

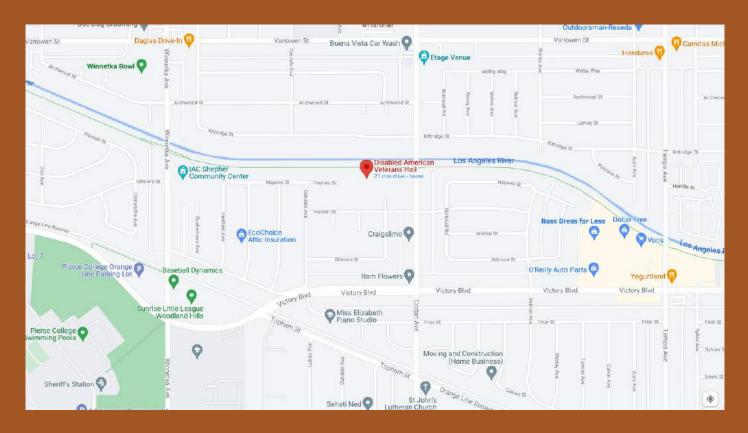
LACSS MONTHLY MEETINGS, WILL BE HELD IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM EVERY FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH MEETING START TIME: 7PM, HOST WILL OPEN ROOM AT 6:30PM JANUARY MEETING : JANUARY 6TH 2022

DETAILS INSIDE!

LACSS JANUARY MEETING 1/6/22 DOORS OPEN 6:30PM

Disabled American Veterans #73 facility

6543 Corbin Avenue Woodland Hills 91367 Corbin Ave. is between Tampa and Winnetka Blvds. The facility is between Victory and Vanowen Streets. It is safest to approach the facility from Vanowen, to the north.



From Vanowen, turn south onto Corbin Ave. Go across the LA river bridge and turn right at the second driveway. The first driveway is an access road to the river – don't go there.

There is plenty of parking so please respect the "DAV Members Only" spaces next to the north fence.

Walk toward the building and enter the facility through the open double doors.

SEE YOU SOON!

MESSAGE PRESIDENT

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PAST YEAR:

On reflection, this has been a pretty good year. 2020 brought many challenges, providing us with a series of trials, errors, and successes. By 2021, we had a rhythm and a process that only needed a bit of tweaking every now and then. We learned ZOOM and held our monthly meetings and Saturday sessions feeling a bit smug with our newly learned skills. Our three main features (Speaker, POM, and Saturday Educational) thrived with great variety and good humor.

Ron Behar (VP-Programs), not only scheduled six local and five in-state speakers, he spoiled us with six out of state speakers, and, for dessert, three international speakers!! Sandy Chase (Education Director) was on top of her game and provided our Saturday (I know, sometimes it wasn't Saturday!) attendees (also Zoom) with eleven fantastic programs featuring four local presenters, two in state, four out of state and one out of country!!!

POM did not skip a beat. Zoom plus photos, coupled with Kyle's amazing descriptions and Manny's commentary, was very successful. From the first time to the last time, you could see the photo skills improving! Kimberly will have more details elsewhere in the Chronicle. The things we missed the most would be the Freebie table, the Raffle and the Library.

AND NOW BACK TO OUR FUTURE:

Recently, several clubs have successfully held in-person meetings and we now feel comfortable to try it ourselves. This will be very exciting for all of us. Our home base still is not open to the public. They are using all of their space to stage their huge food bank and meal distribution program. They recently won an award for their programs and we are quite proud of them for that. There is more information regarding the particulars for our January meeting on a separate page of this Chronicle.

The most important changes include: a different, temporary venue, in-person POM, more parking, a simultaneous zoom presentation of our in-person meeting, and door prizes rather than a raffle. Six of our regular vendors will be available for your convenience.

- Make sure you wear your name tag. If you haven't received your name tag, it will be available for you to pick up at the Membership table.
- Enter through the double door. Sign the member register book. Receive a double ticket. Separate the tickets and place one in the container in front of the **DOOR PRIZE** item that you wish to win. Save the other half for the drawing.
- A facial covering is required. Hand sanitizer will be provided.

