

Summer

# Welcome to the coastal botanical garden of Saint-Jean-de-Luz



Your tour begins in this Botanical Garden, an alluring home for plants of many broad and varied species. The Garden has other missions :

**Education** : whatever the season, our garden is host to a varied public and their individual interests, some being dedicated gardeners, teachers, pupils, and botanists. Our goal is to enhance the public's awareness on biodiversity and its connections to sustainable development, as well, it offers an important and diverse field of resources for specialists.

**Conservation** : the team in charge of the Botanical Garden investigate and participate in managing the most important vegetal and animal biotopes encountered on the Basque oceanic littoral.

- 1 - Magnolias
- 2 - Plants from the five continents
- 3 - "From tree to boat"
- 4 - Useful-plant garden
- 5 - Wanderers' class & countryside hedges
- 6 - Atlantic oak grove
- 7 - Seaside moor
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- 9 - Cliff-hanging plants
- 10 - White dune
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- 14 - Pergola
- 15 - Gardeners' school
- 16 - Botanical maze
- 17 - Seaside pine & oak grove

### PICTOGRAMS ON GREEN LABELS (natural and local environment plants)

	Medicinal plant		Poisonous plant (all or some parts)		Plant used in the building industry
	Edible plant (all or some parts)		Endemic plant (only grows in a fixed Geographic area)		Plant used for making tools
	Decorative plant		Protected plant		Other mankind uses

Enjoy your visit !

## A collection from the five continents (point n° 2)

On your way, look at a plant coming right from geological times! The **tree fern** (*Dicksonia antarctica* Labill.), featuring a frond foliage. When they die, these fronds form a fake trunk, hence offering the tree fern the capacity of reaching 15 meters in height.

Just consider the ferns have been present on the planet Earth for more than 300 million years; they are a fascinating living world in themselves and address our imagination.

## Useful-plant garden (point n°4)

Plants are regrouped according to their main usages :

- *the aromatic plants* : rich in flavourings, they are mainly used to cook and for the healing properties of their essential oil
- *the medicinal plants* : they are plants with benefits to human and animal health ; they are used in infusion, by skin application etc.
- *the vegetable plants* : they are intended for human feeding
- In this last area, several kinds of plants are mixed : plants which permits to make natural dyes (*the tinctorial plants*), the ones which are useful to weave clothes or ropes (*the fibre plants*) and *the “witches’ plants”* which may have magical properties.

In the collection, you will see the **“consoude”** (common comfrey, *Symphitum officinale* L.) : originated in Europe and Asia, this beautiful perennial plant, all covered with a rather stiff hair, grows in damp surroundings and ditches. The *consoude* was attributed the power to knit and set together fractured bones – hence the name « *consoude* » (*meaning : knitted together*). If applied as a cream, this plant will soothe painful burns and bruises, speed up wound healing.

The **lavender** (*Lavandula officinalis* L.) is a well-known aromatic plant. Its name derives from latin *lavare* – meaning *to wash*. During Roman times the lavender was already in use to make bath and linen smell nice.

There are many a use for the lavender such as perfumery, pharmacy (antiseptics, sedatives ...), or cuisine. This plant is also useful in a garden: its ornamental flowers attract pollinating insects and its fermented extract offers insect-repellent properties.

## Wetland (point n°12)

Damp grounds play a major environmental role in water resource regulation and purification, as well as in water level control. Likewise, these grounds are key factor to wildlife well-being.

A pond is easy to create in one’s garden. Put in a little patience and soon you’ll see many species - both vegetal and animal – set up quarters in and around. Maybe will you even be able to listen to the mating calls of toads

## The Gardens Heights, from the wooden panoramic viewpoint

Enjoy the amazing view over to the ocean for a while : to the left, beyond the border with Spain, is Mount Jaizkibel (elevation 543 meters) ; to the right, you can see Biarritz’s lighthouse.

## The White dune (point n°10)

Here, plants undergo very harsh life conditions up front the ocean : they are exposed to winds, salt, sun and blasting sand.

Plants have to take roots and draw water deep from a sandy ground. Their foliage is grey, thick or downy : these are protective features allowing plants to fight against a very aggressive environment.

## The maze of botanical families (point n°16)

Since back in the Antiquity, men have kept sorting out the vegetal world, considering variable characteristics such as usages, creeds, morphologies .... Today, plants are being classified according to genetic criteria. Progress in classification gives way to better understanding life evolution.

While losing your way into the botanical maze, give it a try at comparing plants of similar families : morphologies, leaves, flowers, fruit.

## Pine and oak grove (point n°17)

Making it out of the maze, walk the path located at the foot of the *pine and oak grove*. Alongside that path, have a look at some *cork oaks* (*Quercus suber* L.). Its bark is used to manufacture corks and also finds other applications as in insulation and decoration.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST

AND KIND VISIT!

(give us your impression on survey)