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2017/2018

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE PARKS

ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

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WELCOME

Arizona State Parks



Doug Ducey
Governor



Sue Black
Executive Director



ARIZONA
STATE PARKS & TRAILS



Welcome to the Grand Canyon State!

Diverse landscapes, rich cultural history, and boundless outdoor recreation opportunities make Arizona home to the most unparalleled parks in the country. For 60 years, our exceptional parks have been preserved, enhanced and protected for the enjoyment of Arizonans and visitors across the country. These lands, lakes, rivers, historic buildings, and rich natural areas offer ample recreational and educational opportunities to individuals, families, businesses and communities.

When you visit one of Arizona's state parks you'll find everything from hiking, biking, fishing, horseback riding, and historical lessons on Native American tribes and Spanish explorers. Our parks offer something for everyone, broadening our visitors' appreciation for the outdoors and encouraging more active lifestyles.

Arizona State Parks and Trails provide many recreational opportunities and are a strong economic driver as well. They secure funding for recreational and educational programs, drive increased local visitation and provide financial resources to recreational programs and partners throughout the state. Helping to drive the economy, enhance and protect local communities and cultures, Arizona's state parks exemplify the best Arizona has to offer.

We look forward to seeing you in the parks!

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Arizona is an amazing place to visit and explore. See it through the special places we have saved for all to enjoy... your Arizona State Parks!

Sue Black, Executive Director
Arizona State Parks and Trails

Zion National Park

is the result of erosion,
sedimentary uplift, and
Stephanie Shinmachi.

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like Stephanie, volunteer
in parks across America,

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Special thanks to Arizona State Parks and Trails staff, rangers and volunteers for assistance. (Cover: Lost Dutchman State Park, Apache Junction, AZ, courtesy of Arizona State Parks and Trails)



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go to **OhRanger.com**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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WHAT'S NEW! WHY PARKS MATTER

“There is nothing so American as
our national parks.”

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Access to parks is one of the things that's truly great about life in America. Not just national parks, like FDR stated, but *all* parks. Parks afford everyone, regardless of race, income, social status or age, the opportunity to escape the concrete jungle and step into the wild. It doesn't matter whether it's a small step into a local park or a giant leap into the backcountry. The effect is the same. Time in nature feels good. Other values that parks bring may be less obvious. Since we take care of the things we value, I'd like to highlight a few other benefits we all receive from public lands:

Economic Impact America's federal, state and local parks and public lands generate \$200 *billion* in annual economic activity and support more than one million jobs! You might help a dozen businesses during a weekend hiking trip. Imagine the impact of a week-long national park adventure. Parks raise property values, too!

Conservation Trees produce the oxygen we need to survive, but did you know that they also help save money? It's estimated that trees in cities save \$400 *billion* in costs to retain stormwater. A single tree can store 100 gallons or more, which helps keep streets from flooding and reduces the need for artificial storage facilities. A tree can also absorb as much as three tons of carbon gas during its lifetime.



Mark, Joel & Alex – Support parks, stay healthy!

Take a deep breath in a park and you'll immediately know the value of greenspace.

Health & Wellness Studies show a high correlation between time spent in parks and improved health (and, in my view, happiness). You move more when you're outside, which decreases stress, makes you more fit and reduces the risk of many health issues, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Exercise (which parks inspire) also positively impacts your cholesterol levels. A few years ago, I started bicycling to work every day. A year later, my overall cholesterol went down while my HDL—the “good” cholesterol—went up. The results of a small change in your exercise routine can be amazing! Parks invite this change.

The value of parks is undeniable, so follow FDR's lead and support our public lands. It's the all-American thing to do. (Congress, take note!) You'll save the country money while improving our nation's health—and your own, too. Not a bad combination!

mark@americanparknetwork.com



GET CONNECTED AT YOUR FAVORITE PARKS!

Parks are about enjoying nature, but what if you want to share a great picture or are awaiting an important email? If you're looking to add connectivity to your park, or if you already have Wi-Fi and would like help adding content or generating sponsor revenues, please let us know at wifi@americanparknetwork.com.



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ARIZONA
GRAND CANYON STATE



PLAN YOUR VISIT

The beauty of Arizona is unparalleled in its diversity of landscapes, from the lush Sonoran Desert to the pine tree topped peaks. Waterways carve meandering canyons lined with riparian oases and scenic vistas open up to reveal spectacular views.

There's so much to see and do in the state. Whether you have a day or several weeks, Arizona's state parks will introduce you to the state's natural and cultural wonders.

Campgrounds and cabins await your arrival alongside lakes, rivers, and towering mountains. Trails accommodate hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. Find a swimming area, or a quiet cove to cast your line. Arizona's state parks offer a chance to see and explore the state's incredibly diverse natural attractions and cultural exhibits.

Reserve a cabin, campsite or cave tour today at azstateparks.com and plan your next adventure in Arizona!

TRAVEL DISTANCES

Many state parks are within driving distance of Arizona's major cities, and make perfect day trip destinations. In fact, there are several state parks located within two hours of Phoenix, Flagstaff and Tucson. See the centerfold map for a mileage chart.

OPERATING HOURS AND SEASONS

Arizona state parks are open year-round. For specific park schedules, go to AZStateParks.com. Call 877 MY-PARKS for information and campground and cave tour reservations.



SEASONAL HOURS

Arizona State Parks are open year-round. Some park museums and contact stations hours may fluctuate seasonally. Before your trip, please visit AZStateParks.com or call 877 MY-PARKS for current information.

ARIZONA STATE PARKS OUTDOOR RECREATION INFORMATION CENTER

Get travel and parks information just off 1-17 at the Pinnacle Peak Road. 23751 N. 23rd Ave, Suite 190, Phoenix, AZ.

ENTRANCE FEES

Day use fees at the state parks range from \$4 to \$30, seasonally for adults.

PARK PASSES

Arizona State Parks and Trails offers annual passes for frequent park visitors. The **Standard Annual Pass** allows day-use access at all Arizona state parks for the pass holder and up to three additional adults in the same vehicle, except at Buckskin Mountain, Cattail Cove, Lake Havasu, Patagonia Lake, River Island and Slide Rock on weekends (Friday-Sunday) and state holidays from April 1 to October 31.

The **Premium Annual Pass** is geared toward boaters who want to launch their boat on the Colorado River parks any day of the week. The Premium Annual Pass allows the pass holder and up to three additional adults in the same vehicle day-use access to all Arizona state parks, anytime.

Annual park passes are available at any state park, at the Arizona State Parks office in Phoenix, or at AZStateParks.com. Passes are good for one year from date of purchase



Let's
Go
Places



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and cannot be applied to other park fees, like camping or guided tours.

The **Military Discount Program** provides a 50 percent day-use discount to: active duty, guard and reserve military; Arizona-resident retired military veterans (AZ Driver's License address); and service disabled (10-90 percent or 100 percent individual unemployment) veterans (with proof of military service and a verbal or written statement of Service Connected Disability).

A free day-use pass is available to all 100 percent service disabled veterans (with VA-certified proof of 100 percent Service Connected Disability). All passes also cover up to three accompanying adult family members. Contact a park directly



SUPPORT ARIZONA STATE PARKS

Arizona State Parks need your help! Here are a few things you can do:

- Get out and explore! Take your family to visit Arizona State Parks.
- Join a park Friends Group: AZStateParks.com/friendsgroups
- Sign up to receive the monthly parks e-newsletter at AZStateParks.com
- Volunteer. Parks need volunteers to ensure that resources are protected, our amenities are at their best, and that visitors enjoy an unforgettable experience!
- Become a fan on Facebook: facebook.com/AZStateParks
- Follow along on Twitter: [@AZStateParks](https://twitter.com/AZStateParks)
- Become a member of the Arizona State Parks Foundation (ASPF). Learn more at arizonastateparksfoundation.org.
- Purchase an Arizona State Parks Annual Pass, available at AZStateParks.com.

to receive your pass. Proof of eligibility required.

COMMERCIAL GROUPS

Commercial Groups may visit the parks. For Kartchner Caverns commercial tours call **(520) 586-4109**

GROUP-USE AREAS

More than 20 Arizona state parks have group-use areas, including picnic areas and shade ramadas. See the facilities charts in the regional chapters of this guide or call the park directly for more information.

ACCESSIBILITY

Arizona State Parks and Trails' new ADA program is working on updating accessibility information for each park. Cabin, beach and trail accessibility upgrades will be taking place throughout 2017. The trail data collection project will allow visitors to know grade, length, and and slope of each trail. For information about specific facilities, trails, special services or group access for individuals with disabilities, please call the ADA Coordinator at **(602) 542-7130** or email access@azstateparks.gov. Visit the Accessibility tab at AZStateParks.com for updates.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Let us help you plan your next trip!

Visit AZStateParks.com for upcoming events, park information, and resources to make your next trip unforgettable!

The website also provides interactive driving directions, downloadable park

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Arizona State Parks and Trails	1-877-MY-PARKS Reservations at AZStateParks.com
Off-Highway Vehicle Information	AZStateParks.com/ohv
State Historic Preservation Office	(602) 542-4009
Arizona Game & Fish Department	(602) 942-3000 • azgfd.com
Operation Game Thief 24-hour Hotline	(800) 352-0700
Fishing Regulations	azgfd.com/fishing
Hunting Regulations	azgfd.com/hunting
Arizona State Land Department	(602) 542-4631
Travel and Safety	
Arizona Office of Tourism	(866)-275-5816 • visitarizona.com
Arizona Fire Restrictions	(877) 864-6985 • azfireinfo.az.gov
Arizona Highway Patrol	(602) 223-2000
Arizona Road Conditions	(888) 411-7623
Traveler Information Service	511 (in Arizona) • az511.gov
Emergencies	911

maps, park hours and guidelines and categories of campsites and park histories. Find specific information on recreation parks, historic parks, or parks with particular facilities or activities on the 'Find a Park' tabs.

Help your youngster become a Junior Ranger! Discover activities being held at each park online, download and print them to enjoy at home.

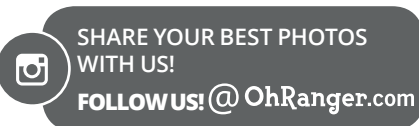
Enjoy springtime with photos of wildflower and cactus blooms on the Wildflowers page! It's a great way to stay connected and see what's blooming in the parks. For more information, please visit [AZStateParks.com/Wildflowers](https://www.azstateparks.com/Wildflowers).

Visitors to AZStateParks.com can also make campground and cabin reservations, schedule cave tours at Kartchner Caverns

State Park, find information on Arizona's Off-Highway Vehicle Program (OHV), State Trails Program, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and grant funding options.

The website also provides information on how to sign up to support your parks by volunteering, joining a park friends group, or making a donation!

Stay connected by linking up with Arizona State Parks on social media at AZStateParks on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.



PARK SAFETY AND REGULATIONS

Please review and observe the following tips, which are designed to enhance your safety and enjoyment.

- Always stay on trails. Share the trail and be aware when you are on the trail. Always let someone know your hiking itinerary and when you plan to return before you hit the trail.
- Camp only in designated spots.
- Practice Leave No Trace (Int.org) principles:
 - Plan ahead and prepare
 - Travel and camp on durable surfaces
 - Dispose of waste properly.
 - Leave what you find
 - Minimize campfire impacts
 - Respect wildlife
 - Be considerate of other visitors
- No animals (except service dogs) are allowed in historic buildings.
- Never feed wildlife and always store your rations and trash securely.
- When boating, always wear a personal flotation device and make sure that you have enough for everyone on your craft.

PETS

Arizona state parks welcomes pets! However, animals must be kept on a leash that does not exceed six feet at all times. Owners must also clean up after their pets. With the exception of service animals, pets are not allowed in historic buildings or museums, in cabana sites, on developed beaches or at other environmentally or ecologically sensitive areas. Contact individual parks for information about site-specific rules. Pets are not allowed at Red Rock State Park, near the swim area at Slide Rock State Park, or on trails at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park.

FRIENDS GROUPS

Arizona State Parks and Trails is supported by several dedicated non-profit organizations called Friends Groups that help sustain a variety of projects and increase awareness of the system's recreational, natural and historic resources. They contribute to building new trails, provide funding for new signs, support volunteers, provide equipment, and much more. Friends groups are associated with the following: Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Kartchner Caverns, Catalina, Lost Dutchman, Oracle, Red Rock, Riordan Mansion, Slide Rock, Tonto Natural Bridge, Tubac Presidio Park and Museum, Sonoita Creek, Verde River Greenway, and the Arizona State Parks Foundation.





