



## General Information



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### Districts

The Rincon Mountain District is located east of the city at 3693 South Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730. The visitor center phone number is (520) 733-5153.

The Tucson Mountain District is located west of the city at 2700 North Kinney Road, Tucson, AZ 85743. The visitor center phone number is (520) 733-5158.

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### Directions to the Park

The east district can be accessed from Interstate 10 at Houghton Road (exit # 275). Go north on Houghton Road to Escalante Road, east on Escalante Road to Old Spanish Trail, then north to the park entrance. From the city of Tucson, go east on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to Old Spanish Trail, then south to the park entrance. From Speedway or Broadway Boulevards, go east to Freeman Road, south on Freeman Road to Old Spanish Trail, then south on Old Spanish Trail to the park entrance.

The west district can be accessed from Interstate 10 at Speedway Boulevard (exit # 257). Go west on Speedway Boulevard (the name will change to Gates Pass Road) to Kinney Road, then north on Kinney Road to the park entrance. Vehicles pulling trailers or oversized vehicles such as RV's are advised to take Interstate 19 to Ajo Way (exit # 99), then west on Ajo Way to Kinney Road, then north on Kinney Road to the park entrance.

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### Hours and Fees

The east district's visitor center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily except Christmas day. The 8 mile scenic drive is open to vehicles from 7:00 a.m. to sunset daily. There is an entrance fee to enter the Rincon Mountain District of Saguaro National Park. Golden Age, Golden Access, National Park Passes and Saguaro National Park Annual Passes are accepted and available.

The west district's visitor center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily except Christmas day. All unpaved roads are open to vehicles from 6:00 a.m. to sunset - April through September and from 7:00 a.m. to sunset - October through March. There is an entrance fee to enter the Tucson Mountain District of Saguaro National Park. Golden Age, Golden Access, National Park Passes and Saguaro National Park Annual Passes are accepted and available at the visitor center.

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### Park Roads

The east district offers a paved, 8 mile scenic loop drive. It is open to all vehicles, but is a narrow, one -way road. This road is subject to closure during flash floods.

The west district offers 12 miles of paved roads and 8.5 miles of unpaved roads. The one -way portion of the Bajada Loop Drive is not suitable for long vehicles. However, all roads are subject to closure during flash floods.

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**Naturalist Programs**

Orientation programs are presented daily at both visitor centers. During the busy winter season, a variety of interpretive programs are also offered.

Please call one of the visitor centers for specific information about naturalist programs and walks during other times of the year.

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**Services and Campgrounds**

Both districts of the park offer picnic areas and hiking trails. There are no drive-in campgrounds, gas stations or restaurants available at either district. Primitive camping is available in the Saguaro Wilderness Area, located in the Rincon Mountain District, and requires a camping permit. There are many public campgrounds available nearby. The closest campground to the Rincon Mountain District is found on the Coronado National Forest. Call (520) 760-2301 for more information.

The closest campground to the Tucson Mountain District is the Gilbert Ray Campground. Call (520) 740-2690 for more information. Lodging, food and automobile services may be obtained in the city of Tucson. For information on lodging and tourist attractions contact the Tucson Visitors Bureau: 100 S. Church Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701; (520) 624-1817. Or the Tucson Chamber of Commerce: 465 W. Saint Mary's Road, Tucson, AZ 85701; (520) 792-1212.

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**Seasonal Variations**

While the Sonoran Desert does not exhibit a typical "four season" weather pattern, it does follow rhythmic cycles. Rain, or a lack thereof, marks these changes.

Winter: December to February

The gentle rains of winter ready the desert for its busiest time of the year. By late February, many annual wildflowers begin to bloom and birds start to nest.

Spring: March to May

The last weeks of March and first weeks of April are the height of spring activity and flower bloom. Insects swarm around the flowering plants, and birds take advantage of this abundance to raise their young. A winter with adequate rainfall at the proper time may produce spectacular wildflower displays.

Flowering trees and cacti are not as sensitive to rainfall and temperature and usually have a good bloom every year. The saguaro cactus bloom peaks in May and June.

Summer: June to August

A tremendous variety of cactus means that blossoms can be seen from mid-April into September. Summer heat reaches its peak in June and July. Throughout the summer, most animal activity occurs in early morning, late evening or at night. July and August also bring the summer rainy season of intense thunderstorms.

Fall: September to November

Fall is a quiet time. Cooler temperatures make for great hiking and camping conditions throughout the area.

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**Tucson Weather**

<i>Month</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Rainfall</i>
Jan	63	38	.83
Feb	66	40	.63
Mar	72	44	.68
Apr	80	50	.32
May	89	57	.14
Jun	98	67	.22
Jul	98	73	2.42
Aug	96	72	2.13
Sep	93	67	1.33
Oct	84	57	.88
Nov	72	45	.62
Dec	65	39	.94

Expect bright, sunny days for an average of 300 days per year, with a relative humidity of 25% or less. Although most of the year is dry, the Sonoran Desert has two distinct rainy seasons. Soft, gentle rains fall during the winter season between December and February. Intense summer thunderstorms slash the desert during July and August, typically late in the afternoon. Localized flash flooding is possible, especially during or after summer thunderstorms.

Always drink plenty of water, especially while hiking. A minimum of one gallon per person, per day is recommended.