THINGS THAT WILL NOT BE HAPPENING: NO FREEBIE PLANTS. NO ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY.

If you checked out a library book at one of our previous meetings, please return it at this meeting.

The past two years have been a challenge for the world. I think we have not only survived, but thrived, learned new things and became stronger. It is not good to be complacent.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year and look forward to really seeing you at the January 6, 2022 meeting!

Joyce

PLANT of MONTH 2 0 2 1 STATISTICS





OVERALL POINTS

PARTICIPANT	TOTAL POINTS (INCLUDING ENTRIES)
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE	62
JOHN VAN UNEN	57
EMILY + JOHN GIESING	55
RON BEHAR	55
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN	44
RON COOPER	40
GRETCHEN DAVIS	38
FREDDIE + JONICE	36
DAVID VALERA	34
BARBARA + KENT BUTTERWORTH	25
BRYAN CHAN	25
MANNY RIVERA	23
CANDE FRIEDMAN	17

PARTICIPANT	TOTAL POINTS (INCLUDING ENTRIES)
NICK STEINHARDT	13
BARBARA HALL	12
BONNIE IKEMURA	11
KIMBERLY GOMEZ-TONG	9
AL MINDEL	8
NILS SCHIRRMACHER	7
SANDY MASUO	7
EVAN WALSH	5
FELIPE DELGADO	5
JULIAN GALLARDO	5
ANDREW POWERS	1
KEVIN KREUCHER	1
NICOLO RUSCONI	1



COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN COPIAPOA HYPOGAEA

JOHN VAN UNEN MAMMILLARIA SP. STRAIGHT SPINE

BARBARA HALL PELARGONIUM ALTERNANS



FREDDIE + JONICE ANDERSON BOOPHANE DISTICHA



EMILY AKERS + JOHN CIESING CONOPHYTUM PELLUCIDUM

GRETCHEN DAVIS CRASSULA MESEMBRYANTHEMOPSIS

JOHN VAN UNEN EPITHELANTHA MICROMERIS

DAVID VALERA AZTEKIUM RITTERI

CACTI POINTS

SUCCULENT POINTS

PARTICIPANT	TOTAL CACTI POINTS
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN	23
JOHN VAN UNEN	22
EMILY + JOHN GIESING	18
GRETCHEN DAVIS	16
RON BEHAR	15
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE	13
RON COOPER	11
DAVID VALERA	11
CANDE FRIEDMAN	8
NICK STEINHARDT	8
KIMBERLY GOMEZ-TONG	7
BARBARA + KENT BUTTERWORTH	6
BARBARA HALL	5
BRYAN CHAN	3
BONNIE IKEMURA	3
EVAN WALSH	3
FELIPE DELGADO	3
JULIAN GALLARDO	3

PARTICIPANT	TOTAL SUCCULENT POINTS
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE	30
EMILY + JOHN GIESING	22
JOHN VAN UNEN	18
BRYAN CHAN	17
DAVID VALERA	11
BARBARA + KENT BUTTERWORTH	10
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN	9
MANNY RIVERA	9
FREDDIE + JONICE	7
RON COOPER	6
GRETCHEN DAVIS	6
BARBARA HALL	5
NILS SCHIRRMACHER	5
RON BEHAR	4
CANDE FRIEDMAN	3
SANDY MASUO	3



EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING ARIOCARPUS RETUSUS

JIM ESTERLE ROXIE EUPHORBIA GROENWALDII

GRETCHEN DAVIS DYCKIA MARNIER LAPESTOLLE



JOHN VAN UNEN CYPHOSTEMMA CURRORII

FEROCACTUS CYLINDRACEUS

BRYAN + MARY CHAN DYCKIA TRACKING CODE 9D

DAVID VALERA ARIOCARPUS RETUSUS VAR. ELONGATUS



BONNIE IKEMURA CREMNOSEDUM SP.

COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN ASTROPHYTUM MYRIOSTIGMA

POM Online Policies

AS LACSS CONTINUES ITS ONLINE MEETING FORMAT FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, SOME SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS IN THE PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH (POM) COMPETITION HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BEGINNING FEBRUARY, 2021. WE HOPE THESE CHANGES WILL MOTIVATE MORE MEMBERS TO COMPETE IN THIS LONG-STANDING EDUCATIONAL TRADI-TION. BESIDES, IT'S REALLY FUN TO GET YOUR PLANTS READY FOR THEIR CLOSE-UPS.

• SUBMISSIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 2 CACTUS AND 2 SUCCULENT SUBMISSIONS PER PERSON.

• WINNING POINTS WILL BE RECORDED AND ACCUMULATED FOR PRIZES AWARDED AT OUR YEAR-END HOLIDAY PARTY IN 2021.

• COMPETITION DIVISIONS (ROOKIE, NOVICE, ADVANCED, AND OPEN) WILL BE JUDGED TOGETHER, AS THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PLANTS FOR A COMPETITION IN EACH DIVISION.

• ONE POINT WILL BE AWARDED FOR EACH ENTRY, AND WINNERS IN THE CACTUS AND THE SUCCULENT AREAS WILL BE AWARDED 3 POINTS FOR 3 RD PLACE, 4 POINTS FOR 2ND PLACE, AND 5 POINTS FOR 1ST PLACE.

• PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO OUR CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR : **NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM** BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING THE COMPETITION IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE JUDGING.

• MANNY RIVERA WILL SELECT THE WINNING CACTUS AND SUCCULENT BASED ON THE PHOTOS, TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE MEETING.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS ACTIVITY!

PLANT ^{Of} the MONTH 2 0 2 2

JANUARY Frailea Adromischus

FEBRUARY Monotypic Senecio, Othonna

MARCH Mammillaria Clusters Aloe Clusters

APRIL Ecobaria, Acharagma Aizoceae Thickened Roots

MAY

Cacti staged as miniature Succulent staged as miniature (Diameter of pot NO LARGER THAN 2")

> **JUNE** Favorites

JULY Discocactus Dyckia

AUGUST Thelocactus-Hamatocactus Bursera

> SEPTEMBER Gymnocalycium Euphorbia Millii type

> > **OCTOBER** Astrophytum Sanseveria

NOVEMBER Variegated Variegated

DECEMBER Holiday Awards Party

MEMBER BADGES

Member badges are available for pick up at our first in-person meeting. Please see Membership table!



Μ Δ Ρ L Ε С 0 M Ε Ν Т Δ R Υ С S S AR Α Α R L Ρ С U Т Е Υ В Ν 0

Greetings CSSA Affiliate Clubs,

As you may know, the CSSA publishes a quarterly e-newsletter "To The Point". Currently, a complementary copy of 'To The Point" is available to the public free of charge.

> **CLICK HERE TO ACCESS** AND RECEIVE A COMPLEMENTARY **COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER.**

Thank you, MA Bjarkman Co-chair, CSSA Affiliate Committee



on Alice En Wood, Man

tiret Armstrong, and Elzada C s and in the

TO THE POINT

Research Committee Awards Grant

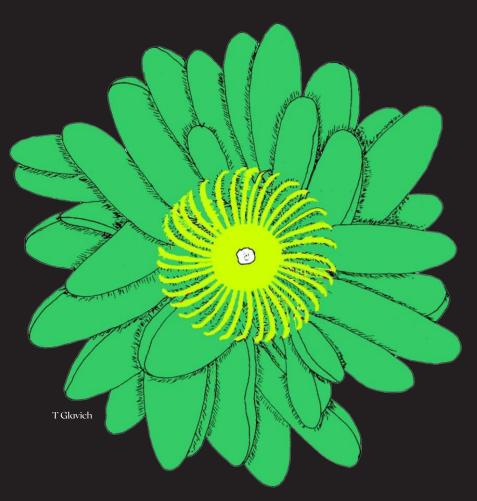
ante Co

SA. D ti and other su macted by natu Given the ant frai CSSA Calendar of Events Full details and updates CSSA Calendar