HISTORY & CULTURE

Arizona is known around the world for its majestic scenery. From the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, which Major John Wesley Powell, a one-armed veteran of the Civil War explored by boat in 1869; through the Ponderosa Pine forests of the Mogollon Rim, the setting of many stories by famed Western writer Zane Grey; to the exotic saguaro landscape of the Sonoran Desert in the south, Arizona is a place of rugged beauty.

Arizona's 6.6 million residents live in places as varied as metropolitan Phoenix, the state capital, and the mesa-top pueblos of the Hopi Indians, the longest-inhabited communities in America. Whether in cities, villages, small towns or on rural ranches, Arizonans have been living the history of this place since before there was a United

States. In addition to the modern office buildings, high-tech manufacturing facilities and state-of-the-art research centers there are also thousands of reminders of earlier lives. These include ruins of ancient Native American societies such as at Homolovi State Park and Walnut Canyon National Monument, ghost towns from the 1800s, bungalow neighborhoods from the 1920s, and a Cold War-era missile silo with its Titan II rocket still in place.

NATIVE AMERICANS

Whether you are an Arizona native or have just recently arrived, you will gain a greater appreciation for the wonderland that is the 48th state if you can tie together the many strands of natural and cultural history into a story in which you yourself are playing a

part. The oldest of those strands—apart from the geological and biological stories that can be seen in the state's mountains and canyons and in its flora and fauna—are those associated with the Native American tribes who have long inhabited this region. Their roots here date back some 15,000 years, when the first Paleo Indians lived by hunting and gathering in the arid and dangerous terrain. These early Arizonans began planting corn around 2,000 B.C., and thereafter began to develop societies of great complexity and cultural achievement.

In central and southern Arizona, the Hohokam built a society based on agriculture supported by a vast network of canals, which drew water from the Salt, Gila and other rivers. With their resources of farmed food and a large population, the Hohokam constructed numerous villages that can be seen now in parks such as Pueblo Grande Museum in Phoenix, Mesa Grande in Mesa and Casa Grande National Monument in Coolidge. Further north, the Anasazi built large pueblos, many constructed in the sides of cliffs for protection, such as at Montezuma's Castle National Monument in Camp Verde and Navajo National Monument on the Navajo Reservation. These societies were already in decline by the time the first Europeans arrived in the New World, their place taken by the modern native tribes we know today.

While tribes in other parts of the United States were displaced from their traditional homelands, many in Arizona have been able to retain both their cultural identity and at least a portion of their historic land. In addition to the ruins of ancient cultures, visitors can see other aspects of tribal history from the tragic battlefields of the 19th century Indian wars, to symbols of cultural survival such as the impressive Council Chambers of the Navajo Nation in Window

Rock, now a National Historic Landmark. The Council Chambers resemble a traditional Navajo hogan residence, but within are carried out the functions of the tribes' sovereign government, now fully acknowledged as a full partner in the future development of the state.

SPANISH EXPLORERS AND MISSIONARIES

On the San Xavier Reservation of the Tohono O'odham Tribe south of Tucson, is a monument of another important strand in Arizona history. There stands the still-functioning San Xavier del Bac Mission, first established by the Jesuit missionary Father Eusebio Kino in 1700. Kino was part of a wave of explorers, conquerors, and settlers who came north from Mexico between 1540 and 1821 to expand the Spanish empire. The Spanish established a chain of missions, presidios (forts), pueblos (villages) and ranchos (ranches), primarily in the region of the Santa Cruz River. Tucson traces its history to a presidio garrison established in 1775 and from Tubac Presidio (State Historic Park). It was this presidio where an expedition of settlers led by Juan Bautista de Anza set out on a journey in 1775 that resulted in the founding of the city of San Francisco.

MEXICAN INFLUENCE

After gaining independence in 1821, Mexico exercised authority over Arizona until the United States gained control of the region following the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. Although no longer sovereign, the proximity of Mexico to Arizona has had an important influence on the culture and people of this state. Arizona has long drawn workers and families from Mexico who



Arizona State Parks and Trails

History comes alive at Fort Verde State Historic Park. Vintage baseball games take place regularly at the fort.



At Jerome State Historic Park, mining history is on display at Douglas Mansion.

worked in its mines and on its farms and ranches. People of Hispanic ancestry account today for approximately 31 percent of Arizona residents.

WESTWARD EXPANSION

Landmark events of modern Arizona history include the arrival of the railroad in 1881, which opened the state to mass settlement and development. Construction of Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River in 1911 and Hoover Dam on the Colorado River in 1935 harnessed the great rivers for hydroelectric power generation and the reclamation of desert lands

for agricultural and urban uses. World War II opened the state to industrial development, and the post-war era of suburban growth transformed the formerly small town of Phoenix into one of the largest cities in America.

Whether it relates to ancient tribal cultures, intrepid Spanish missionaries, ambitious American pioneers or modern families looking for opportunity, Arizona is a land that tells the history of its people. Arizona State Parks was established in 1957, in part to preserve some of the important places associated with this history. These historic parks educate Arizona's citizens and visitors about important aspects of the state's history, such as lumbering in northern Arizona, ranching in southern Arizona, Spanish settlement at Tubac and copper mining in the Verde River Valley. Explore Arizona's State Parks and Trails to become part of this cavalcade of history. The 28 State Parks also serve as the important economic engines for visitation to the rural towns in Arizona.

Arizona State Parks and Trails



PRESERVATION

By understanding and protecting the fragile natural and cultural resources of Arizona, you can help preserve them.

NATURAL AREAS

Arizona State Parks and Trails is responsible for more than 64,000 acres of parklands, about half of which are designated as Natural Areas. The State Natural Areas preserve and protect "parcels of land or water that contain examples of unique natural terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems, rare species of plants and animals and unusual or outstanding geologic or hydrologic features." These sites contain critical ecological communities supporting rare and sensitive flora and fauna, serving as a base for studying natural resources and provide an indispensable link to Arizona's natural heritage.

There are currently three designated State Natural Areas (SNA): **Sonoita Creek**, **Verde River Greenway** and **San Rafael Ranch**. Additionally, several parklands contain substantial natural features that contribute to regional ecological processes and meet the criteria for Natural Areas within an existing park. Arizona State Parks and Trails works with a broad range of partners to help protect these Natural Areas for future generations.

A Natural Area success story, the **Gila topminnow**, a rare species of native Arizona fish, now has a better chance to thrive at **Sonoita Creek SNA**. The spring-fed pools here are home to one of the largest remaining wild populations of the endangered topminnows.

The **Verde River Greenway SNA**, a stretch of the Verde River located in Yavapai County, is a Natural Area work-in-progress. It was originally identified in the late 1980s

as a critical portion of the river based on its rich natural and cultural resources as well as a growing demand for recreational use. In 2006, the Arizona State Parks Board expanded the Verde River Greenway Project beyond the original six-mile stretch to encompass 30 miles of riparian wildlife corridor. In tandem with the expanded Greenway vision, additional land will soon be added to the Greenway to protect the habitats of the endangered **southwestern willow flycatcher** and **bald eagle**.



LEAVE NO TRACE

Leave No Trace is a national program that teaches people how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly, and promotes and inspires proper stewardship of America's public lands. Many land management agencies are cooperating partners in this program. You can help minimize impacts to the natural resources and social experiences of other visitors by practicing these seven principles. For more information, please visit LNT.org.

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Leave what you find.
- Minimize campfire impacts.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of other visitors.

Consider applying these principles during your travels. We always need your help in preserving our shared lands for future generations. It is the most important thing you can do for the places you love. Make the commitment to Leave No Trace today. You can make a difference.

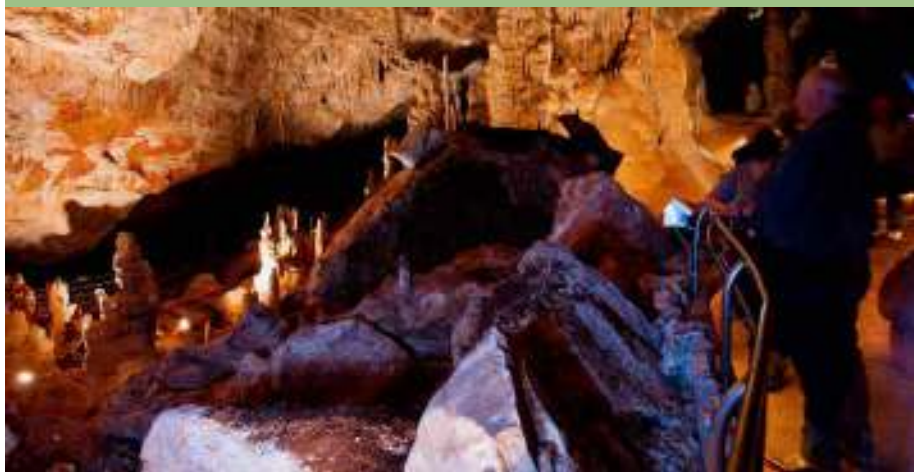
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YEARLY RETURN OF THE BATS



Arizona State Parks

The Big Room at Kartchner Caverns transforms into a bat nursery from April 15 to October 15.

During March, the thoughts of rangers at Kartchner Caverns State Park turn to warm, furry, little creatures that fly the summer night skies. Eagerly anticipating the return of a small colony of *Myotis velifer*, or the common cave bat, rangers scan the evening sky to catch a glimpse of the first tiny bats returning to their summer home.

Though nobody knows for sure where the colony spends their winter, rangers suspect they may hibernate in caves located high in the Huachuca Mountains, only about 40 miles away from the park. About 1,000 bats live in part of the caverns seasonally each year. Rangers at Kartchner Caverns State Park count the bats each summer, and the data show that the colony is maintaining its population. In 2001, the count was about 900. In 2003, that number had doubled. The population has fluctuated since. In 2015 the population was 1,086; in 2016, the population was 2,131.

The bat population numbers can vary annually for many reasons. The biggest known factors are climate, specifically precipitation amounts, as well as food source, in this case bug and lots of them!

During the summer, Cave Unit staff count the bats once a week by climbing down into the sink-hole—the only natural entrance to the cave—at

twilight, with a hand-held counter. As the bats leave their home that night, the rangers sit quietly in darkness and count each one they see.

The Cave Manager says that the colony's population fluctuates with the amount of rain the region receives each year because rainfall affects the insect population, and "When we've got bugs, we've got bats."

Each year on April 15, Cave Unit staff close all the doors to the Big Room, turn out the lights, and even pull out the electrical plugs to be sure no lights come on during summer. They will not enter that part of the cave until late September, after the bats have migrated away. The Big Room re-opens to the public on October 15. The Rotunda/Throne tour, which has no bats, stays open year-round.

During the summer, the colony of bats is busy giving birth, raising their pups, and teaching them to fly and hunt. The rangers feel good about honoring the privacy of the bats, knowing these creatures are continuing their life cycles, which have existed here for thousands of years.

The annual return of the bats to Kartchner Caverns State Park is a major indicator that the efforts made by the park rangers to protect the cave environment are working.

Arizona State Parks



Lost Dutchman State Park sits at the base of the Superstition Wilderness.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species in Arizona are a serious and growing problem and represent a significant threat to both the economic and ecologic health of Arizona.

These non-native species can cause harm to the local ecosystem, and may even jeopardize human and economic health. Many non-native species have been introduced intentionally, while others have hitchhiked on boats, commercial transports, pets, humans, livestock, automobiles and boats. Regardless of how they reached Arizona, these invaders spread into parks, preserves, wildlife refuges, and urban spaces.

The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (AISAC) has developed an initial working list of plants that pose a significant threat to Arizona's wildlands, and has made the development of a non-native wildlife species list a high priority.

Invasive aquatic fauna species include

bullfrogs, crayfish and non-native fishes.

One of the latest invasive species to arrive in Arizona is the **quagga mussel**, a disruptive invader and cousin of the zebra mussel, which is spread by boats. It has a high potential for rapid adaptation to extreme environmental conditions and is capable of reproducing in a wide range of habitats.

