



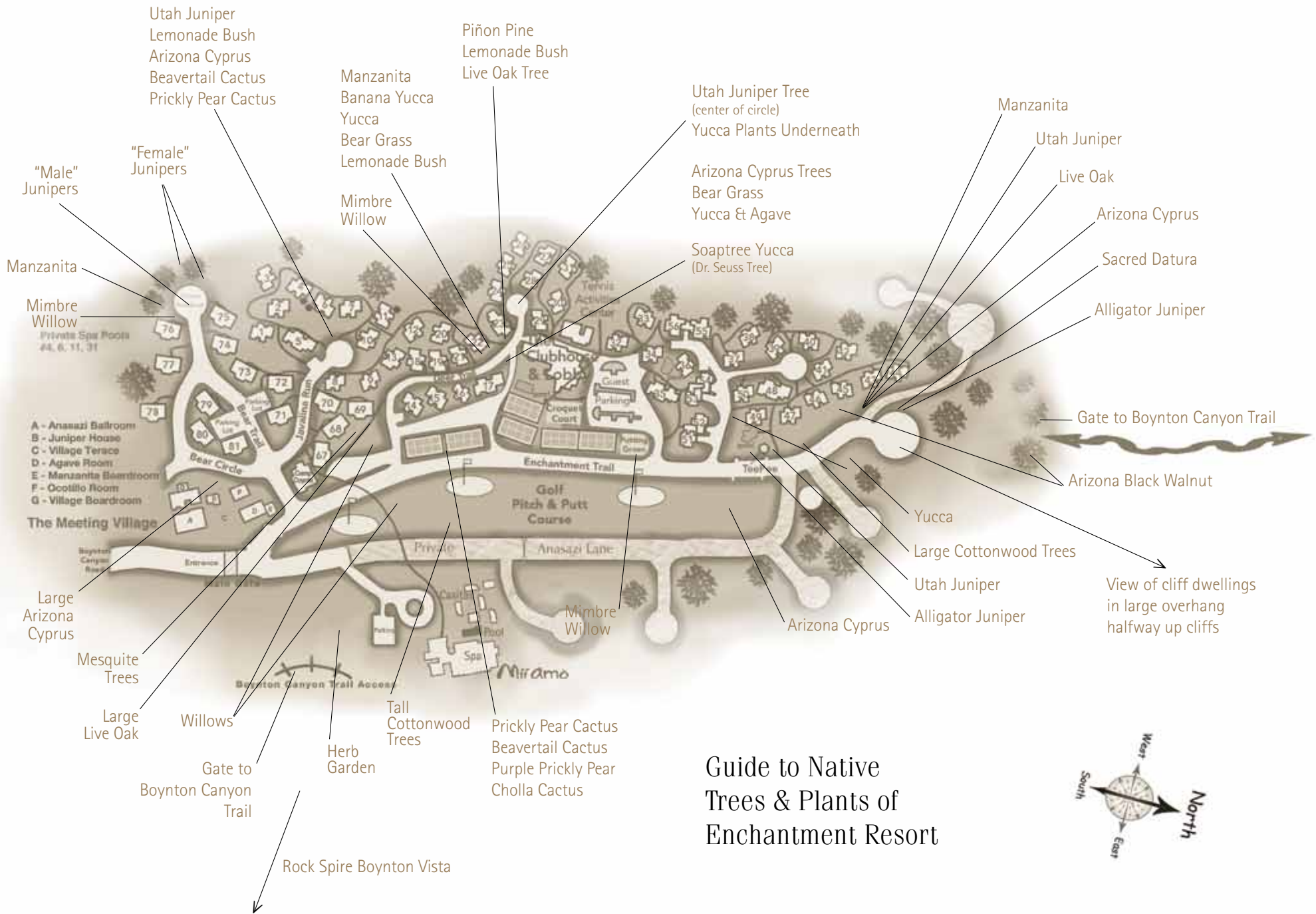
Exploring the Natural World of Enchantment Resort

A Self-Guiding Nature Tour

Where forest and desert intermingle, Enchantment Resort in Boynton Canyon is completely surrounded by Coconino National Forest. In our commitment to sustainable coexistence with the natural species of the area, we've incorporated native trees and plants in landscaping as precious habitat for hundreds of species of natural life...seen and unseen. By design, the wildlife and plant species move seamlessly between the resort and the wilderness, undeterred by property boundaries.