its 2021

* TO THE POINT + SALL + SRD QUARTER 2021

27th Annual San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale



Glottiphyllum oligocarpum

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, 301 N BALDWIN, ARCADIA

HOURS: 11 AM - 5 PM

SALE FEBRUARY 4 – 6 | SHOW FEBRUARY 5 – 6

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

ADVANCED PURCHASE REQUIRED ONLINE AT WWW.ARBORETUM.ORG

ARBORETUM MEMBERS FREE

CASH REGISTERS OPEN AT 8:30AM

WWW.SGVCSS.COM

EXPEDITORN TOURUPDATES

Dear Friends,

First and once again, I would like to wish that everyone is in good health, and hopefully vaccinated or soon to be! I am sure this pandemic has touched the lives of everyone in so many ways, and like me, I think many of you have felt at times like it will never end and things may never be normal again.

Despite the challenging situations experienced during the pandemic, we were able to organize a tour to Baja California in May 2021, and Northwestern Argentina in November 2021. All participants were vaccinated (a requirement for joining my tours from now on), and everyone felt very safe. There was minimum contact with people outside of the tour group, and we just had to follow local protocols/guidance at hotels, shops, and restaurants. While in the field and inside the bus, we truly enjoyed our lives without a mask!

I know many are/were concerned about "variants" - Are the many new variants more dangerous? From what I have read there is no evidence that any of the new variants cause any more serious illness than the original strain of Covid, for most people who become infected. AND if you are vaccinated, you are PROTECTED (it reduces your risk of getting Covid, and from getting seriously ill if you do). Please do consider a booster for extra protection if you are traveling or are starting to have a more open social life.

Please find attached list of planned and confirmed tours for 2022, plus potential future tour offerings!

continues next page>

I would really like to guide a tour to Ecuador in January-February 2022 but looking for a few more

participants. Please let me know if anyone has an interest in Bromeliads, orchids, aroids, and other

tropical plants, this is an incredible tour! If you have any concerns about Covid, Ecuador is one place where you shouldn't have to worry - the number of cases is very low (many less cases per million people than the US and UK - https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/). Much of the tour is in remote areas and we are unlikely to meet other people except in big towns where we just pass through. Because of the importance of tourism, Ecuador has prioritized vaccination for anyone involved in the tourist industry (hotels,

restaurants, transportation companies etc.). In fact, as of December 11, 2021 Ecuador has 77% of its population having received at least one dose of vaccine, which is higher than vaccination rates in the US and UK (https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations). You may also be interested to read the following article "Why Ecuador vaccinates its population faster than the rest of the world" (https://blogs.worldbank.org/latinamerica/why-ecuador-vaccinates-its-population-faster-rest-world).

Well besides these updates, the most important thing I would like to do is to wish you all HAPPY HOLIDAYS and hoping for things to get back to normal soon!

Keep safe, we will be traveling again soon! All the best,

Guillermo Rivera Plant Expeditions

2022 SCHEDULED TOURS

Α	ECUADOR	January 21 – Feb 5, 2022	4 confirmed, 4 places available
В	SOCOTRA	Feb 28 – March 14, 2022	FULLY BOOKED
С	BAJA, CLAIFORNIA	April 18 – May 2, 2022	FULLY BOOKED
D	NAMIBIA	May 12 – 26, 2022	Possibly FULLY BOOKED
Е	BRAZIL	July 2022	Taking reservations
F	SOUTH AFRICA	August 19 – Sept 1, 2022	Possibly FULLY BOOKED
G	PERU	September 2022	Tentative
н	MADAGASCAR (CENTRAL - SOUTH)	October 14 – 30, 2022	2 places available
	ARGENTINA - CHILE	Nov 16 – Dec 2, 2022	3 places available

P L A N T EXPEDITION 2022 S C H E D U L E

ECUADOR: JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 5, 2022. Over 150 species of Bromeliads in habitat!

This trip will combine the best of Southern and Northern Ecuador. A must for anyone into Bromeliads. I have traveled to Ecuador on 8 different occasions. I am planning to add and explore a few new places on this trip (hence more days). http://www.plantexpeditions.com/ecuador

Dates: January 21 - February 5, 2022

Mode: All inclusive, starting in Guayaquil, ending in Quito. (Minimum number of participants 8).

