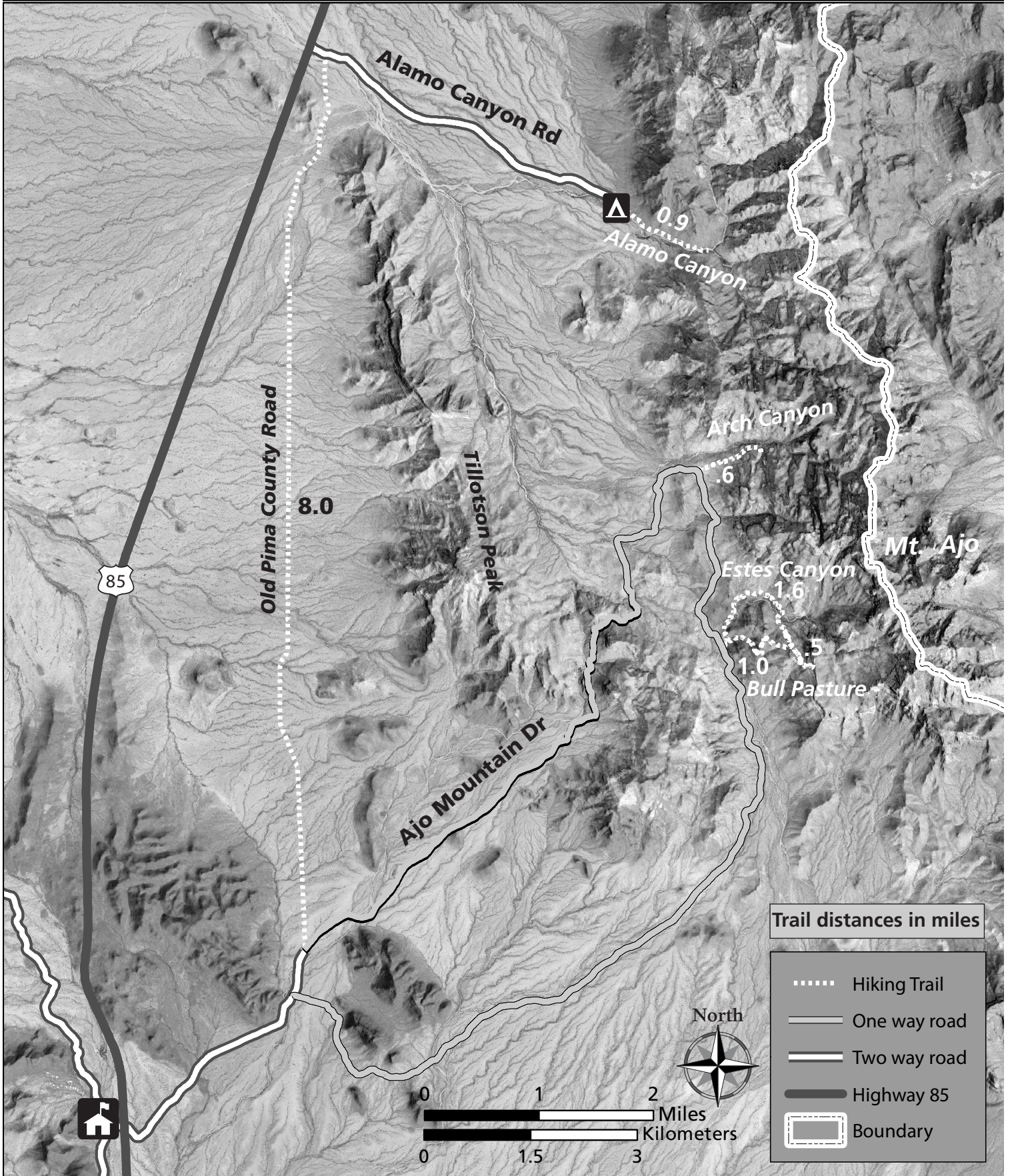


Trails of the Ajo Mountains

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument



For your Safety

The southern boundary of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument borders Mexico for 30 miles. Illegal border activities occur in Organ Pipe including the smuggling of drugs and humans. According to the U.S. Border Patrol, there were over 4,000 arrests and they seized approximately 100,000 pounds of marijuana in Organ Pipe Cactus during 2013. You are not likely to encounter illegal activity but it can happen. Smugglers and migrants want to evade detection and therefore try to avoid contact with other people.

You are advised to avoid contact with anyone who might be involved in illegal activity. If you encounter individuals who are carrying odd bundles and black water bottles, you should move away from them if you can to minimize contact.

There are instances when smugglers or migrants do approach visitors. Usually it is because they are lost and need water or medical assistance. Do not provide water or food as they may continue and become distressed in an area where there is no help available. If you see or encounter them, please alert Park Rangers, Border Patrol, or call 911 if possible. These officers are trained and equipped to provide medical assistance.

Know What to Expect

When you park, lock your vehicle, and keep valuables, water, and food out of sight. You can reduce your likelihood of encountering illegal activity by hiking designated trails and hiking during the day.

It is recommended that you:

- Hike with others
- Inform someone of where you are going and when you will return.
- Carry sufficient water and light snacks for twice the time you expect to be hiking

While hiking, your rate of water loss can be more than a quart per hour.

Be aware of your surroundings:

- Hiking trails can be rugged with loose rocks and steep drop-offs.
- Cactus and many other plants have thorns that can grab, scratch, or poke you
- Do not put your hands or feet into areas that you cannot see.
- Know the forecast before heading out
- Do not enter flooded washes.

The Monument is home to many animals, including birds and reptiles.

- Wild animals can be dangerous if cornered or are touched.
- Handling wild animals can put both you and the animals at risk for injury.
- Some animals are venomous.