This area's number of species per acre is one of the highest found anywhere in the world. That surprises many visitors as they discover how the seemingly simple desert is a complex ecosystem with a tremendous variety of species.

We offer this Self-Guide as introduction to the natural life that helps make Enchantment Resort one of the world's most truly phenomenal places!



TREES and SHRUBS

Enchantment Resort is located in a prime example of **Piñon-Juniper Forest** habitat, named after the two dominant trees of the ecosystem. For thousands of years these species have been used by people around the world for food (pine nuts and juniper berries), as well as for aromatic ceremonial incense, shelter and bedding. When piñon and juniper are burned as firewood, the zesty fragrance of their smoke highlights the unforgettable Southwest atmosphere.

Alligator Juniper: The bark looks like alligator scales (not shaggy like the Utah Juniper). These trees live up to 800 years, providing edible blue-gray berries for many creatures.

Arizona Black Walnut: This large native tree produces inch-sized walnuts that are delicious. The leaves are a foot long with a dozen or so leaflets; the bark is furrowed and scaly, with a scraggly branch arrangement.

Arizona Cypress: Similar in appearance to Juniper, the Arizona Cypress has knobby one-inch seed cones that remain on the tree for years. The bark is more flaky than the shaggy bark of Juniper.

Arizona Sycamore: You'll see large, broad velvety leaves, and dangling "buttonball" seed pods. The bark is brownish with large flakes falling off to reveal whitish or greenish inner bark.

Cottonwood: This tall, fast-growing shade tree has a magnificent stature. In the spring they produce billows of cotton-like seed pods that waft throughout the valley, covering some areas like snow. In autumn, the leaves turn a spectacular yellow. Cottonwoods require a tremendous amount of water, so their presence always indicates a dependable underground water source.

Juniper: The bark of this drought-tolerant Evergreen tree is very shaggy, fibrous and scaly. We have several species of Juniper in the area, most commonly the Utah Juniper.

Live Oak: The leaves of this oak are holly-like and spiky, and the trees keep some of their leaves all year long. Those leaves turn brown in the spring, then fall off as new leaves grow. Many birds and animals eat the acorns, often storing them for later use. Oak Creek Canyon (originally Live Oak Creek Canyon) is named for these scrubby trees.

Manzanita: This attractive shrub has artistically twisted red branches and evergreen leaves. The many pink-white flowers turn into yellow-brown manzanitas or "little apples" — which are edible raw, cooked or dried, and used in jellies. They are an important food source for many animals.

Mesquite Trees: The Mesquite family is the most abundant type of tree-plant in the Southwest. They are legumes that "fix" nitrogen from the atmosphere as an essential component of soil building. Most of their bean-like seed pods are edible and sweet with high fiber, low glycemic levels and high protein content. Such beans have been a staple crop around the world for thousands of years, and Mesquite beans are harvested and ground today for use in baking and cooking. An entire web of desert life revolves around the Mesquite — from fungi and termites to moths, insects, birds, reptiles and mammals.

Mimbre or Desert Willow: This shrub looks like a Willow, but is actually a Bignonia. The word mimbre means "wicker," as its stems have been widely used to make furniture and baskets. Its pink-purple, trumpet-shaped flowers bloom from spring through summer, with bean-like seed pods.

Piñon Pine: Piñon nuts pop out of the cones on this abundant tree, providing an important food for ancient people and a popular food today in many countries. Piñon's pitchy sap was used as a waterproof sealant on woven baskets and on clay containers for storing food.

Skunkbush or Lemonade Berry: The three-lobed leaves of this 4 to 6-foot tall shrub smell either fragrant or skunky, depending on your particular sensitivity to aromas. The bunches of dark-red, slightly hairy berries are both nutritious and refreshing with their lemony tartness. Deer eat the leaves of this plant, and many birds and animals eat the nutritious berries and their seeds.