Prevention is often the first and most effective line of defense against the damages and risks associated with invasive species. But once they've already been permanently established, the most effective action may be to prevent their spread or reduce their impacts through control and management.

Be aware and help stop the spread of invasive species. Assist resource managers in combating invasive species in Arizona by being aware that you, as a trail user, boater, outdoor enthusiast, home gardener, traveler by plane, car, or bicycle, could potentially transport these species.



THINGS TO DO

Arizona's state parks and natural areas are rich with diverse and exciting recreational opportunities. Visitors can hike among the red rocks of Sedona on the historic **Lime Kiln Trail**, cruise their boat under the **London Bridge of Lake Havasu**, or camp among towering saguaros in the **Sonoran Desert**. In the summer you can head to higher elevations to cool off from the heat in Arizona's natural water slide at Slide Rock State Park. Movie buffs can enjoy the Old West on Tombstone's main street or get a history lesson at Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park. Whether you stay a day or a week, you'll find more than you imagined in Arizona.

PARK PROGRAMS

Learning can be fun; let the parks show you how! Many parks offer guided hikes and nature talks or history programs about the area. Have you always wanted to hike by the light of a full moon? Or learn about some of the early survival methods used by the Sinagua Indians over 1,000 years ago? Star Night Parties and astronomy events with high-powered telescopes have become a popular program at many of the state parks. Check the Arizona State Parks calendar online at AZStateParks.com/events, visit an individual park's homepage at AZStateParks.com, or call an individual park for more information.

BICYCLING

Arizona offers a wide variety of road and trail riding throughout the state, with some of the best year-round riding weather in southern Arizona. Bikes are welcome at Arizona State Parks. Explore

the parks' roads by bike, ride on the designated mountain bike trails or tour from park to park.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Nothing evokes the Old West as much as saddling up a horse and hitting the trail, whether it's taking in Sedona's breathtaking red rocks or the desert's myriad cacti. You can visit **Dead Horse Ranch State Park** and **Catalina State Park** which both have horseback riding opportunities and an equestrian staging area with the option for overnight horse camping.

EXPLORING ARIZONA'S LAKES AND RIVERS

Arizona may be known for its deserts, but its lakes and rivers are also treasured. **Lake Havasu State Park** is especially popular in the summer for swimming and fishing. For premier bass fishing, **Alamo Lake State Park** is an angler's dream, and when night falls, you'll find some of the best stargazing around. For a more peaceful time on the water, look no further than **Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area**, known for the fishing and still mountain air. Tucked away in the rolling hills of southern Arizona, discover the hidden wildlife treasures at **Patagonia Lake State Park**. A transformation is happening on the Colorado River in Yuma thanks to wetland restora-



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VOLUNTEER IN THE PARKS!



Arizona State Parks

Volunteer demonstrators help visitors learn more about Arizona State Parks and Trails.

Have you ever dreamed of leading nature talks, assisting with interpretive programs at an 1870's military outpost or ancient Native American cultural artifacts? Arizona State Parks and Trails has many different ways for you to donate your time and talents and welcomes volunteers for one-time projects as well as long-term assignments. If you live near a park, you may choose to be a local **Parks Volunteer** on a regular basis. There are also opportunities for community outreach at local events and office volunteers for our Cen-

tral Office in Phoenix. Recruitment of community members occurs throughout the year, with volunteer open houses and trainings occurring during busy seasons.

If you're interested in archaeology, become a **Site Steward** volunteer. Site Stewards help protect and preserve the cultural resources and the heritage of Arizona. Their primary role is to monitor archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites and report any looting or vandalism to the land manager. Site Stewards make an important contribution to preserving our cultural heritage by working closely with archaeologists and federal, state, tribal, county and municipal agency staff. If you have an RV and would like to volunteer on-site as a campground host or interpretive guide, please log on to AZStateParks.com/volunteer and click the "On-Site Support Team" icon. Positions are available year-round in different parts of the state. Visit AZStateParks.com/volunteer for a list of site-specific volunteer opportunities, or submit a volunteer application. For more information call (602) 542-7152.

tion. Stroll along the river between **Colorado River** and **Yuma Territorial State Historic Parks** and see how the community is reclaiming the area for native vegetation, fish and wildlife.

BOATING

Arizona's lakes, rivers and reservoirs are a treasure in the desert state and a great place to have fun. Enjoy scenic shorelines and beautiful beaches at **Lake Havasu State Park**, the best bass fishing at **Alamo Lake State Park**, canoe and kayaking rentals at **Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area** and the hidden treasure of **Patagonia Lake State Park**.

Remember you share the water with others who may not be familiar with boat-

ing rules and safety procedures. Generally, children under 12 may not operate a watercraft with a motor greater than eight horsepower, unless an adult is on board. All children 12 and under must wear a life jacket (PFD) while underway on any vessel, and it is recommended that everyone wear a PFD. For expanded information on registration, boating laws, and responsibilities, contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department at (602) 942-3000 or visit azgfd.com.

HIKING

Arizona State Parks have over 124 miles of hiking trails. A great way to hike the parks is along the **Lime Kiln Trail**, which links **Dead Horse Ranch**

State Park in Cottonwood with **Red Rock State Park** in Sedona. The trail is about 15 miles and follows the old Lime Kiln wagon trail. Many state parks offer hiking opportunities. A few highlights are listed below.

Trails at **Catalina State Park**, located within the Coronado National Forest near Tucson, wind through ruins, perennial pools and a variety of vegetation. Giant sun-bleached boulders crowd saguaros, creosote and mesquite. But the higher you climb the greater the pine. The trails go to Mount Lemmon, Sabino and West Fork to provide a gallery of masterpieces.

Hike to the mountaintop at **Picacho Peak State Park**, situated between Phoenix and Tucson, for a birds-eye view of the desert after a challenging 3,374-foot ascent. Hunter Trail (2 miles to the peak) and Sunset Vista Trail (3.1 miles to the

peak) both take you through saguaros, chollas and ocotillos that dot the desert landscape.

Dead Horse Ranch State Park, in the scenic Verde Valley north of Phoenix, offers many levels of hiking trails and a multi-use trail system for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. **Lyman Lake State Park** in northeastern Arizona provides a unique opportunity to walk back in time. The Petroglyph Trail winds past small boulders covered with well-preserved rock art. Special tours can be arranged to access the site and rangers are happy to share information on cultures that once called the region home.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

Arizona provides some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities in the nation, with more than 900 animal species and 50 million

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public acres of natural land to explore. Several state parks offer excellent wildlife watching opportunities; look for a brown sign with the binocular symbol. See the “Nature & Wildlife” chapter for more information.

HUNTING

Contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department at (602) 942-3000 or visit azgfd.com for more information on Arizona hunting licenses.

FISHING

A variety of fishing opportunities across the state provide anglers a chance to catch a number of species, including large mouth bass, rainbow trout, channel catfish and bluegill.

A valid fishing license is required (except children under age 14). You may purchase a fishing license from a local dealer or Arizona

Game and Fish Department office. For more information, contact **(602) 942-3000** or visit **azgfd.com**.

OHVS

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) opportunities in Arizona incorporate stunning desert and canyon landscapes, plateaus, woodlands, dense forests and alpine meadows.

OHV enthusiasts use unpaved roads, trails and areas for a variety of purposes such as riding trails, sightseeing for pleasure, viewing wildlife, and accessing camping, trailheads, hunting and fishing areas.

The comprehensive Arizona State Parks and Trails OHV website provides more information about safety and where to ride.

Be sure to get your OHV Decal for your OHV. For more information, please visit **AZStateParks.com/OHV**.



From Lake Kavasus State Park's fishing pier, anglers cast for catfish.

Dorian Wallender



Clockwise from top: Enjoy scenic shorelines and beautiful beaches at Lake Havasu State Park; Oracle State Park is Arizona's first designated International Dark Skies Park; Before you ride or drive OHVs, always contact the appropriate land manager to check on route closures, fire danger, local conditions, special permits or permission; Historic houses speak to the history of Arizona's past and the future of its preservation; Explore the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains at Catalina State Park. All photos: Arizona State Parks and Trails except OHV photo: Larry Burns



OHV TRAILS

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Off Highway Vehicles ("OHVs") are our passports to adventure. They are **Freedom**. Every year sturdier, more nimble and fuel-efficient machines offer unprecedented access to previously unapproachable terrain, placing the riches of America's public lands at our fingertips. With more than 22 million acres of managed open space, and thousands of miles of designated trails - from forests to desert dunes - there may be nowhere in this country where OHV recreation more readily accessible than Arizona!

With great access, comes great responsibility.

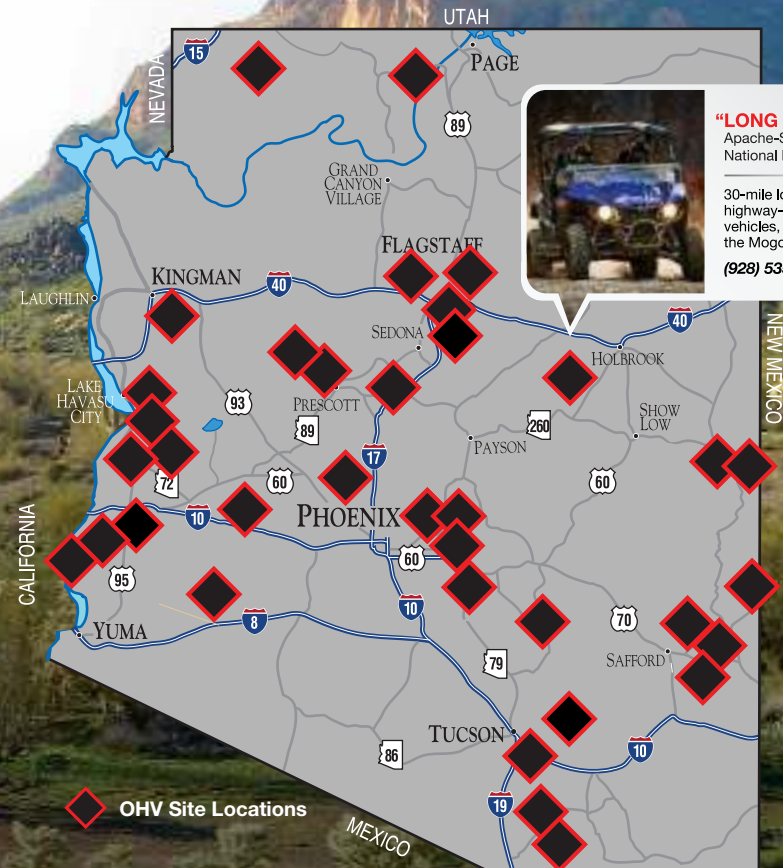
The YAMAHA *Outdoor Access Initiative* works with OHV clubs, associations, and conservation groups across the country, funding worthwhile projects towards a goal of shaping responsible access to the trails and adventure we treasure. If you are a part of one of these groups, please visit www.yamahaoutdooraccess.com to learn more about the GRANT process and all of the great work being done.

YAMAHA and the agencies and partners working together for Open OHV Access in Arizona, encourage you to explore new areas in the state. No matter where you're going, please always ride only on **designated trails** and ride responsibly following TreadLightly!® principles.

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OHV areas in the state, visit

AZStateParks.com/where-to-ride

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CAMPING



Arizona State Parks and Trails

Camp among 100-foot pine trees beside a quiet lake at Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area near the city of Show Low.

Arizona state parks include 15 camping parks that offer a wide variety of amenities and opportunities—from RV and tent sites to camping cabins.

CAMPGROUNDS

Many campsites offer electric and water hook-ups for RV and tent campers, as well as showers and picnic areas. All camping parks offer reservations online or by phone, other campsites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Types of camping sites and amenities vary. Call **1-877-MY-PARKS** or check online at **AZStateParks.com** for information and availability. Refer to the regional chapters in this guide for park-specific camping information and amenities charts.

FEES

Camping fees range from \$15 to \$50 per night. Reservations are available online or by phone for all camping parks. A non-refundable \$5 reservation fee per site will be added

to camping fees at time of payment. Fees are charged per site. Individual developed campsite fees are based upon one vehicle per campsite. Additional vehicles will be charged \$15 per vehicle per night. The extra vehicle fee does not apply to vehicles that are towed or are set-up to be towed behind a primary vehicle when the primary vehicle remains at the site and the towed vehicle is used for transportation, or if the second vehicle accompanying the primary vehicle is registered to the same address, or the same person as the primary vehicle. Cash and credit cards are accepted.

