



Saguaro National Park News Release

13-10

For Immediate Release

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JANUARY PROGRAMS AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

Highlights of Saguaro National Park's programs for January include a variety of sunset and moonlight hikes in the West District; and Cactus Caravans, star parties, and patio programs in the East District. To view many other cultural and natural history programs and hikes, see the park's Website at www.nps.gov/sagu or visit us on Facebook. Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations.

Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West, 2700 N. Kinney Road):

Jan. 21 2:15 p.m. Wasson Peak Hike: 7 hours, 8 miles

This 6½- to 7- hour, 8-mile round-trip hike climbs 1,700 feet to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Enjoy the 360-degree view of the sunset before descending by the light of the moon. The hike is considered difficult due to elevation gains and darkness. *Reservations required; 733-5158*

Jan. 4, 12 3:15 p.m. Silhouettes at Sundown Hike: 3 hours, 2 ½ miles

Jan. 19, 26 3:30 p.m. Trek along an arroyo as the setting sun magically silhouettes a famous icon – the giant saguaro. This walk is on one-third sandy wash with a few rock outcroppings, one-third hill with a gentle grade, and one-third dirt road. *Reservations required; 733-5158*

Jan. 22 4:15 p.m. Twilight Glow To Moon Shadows Hike: 2½ hrs., 2½ mi.

This easy walk bridges sunset and darkness as hikers ascend a gentle grade, walk down a sandy wash, and return via a dirt road. Hikers will experience the desert both in the twilight glow and in moon shadows. *Reservations required; 733-5158*

Jan. 23 3:30 p.m. Sunset Hike 4 hours, 3 ½ miles

A 3½ - to 4-hour, 3½-mile round-trip route gains 700 feet with most of the elevation change in switchbacks near the ridgeline, where hikers will watch the sunset before descending under moonlight. *Reservations required; 733-5158*

Jan. 24 4:15 p.m. Moon Take Night, Make Day Hike: 3 hours, 2 ½ miles

Hikers on this 2½-mile, 3-hour route travel a sandy desert wash and climb a terraced hill with a gentle grade as the day transitions to night, then enjoy the sunset before returning on a road in the moonlight. This hike is mostly easy but includes a few high-stepping rocky outcroppings in the wash. *Reservations required; 733-5158*

Jan. 26 6:15 p.m. Moonrise Over The Mountain Outdoor talk: 45 minutes

Relax around a campfire on the Red Hills Visitor Center patio as the full moon rises above the cactus forest. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations required.

Jan. 13, 16, 17, 20, 24, 25, 27, 30, 31 9:45 a.m. Lost And Gone Forever Hike: 1 1/5 hours

In this two-hour, 1.5-mile easy walk in an arroyo, discover how species become threatened, endangered or extinct. The hike begins at the Red Hills Visitor Center. No reservations required.

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East):

January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 3:00 p.m. **Reptiles and Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert*** *Presentation*
Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 4, 18 8:30 a.m. **Desert Bird Walk** *Easy Hike*
Join volunteer naturalist Vicki Powers for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.

January 5, 12, 19, 26 2:00 p.m. **With and Without Water** *2 Mile Hike*
Join park staff to discover the effects of seasonal rains on the flora and fauna of the Sonoran Desert. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.

January 10 7:00 p.m. **Star Party** *Illustrated Program & Activity*
Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. **Reservations required. Call 733-5153** *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 11, 25 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. **Reservations required. Call 733-5153**

January 13, 20, 27 10:30 a.m. **Arizona Rainforest** *Easy Guided Walk*
Join a park naturalist for this 90 minute stroll along a desert wash. We'll identify the trees of the cactus forest and learn how essential rain is to the abundant life of the Sonoran Desert. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended

January 26 2:30 p.m. **Sunset/Moonlight Hike** *5 Mile Guided Hike*
View the Arizona sunset from a perch high in the foothills of the Rincon Mountains, then experience the magic of a walk through the moonlit Cactus Forest. **Reservations are required** and can be made by calling the visitor center at (520)733-5153.

January 30. 3:00 p.m. **The Expedition of Juan Bautista de Anza** *Presentation*
Join park ranger Al Watson in the visitor center auditorium to retrace the steps of Juan Bautista de Anza on his historic expedition of 1775 – 1776. What discoveries were made and hardships endured as these intrepid travelers made their way from Tubac, Arizona to San Francisco, California. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Daily Programs

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org

www.rinconinstitute.org

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