

Shrubs

Ten of the most common shrubs found throughout Vistoso Trails are represented here. There are, of course, many more, but these provide a good overview of the most common and visible species. In many cases, the photos here only show the most notable part of the plant to assist with identification during the times of the year when the plant is most likely to be noticed. At other times of the year these shrubs may lack those features (fruit, flowers, leaves, etc.). Check iNaturalist or other online sources for a broader range of photos.

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Common name: Big Bursage

Scientific name: *Ambrosia ambrosioides*

Notes: A member of the sunflower family. Large triangular leaves with jagged edges.



Common name: Triangle-leaf Bursage

Scientific name: *Ambrosia deltoidea*

Notes: A member of the sunflower family. Small, triangular leaves.



Common name: Cheesebush

Scientific name: *Ambrosia salsola*

Notes: A member of the sunflower family. Named for its cheese-like odor when the leaves are crushed.



Common name: Desert Broom

Scientific name: *Baccharis sarothroides*

Notes: Another member of the sunflower family. Common along the edges of the greens.



Common name: Pink Fairy-Duster

Scientific name: *Calliandra eriophylla*

Notes: A legume, more closely related to acacias than palo verdes. Low growing. Spring flowers.



Common name: Spiny Hackberry

Scientific name: *Celtis pallida*

Notes: Thorny. Bears yellow, edible fruit that is much loved by native birds. A caterpillar host plant.



Common name: Brittlebush

Scientific name: *Encelia farinosa*

Notes: Spring flowers. Grayish green, triangular, and lightly fuzzy leaves.



Common name: Chuparosa

Scientific name: *Justicia californica*

Notes: Spring flowers. Attracts hummingbirds. Seed pods explode to disperse seeds.



Common name: Creosote Bush

Scientific name: *Larrea tridentata*

Notes: Smells like “desert rain” after rainfall. The dominant shrub in many American deserts.



Common name: Jojoba

Scientific name: *Simmondsia chinensis*

Notes: Jojoba oil is used in lotions and shampoos. Totally native despite its scientific name.