GROUP CAMPING

Several recreation parks offer group camping sites, available by reservation (fee required). Contact individual parks for more information.

RESERVATIONS

All 15 camping parks accept reserva-



ARIZONA'S FAMILY CAMPOUT PROGRAM



Arizona State Parks and Trails

At the Catalina State Park campout in Tucson, families learn how to start a campfire.

The Arizona Family Campout Program is designed for families that have little or no experience camping. Arizona State Parks and Trails hope to introduce you to the great experiences you can share with your loved ones and inspire you to continue to explore the great outdoors! These weekend adventures take place at a variety of Arizona state parks.

Based on the park, participant ages, and weather, these activities may be part of your weekend adventure: guided hikes, mountain biking, archery, geocaching, fishing, live animal demonstrations, campfire stories, and presentations on geography, birding, geology and astronomy.

The program provides tents, sleeping mats, camp chairs, lanterns, flashlights, GPS units, water bottles, first aid kits and all activity equipment. Also, water, lemonade, coffee, and campfire treats!

Families need to provide sleeping bags (or other bedding), pillows, clothing, good, sturdy shoes and personal items (toothpaste, towels, soap, etc.). Families also need to provide food for four meals. Registration Fee: \$70 up to family of four. Additional family members \$5 each up to six people. One family per registration. For more registration information including which parks are participating and to make arrangements for larger families, groups, and anyone else in need of special arrangements, please visit AZStateParks.com/Family. The program is not open to children ages 5 years old and younger or pets.



**AZ Family
Campout
Program**
AZStateParks.com/Family

tions by phone or online. The reservation system can be accessed online 24 hours a day at AZStateParks.com, or by calling the Arizona State Parks and Trails Reservation Center at 1-877-MY-PARKS, seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. MST.

There is a \$5 non-refundable reservation fee assessed per campsite. A maximum of five sites are reservable by one party. There is a two-night minimum for peak season weekend reservations (Friday through Sunday). Contact the parks or go to **AZStateParks.com** for detailed reservation information and cancellation policies.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Three private backcountry hike-in sites are available at **Sonoita Creek State Natural Area**, the only Arizona state park

WHERE THE GREAT OUTDOORS MEETS THE GREAT INDOORS! Arizona's state parks provide perfect destinations for family camping adventures without the need for an RV or tent. Cozy camping cabins are available at Alamo Lake, Dead Horse Ranch, Lyman Lake, Roper Lake, and now Kartchner Caverns! Reserve yours at azstateparks.com/cabins.



with backcountry camping. The closest site is about four miles from the trailhead. There is a six-person limit and a two night maximum stay per site. Sites cost \$12 per night. A day use permit (required) and campsite reservations are available at the visitor center or the Patagonia Lake State Park gatehouse, depending on the season.

CAMPING CABINS

Select parks offer camping cabin accommodations as an alternative to traditional camping. The cabins are furnished and have electricity, but visitors must bring their own linens. Cabin campers are encouraged to bring the following items: food; flashlight and matches; towels, bedding, pillows and/or sleeping bags; cooking and eating utensils; and lawn chairs. **Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Lyman Lake State Park, Alamo Lake State Park, Kartchner Caverns State Park and Roper Lake State Park** each provide cozy log cabins with covered wood porches and comfortable features.

Ideal for campers who would rather spend time relaxing and playing than setting up camp, the cabins are variably furnished with a bunk bed, a full-size bed, a table and chairs, electricity, light and a lockable door. Picnic tables and charcoal grills make for a well-equipped outdoor setting.

Restrooms and showers are within walking distance, and there is a gift or supply shop in each park. Cabins at Dead Horse Ranch are accessible by car, and the ones at Lyman Lake and Roper Lake are accessible by car or RV, and equipped with electric hook-ups (additional fee).

RESERVATIONS

Camping cabin reservations can be made up to 365 days in advance. There is a two-night minimum stay on peak week-

Arizona State Parks and Trails



New camping cabins at Lyman Lake State Park provide a comfortable stay along the lake.

ends. Cabins can be rented for a maximum of 14 days. A non-refundable \$5 reservation fee is required.

RULES & REGULATIONS

Capacity: Maximum capacity for camping cabins is four adults, with no more than six people per cabin, including children.

Check In/Out: Check-in time is 3 p.m.; check-out time is 10 a.m. for cabins. Check-in time is 2 p.m.; check-out time is 12 noon for campsites.

Campsites: A campsite with or without water and electric hook-up is available for use next to most cabins for an additional charge.

No Shows: A cabin will be released to waiting customers the morning after the

anticipated arrival date. Deposit will not be refunded.

ADA Sites: At least one ADA-accessible cabin is available at each park. Contact individual parks for more information.

Park Rules: All park rules apply at cabins. Please adhere to them and practice 'Leave No Trace' principles. Please be respectful of your neighbors.

Smoking and Cooking: No smoking or cooking is allowed inside cabins.

Pets: A charge of \$5 per night per pet. Keep your pet on a leash at all times and clean up after them. Except for service animals, visitors cannot take pets to cabana sites, on developed beaches, or to other areas deemed environmentally or ecologically sensitive.



Arizona can be said to have a myriad of habitats but geologists divide the state into three major regions: the basin and range, the transition zone, and the Colorado Plateau, each with its own ecosystem.

Covering most of the southern portion of the state is the **basin and range** province. Wide sloping valleys interspersed with craggy mountain ranges make up the landscape. This region holds three of Arizona's four desert types but also includes forested sky islands. The **Sonoran Desert**, characterized by the stately saguaro cactus, is actually lush by desert standards. Both strong summer storms and winter rains bring enough moisture to support hardy trees, cactus and brushland. Bordering the southeastern portion of the state is the **Chihuahuan Desert**. This desert type gets more summer rains that support grasslands and signature plants like the creosote bush and lechuguilla. The western border contains the **Mohave Desert** with its sizzling summer temperatures and impressive Joshua trees.

Cutting diagonally across Arizona is the **transition zone**, where the rugged terrain hides steep canyons and basalt cliffs. The changing landscape captures the seasonal rains and this diverse region moves from desert, grasslands, and chaparral scrubland to juniper and piñon forests, and finally, to tall pines. An escarpment known as the Mogollon (pronounced "Muggy-own") rim sharply marks the beginning of the **Colorado Plateau**. Large Ponderosa pines thrive along

its edge, then it tips downward to the badlands of the high, cold **Great Basin Desert**. Perched on the plateau is the highest point in Arizona, the **San Francisco Peaks**, and carved a mile into its mantle, the magnificent **Grand Canyon**.

THE RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEM

A common thread found throughout all of Arizona is an ecosystem defined as a riparian zone—a habitat associated with bodies of fresh water. Small areas along water routes sustain plant species that would otherwise shrivel and die if they were to move just a few yards away.

More than half of the wildlife species in Arizona depend on these habitats for survival. Not only are these areas important to wildlife, they are also the key to maintaining healthy water supplies. Riparian areas act as water filters, reduce soil erosion and provide recreational sites.

Yet this habitat is the rarest of all the biotic communities in Arizona. Ten percent of Arizona's landmass was classified as a riparian zone 100 years ago, whereas less than half of one percent is classified as such today. With the building of dams that control the floods and bring water and electricity to the population, most of the state's riparian systems have been compromised or lost completely. Although they tend to be small relative to other biotic communities, their biological importance far exceeds their limited occurrence.

The **wildlife** that appear in the chart in this chapter call Arizona home. During your travels, keep your binoculars handy and your eyes peeled. Happy spotting!



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE



With more than 900 animal species and 50 million public acres of natural land to explore, Arizona provides some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities in the nation. Always remember to stay at a respectable distance to avoid disturbing them. Feeding wild animals makes them dependent on handouts and unable to fend for themselves when visitors leave for the season.

1 Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are abundant in Arizona and prey mostly on rodents, but will eat almost anything. Their distinct howls and yelps can be recognized by other coyotes over long distances. Often referred to in Native American lore as tricksters, coyotes are a classic symbol of the Southwest.
• **Weight** 18 to 40 pounds • **Size** 32 to 40 inches long • **Height** 15-20 inches tall; Photo: kariumbriaco/iStock

2 Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) are well adapted to live in the hottest, driest, and seemingly most inhospitable places. They eat mesquite, jojoba and grasses and get their hydration from cacti and agaves when water is scarce. • **Weight** 75 to 225 pounds • **Size** 4 to 4.5 feet long • **Height** 2.5 to 3.5 feet tall at shoulders; Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife

3 The Gila monster (*Heloderma suspectum*) is one of only two venomous lizards in the world. Unlike a snake that injects its venom with its fangs, Gila monsters have venom in their saliva and use their strong molars to break their prey's skin, allowing the saliva to enter. While rarely fatal to humans, the Gila monster's bite can be very painful. • **Weight** up to 5 pounds • **Size** 18 to 24 inches long; Photo: Jason

4 Great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*) are commonly seen stalking their prey along lakes, rivers and ponds. They eat frogs, crayfish, snails and fish, but have also been seen at Dead Horse Ranch State Park helping out rangers by catching and eating nuisance gophers. • **Weight** 6 to 12 pounds • **Size** 39 to 52 inches long; 6 to 7 feet wingspan; Photo: Hilary Halliwell

5 Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) are easily identifiable by their prominent feathery "ear" tufts. The position of their ears and their ability to swivel their heads in incredible angles, give owls 3-D hearing to locate prey, which comprises rodents, rabbits, skunks and other birds, fish, and reptiles. • **Weight** about 3 pounds • **Size** 18 to 25 inches long; 4 to 5 feet wingspan; Photo: Jon Nelson



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE



6 Hog-nosed skunks (*Conepatus leuconotus*) are easily identified by their lack of a stripe or entirely white back and tail and its slightly upturned snout. When threatened, the skunk ejects the foul smelling scent at would-be predators. • **Weight** 2.5 to 6 pounds • **Size** 9.5 to 22.5 inches long, including tail; Photo: cpaulfell/iStock

7 There are 16 species of **horned lizards (*Phrynosoma*)**, sometimes referred to as horny toads, in the Western U.S. Their coloration and spikes, or horns, provide camouflage, allowing them to look like a rock, sand or leaf. If hiding doesn't work, some species can squirt foul blood from their eye to deter predators. Their color can vary, but is often similar to the prevailing soil color. • **Size** 2 to 6.5 inches long; Photo: U.S. Forest Service

8 Often mistaken for pigs, **javelinas (*Pecari tajacu*)** are actually a type of peccary. They prefer the prickly pear cactus, but will also eat flowers, fruits, bulbs, roots, grubs, and reptiles. Javelinas live in herds of eight to 12 and prefer desert and arid woodland habitats. • **Weight** 35 to 60 pounds • **Size** 29 to 39 inches long • **Height** 17-23 inches tall Photo: Bill Morrow

9 Red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) can be identified by their broad, rust-colored tails. They prey primarily on rodents, but will also eat insects, fish, larger mammals and other birds. The raptor's raspy cry is often used in TV and movies to represent the bald eagle, whose own cry is too meek. • **Weight** 1.5 to 4 lbs • **Size** 19 to 26 in long; 4 to 4.5 ft wingspan; Photo: Becky Matsubara

10 Tarantulas (*Aphonopelma chaleodes*) have eight eyes, but can't see more than a few inches away and must rely on their hairs, which serve as sensory receptors. Instead of spinning webs, they hunt for prey. Insects who venture into a tarantula's territory will be pounced upon, injected with venom, predigested with enzymes, and slurped up. • **Size** up to 2 inches long; leg span about 5 inches ; Photo: Stewart Black

11 Desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*) live 30 to 50 years; they grow slowly and generally have low reproductive rates. Spending most of their time in burrows or rock shelters to regulate body temperature and reduce water loss, they are most active after seasonal rains. • **Weight** 8 to 15 pounds • **Size** 10 to 14 inches long; 4 to 6 inches tall; Photo: U.S. Forest Service



WATER & HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Arizona's watery west includes the shores of Lake Havasu, the Colorado River and Alamo Lake and features ideal camping, sandy beaches, wildlife viewing and superb fishing. Downriver, discover Yuma's river history and heritage as an agricultural oasis.

