

If you see a Gila monster, take

a **picture** from a safe distance and take note of the

**Time, Date, and Location**

where the photo was taken.



**\*\*Photos of the Gila monsters back make it easiest to identify them - but only take this photo if it is safe for you and the Gila monster to do so.**

There are **three ways** to get this information to us:

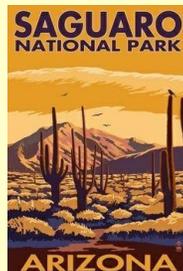
1. Email the photo and information to:

[gilamonsterresearch@gmail.com](mailto:gilamonsterresearch@gmail.com)

2. Upload it to our **iNaturalist.org** site

<http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/gila-monsters-at-saguaro-national-park>

3. Return to the Visitors Center and write down what you saw then try to email the photo later



Thank you for your help and support!



SAGUARO

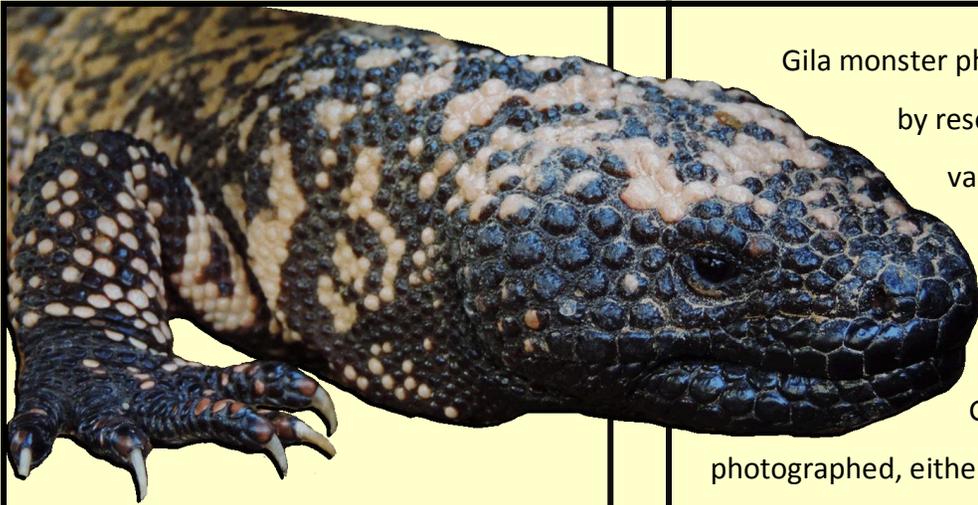
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Saguaro National Park



Have you seen me?

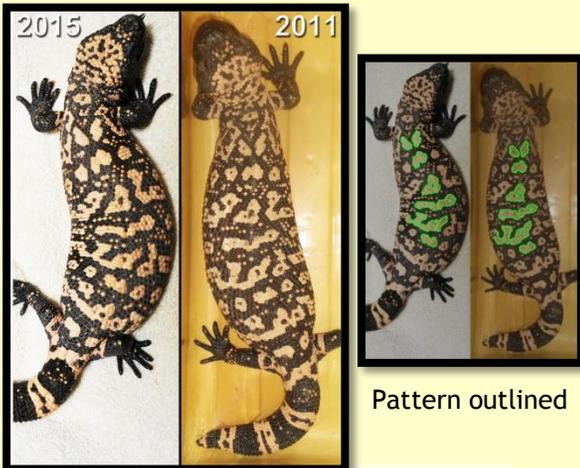


Saguaro National Park is on the search for Gila monster pictures and we need your help!



## Gila Monster Project

Saguaro National Park and The University of Arizona have been studying Gila monsters since 2008. Gila monsters are unique because once an individual has reached adulthood; their skin color pattern is set. This pattern can be used to identify individual Gila monsters using photos.



Pattern outlined

Gila monster photos can then be used by researchers to gain valuable information about Gila monsters by tracking individuals. When a Gila monster is

photographed, either by park staff or park visitors, it is mapped and then compared to known Gila monsters in our photo database. Over time, and with enough photos, we can map home ranges of individual Gila monsters and see how they move throughout time.



A mapped home ranged of a Gila monster known as "Kara" photographed 5 times over four years around the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center.

# WARNING

Gila monsters are **venomous**. Please under no circumstances attempt to pick one up!!



\*\*Not a real Gila monster

## FUN FACTS!

- Gila monsters are the **largest lizard** in the United States reaching up to 2 feet in length
- Gila Monsters spend nearly **95%** of their lives **underground**
- A law passed in 1952 **protected the Gila monster** so please do not harass or endanger any Gila monster you might see
- They **cannot spit venom**
- They eat **baby pack rats, baby bunnies, quail eggs, and tortoise eggs.**