Willow: Several species of Willow trees and shrubs grow here. Willow is used throughout the world as a basic material source for basket-making. Willow bark is the source of salicylic acid, the natural form and original source of aspirin.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Agave: This impressive succulent, often called "century plant," has a flower stalk that shoots up 12–14 feet tall. The bottom of the plant is circled with fleshy, 12 to 18-inch leaves that end in long, sharp spines. An Agave plant grows for many years before shooting up its towering flower spike, blooming only once before it dies. Ancient inhabitants used the Agave for food, beverages, soap and medicines; today its sweetness is used in tequila, pulque and mescal.

Cholla Cactus: These fuzzy, branched cacti look like miniature trees, with yellow or red flowers in March and April. The spiny fruit is eaten by many species, and often stored for later consumption by wood rats and ground squirrels.

Prickly Pear: This common cactus has thick, fleshy pads covered in long spines and groups of short, sliver-like needles that are deceptively soft and fuzzy looking. When young, the pads can be eaten after removing the spines. Yellow flowers appear in spring and turn into plump red or purple edible fruit that's also made into syrup and desserts.

Yucca: Depending on the species, Yucca blooms from April to July, with white or cream bell-like flowers in clusters on tall, leafless stalks. The long spiny leaves are arranged in a rosette like the Agave, but more dense. Previous inhabitants used nearly every part of the Yucca – fruit, flowers, buds and stalks are eaten, roots provide soap and medicine, and leaf fibers are used to weave mats, baskets, sandals and rope. With considerable skill, the dry stalk can be twirled rapidly between the hands to start a fire.

"You learn that if you sit down in the woods and wait, something happens."

Henry David Thoreau

INSECTS & SPIDERS

Boynton Canyon has specialized pollinators like butterflies and moths (including the monarch butterfly and hummingbird moth), bees, crickets and cicadas. You may see the large black "stink bug" beetles, and many species of ants. Spiders include the hand-sized tarantula and the wolf spider, and others who make complex webs...like the orb and funnel spiders.

REPTILES

These include many lizards, both fast and slow, king snake and coral snake, several species of rattlesnake, and amphibians like frogs and toads that spend much of the year buried underground, emerging when the rains come.

Tips for Nature Watching

Stop...look...listen...feel...smell...breathe.

Find a comfortable spot to stand or sit for a few minutes. Relax your eyes, notice the sounds and feel the wind, the temperature, the time of day and the season.

Take a few breaths and allow your natural senses to do what they do best.

Align your internal compass with the surroundings: the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. Resort entrance is south; Boynton Canyon continues to the north.

Try different times of the day...some animals are more active in the morning or evening, others reveal themselves at night or in daylight.

BIRDS

Boynton Canyon has dozens of bird species that either reside year-round or migrate seasonally. At times you may hear five or six different species at the same time, but the birds are often challenging to see as they forage for insects or seeds in every micro-habitat of the canyon.

Cactus Wren: Arizona's state bird, the Cactus Wren is chatty and inquisitive as it searches for insects in every conceivable place.

Doves: The Dove's melancholy "coo, coo, coo" is one of the most common songs of the desert, with variations from several species including the **Ground Dove**, **Mourning Dove**, **White Winged** and the tiny **Inca Dove**. These fast-flying birds will suddenly go silent if a hawk enters the scene, or when the quail announce a predator.

Gambel's Quail: With their famous head plume, these gregarious birds are usually seen in small family groups searching for seeds on the ground. They have a distinctive call that alerts the forest when hawks or four-legged predators come hunting, and yet another call to warn of snakes.

Hawks: Several hawks can be seen in Boynton Canyon, including the large and familiar **Red-Tailed Hawk** and the smaller **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** that hunt swiftly through the forest. We also have the **Peregrine Falcon**, the world's fastest animal that speeds up to 200 miles per hour in a "stoop" dive when chasing prey.

Hummingbirds: These are very entertaining as they hover to sip nectar from a flower or fly at 60 miles per hour in courtship. At only three or four grams, these are the world's smallest birds, laying two pea-sized eggs in a nest made with spider webs. Hummingbirds are found only in the Western Hemisphere, from Alaska to Tierra Del Fuego at the southern tip of Argentina, with some of their winged migrations covering 2,700 miles – that's 5,400 miles round trip each year! When active their heart can beat 1,200 times per minute. Arizona boasts 12 Hummingbird species.

