

Trees and Shrubs commonly found around the Pinnacles Campground

scientific name	common name	Description and uses	Pictures
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush	<p>This evergreen shrub is generally smaller than 3 meters in height. It is glabrous and generally sticky. The stems are prostrate to erect which branches spreading or ascending. The leaves are 8–55 mm long and are entire to toothed, with three principal veins.</p> <p><i>Uses:</i> Coyote brush was used by Native Americans as a tea for use on poison oak rash</p>	
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak	<p>This tree typically has a much-branched trunk and reaches a mature height of 10-25 meters. Some specimens may attain an age exceeding 250 years, with trunk diameters up to three or four meters.</p> <p><i>Uses:</i> Native Americans are known to have consumed the acorns as a dietary staple. In the 18th and 19th centuries shipbuilders sought out the odd angular branches to make special joints. Pioneers moving west would harvest small amounts for making farm implements and wagon wheels</p>	
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	valley oak	<p>This deciduous tree has a sturdy trunk of the that may exceed two to three meters in diameter and its towering stature may surpass 30 meters in height.</p> <p><i>Uses:</i> The nuts of this tree are bitter tasting due to their tannin content. Native americans overcame this problem by cracking the acorns and pounding the nuts in a mortar with a stone pestle. Once the meal was fine enough, water was poured through it, rinsing away the tannin. The acorn meal could then be cooked in watertight baskets over open fires.</p>	

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Eriogonum fasciculatum

California buckwheat

This small shrub are a number of distinct varieties. It is variable in appearance, forming a patchy, compact bramble or a spreading bush approaching two meters in height and three across. Flowers appear in dense, frilly clusters which may be anywhere from a few millimeters to 15 centimeters wide. Each individual flower is pink and white and only a few millimeters across.

Uses: Native American groups utilized parts of this plant for a number of medicinal uses, including the treatment of headache, diarrhea, and wounds. This variety is particularly attractive to honey bees and is a good source of nectar over many months in dryer areas.



Eriodictyon tomentosum

wooly yerba santa

This evergreen shrub reaches maximum heights anywhere from one to three meters. Its twigs and foliage are covered in a dense coat of white woolly hairs, giving the bush a silvery look. The leaves are oval and up to ten centimeters long and five wide, and they may have small teeth along the edges. The bush flowers in dense fuzzy bunches of very light lavender glandular blossoms, each a few millimeters long. The fruit is a tiny capsule less than three millimeters wide, containing about 10 minute seeds.



Sambucus mexicana

blue elderberry

Native shrubs growing 2-4(-8) m tall, less commonly small single-stemmed trees, young twigs soft and pithy but the wood hard; bark thin, grayish to dark brown, irregularly furrowed and ridged.

Uses: All parts of the elderberry plant are considered to be a valuable healing plant in many folk medicine traditions. The blue or purple berries are gathered and made into elderberry wine, jam, syrup, and pies. Elderberry branches were used to make the shaft of arrows. Flutes and whistles were constructed by boring holes into stems hollowed out with hot sticks.



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*Ceanothus
cuneatus*

buck brush

The evergreen shrub has stiff and somewhat tough and leaves which may be slightly toothed along the edges. The flowers are white, sometimes tinted strongly with blue or lavender. The fruit is round capsule with horns. It is about half a centimeter wide and contains three shiny dark seeds which are dispersed when the capsule explodes and propels them some distance.

Uses: Green and red dye can be obtained from the flowers and roots. The stems have been used as rods in basket making. The plant can be crushed and mixed with water they produce a good lather which is an effective and gentle soap.



Pinus sabiniana

gray pine /
foothill pine

This pine tree has needles 8 to 12 inches long, 3 per fascicle, distinctly gray-green in color. Large woody pine cones (6 to 10 inches long), egg-shaped when open; cone scales very long, thick, sharply keeled, and tipped with a large, thick spine that may be straight or curved. The bark of a mature tree is dark gray, thick, and has irregular ridges and furrows; somewhat scaly.

Uses: The seeds of gray pine were eaten by many California Indian tribes and are still served in Native American homes today. The pitch of the gray pine was used as a medicine and the branches were made into household utensils. The needles were used for thatch, bedding, and floor covering and the bark for house covering by the Sierra Miwok. The branches and roots were used in California Indian basketry



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*Toxicodendron
diversilobum*

poison oak

Western Poison oak is extremely variable in growth habit and leaf appearance. It grows as a dense shrub in open sunlight, or as a climbing vine in shaded areas. The leaves are divided into three leaflets, 3.5 to 10 centimeters long, with scalloped, toothed, or lobed edges- generally resembling the leaves of a true oak, though the Western Poison-oak leaves will tend to be more glossy. Leaves are typically bright green in the spring (or bronze when first unfolding), yellow-green to reddish in the summer, and bright red or pink in the fall. White flowers form in the spring and, if fertilized, develop into greenish- white or tan berries. *In the winter the stems are leafless and bear only the occasional cluster of berries. Without leaves, poison oak stems may sometimes be identified by occasional black marks where sap may have oozed and dried.*

DO NOT TOUCH or BURN!



Rubus ursinus

California
blackberry

This species of blackberry or dewberry known by the common names **California blackberry** and **Pacific blackberry**. It is native to western North America. This is a wide, spreading shrub or vine-bearing bush with prickly branches. Its white flowers may be distinguished from those of other blackberries by their narrow petals.

Uses: The sweet, edible fruits are dark purple to black and up to 2 centimeters in length.



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Populus fremontii

Fremont's cottonwood

The Fremont cottonwood is a native, deciduous hardwood that ranges from 19.7 to 112 feet in height and has a broad, rounded or cylindrical crown. The trunk diameter at breast height ranges from 19.7 inches to 12.8 feet. The bark is smooth on the trunk, twigs, and branches of young trees, but trunk bark becomes deeply furrowed at maturity.

Uses: Native Americans ate the inner bark of Fremont cottonwood to prevent or relive scurvy. The bark and leaves were used to make poultices to relieve swelling, treat cuts, cure headaches, and wash broken limbs, and to treat saddle sores and swollen legs of horses.



Rosa californica

California rose

This is bush or thicket-forming shrub with *prickly*, curving stems. The fragrant flowers may grow singly or in groups of several blooms. Each rose is open-faced and generally flat, with five petals in any shade of pink from almost white to deep magenta.

Uses: The fruit may be eaten raw or cooked, however there is a layer of hairs around the seeds just beneath the flesh of the fruit. These hairs must be removed before eating as they can cause irritation to the mouth and digestive tract. It is rich in vitamins A, C and E. The blossoms may be soaked in water to make a beverage.



Adenostoma fasciculatum

Chamise or Greasewood

This evergreen shrub is abundant throughout park. It grows to four meters tall, with dry-looking stick-like branches. The leaves are small, 4–10 mm long and one mm broad with a pointed apex, and sprout in clusters from the branches. These clusters are known as fascicles, and give the species its Latin name. The leaves are shiny with flammable oils, especially in warmer weather.

Uses: Chamise was used by Native Americans for a variety of medicinal purposes. Chamise oils were used to treat skin infections, and an infusion of the bark and leaves was used for syphilis.

