



# Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule December, 2011

Programs meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5153 for updates. See [www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu) for other programs.

**December 2, 9, 16, 24**      **8:00 a.m.**      **Desert Bird Walk**      *Easy 1 Mile Walk*

Join volunteer naturalists Vicki Powers and Ralph Terry for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

**December 2, 9, 16**      **9:00 a.m.**      **Walk with the Saguaros**      *Easy 2-mile walk*

Join a naturalist for this 2-hour, 2-mile easy walk to discover the many fascinating facts about the Saguaro cactus.

**December 2 & 16**      **7:00 p.m.**      **Night Walk**      *1 Mile Guided Walk*

Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

**December 3, 6, 10, 13, 20, 24, 27, 31**      **9:30 a.m.**      **Sonoran Lifestyles**      *1 Mile Guided Walk*

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring

**December 3**      **11:00 a.m.**      **Natural History Table**      *Patio Talk*

Join a park naturalist on the visitor center patio to have your questions answered about the natural history of the Sonoran Desert. This is an on-going, 30-minute program.

**December 3**      **1:00 p.m.**      **Desert Discovery**      *2 Mile Guided Walk*

Join volunteer Dick Hollenback on this 3-hour, 4-mile hike to explore Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring water and a trail snack.

**December 3**      **11:00 a.m.**      **Back From the Brink**      *Illustrated Talk*

What do you mean there were grizzly bears in Arizona? Join a park ranger in the visitor center auditorium to explore the natural history of the grizzly (and 2 other top predators) that once roamed in what is now Saguaro National Park. We will take a look at their past, present and future status in the American Southwest

**December 3**      **5:00 p.m.**      **Sunset Stroll**      *½ Mile Guided Walk*

The Sonoran Desert is famous for its sunsets. Join park staff at the Javelina Picnic Area for a ½ mile hike to enjoy tonight's sunset.

**December 5 & 12**                      **3:00 p.m.**                      **The Places In Between**                      *Illustrated Talk*

With human populations still on the rise, the wide open spaces available for protection are shrinking. Join park staff in the visitor center auditorium to find out about on-going efforts to ensure that critical migratory links remain intact. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**December 6, 7, 13, 14,**                      **9:00 a.m.**                      **Desert Morning Hike**                      *4 Mile Guided Hike*  
**20, 21, 28**

Join volunteer Dick Hollenback on this 3-hour, 4-mile hike to explore Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring water and a trail snack.

**December 24**                      **3:00 p.m.**                      **People & Places of Saguaro's Past**                      *Illustrated Talk*

Join Park Ranger Arlo Ogden in the Visitor Center auditorium for this photo tour of the park's historic past, focusing on the stories told by its historic structures. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**December 6, 13, 20, 27**                      **2:30 p.m.**                      **Reptiles & Amphibians**                      *Illustrated Talk*

Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians of the Sonoran Desert. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**December 15**                      **7:00 p.m.**                      **Star Party**

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**December 29**                      **5:30 p.m.**                      **Holiday Caravan**                      *Guided Auto Tour*

Explore the natural lore of the solstice holiday on a unique nighttime drive through the park's loop drive. Auto tours will be offered at 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., and will feature several stops along the 8-mile Cactus Forest Drive. Each tour lasts approximately 1½ hours. Cookies and cider will be offered at the visitor center all evening. As space is limited, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**December (all month\*)**                      **Garden Walks**                      *Guided Walk & Talk*

**\*Sundays – Fridays at 10:00 a.m./Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.**

Take a stroll with a park naturalist through the Cactus Garden just outside the visitor center to discover what makes the Sonoran Desert such a special place. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

As space is limited, for some of our guided programs advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling the Rincon Mountain District Visitor Center 733-5153.