ALAMO LAKE STATE PARK

Nestled in the Bill Williams River Valley away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, Alamo Lake is one of Arizona's best-kept secrets. Visitors here enjoy outdoor fun, premier bass fishing, rest and relaxation. Spring rains bring an abundance of wildflowers and the lake environment attracts a variety of wildlife year-round, including bald and **golden eagles, waterfowl, foxes, coyotes, mule deer and wild burros**. Stargazers are sure to enjoy the unbelievable view of the **night sky**, with the nearest city lights some 40 miles away! Camping is a great way to take advantage of these incredible star-viewing opportunities. Each fall the park hosts an annual Star Night event.

Alamo Lake was created with the completion of Alamo Dam in 1968. Unusually high flows during the late 1970s and through the 1980s have increased the average size of the lake, helping to create one of **Arizona's best fishing holes**. Fishing tournaments are common at the lake and anglers have an excellent opportunity to catch bluegill, largemouth bass, channel catfish and black crappie.

Stop by the **Bait Shop and Market** for camping and fishing supplies, including ice, firewood, fishing licenses and food.

The park is open daily. Visitor center hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., daily. Hours may change. *Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located 37 miles



north of Wenden (off U.S. Route 60) on Alamo Dam Road, Wenden, AZ 85357; **(928) 669-2088**. Phone available during visitor center hours only.

BUCKSKIN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Buckskin Mountain State Park commands one of the finest views along the Parker strip, an 18-mile stretch between Parker Dam and Headgate Dam. Mountains line the river on both the Arizona and California sides,

making this picturesque park a scenic respite with prime mountain hikes and fun-filled water adventures. The park has a beach, basketball and volleyball courts, playground, desert tortoise terrarium and ranger station.

The **visitor center and gift shop** is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (hours and days vary in summer and fall). From January through March enjoy ranger led hikes, a weekly ice cream social in the visitor center and a campfire social at the fire ring where guests can meet, sing and tell stories.

Stop by the **Buckskin Market** (located in the park) for firewood, ice, food and gasoline. It also has a restaurant and arcade. Buckskin Market is operated by a concessionaire and is closed in the winter.

The park is open daily. Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit. The park is located at 5476 N. U.S. Highway 95, Parker, AZ 85344; **(928) 667-3231**.

CATTAIL COVE STATE PARK

Cattail Cove offers a chance to get away and enjoy tranquility along Lake Havasu. The 45-mile-long lake creates a haven for **water sports** enthusiasts, who can boat on the blue waters, sail into quiet coves, or use personal watercraft or water ski out on the open lake. Anglers will enjoy **fish-ing** for small, largemouth and striped bass, channel and flathead catfish, bluegill and crappie. The park won the Bronze Award for Favorite Snowbird RV Park or Campground—Arizona in the 5th Annual Reader's Choice Awards presented by RVwest magazine. Camping is available, but if campgrounds are not your style and you have your own boat, motor out to a primitive campsite on the lake.

The area surrounding the park is also a geologist's paradise. Volcanic rock, geodes,

jaspers, obsidian, turquoise and agate can be found outside **Lake Havasu City**.

The park is open year-round, with the ranger station open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located 15 miles south of Lake Havasu City on Hwy 95, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405; **(928) 855-1223**.

HAVASU RIVIERA STATE PARK

Meet Lake Havasu's newest lakeside attraction! Opening in 2018 with limited amenities, the park will be complete by 2020. Lake Havasu's clear blue waters, beaches, nature trails and lakeside camping appeal to year-round residents as well as new visitors to Arizona's west coast. Water sport enthusiasts, anglers and recreationists flock to Lake Havasu year-round to enjoy the city's multiple water based recreation opportunities. Plans for a waterfront marina, launch facility and boat storage at the park will provide much needed additional watercraft access points. Boat slips, a beach, swimming area and ramadas along the 10,000 feet of shoreline are also planned.

LAKE HAVASU STATE PARK

The two sides of this park are as different as night and day—or maybe weekend and weekday. During summer months, weekend revelers use the park as a favorite launching point to cruise the lake, explore the scenic shoreline and float under the **historic London Bridge** of Lake Havasu City. Weekdays are more peaceful, as fishermen come to fish the open waters or find a quiet cove. Whatever your speed, Lake Havasu is an ideal place to enjoy beautiful beaches and nature trails. Convenient RV and tent campsites, with

50 amp electrical and potable water, provide campers with an excellent view of the lake.

The **Arroyo-Camino Interpretive Garden** showcases the diverse life that exists within the park and in this area of the desert, a transition zone between the Sonoran and Mohave deserts. **Birds, lizards and desert cottontails** are common sights.

At 1.5 miles in length, the **Mohave Sunset Trail** is a great way to stretch your legs and take in the sights as it winds through the lowland desert and along the shoreline.

Boat and Jet Ski Rentals available at **Wet Monkey Power Sports Boat Rentals**. Please visit wetmonkeyrentals.com or call **(928) 855-2022** for more information.

The park is open daily. Day use hours are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The ranger station hours are Monday to Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., except on Friday to sun-

day May through September 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Park hours may change. Check please **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located at 699 London Bridge Rd., Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403; **(928) 855-2784**.

RIVER ISLAND STATE PARK

River Island State Park is located one mile north of Buckskin Mountain State Park and is an ideal destination for tent campers and RVers. Enjoy a sandy beach (sheltered from the main river channel in a cove), boat launch, hiking trail, dog run, 50 amp electric sites and access to OHV backcountry roads. Also available is a group ramada with a campfire ring and large BBQ grill. The ramada area is available for group camping or day use (reservations for this area are available with some restrictions). Stop by River Island Market located a quarter-mile south of the park en-





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be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The park closes at 2 p.m. on December 24, and is closed on Thanksgiving Day and December 25.

*Park hours may change. Check website **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located at 100 N. Prison Hill Road, Yuma, AZ 85364; **(928) 783-4771**.

COLORADO RIVER STATE HISTORIC PARK (FORMERLY YUMA QUARTERMASTER DEPOT STATE HISTORIC PARK)

As you walk the grounds of the park, imagine the once-bustling grounds teeming with soldiers preparing to travel to all parts west. The depot was used by the U.S. Army to store and distribute supplies for all the military posts in Arizona, and some in Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Texas. Five of the original depot buildings remain on the park grounds, and four of them contain exhibits that cover both the military history of the site and the history of the Bureau of Reclamation's construction of major irrigation works in the Yuma area.

Colorado River State Historic Park is located within the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. The park offers a visitor center, exhibits, video presentation, gift shop, picnic areas, group use areas and restrooms.

It is open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can tour the park grounds from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The park closes at 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day and on December 24, and is closed December 25. Park hours are limited during the summer months (June-September) and *hours may change Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located at 201 N. 4th Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364; **(928) 783-0071**.

trance for groceries, food deli, gas, propane, clothing boutique and storage. The park and ranger station is open daily. The park is located at 5200 N. U.S. Highway 95, Parker, AZ 85344; **(928) 667-3386**.

YUMA TERRITORIAL PRISON STATE HISTORIC PARK

On July 1, 1876, the first seven inmates entered the Territorial Prison at Yuma and were locked into the new cells they had built themselves. Walk through the actual strap iron cells and solitary chamber of the Arizona Territory's first prison. Now a **museum**, the building houses photographs and colorful exhibits of those who once "involuntarily" stayed there and the prison life they had to endure. A total of 3,069 prisoners, including 29 women, lived within the walls during the prison's 33 years of operation.

Despite an infamous reputation, written evidence indicates that the prison was humanely administered. The park offers a museum with exhibits, a gift shop and a video presentation. The park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until May 31. From June 1 through September 30, the park will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but will

WATER & HERITAGE CORRIDOR

PARK	ALAMO LAKE STATE PARK	BUCKSKIN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK	CATTAIL COVE STATE PARK	LAKE HAVASU STATE PARK	RIVER ISLAND STATE PARK	YUMA TERRITORIAL PRISON STATE HISTORIC PARK	YUMA QUARTERMASTER DEPOT STATE HISTORIC PARK
ELEVATION (feet)	1,300	420	450	480	394	120	120
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)	38	1.5	15	1	1	1	1
CAMPING UNITS	250	126	61	45	37	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS	0	0	32	0	0	0	0
VISITOR CENTER	•		•	•		•	•
CAMPING RESERVATIONS	•	•	•	•	•		
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING							
CONCESSION/GIFT SHOP	•	•	•	•		•	•
RESTROOMS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SHOWERS	•	•	•	•	•		
ELECTRIC HOOK-UP SITES	•	•	•		•		
NON-ELECTRIC SITES	•	•	•	•	•		
DUMP STATION		•	•	•	•		
CAMPING CABINS	•						
MUSEUM						•	•
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS		•				•	•
SELF GUIDED TOURS		•				•	•
PICNIC AREAS / SHELTERS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
GROUP-USE AREAS	•	•		•			•
SWIMMING	•	•	•	•	•		
FISHING	•	•	•	•			
BOAT RAMP	•	•	•	•	•		
HIKING TRAILS		•	•	•	•	•	•
BIKING TRAILS	•						
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS							
WILDLIFE VIEWING	•	•	•	•	•		



SEDONA/VERDE LOOP

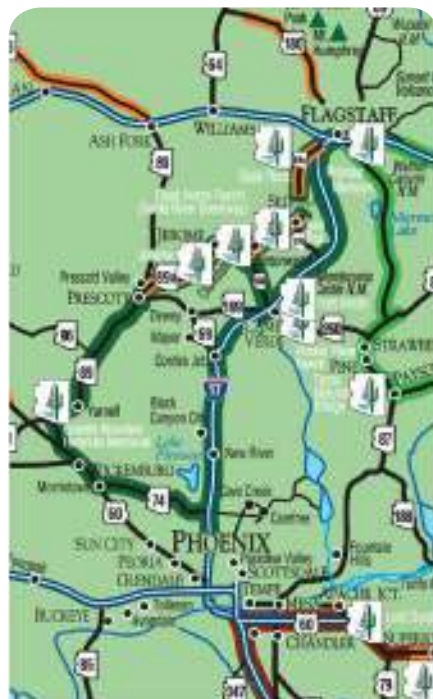
Nestled between Grand Canyon National Park and Phoenix is one of the most beautiful and activity filled areas in the country. The red rocks of Sedona provide the perfect backdrop for adventure, while nearby the Verde Valley offers an array of state and national parks. Kayak the Verde River, explore the mining history of Jerome, or experience the local wine scene.

DEAD HORSE RANCH STATE PARK

Travel to northern Arizona's Verde Valley to enjoy water sports and abundant wildlife at this park, located in the town of Cottonwood. The 3,300-foot elevation provides mild temperatures that are ideal for hiking along the Verde River, **mountain biking** in the **Coconino National Forest**, canoeing, picnicking, fishing, watching wildlife, and camping (including ADA accessible sites, all of which are available by reservation). **Camping cabins** are also available. The park's three fishing lagoons are stocked periodically with rainbow trout and channel catfish, and visitors will also find large mouth bass, catfish, bluegill, and crappie. Large and smallmouth bass and catfish swim the Verde River year-round; rainbow trout are stocked November through March. The park is open daily. The ranger station is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except December 25. *Park hours may change. Please check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at 675 Dead Horse Ranch Rd., Cottonwood, AZ 86326; **(928) 634-5283**.

VERDE RIVER GREENWAY STATE NATURAL AREA

The nearly 180-mile long Verde River is a significant resource in Arizona; it is one of



the desert's last free-flowing rivers and sustains a large regional wildlife population and a lush riparian community. The Natural Area encompasses nearly 480 acres, is six miles long, and is **adjacent to Dead Horse Ranch State Park**. The Greenway conserves the land in its natural state, so it doesn't have restrooms or modern camping facilities. Use Dead Horse Ranch State Park as your base

camp to enjoy the **hiking, canoeing, picnicking, fishing**, and the natural surroundings of the Verde River Greenway. Please practice 'Leave No Trace' ethics (see the "Preservation" chapter).

The Verde River corridor supports nearly 20 threatened or endangered species, and has been designated as an important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

The Natural Area is open daily. Dead Horse Ranch Station is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except December 25. *Hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The Greenway is located at 675 Dead Horse Ranch Rd., Cottonwood, AZ 86326; **(928) 639-0312**.

