



- Area of specialization
- Greenhouse/enclosure
- Trail (*Sendero*)
- Information entry/exit
- Gifts & Souvenirs
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Butterfly Garden

**Lankester Botanical Garden**

**Hours**—Opens at 9:00 a.m. and last admission at 3:30pm daily except the Easter holidays, Christmas & New Years days.

**Admission**—1,200 colones, students and residents half price.

**Contact**—Phone 552-3247, Fax 552-3151 De Ricalit, 400 Sur y 100 Oeste, Carretera Cartago a Paraiso, Apdo. 1031-7050, Cartago, 7050

**History**—Established in 1917 by British Orchid enthusiast Charles Lankester, the gardens were gifted in 1973—by his family, the American Orchid Society, and the Stanley Smith Foundation—to the University of Costa Rica to perpetuate for research, and the enjoyment of the public .

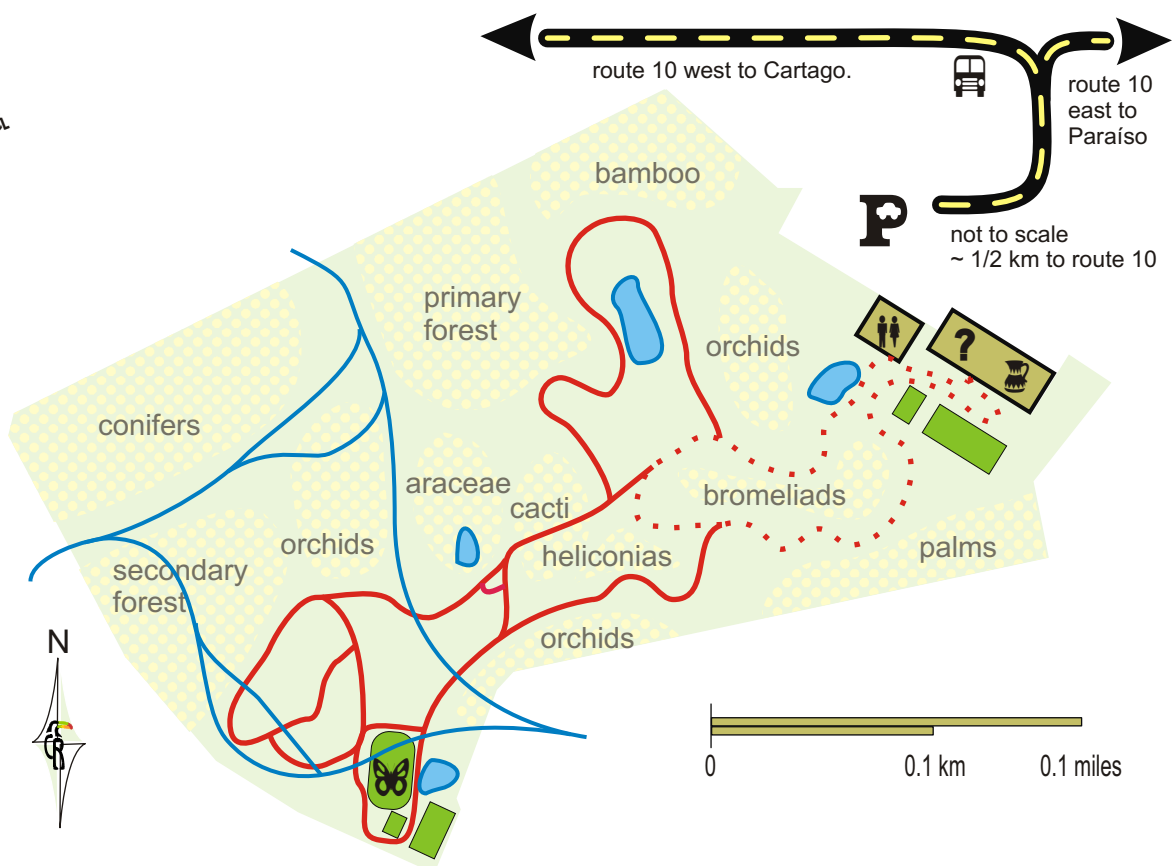
**Highlights**—The garden is a great first stop on a visit to Costa Rica. Bird song, fragrant orchids, and butterflies amid streams and beautiful plantings provide a perfect environment to learn a little about rainforest plants. Your trips to the National Parks & reserves will be more rewarding with some knowledge of trees, epiphytes, flowers, and herbs, and how animals interact with them.

There are representative plants and trees from all of Costa Rica's forests mixed throughout the gardens, but as noted on the map, there are areas where certain varieties are concentrated. You are free to roam the propagation greenhouses, and if you ask, the technicians are happy to explain how things work (it helps if you speak Spanish).

The garden's hallmark is the collection epiphytes, most notably the 800 plus species of orchids. Members of the largest and most fascinating family of flowering plants in the world, orchids bloom year round, but mos prolifically from February to May.

This oasis near Costa Rica's population centers attracts local and migratory birds who seem to know it's been declared a sanctuary, and allow much closer approach than they might elsewhere. Insects brighten the air and branches, and butterflies share a loosely netted (to prevent predation) area with hummingbirds that are attracted to many of the same nectar rich flowers..

The gift shop offers an excellent selection of books, and plants that are pre-approved for export by both Costa Rican and US Agricultural authorities (Visitors from other countries should ask to insure that the plants will not be confiscated when they return home.)



**Getting There**—The fastest route from San José is on the Pan American Highwayeast/south, to route 10 east to Cartago. You come into town on Avenida 2. Turn right at *Las Ruinas* and go two blocks south to Avenida 3 where you turn left and continue out of town to the east on route 10 to Paraiso. The turn for Lankester Garden is signed on the right after 3 km.

The drivers on the Cartago/Paraiso bus route are familiar with the gardens and will let you off at the end of the road and point you in the right direction (0.5 km, 8-10 minute walk south). Buses run from the south side of *Las Ruinas* in the central square of Cartago every 30 minutes from 5:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and the trip takes about 15 minutes. (phone 574-6127).

A taxi from Cartago (drivers hang out around *Las Ruinas*) is about \$US 4.

