenuifolia (Korean velvet grass)

Route 6

Jardins de Mossèn Cinto

Verdaguer

Very common

Acca sellowiana (pineapple guava)

Broussonetia papyrifera (paper mulberry)

Cedrus deodara (deodar cedar)

Ginkgo biloba (maidenhair tree)

Magnolia grandiflora (bull bay)

Olea europea (olive tree)

Pinus pinea (parasol pine)

Populus alba var. *pyramidalis* (Bolle's poplar)

Populus nigra (black poplar)

Quercus ilex (evergreen oak)

Quercus suber (cork oak)

Common

Styphnolobium japonicum

'Columnaris' (Japanese pagoda tree)

Unusual

Poncirus trifoliata (hardy orange)

Taxodium distichum (bald cypress)

www.bcn.cat/mediambient



Establiment: 0,46 €.
Cost/mini: 0,06 €.
Tèxtils per seorsos.
IVA inclòs.



Ajuntament de Barcelona