FORT VERDE STATE HISTORIC PARK

Experience life through the eyes of a frontier soldier at Fort Verde SHP. The fort was a base for General Crook's U.S. Army Indian scouts and soldiers in the 1870s and 1880s. From 1865 to 1891 Camp Lincoln, Camp Verde and Fort Verde were home to officers, doctors, families, enlisted men and scouts. The park is the best-preserved example of an Indian Wars period fort in Arizona. Four of the **original Adobe buildings** still stand and **living history programs** are held periodically.

Experience three **historic homes** listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places and furnished in the style of the 1880s.

The park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except December 25. *Park hours and days of operation may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is

located at 125 E. Hollamon St., Camp Verde, AZ 86322; **(928) 567-3275**.

GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOTS MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Arizona State Parks recently purchased 320 acres of State Trust land near the site where 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots lost their lives battling the Yarnell Hill Fire—one of the most devastating in Arizona's history. This site is now the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park. The park is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Park hours and days of recreation may change. Check azstateparks.com before your visit. The park is located two miles south of Yarnell on south-bound State Route 89.

ROCKIN' RIVER RANCH STATE PARK

This 209-acre park, located south of Camp Verde, along the picturesque Verde River is currently being master-planned. Rockin' River Ranch is an extremely rare find in Arizona, with over a mile of frontage on the Verde River this land is beautiful and truly unique. The location is ideal it is just over an hour from north Phoenix and Scottsdale and thirty minutes from the red rocks of Sedona. The site may eventually offer tent, RV and cabin campsites and may feature hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, and event facilities.

JEROME STATE HISTORIC PARK

Make Jerome State Historic Park and the Douglas Mansion your first stop when you visit Jerome! At the park you will learn about copper, one of the 5 C's that helped found Arizona. (The other four being: cattle, citrus, climate and cotton). Jerome dates to 1876 when three prospectors staked claims on rich copper deposits. The United Verde Copper Company formed in 1883, and with several

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE ARIZONA SPOT?
TELL US! @AZStateParks

changes in ownership, it grew to be the largest producing copper mine in the Arizona Territory by the early 20th century.

The **Douglas Mansion** has been a Jerome landmark since 1916, when James S. Douglas built it on the hill above his Little Daisy Mine, and is now a **museum** featuring photographs, artifacts and minerals in addition to a video presentation and a 3-D model of the town and underground mines. There are more displays outside along with a picnic area offering a beautiful panoramic view of the Verde Valley.

The museum and visitor center hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed December 25. *Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* It is located at 100 Douglas Road, Jerome, AZ 86331; **(928) 634-5381**.

RED ROCK STATE PARK

Surrounded by the natural beauty of Sedona's red rocks, Oak Creek meanders through Red Rock State Park and provides visitors the opportunity to experience nature along a five-mile network of trails.

The park, a center for environmental education, offers information and programs about scenic northern Arizona, including **guided geology hikes, bird walks** and **moonlight hikes** with knowledgeable park staff or volunteers. The park is also included in the **Lower Oak Creek Important Bird Area**, and is home to species like the **common black hawk, wood duck**, and **common merganser**.

A guided nature walk is offered seven days a week at 10 a.m. The hike moves to 9 a.m. during June, July and August. The park also hosts monthly special events including lectures and moonlight hikes (seasonally). The **visitor center** is a great place to start your exploration with hands-on exhibits. *Pets are*



The desert climate of Coyote Canyon in Red Rock State Park supports a huge number of plant species.

not allowed at Red Rock State Park.

The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the park's visitor center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *Please check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at 4050 Red Rock Loop Rd., Sedona, AZ 86336; **(928) 282-6907**.

SLIDE ROCK STATE PARK

Named for the **natural water slide** in Oak Creek Canyon, Slide Rock State Park is a refreshing way to enjoy summer in Arizona. Grab your swimsuit and an extra pair of shorts and cool off in the invigorating waters of the creek. Originally the Pendley Homestead, the park has a 43-acre historical **apple farm** where visitors still enjoy ripe fruit in the fall.

The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except May 1 to September 4 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and November 1 to Jan 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at 6871 N. Highway 89A, Sedona, AZ 86336; **(928) 282-3034**.

David

SEDONA/VERDE LOOP

	PARK	DEAD HORSE RANCH SP & VERDE RIVER GREENWAY	FORT VERDE STATE HISTORIC PARK	GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSPOTS MEMORIAL STATE PARK	JEROME STATE HISTORIC PARK	RED ROCK STATE PARK	SLIDE ROCK STATE PARK
ELEVATION (feet)		3,300	3,260	4,320	5,000	3,900	4,930
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)		1	1	2	4	5	7
CAMPING UNITS		150	0	0	0	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS		0	0	0	0	0	0
VISITOR CENTER		•	•		•	•	
CAMPING RESERVATIONS		•					
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING							
CONCESSION/GIFT SHOP		•	•		•	•	•
RESTROOMS		•	•	•	•	•	•
SHOWERS		•					
ELECTRIC HOOK-UP SITES		•					
NON-ELECTRIC SITES		•					
DUMP STATION		•					
CAMPING CABINS		•					
MUSEUM			•		•		
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS			•	•	•	•	•
SELF GUIDED TOURS			•		•	•	
PICNIC AREAS / SHELTERS		•	•		•	•	•
GROUP-USE AREAS		•				•	•
SWIMMING							•
FISHING		•					•
BOAT RAMP		•					
HIKING TRAILS		•		•		•	•
BIKING TRAILS		•				•	
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS		•				•	
WILDLIFE VIEWING		•		•		•	•



COPPER CORRIDOR

Along the Copper Corridor, you'll find six state parks that offer everything from camping to pristine botanical gardens, with plenty of stories about Arizona's past. The roads linking Phoenix with Tucson travel along dramatic mountain ranges and through communities ripe with history and culture.

BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM STATE PARK

An hour's drive due east of Phoenix is one of Arizona's crown jewels. Boyce Thompson Arboretum SP, open year-round, has more than three miles of paths and trails criss-crossing 100 acres worth of gardens, and features plants from desert ecosystems all across the planet. **Arizona's oldest and largest botanical garden** features towering 150-foot red gums eucalyptus trees; cacti from North and Central America; camera-ready cliffs of volcanic rhyolite, and the adjacent **Picketpost Mountain** and **Arizona Trail**. The **Queen Creek riparian corridor** sustains native cottonwood, sycamore and ash trees and hydrates the gardens (also earning the Audubon Society's prestigious designation as an Important Bird Area). Weekend nature walks, kids activities and special events are also offered.

The park is open daily October through April from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and May through September from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. The park is closed December 25. *Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at Highway 60 milepost #223 as you approach the historic mining town of Superior at #37615 US Hwy 60, Superior, AZ 85173. For recorded information, call (520) 689-2811; contact staff during business hours at **(520) 689-2723**.



CATALINA STATE PARK

Catalina State Park sits at the base of the majestic Santa Catalina Mountains, just minutes from the Tucson metropolitan area. The park is a haven for wildlife and desert plants including nearly 5,000 **saguaros**. The 5,500 acres of foothills, canyons and streams invites **camping, picnicking** and **birdwatching**—more than 150 species of birds call the park home. The park provides miles of **equestrian, birding, hiking** and **biking trails** that wind through the park and into **Coronado National Forest**.

Park facilities include grills, a group-use area for day or overnight use (available by reservation), and a gift shop. All restroom and shower facilities are accessible. The park also offers an equestrian center that

provides a staging area for trail riders with ample trailer parking.

The park is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. The ranger station/gift shop is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at 11570 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ 85737; **(520) 628-5798**.

LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK

Named after the fabled gold mine, Lost Dutchman State Park is located in the Sonoran Desert at the base of the Superstition Mountains, 40 miles east of Phoenix. Several trails lead from the park into the surrounding Tonto National Forest and Superstition Wilderness area. Stroll along the easy Native Plant trail or hike the more challeng-

Mia & Steve Mestdagh



Check out gorgeous cacti at Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park.

ing Siphon Draw Trail to the top of the Flatiron, or mountain bike through the 4 miles of singletrack. Depending on the year's rainfall, you might be treated to a carpet of **desert wildflowers** and **cactus blooms** in Spring.

The park is open for day use from sunrise until 10 p.m. The visitor center offers maps, souvenirs and food and beverages. The park offers reservable group camping areas and group shade ramadas for picnicking. Hours may change so please check AZStateParks.com before your visit.

The park is located at 6109 N Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ 85119; **(480) 982-4485**.

McFARLAND STATE HISTORIC PARK

Constructed in 1878, the courthouse at McFarland SHP is the oldest standing in Arizona, and the building is the largest adobe structure from the territorial period (1863-1912). The Courthouse is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This adobe brick building served as a jailhouse, a hospital, and the first Pinal County Courthouse. It also held the sheriff's office, courtroom, judge's chambers, and jail on the first floor. After the building was restored in 2009 and 2010, the park was reopened as a park and visitor center for the Town of Florence.

Inside the park, be sure to visit Florence's WWII Prisoner of War Camp exhibit. This exhibit depicts the lives of the people who were stationed and imprisoned at the camp. Photographs and artifacts from U.S. servicemen and the prisoners are also displayed. Visitors can also visit the Ernest W. McFarland exhibit; McFarland is referred to as the "Father of the G.I. Bill." He also contributed to Arizona history through an active public service career.

The visitor center offers free information on local and regional attractions. The

gift shop sells hiking and children's books, local artwork, postcards, jewelry and State Park items. The park is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Sundays and on December 25. *Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at the corner of Main Street and Ruggles in Florence, AZ 85132; **(520) 868-5216**.

ORACLE STATE PARK

Oracle State Park, a 4,000-acre wildlife refuge and a center for environmental education, is located in the northern foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains north of Tucson. Ranging from 3,700 to 4,600 feet in elevation, the surrounding landscape transitions from oak woodland to desert grassland, with sweeping views all around. The public can enjoy guided walks, workshops, presentations and Kannally Ranch House tours. The park has over 15 miles of trails, including the National Scenic Arizona Trail, for use by hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers.

The historic **Kannally Ranch House** is a unique Mediterranean-style building listed on the National Register of Historic Places offering patio views, birdwatching and home tours. Visit its museum with historic photos, original artwork and unique design features. The ranch house and patios may be rented for weddings and other group gatherings, by special use permit.

The park is open year-round. The American Avenue trailhead parking lot is open seven days a week to access the Arizona Trail and to accommodate after hours use by stargazers. The park is located at 3820 Wildlife Drive, Oracle, AZ 85623; **(520) 896-2425**.

PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK


Visitors traveling along I-10 in southern

Oh, Ranger!

FUN FACTS

Q. WHAT IS ARIZONA'S OFFICIAL STATE MAMMAL?

A. It's the ringtail!
The adorable fox-like animal is about 2.5 feet long and is a shy, nocturnal creature.



For answers to all your questions, go to **OhRanger.com**

Arizona can't miss the prominent 1,500-foot peak at Picacho Peak State Park. Enjoy the view as you hike the trails that wind up the peak and, often in the spring, overlook a sea of **wildflowers**. The peak's unique shape has been used as a landmark by travelers since prehistoric times. One of the first recordings was in the 1700s by the Anza Expedition as it passed through the area.

The park facilities include a visitor center with exhibits and a gift store, and 85 electric campsites. Select sites can be used as non-electric sites. The group-use areas, for day and overnight use, are available by reservation. Before you hike, be prepared with enough water, proper footwear, and gloves for cable railings, as the trails are steep and challenging.

The park's Gold LEED certified visitor center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (hours vary by season), and the entrance gate is closed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Trails are closed from sunset to sunrise. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit. The park is located off I-10, Exit 219, Picacho, AZ 85141; **(520) 466-3183**.

