



All of the trees and the plants present in the Amazonian greenhouse come from nurseries mainly located in the United States (Florida), Costa Rica, Brazil, but also some of them come from Thailand. Thus, there was no sampling taken from the wild. The small plants stem from cultures carried out in France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

**Duration of the visit: approximately 1 hour**

**Access :** Zoo parking or Streetcar #1 to St. Eloi  
then the «The Shuttle» bus towards Agropolis Lavalette, the «Zoo» stop.

**[www.zoo.montpellier.fr](http://www.zoo.montpellier.fr)**

## The big trees of the **Amazonian Greenhouse**

Direction de la Communication de la Ville de Montpellier - Anatomie - Crédit photos: Froula, Noir-Etienne, Gaty Images, Zoo de Montpellier - juin 2007 - photo non contractuelle

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**Montpellier mille et une vies**

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# The big trees in the Greenhouse

During the visit, you will successively discover the estuary of the river with the mangrove swamp, the flooded forest, the rain forest, and the mountain forest. You will end up by a crossing of the forest canopy. Every tree is provided with a small, green numbered sign to allow you to recognize it. Many small plants are epiphytes, in other words, attached onto other plants without being parasites: it is a question of: Bromeliads, orchids, which are numerous in the greenhouse.

Others plants of the shrub stratum are spectacular for their flowering (Heliconia, Anthurium, Tibouchina, Spathiphyllum)

or for their colorful foliage (Caladium). You are also going to discover sarmentaceous plants such as the philodendrons and numerous lianas (Passifloras, Aristolochias). This collection will be enhanced with time thanks to the exchanges which are going to be established in the botanical gardens network. Only the mangrove swamp has been artificially realised on account of the difficulty of regenerating the environment in which it develops.

NB: *Certain trees are deciduous and lose their leaves following the season. Do not believe that they are dying.*

## Palm trees of the Amazonian greenhouse

In the tropical and equatorial world, palm trees are plants which accentuate the landscapes with their columnar plant forms. They are especially useful species of major importance because they supply numerous products: fruits, hearts of palm, oil, fiber... There are 2500 different species on our planet. Half is found in tropical and equatorial America. Some forest species of the Amazonian basin showcase a difference with a thin trunk and modest heights.

The following American species present in the greenhouse are:

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|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1 - Aiphanes minima (Gaertner) Burret</b> | <b>8 - Socratea exorrhiza (Mart.) H. Wendl.</b>  |
| <b>2 - Astrocaryum alatum Loomis</b>         | <b>9 - Syagrus schizophylla (Mart.) Glassman</b> |
| <b>3 - Attalea spp.</b>                      |                                                  |
| <b>4 - Bactris gasipaes Kunth</b>            |                                                  |
| <b>5 - Copernicia alba Morong</b>            |                                                  |
| <b>6 - Copernicia macroglossa H Wendl.</b>   |                                                  |
| <b>7 - Euterpe oleracea Mart.</b>            |                                                  |

*An Australian specie has been brought in for its majestic appearance*

- 10 - Howea forsteriana Benth. Et Hook**

## Ferns of the Amazonian greenhouse

Ferns are present on all of the continents and under almost every latitude; this since the secondary age. In the Southern hemisphere numerous tree ferns are found, mainly in Equatorial America, in Tasmania, and in New Zealand. These plants have been the focus of important business and of a systematic plundering of their natural environment, in many countries,

from which Brazil has forbidden their export. That is why the species present in the greenhouse come from cultures carried out in Tasmania.

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|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>11 - Angiopteris evecta (G. Forst) Hoffm.</b> | <b>13 - Dicksonia squarrosa (Forst. F) Swartz</b> |
| <b>12 - Cyathea cunninghamii Hook. F.</b>        |                                                   |

## Broad-leaved trees of the Amazonian greenhouse



The cornucopia of the Amazonian Forest is well-known because the number of trees per hectare is very high (more than 400) there. The displayed species present in the greenhouse thus only represent one tiny sample of the existing biodiversity.

In their natural environment, many trees can reach a height of 40 m and their foliage then forms the forest canopy in which a varied fauna develops. These big trees also represent supports used by lianas and numerous epiphyte plants present in the in tropical and equatorial environment.

*The main genus and species originating from Central and South America, recognized in the greenhouse are:*

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|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>14 - Bixa orellana L.</b>                            | <b>35 - Pachira insignis Wall.</b>                 |
| <b>15 - Calliandra spp.</b>                             | <b>36 - Pimenta dioica (L.) Merr.</b>              |
| <b>16 - Carica papaya L.</b>                            | <b>37 - Pimenta racemosa (Mill.) J.W. Moore</b>    |
| <b>17 - Cassia sp.</b>                                  | <b>38 - Pterocarpus officinalis Jacq.</b>          |
| <b>18 - Cecropia palmata C.L. Willdenow</b>             | <b>39 - Tabebuia serratifolia (Vahl) Nicholson</b> |
| <b>19 - Cecropia peltata L.</b>                         | <b>40 - Tamarindus indica L.</b>                   |
| <b>20 - Ceiba cf. pentandra</b>                         | <b>41 - Theobroma cacao L.</b>                     |
| <b>21 - Chrysophyllum cainito L.</b>                    | <b>42 - Schizolobium parahybum (Vell.) Blake</b>   |
| <b>22 - Citharexylum spinosum L.</b>                    |                                                    |
| <b>23 - Cocoloba diversifolia Jacq.</b>                 |                                                    |
| <b>24 - Cocoloba uvifera L.</b>                         |                                                    |
| <b>25 - Couroupita guianensis Aubl.</b>                 |                                                    |
| <b>26 - Gustavia cf. gracillima Muell. Arg</b>          |                                                    |
| <b>27 - Hevea brasiliensis Muell. Arg</b>               |                                                    |
| <b>28 - Hura crepitans L.</b>                           |                                                    |
| <b>29 - Inga edulis Mart.</b>                           |                                                    |
| <b>30 - Jacaranda obtusifolia Humboldt &amp; Bonpl.</b> |                                                    |
| <b>31 - Jatropha integerrima Jacq.</b>                  |                                                    |
| <b>32 - Malpighia glabra Millsp.</b>                    |                                                    |
| <b>33 - Manilkara zapota (L.) van Royen</b>             |                                                    |
| <b>34 - Pachira aquatica Aubl.</b>                      |                                                    |

*For their resistance to the extreme ecological conditions, their esthetic quality or their ethnobotanical interest, some species originating from the other continents have been introduced into the greenhouse, particularly:*

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|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>43 - Calophyllum inophyllum</b>                        |
| <b>44 - Michelia champaca L.</b>                          |
| <b>45 - Schefflera actinophylla (Endl.) H.A.T. Harnes</b> |
| <b>46 - Strelitzia Nicolai Regel &amp; Koern</b>          |
| <b>47 - Bulnesia arborea Eng.</b>                         |

