

Saguaro

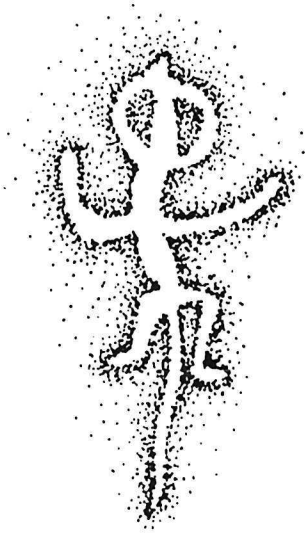
National Monument
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hiking And Nature Trails In The Tucson Mountain District.

We invite you to explore the unique ecosystem of the lower Sonoran Desert, from short walks through majestic Saguaros, to steep trails in

the rocky Tucson Mountains. Come, enter the world of the desert... and let it tell you its story.

SHORT WALKS AND NATURE TRAILS (1.5 miles or less)



Cactus Garden - (100 yards)
This leisurely stroll begins directly in front of the parking lot at Red Hills Information Center. Interpretive signs will acquaint you with the most common native vegetation in the Tucson Mountain District. This trail is wheelchair accessible.

Valley View Overlook Trail (1.5 miles) Built by the CCC, this trail is located on the Bajada Loop Drive, 3.5 miles north of Red Hills Information Center. The trail gradually descends into two different washes and ends on a ridge top from which most of Avra Valley can be seen.

Desert Discovery Nature Trail (.5 mile) You will find the trailhead to this self-guided nature trail on Kinney Road, one mile northwest of Red Hills Information Center. Here you will acquaint yourself with native plants, animals and ecology of the Sonoran Desert.

Signal Hill Petroglyphs Trail (.25 mile) This easy climb takes you to dozens of ancient Indian art works. It zigzags up a small hill just north of Signal Hill picnic area, off Golden Gate Road, 5 miles from Red Hills Information Center.

DESERT AND MOUNTAIN HIKING TRAILS (3.5 to 4.9 miles, one way)



King Canyon Trail (3.5 miles) This pleasant hike begins just off Kinney Road, directly across from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, two miles southeast of Red Hills Information Center. The first .9 mile is a gradual climb up to the Mam-a-Gah Picnic Area, named after a Tohono O'odham Indian chief. The next 1.4 miles are slightly steeper. Switchbacks then take over for the next .9 mile, bringing you close to the highest point on the trail. A gradual ascent for another .3 mile puts you atop Wasson Peak, elevation 4687 feet, the highest point in the Tucson Mountain District.

This trail switchbacks almost immediately for approximately one mile. From there it follows the ridge top for 3.1 miles until it reaches Amole Peak. It continues for .8 mile to its end, on Wasson Peak, elevation 4687 feet.

Hugh Norris Trail (4.9 miles) This, the longest trail, begins off the Bajada Loop Drive 2.5 miles north of Red Hills Information Center. The trail was named after Hugh Norris, a former chief of the Tohono O'odham Indian Police.

Sendero Esperanza Trail (3.2 miles) The trailhead for this hike is located 6 miles from Red Hills Information Center on Golden Gate Road, 1.5 miles from the intersection of Bajada Loop Drive and Golden Gate Road. It ends on King Canyon Trail at Mam-a-Gah Picnic Area. The trail begins on level ground and ascends gradually for 1.8 miles to the ridge west of both Amole and Wasson Peaks. It then descends 1.4 miles to Mam-a-Gah Picnic Area and the King Canyon Trail. A .9 mile walk on the King Canyon Trail descends gradually down to Kinney Road, directly across from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

REGULATIONS



Help preserve the unique natural features of the Monument while assuring your personal safety and that of other visitors.

- Pets are prohibited on the trails and in the backcountry.
- They are permitted on a leash around the visitor center and picnic areas.
- Plants, animals, rocks, wood

and other natural features must be left undisturbed.

- Firearms or other weapons are prohibited.
- Camping and fires are prohibited on the Monument.
- Place all trash in litter containers.
- Stay on the trails.
- Report any damage of Park resources to a Park Ranger.

SAFETY TIPS



Hiking and other strenuous activities in extreme heat can be hazardous. Pace yourself and rest often. Carry water (at least one gallon per person per day) and drink even when you don't feel thirsty. Hats and sunscreen are recommended. Be aware of painful close encounters with cacti and other prickly plants. Be especially careful near cholla cactus spines, which, with just the slightest touch can

become embedded in your skin. If a cactus joint attaches itself, do not grab it. Use two sticks, a pocket comb or other object as a lever to flip away the joint. Be on the lookout for rattlesnakes during the spring, summer and fall months. Stay on trails and do not disturb them if encountered. Warning: There are numerous open mine shafts throughout the area. Please stay on marked trails.