COPPER CORRIDOR		PARK	BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM STATE PARK	CATALINA STATE PARK	LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK	McFARLAND STATE HISTORIC PARK	ORACLE STATE PARK	PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK
ELEVATION (feet)			2,400	2,650	2,000	1,500	4,600	2,000
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)			3	1	5	1	1	1
CAMPING UNITS			0	120	134	0	0	85
BOAT CAMPING UNITS			0	0	0	0	0	0
VISITOR CENTER			•	•	•	•	•	•
CAMPING RESERVATIONS				•	•			•
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING								
CONCESSION/GIFT SHOP			•	•	•	•	•	•
RESTROOMS			•	•	•	•	•	•
SHOWERS				•	•			•
ELECTRIC HOOK-UP SITES				•	•			•
NON-ELECTRIC SITES				•	•			•
DUMP STATION				•	•			•
CAMPING CABINS								
MUSEUM						•	•	
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS			•	•	•	•	•	•
SELF GUIDED TOURS			•	•	•	•	•	•
PICNIC AREAS / SHELTERS			•	•	•	•	•	•
GROUP-USE AREAS			•	•	•	•	•	•
SWIMMING								
FISHING								
BOAT RAMP								
HIKING TRAILS			•	•	•		•	•
BIKING TRAILS				•	•		•	
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS				•			•	
WILDLIFE VIEWING			•	•	•		•	•



Traveling south of Tucson the land gently rises, resulting in a cooler year-round climate. Explore the culture and natural wonders of the region, shaped by history and influenced by multiple cultures, from Arizona's southern vineyards to the area's sky islands (mountains rising up from the surround lowlands that create isolated ecosystems). Eclectic communities offer specialized shopping, local restaurants and unique accommodations.

KARTCHNER CAVERNS STATE PARK®

Experience a stunning limestone cave in southeastern Arizona that boasts world-class features. This "living" cave, discovered in 1974, is host to a wide variety of unique minerals and formations. Water percolates from the surface and calcite formations continue to grow, including stalactites hanging down like icicles and giant stalagmites reaching up from the ground. Tour guides will unveil this



fascinating underground landscape during a memorable one-and-a-half hour tour.

A Helmet & Headlamp Tour is offered in the Big Room from mid-October to mid-April, and the Rotunda/Throne Room the rest of the year. Experience the cave as the Discoverers did in 1974, using only the light provided by the headlamp on your helmet. This special tour runs on Saturdays only. Call the park for dates and times. The Discovery Center features museum exhibits, a large gift shop, regional displays, a theater, and educational information about the caverns and the surrounding landscape. There are also campgrounds, hiking trails, lockers, shaded picnic areas, a cafe, an amphitheater and a hummingbird garden. Both cave tour tickets and campsites can be reserved online at AZStateParks.com/kartchner or by phone at

GRAB A BITE AT THE BAT CAVE CAFÉ!

The Bat Cave Café at Kartchner Caverns State Park is a quick, healthy alternative to fast food in a relaxing patio atmosphere surrounded by the Hummingbird Garden. The café is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (seasonal hours may vary) and offers a variety of fresh baked pizzas (including Southern Arizona style with roasted green chilies), Bat-dogs, Batwursts and quesadillas, along with a variety of sandwiches and salads. Beverages include prickly pear lemonade, soda, coffee and tea. For a treat, try one of the many desert options!



The cave formations at Kartchner Caverns State Park started forming approximately 200,000 years ago.

1-877-MY-PARKS, seven days a week, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

There is a \$5 reservation fee per campsite. Hours may change seasonally. Please visit AZStateParks.com for current park hours and cave tour times. The park is closed December 25, and closes at 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving and December 24. The park is located at 2980 Highway 90, Benson, AZ 85602. For cave and park information or to make reservations, visit AZStateParks.com/kartchner or call **1-877-MY-PARKS**.

PATAGONIA LAKE STATE PARK

Tucked away in the rolling hills of southeastern Arizona, Patagonia Lake is an ideal place to find whitetail deer roaming the hills and great blue herons walking the shoreline. The campground overlooks a 265-acre man-made lake where anglers catch crappie, bass,

bluegill and catfish. Trout is stocked every three weeks from October through March.

The tracks of the New Mexico/Arizona railroad lie beneath the lake and remnants of the old historic line may be found at the Nature Conservancy in Patagonia. Hikers can stroll along the beautiful Sonoita Creek Trail to see elegant trogon, canyon towhee, Inca dove, vermilion flycatcher, black vulture and several species of hummingbirds. The Audubon Society has designated this park as an Important Birding Area.

The park offers a beach, a horseshoe pit, picnic tables and grills, a creek trail, boat ramps, a marina, 105 electric and water campsites, 3 non-electric campsites and 12 non-electronic boat-in campsites. Boat rentals are available through Patagonia Marina and Boat Rental located in the boat marina. For more information about renting canoes, rowboats, paddleboats and pontoon boats, call **(520) 287-5545** or visit patagonia-lake.com.

Contact the Arizona State Parks Reservation Center at **1-877-MY-PARKS** seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to make reservations for this park. You may also make reservations online at AZStateParks.com. The park is open daily from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m., and the entrance gate is closed 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. The park ranger station is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additionally, from April to October, the ranger station is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Park quiet hours are from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m.

It is common for campsites to fill to capacity, therefore reservations are highly recommended. Park hours are subject to change. Please check website AZStateParks.com before your visit. The park is located at 400 Patagonia Lake Rd., Patagonia, AZ 85624. For park information please call **(520) 287-6965**.

K.L. Day and Arizona Conservation Projects, Inc.

SONOITA CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA

Sonoita Creek State Natural Area encompasses a major portion of the Sonoita Creek and Coal Mine Spring watersheds and helps preserve the fragile riparian area and its surrounding environment. It protects the endangered Gila topminnow and several special-status birds, as well as historical and cultural relics.

The Audubon Society has designated this area as an Important Birding Area. There are three private backcountry hike-in camping sites, plus 20 miles of trails are available for hiking and eight miles of trails are shared with equestrians.

Sonoita Creek State Natural Area is adjacent to Patagonia Lake State Park. The Natural Area conserves the land in its natural state, so there are no restrooms or modern camping facilities. Use Patagonia Lake State Park as your base camp to enjoy the hiking, horseback riding, and natural surroundings of the Sonoita Creek area. Please practice 'Leave No Trace' ethics (see the "Preservation" chapter) during your visit. The visitor center is located within Patagonia Lake State Park and is open Thursdays thru Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., October 15 through April 15. Although the natural area is always open, the visitor center is closed during the summer.

Permits for hiking, hunting or horseback riding can be obtained from the Patagonia Lake State Park visitor center or by calling (520) 287-6965. Park hours may change. Please check AZStateParks.com before your visit. The park is located at 400 Lake Patagonia Road, Patagonia, AZ 85624; (520) 287-2791.

ROPER LAKE STATE PARK

After a long day of driving or hiking, the natural hot springs at Roper Lake State Park

are inviting and invigorating. Enjoy desert vegetation, an accessible **fishing** dock and stunning views of Mount Graham. Roper Lake has largemouth bass, channel catfish, crappie, and bluegill/redear and is stocked with rainbow trout in the fall and winter.

Boats are limited to small electric motors, making ideal conditions for paddleboards or canoes. Enjoy five miles of **trails** in the park and at nearby **Dankworth Pond**, three miles to the south, which features picnic ramadas, trails to a re-created American Indian Village and a playground. Enjoy excellent **birdwatching** and glimpse **waterfowl**. Reservations are available for camping cabins, campsites and day-use ramadas. All campsites at Roper Lake are available for reservation. Reserve at AZStateParks.com or call 1-877-MY-PARKS. Both the park and Dankworth Pond are open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and the park visitor center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (hours vary by season), year round. The park is located at 101 E. Roper Lake Rd., Safford, AZ 85546; (928) 428-6760.

TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC PARK

Experience the Old West at Tombstone Courthouse. Built in 1882, the two-story Victorian structure once housed the sheriff's office, jail and courtrooms of Cochise County. Today, the courthouse is a **museum** filled with the glitter and guns of those who tamed the territory. Exhibits portray the history of Tombstone as a frontier silver mining boomtown. Learn about miners, cattlemen and pioneers, and see a reproduction of the courtroom and sheriff's office. The park includes a museum, exhibits, a gift shop, and shaded picnic areas.

The park is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It



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Origami in the Garden
October 8, 2017 to April 1, 2018
at the
Tucson Botanical Gardens
www.tucsonbotanical.org

is closed on December 25. The park is located at 223 Toughnut Street, Tombstone, AZ 85638; **(520) 457-3311**.

TUBAC PRESIDIO STATE HISTORIC PARK

Travel to Arizona's first State Park to learn about the state's oldest European community, established in 1752. Visit the underground archaeological exhibit of the **Presidio ruins**, tour the **museum**, glimpse the 1890s **Rojas House**, see **Arizona's first printing press** and explore the **furnished 1885 school-house**. Tubac Presidio serves as a trail-

head for a 4.5-mile section of the **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail** that leads to Tumacácori Mission National Historical Park.

Juan Bautista de Anza II, second commander of the presidio, led two overland expeditions to the Pacific in 1774 and 1775, resulting in the founding of San Francisco. Each October, the park celebrates the Anza expedition with **Anza Days** and a re-enactment of the journey. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except December 25, the park is located at One Burruel Street, Tubac, AZ 85646; **(520) 398-2252**.



STAR NIGHT PARTY ASTRONOMY EVENTS



Arizona State Parks and Trails

Dark night skies at Arizona State Parks and Trails provide prime stargazing opportunities.

Arizona State Parks and Trails provide fun, educational Star Night Parties! At a typical star night event you can hear a lecture (often with guest speakers), and view celestial objects (planets, nebulas and stars) through a variety of telescopes. Some events have information tables and afternoon solar viewings as well.

These events are supported by Arizona

Astronomy Clubs including Astronomers of Verde Valley, Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, Superstition Mountain Astronomical League and the Huachuca Astronomy Club of Southeast Arizona. To see upcoming event dates and participating parks, learn more about our partner astronomy clubs, and watch an introduction video with infrared footage visit AZStateParks.com.

CULTURAL CORRIDOR

	PARK	KARTCHNER CAVERNS STATE PARK	PATAGONIA LAKE STATE PARK & SONOITA CREEK	ROPER LAKE STATE PARK	TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC PARK	TUBAC PRESIDIO STATE HISTORIC PARK
ELEVATION (feet)		4,700	3,750	3,130	4,539	3,500
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)		9	12	6	1	1
CAMPING UNITS		62	108	71	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS		0	12	0	0	0
VISITOR CENTER		•	•	•	•	•
CAMPING RESERVATIONS		•	•	•		
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING			•			
CONCESSION/GIFT SHOP		•	•	•	•	•
RESTROOMS		•	•	•	•	•
SHOWERS		•	•	•		
ELECTRIC HOOK-UP SITES		•	•	•		
NON-ELECTRIC SITES			•	•		
DUMP STATION		•	•	•		
CAMPING CABINS		•		•		
MUSEUM		•			•	•
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS		•	•		•	•
SELF GUIDED TOURS		•	•	•	•	•
PICNIC AREAS/SHELTERS		•	•	•	•	•
GROUP-USE AREAS		•	•	•	•	•
SWIMMING			•	•		
FISHING			•	•		
BOAT RAMP			•	•		
HIKING TRAILS		•	•	•		•
BIKING TRAILS						
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS			•			•
WILDLIFE VIEWING		•	•	•		•



HIGH COUNTRY LOOP

High in Arizona's White Mountains, cool mountain lakes rest among a pine forest and volcanic fields—perfect for summer camping, boating, or a relaxing cabin stay. Drive the loop to experience Hopi culture and the history of Flagstaff. The dramatic edge of the Colorado Plateau, known as the Mogollon Rim, is where you will find what is believed to be the world's largest travertine bridge.

HOMOLOVI STATE PARK

In the high grassland of 14th-century northern Arizona, an ancient people found a home along the Little Colorado River. These people, the Hisat'sinom, paused in their migrations to till the rich flood plain and sandy slopes before continuing north to join people already living on the mesas; people who are today known as the Hopi. The park serves as a center of research for the late migration period of the Hopi from the 1200s to the late 1300s. While archaeologists study the sites—the park has two main pueblo ruins—and confer with the Hopi to document the history of Homolovi, visitors can explore the sites, a visitor center, museum, bookstore, trails, and a campground. Covered picnic tables are located throughout the park and pullouts provide opportunities to observe wildlife.

Consider visiting during the Suvoyuki Day Festival, which takes place on the first Saturday in August, to celebrate the partners who have helped to protect these Hopi ancestral villages.

