

# Organ Pipe Cactus

## National Monument

### How to Survive Your Visit

#### Wildlife

Desert animals are wild and some are dangerous. View animals from a safe distance, watch where you put your hands and feet, and carry a flashlight at night. Remember all animals, including poisonous snakes and scorpions, are protected here. If you see a rattlesnake near the campground or visitor center, report it to a ranger. It will be captured and taken to a more remote part of the monument. **For your safety, do not feed the wildlife.**



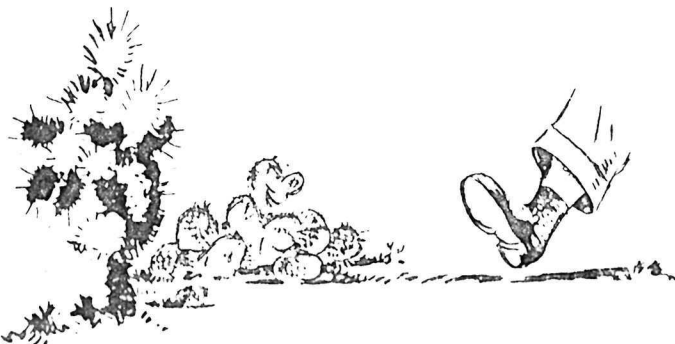
#### Hiking and Backpacking

Always carry plenty of water when hiking. There is no potable water in the monument outside the Visitor Center/ Campground area. Loose volcanic rock makes hiking and climbing hazardous. Stay alert and watch where you step. During hot weather, protect yourself by wearing a hat, sunglasses, a long-sleeved shirt, and sunscreen lotion.



#### Plant Life

Don't get too close to the cacti, especially the cholla. Cholla joints are easily dislodged and become attached to clothing and skin on the slightest contact. If you become impaled with a cholla joint, do not try to remove it with your fingers: use a comb or stick to flick the joint off. After removing the spines, you might want to treat the wound with an antiseptic to prevent infection. Many other desert plants have spines or thorns too, so give them all a wide berth.



#### Driving

Monument roads were not designed for high speed driving. For your own safety and for the safety of wildlife, drive slowly. Trailers and large motorhomes are not recommended on the dirt roads. Portions of the unmaintained roads are very rough and sandy; inquire about their condition before using them. Flash floods can occur suddenly. Don't drive into a flooded roadway; wait for the water to subside. Carry drinking water in your vehicle when driving in the desert during hot weather.