Duration: 17 days

Price: \$4250 all-inclusive except air fare (Single occupancy, add \$580) – 4 PLACES LEFT

SOCOTRA: MARCH 2022 Finally, we can visit the island!

As many of you know, I've been planning and researching the possibility of conducting a tour to Socotra for a long time. Political circumstances made this journey difficult in the past 6 years. However, recent changes are making this a possibility: a direct flight from Abu Dhabi to the island of Socotra without a layover in Yemen!

I am still working on the logistics. Main purpose is to see plants! But the island is beautiful. Hiking will be required (porters can be requested). Mainly camping except first, middle, and last day of the trip, that we will arrange for hotel/guest house stay. You will be required to bring a light sleeping bag, and a camping mattress for your comfort.

Accommodations would be in the only hotel 3 nights (first, last, and middle) and camping on tents provided by local outfitter who would also be responsible for transportation on the island, as well as all meals. Easy hiking 4-5 hours a day would be the norm, with temperatures 60-85 F. Having 12 days (besides arrival and departure, would allow us to explore, at a low pace, most of the island's interesting sites. Please take this into account: you will need to be in good shape to keep up with the group, no strenuous hikes but constant moving. This is an active trip.

Again, participants are expected to be in good shape, to hike, sleep on tents, flexible with basic (but good meals), and be able to carry their personal belongings, including a light sleeping bag. I am planning at least one night of hotel in t he middle of the tour on the island at a basic hotel/facility to take a BREAK from camping. For those thinking about showers, plenty of freshwater oasis and pools most days! More info will be provided as I gather more information and make more decisions regarding this trip.

Flora: Adenium socotranum (in bloom). all species of Aloe, Boswellia, Caralluma, Ceropegia, Cissus, Commiphora, Crassula, Dedrosicyos, Dorstenia, Dracaena, Duvaliandra, Echidnopsis, Edithcolea, all Euphorbia, Jatropha, Kalanchoe, Ledebourria, Peperomia, Sarcostema, Senecio, Socotrella, Sterculia

https://www.plantexpeditions.com/socotra

Dates: Feb 28-March 14, 2022

Mode: All inclusive, Socotra (accommodations (3 hotel nights, camping, visa fees, flights from Abu Dhabi,) Expect hikes 4-6 hours a day, but not very demanding.

Duration: 14 days on the island of Socotra. Flight from Abu Dhabi to Socotra March 7th, 2022, return flight March 21st, 2022

Price: \$4700

P Ν Т Α S С н E E 2 U D

BAJA CALIFORNIA: "From San Diego to Cabo" APRIL 2022 Best weather and cactus in flower!

Mammillaria, Stenocereus, Lophocereus and of course choyas! Because of its isolation, the peninsula includes quite

Dates: APRIL 18 - MAY 2, 2022 (exact dates TBA)

Duration: 14 days (I may add a day to include another island)

Mode: All inclusive, starts in San Diego, ends in Cabo

Price: \$4250. All-inclusive except air fare (SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 550)

NAMIBIA: MAY 2022 Best time for plants and Etosha wildlife safari!

populations of Welwitschia mirabilis and Cyphostemma and all the way north to the border of Angola to Epupa falls to see Adansonia digitata in a spectacular setting. We will spend two full days in Etosha National Park for a GREAT safari experience. Tours will be co-guided by Sean Braine, probably the best natural history guide in Namibia with excellent knowledge on plants, birds, geology, and the country's natural history. We will visit 3 Welwitschia renowned

As previously we will be doing this tour in 4x4 with a pop up roof ideal for game watching and photography.

Dates: MAY 12-26, 2022

Duration: 15 days

Price: \$4900. All-inclusive except air fare (SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 600)

Paritcipants: Minimum 8 participants - POSSIBLY BOOKED, TAKING STANDBY RESERVATIONS

BRAZIL: JULY-AUGUST 2022 Best time for bromeliads and cactus!

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Windhoek

This journey will take you through the states of Minas Gerais and Bahia. The habitats of Cerrado, Caatinga, and Atlantic Forest are well represented in these states allowing for a great diversity of many Brazilian genera of cactii: Uebelmania, Micranthocereus, Melocactus, Pilosocereus, among others. A journey of over 4000 km worth the drive!