The Hopi people of today still consider Homolovi, as well as other pre-Columbian sites in the southwest, to be part of



their homeland. They continue to make pilgrimages to these sites, renewing the ties of the people with the land.

The park is open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed December 25. Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit. The park is located off of I-40, Exit 257. Head north on Highway 87 for 1.5 miles to the park in Winslow, AZ 86047; (928) 289-4106.

RIORDAN MANSION STATE HISTORIC PARK

The duplex style Riordan Mansion is one of the finest examples of American Arts and Crafts style architecture open today. Designed by Charles Whittlesey, the architect of the El Tovar Hotel at the Grand Canyon, the mansion was built in 1904 with hot and cold running water, central heat and electric lights; reflecting the most modern technology and design of the time.

Go back in time as you tour the expansive home and imagine early 20th-century living. The Riordan family moved to Flagstaff in the 1880s as managers and then owners of the

Arizona Lumber and Timber Company. Seen by guided tour only, the mansion showcases all original family belongings, including fine examples of early Stickley furniture.

Park hours and days of operation vary seasonally. The park is open Thursday through Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday) from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. from November to April. The park is open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. from May to October. It is also closed on Thanksgiving Day and December 25. Tours are conducted on the hour; reservations recommended. Park hours may change. Please check AZStateParks.com before your visit. Open as a partnership between Arizona State Parks and Trails and the Arizona Historical Society, the park is located at 409 W. Riordan Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001; (928) 779-4395.

FOOL HOLLOW LAKE RECREATION AREA

Imagine camping among 100-foot pine trees beside a quiet lake watching majestic great blue herons at a cool 6,300 feet in elevation. Located in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest among the picturesque mountain pines of Show Low, the recreation area is a unique partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, Arizona State Parks, Arizona Game and Fish and the City of Show Low. The recreation area is an ideal place for camping, fishing, picnicking, boating and wildlife viewing. Boat horsepower is limited here, so come prepared for quiet and relaxation. Camping reservations are recommended during peak season (May through September). Canoe and kayak rentals are available mid-May to mid-September. During summer, enjoy a Friday morning nature walk at 9 a.m. or a Saturday evening interpretive talk (times vary).

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Lyman Ridge State Park is home to great fishing, camping, hiking and smooth water skiing.

The tiny town of Adair has long since been covered by the lake, but it was Thomas Jefferson Adair who was responsible for the name Fool Hollow. In 1885, Adair moved into the area with the intention of farming. The locals joked that only a fool would try and farm the place. The name stuck!

The recreation area is open daily. Day use hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and the park gate is closed between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. The park visitor center is open April 1 to October 15 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and October 16 to March 31 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit. The park is located at 1500 N. Fool Hollow Rd., Show Low, AZ 85901; (928) 537-3680.

LYMAN LAKE STATE PARK

Created as an irrigation reservoir by damming the Little Colorado River, Lyman Lake SP in northeastern Arizona is home

to great fishing, camping, hiking, and some of the smoothest water skiing in the state. This large lake is one of the few bodies of water in Arizona with no size restrictions on boats. The west end of the lake is buoyed off and restricted as a no wake area, allowing anglers a chance at a variety of fish without the disturbance. The fishery



Built in 1904, Riordan Mansion sits among the pines of Flagstaff in northern Arizona.

Arizona State Parks and Trails

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consists of walleye, channel catfish and largemouth bass.

Camping cabins overlooking the lake, beach camping and a group camping area are available.

Stop by Lyman Lake General Store to pick up camping and fishing supplies, including ice, firewood, fishing licenses and food. Visit AZStateParks.com for updates.

The park is open daily. Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit. The park is located 12 miles south of St. Johns on U.S. Highway 191/180, St. Johns, AZ 85936; **(928) 337-4441**.

TONTO NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK

Tucked away in a tiny valley surrounded by a forest of pine trees, this natural bridge has been in the making for thousands of years and is believed to be the largest natural trav-

ertine bridge in the world. The bridge stands 183 feet high over a 400-foot long tunnel that measures 150 feet at its widest point.

Visitors can stand on top of the bridge or hike down below to appreciate the true size and beauty of this geologic wonder. The nearby 300-foot Waterfall Trail ends at a waterfall cave where visitors marvel at the water-loving mosses and flowers in the high desert. Pets are not allowed on the four park trails, which descend into a canyon and are all steep and strenuous.

The park is open daily, year-round. From Memorial Day to Labor Day hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The rest of the year, hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with no entry after 4 p.m. It is closed December 25. Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit. The park is located 10 miles north of Payson off Arizona Highway 87/260, Payson, AZ 85547; **(928) 476-4202**.



Andrea Lai

Witness natural geological wonders at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park.

HIGH COUNTRY LOOP

	PARK	FOOL HOLLOW LAKE RECREATION AREA	HOMOLOVI STATE PARK	LYMAN LAKE STATE PARK	RIORDAN MANSION STATE HISTORIC PARK	TONTO NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK
ELEVATION (feet)		6,300	4,900	6,000	6,900	4,530
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)		2	2	12	1	8
CAMPING UNITS		123	53	61	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS		0	0	0	0	0
VISITOR CENTER		•	•	•	•	•
CAMPING RESERVATIONS		•	•	•		
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING						
CONCESSION/GIFT SHOP		•	•	•	•	•
RESTROOMS		•	•	•	•	•
SHOWERS		•	•	•		
ELECTRIC HOOK-UP SITES		•	•	•		
NON-ELECTRIC SITES		•	•	•		
DUMP STATION		•	•	•		
CAMPING CABINS				•		
MUSEUM			•		•	•
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS			•	•	•	•
SELF GUIDED TOURS		•	•	•		•
PICNIC AREAS/SHELTERS		•	•	•	•	•
GROUP-USE AREAS		•		•	•	•
SWIMMING				•		•
FISHING		•		•		
BOAT RAMP		•		•		
HIKING TRAILS		•	•	•		•
BIKING TRAILS		•		•		
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS				•		
WILDLIFE VIEWING		•	•	•	•	•



PHOTOGRAPHY

The ecosystems of America's national and state parks and public lands are among the most diverse on the planet—from the wetlands of the Everglades to the temperate rain forests of Olympic National Park and the deserts of Death Valley to the mountains of Yellowstone and Grand Teton. For both aspiring and experienced photographers, the goal of any trip to a national park is to capture its endemic wildlife.

Taking photographs of animals presents a unique set of challenges. Landscapes cooperate; wildlife does not. Not only are animals likely to react to a photographer's presence, but they are also driven by their own instincts and behavior, which can make capturing them difficult. The tips below will help you compose better wildlife images of all creatures great and small—from the bison to the tiniest hummingbird and everything in between.

- **Use a tripod.** If you are using a large telephoto lens, consider investing in a gimbal head, which will make it easier to track your subject.
- **Know your subject.** Before you take out your camera, understand your subject's

behavior so that you can be prepared for what it will do next.

- **The eyes have it.** Capturing your subject's eyes will lead the viewer into the picture and make your image more impactful. Always keep the eyes in focus and try to place them in the power points (the intersection of rule of third guidelines).
- **Keep a safe distance.** You'll want to keep a minimum of 25 yards between you and your subject and more than 75 yards for larger predators. That means that you'll need a big telephoto lens if you want to get up close and personal.
- **Shoot in burst mode.** Instead of taking a single frame, increase the probability that you'll capture the behavior, head position or angle by capturing multiple frames.
- **Be prepared.** Wildlife, and particularly birds, move quickly and without provocation. Practice your panning skills to better catch birds when they alight.
- **Timing is everything.** The best time to photograph wildlife is during the golden hours—at dusk and dawn—when the light is soft and less likely to cast harsh shadows across your subject's face.
- **Keep it simple.** The easiest way to draw attention to your subject is to use a simple background. Use a shallow depth of field to blur any distracting backgrounds.
- **Aim for the action.** Make your image more compelling by capturing your subject exhibiting its natural behavior—flying, hunting, eating or caring for young.

The best way to take better photographs is to practice, and you don't need to go far. Buy a bird feeder and build a studio in your backyard, where you'll be able to create your own version of *A Star(ling) is Born*.



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Goat Rocks Wilderness, WA © Jim Rueckel



JUST FOR KIDS

There are plenty of activities for kids at Arizona State Parks and Trails! Kids can have fun while learning how to appreciate and preserve the beauty of the parks for everyone to enjoy.

JUNIOR RANGERS

Children between the ages of 6 and 12 can become a Junior Ranger at an Arizona state park. Kids can pledge to do their part to help preserve the beauty of the parks for everyone to enjoy. Kids can get Junior Ranger booklets at park visitor centers, ranger stations and offices. Complete the activities during your visit and then bring it to a park ranger for review. When a park ranger approves your work, you can take the Junior Ranger Pledge and get sworn in as a Junior Ranger.

WATER & HERITAGE CORRIDOR

At **Lake Havasu State Park**, kids can go boating and fishing with their parents. Before your trip, download a free boating safety coloring book from **AZStateParks.com**. Find



Kids will love the natural waterslides of Slide Rock State Park.

Bill Morrow

out how people communicated before there were phones (or the Internet!) at Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park.

SEDONA/VERDE LOOP

Kids will love sliding down a natural water chute at **Slide Rock State Park**. The half-mile stretch of slippery creek bottom with a smooth sandstone base is a popular summer getaway for families.

COPPER CORRIDOR

Learn about the life cycle of the giant saguaro cactus at **Catalina State Park**.

HIGH COUNTRY LOOP

It's fun to take a tour at **Riordan Mansion State Historic Park** and see how different it was to live in the early 1900s.

At **Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area**, kids can look for wildlife like elk, foxes, beavers, great blue herons and porcupines.

CULTURAL CORRIDOR

At **Tubac Presidio SHP**, kids can see what life was like during the 1700s in Spanish Colony of Tubac, where everything had to be done by hand! Many of the exhibits in the Discovery Center at **Kartchner Caverns State Park** are perfect for kids! A "caving wall" allows children to create the experience of crawling through several narrow cave passages. Animal displays highlight the unique creatures that live in and around the cave—kids love having their picture taken with the giant sloth exhibit! Before your trip, visit **AZStateParks.com** to download the Discovery Center Scavenger Hunt. Kids can explore the exhibits to find all the answers!

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TRAILS LESS TRAVELED



Mia & Steve Mestdagh

Patagonia Lake State Park is a fisherman's paradise.

Stand in awe of the largest natural travertine bridge in the world (and the warm spring that formed it) on Pine Creek Trail in **Tonto Natural Bridge State Park**.

Revel in the contrast of red rock hills and lush green meadows from a spectacular view atop Twin Pillars Trail at **Red Rock State Park**.

For an early morning challenge with an even bigger payoff, take Hunter Trail at **Picacho Peak State Park** for 360-degree views of the Sonoran Desert from this timeless landmark.

Walk among wildflowers and a diverse array of mammals and birds on **Oracle State Park's** Mariposa Trail.

Cross the Santa Cruz River not once, but twice, on horseback on the Anza Trail at **Tubac Presidio State Historic Park**.

Land a catfish at **Patagonia Lake State Park**, then camp the backcountry of Sonoita Creek State Natural Area, a unique transitional zone between the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts.

Only accessible by boat, the half-mile Ultimate Petroglyph Trail lies on the east side of **Lyman Lake State Park** and culminates at a boulder covered in ancient rock carvings.

Bank on some of the best birdwatching in the world along the Verde River Greenway at **Dead Horse Ranch State Park**.

Tackle Romero Canyon Trail in **Catalina State Park** and refresh with a dip in the hillside Montrose and Romero Pools.

Soak in sweeping views of the Colorado River and Buckskin Mountains from the Habitat Trail at **Buckskin Mountain State Park's** River Island Unit.

Travel the Treasure Loop Trail to the Praying Hands rock formation for views of the Superstition Mountains and Sonoran Desert at **Lost Dutchman State Park**.

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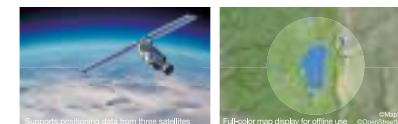
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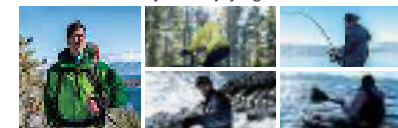


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