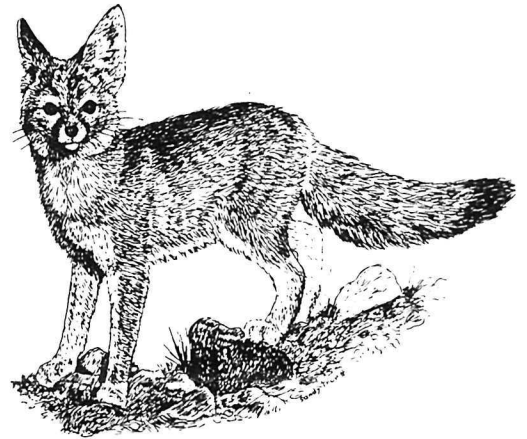


Saguaro

National Monument
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



General Information

ACCESS TO THE MONUMENT

Rincon Mountain District (East)
3693 S. Old Spanish Trail,
Tucson, AZ - Accessible from
I-10 using the Houghton Road
Exit (#275) and from Tucson
via the Old Spanish Trail off
of East 22nd Street.

Tucson Mountain District (West)
2700 N. Kinney Road, Tucson,
AZ - Accessible from I-10 via
the Speedway Exit (#257).
Trailers and mobile homes must
use the Ina Road Exit (#248)
off of I-10 or the Ajo Way
Exit (#99) off of I-19.

No public transportation is
available to or within either
district. Bus, rail and air
transportation are available
to Tucson.

HOURS AND FEES

Rincon Mountain District -
The Visitor Center is open
8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily.
The Cactus Forest Drive is
open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
November 1 to May 31 and 7:00
am to 7:00 pm April 1 to
October 31. Fees are \$3 per
vehicle, \$1 per walk-in, bi-
cycle or bus passenger.

Tucson Mountain District -
The Visitor Center is open
8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily.
Roads are open 24 hours,
there is no fee.

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Nature walks, demonstrations
and slide shows are provided
by park naturalists. Check
at a visitor center for the

current schedule

MONUMENT ROADS

Rincon Mountain District -
Contains an 8 mile paved
loop road (Cactus Forest
Drive) suitable for all ve-
hicles.

Tucson Mountain District -
Contains 12 miles of paved
road and 8½ miles of un-
paved road. The unpaved
roads are usually in good
condition and accessible to
normal passenger cars, ex-
cept following rain storms.

WEATHER (TUCSON STATISTICS)

Month	Average		
	High	Low	Precip.
January	63	38	.83
February	66	40	.63
March	72	44	.68
April	80	50	.32
May	89	57	.14
June	98	67	.22
July	98	73	2.42
August	96	72	2.13
September	93	67	1.33
October	84	57	.88
November	72	45	.62
December	65	39	.94

Sunshine is abundant year
round with brief cloudy per-
iods in the summer and winter
months. Snowfalls are rare
and generally light in the
desert. Relative humidity is
usually low now. There are
two rainy seasons; heavy sum-
mer thunderstorms and light
winter rainfalls. During
summer months, heavy thunder-
storms may cause flash-flood-
ing.

SERVICES AND CAMPGROUNDS

Although both districts offer picnic areas and hiking trails, no provisional services, tent or RV campgrounds are available. Camping is available in the backcountry of the Rincon Mtn. District by permit only. The closest public campgrounds are:

East-Coronado National Forest on the Catalina Highway north of Tucson phone(602) 629-6483

West-Gilbert Ray Campground in the Tucson Mountain County Park, near the Tucson Mtn. Visitor Center on Kinney Road phone(602)883-4200.

Many commercial campgrounds

are located in the Tucson area. Lodging, meals, service stations, dining and groceries may be obtained near-by in Tucson. For information on lodging and tourist attractions, contact: The Tucson Visitor's Bureau, 130 S. Scott St. Tucson, AZ 85701, (602) 624-1817, or Tucson Chamber of Commerce, 465 W. Saint Mary, Tucson, AZ 85701, (602)792-1212. For information on purchasing and transporting native plants, contact the Arizona Commission of Agriculture, 416 W. Congress, Tucson, AZ 85706, (602) 628-5396.

WHEN TO VISIT

The desert follows rhythmic cycles - seasons of activity follow seasons of quiet. Rain or lack of rain marks the changes, though gradually rising temperature adds its impact. The gentle rains of winter ready the desert for its busiest time of the year. By late February, annual wildflowers begin to bloom and birds are starting to nest. The last weeks of March and first weeks of April are the height of spring activity and flower bloom. Insects swarm around the flowering plants and birds take advantage of this food to raise their young. Snakes and gila monsters come out of hibernation. Winters that have plenty of rain fall at regular intervals and few freezes will produce spectacular displays that may occur only once a decade. Flowering trees and cacti are not as sensitive to rainfall and temperature. Cactus blossoms can be found from mid-April through September. The saguaro cactus blooms in late May and June. Many of the flowering trees, such as palo verde and mes-

quite blossom in April and May. April also marks the beginning of a hot drought that intensifies through May and June, testing the desert adaptations of the plants and animals. Throughout the summer months, there is a flurry of activity in early morning and after sundown. At midday, the desert is quiet, hardly anything stirs under the baking sun. Relief comes with the rains of July and August. A new burst of plant growth is accompanied by the emergence of new animals, such as the spadefoot toad. The last rains of August and September start the desert into another quiet, but not as harsh, drought. Migrating birds pass through, cooler temperatures bring the animals out of hiding and the desert prepares for its winter rains.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Much more can be learned about the diverse plant and animal life or cultural history of Saguaro National Monument. Publications are

available for purchase at either visitor center.