Dates: JULY-AUGUST 2022 (exact dates TBA)

Duration: 16 or 17 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Belo Horizonte Price: \$4450. All-inclusive except air fare

(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 580)

Paritcipants: Minimum 10 participants - RESERVATIONS

P L A N T EXPEDITION 2022 S C H E D U L E

SOUTH AFRICA Namaqualand: AUGUST 2022 Flowering desert

We have done the trip five times and are always adding new sightings! We shall see the desert in flower, with warmer temperatures and spring signs in late August. Many Aloes and Mesembs: Crassula, Lithops, Tylecodon, Hoodia, Conophytum, Argyroderma, and others!! http://www.plantexpeditions.com/southafrica

Possible extension for Safari in Kruger National Park

Dates: August 19- September 1, 2022

Mode: All inclusive, starting in Cape Town

Duration: 14 days

Price: \$4800 all-inclusive except air fare (Single occupancy, add \$580) – SOLD OUT, taking standby reservations

MADAGASCAR: OCTOBER 2022 Succulents and wildlife: lemurs, chameleons, and more!

"The island of the big trees". After two trips to the island I am ready to go back! Journey to the western and southern part of the Island of Madagascar. The island is not only rich in plant endemisms (plants that are only found in this place), but also unusual animals: Lemurs and Chameleons are almost exclusively found in Madagascar. Among the plants, the genus Adansonia is perhaps the most common, but plenty of Aloe, Euphorbia, Didierea, Alluaudia, and Pachypodium. http://www.plantexpeditions.com/madagascar

Dates: October 15-31, 2022

Mode: All inclus<mark>ive, starting in Antananarivo</mark>

Paritcipants: Minimum 10-11 participants - ONLY 2 PLACES LEFT

Duration: 17 days

Price: \$4750 all-inclusive except air fare (Single occupancy, add \$580)

ARGENTINA AND CHILE: NOVEMBER 2022

Cactus tour. CROSSING THE ANDES: Argentina and Chile combined in one trip. https://www.plantexpeditions.com/argentina-chile

Dates: November 16 - March 2, 2022

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Cordoba, Argentina.

Paritcipants: Minimum 8, maximum 12 participants - ONLY 3 PLACES LEFT

Duration: 17 days

Price: \$4550 all-inclusive except air fare (Single occupancy, add \$550)



SOUTHERN PATAGONIA: ARGENTINA & CHILE FEBRUARY 2022

Glaciers, navigations and beautiful scenery and wildlife.

One of our best nature tours: Dolphins, Penguins (King, Magallanic, Gentoo) Rheas, Foxes, Glaciers, Fitz Roy mountain, Torres del Paine National Park. Including Torres del Paine. http://www.plantexpeditions.com/patagonia

Dates: FEBRUARY 2023 (TBC - TAKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST)

Mode: All inclusive, sta<mark>rting in Rio Gallegos and ending in Ushuaia</mark>

Paritcipants: More details if there is enough interest for a minimum of 8 participants

Duration: 15 days

Price: \$5450 p/p. Includes: navigation out of San Julian, entrance fee Glaciers National Park (twice), entrance fee Torres del Paine N.P., visit private reserve with King penguins, Tour and local guide in Tierra del Fuego National Park, visit Estancia Haberton, navigation Beagle Channel

MADAGASCAR (Northern) OCTOBER 2022

Succulents and wildlife: lemurs, chameleons, and more!

"The island of the big trees". After five trips to central and southern Madagascar, we are ready to explore the rest of the island: a journey to the north and central north to see more, the other Adansonia (baobabs), but also Aloe, Euphorbia, and Pachypodium. The island is not only rich in plant endemisms (plants that are only found in this place), but also unusual animals: Lemurs and Chameleons are almost exclusively found in Madagascar.

Dates: OCTOBER 2023 (TBC - TAKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST)

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Antananarivo

Paritcipants: Minimum 10-11 participants

Duration: 17 days

Price: US\$TBA all-inclusive except airfare (single occupancy + TBA)