Ravens: A lot larger than their **Crow** cousins, Ravens are considered the most intelligent birds on the planet. They're also the world's largest songbird with many vocalizations including croaks and grunts, a laughing caw, and guttural seal-like calls whose subsonic overtones can be heard over a mile away. With a lifespan of up to 30 years, Ravens mate for life and are very territorial.

Roadrunner: This bird seems comical and almost crazy-looking up close, but it's a ferocious predator of lizards, insects, snakes and other birds. The roadrunner's song is a low "churr churr churr" rather than "beep-beep."

Robins: These birds are found year-round in Boynton Canyon, and in winter they feast on **Juniper berries** whose sugars have fermented after freeze and thaw cycles. Robins may get "tipsy" from the alcohol in the berries, often sitting on the ground looking bewildered. In fall and spring you may see large flocks of migrating **Cedar Waxwings** who also feast on the fermented Juniper berries – it's not uncommon to find one of these birds lying on the ground, stunned after running into something or into each other.

Woodpeckers: Several types of Woodpecker live in Boynton Canyon. Skilled birdwatchers, or listeners, can identify each species by the pecking rhythm as it searches for insects under bark and in dead trees. Woodpeckers nest in holes they dig in both living and even dead tree trunks. Many other birds then make their nests in the holes.

How many legs will you see today?

At Enchantment we have the no-legged (snakes), the one-footed (snails), the two-legged (humans & birds), the four-legged "other" mammals, the six-legged insects, the eight-legged spiders, centipedes with 40 or more legs, and millipedes with well over 100 legs!

MAMMALS

Arizona Gray Squirrel: This squirrel is easy to recognize with a fluffy tail, often seen gathering seeds from Piñon and Ponderosa. We also have the smaller **Red Squirrel** and two species of **Chipmunk** in the area.

Bats: The night sky is very busy in Arizona – we have 28 species of bats, including the smallest and largest in North America. Bats are very important mammals in a healthy ecosystem, eating tons of insects they're able to hunt in total darkness with sonar-echolocation. Other bats are fruit and nectar eaters, following the seasonal blooming Saguaro to the north before returning south to feast on Agave flowers and other autumn bloomers as they pollinate and disperse seeds all along the way. You're very safe around bats...they're incredibly skilled fliers with none of the habits portrayed in the movies!

Cottontail Rabbit: The familiar Cottontail is often visible during the day, but is more active at night. Always wary, Rabbits are hunted by Owls, Snakes, Foxes, Coyotes, Hawks and Bobcats. Their main defense is a good sense of hearing and a quick getaway.

Coyote: The song of the Coyote is a wonderful serenade in the desert night. Coyotes are stealthy hunters, often living in proximity to humans with hardly any contact at all, and pose no threat.

Javelina, or Collared Peccary: The size of a large dog, this hairy pig-like desert animal eats a lot of Prickly Pear Cactus, spines and all, which provides enough liquid when water is scarce. They live in social family groups of up to 20. Their strong musky odor smells a bit skunk-like to humans, who often walk right by the Javelina without noticing them... since they're perfectly camouflaged in the underbrush with their coarse, grizzled salt-and-pepper hair. Their name comes from the javelin spear shape of their formidable tusks. Normally passive and shy, Javelina are ferocious when defending their young. Please avoid the temptation to feed or get close to these wild animals.

Mule Deer: Most often seen in small groups at dawn or twilight, they have stout bodies and very large ears. Their summer coats of rusty brown turn a brownish gray in the winter. You may see them wandering around or sleeping in the shade during midday.

Boynton Canyon's Precious Water Supply

Water is the most precious natural resource in Boynton Canyon. The creek or arroyo is dry much of the year but swells with water when it rains on the miles-away northern plateaus, encouraging frogs and lizards to emerge after months of dormancy.

Enchantment's drinking water comes from our well that reaches into the underground aquifer, so we ask our guests to be mindful and conservative of this precious desert resource.

The water that does go down the drain is reclaimed by our processing plant to irrigate trees and landscaping. Please do not drink the water from any outdoor irrigation sources, as it is not of drinking-water quality.



ENCHANTMENT RESORT

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