



# Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule January, 2018

Programs meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail unless otherwise noted. 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.

**January 1, 22, 29** 11:00 a.m. **A Taste of the Desert** *Garden Walk*  
Discover the many uses of desert plants, from food and medicine to clothing and shelter. **Accessible Program**

**January 2, 9, 23, 30** 9:00 a.m. **Birds of the Desert** *Guided Walk*  
Join a park naturalist on this one-mile walk in search of our desert birds. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended; bring your binoculars.

**January 2, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30** 10:00 a.m. **Sonoran Lifestyles** *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. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

**January 2, 16, 23, 30** 2:00 p.m. **Here Come the Hummers** *Presentation*  
Discover these tiny winged jewels that call Arizona their home. **Accessible Program**

**January 3 & 17** 11:00 a.m. **A Sticky Situation at Saguaro National Park** *Presentation*  
**January 27** 1:00 p.m.

Here at Saguaro National Park East we have over thirty species of cacti and each is beautiful in its own way. Finding them all is hard, but we will look at them in a stunning photo gallery and learn a few uses these plants have for those living here and beyond. **Accessible program**

**January 4, 11, 18, 25** 10:00 a.m. **Walk with the Saguaros** *Guided Walk*  
Join a park naturalist for an in-depth look at our namesake – the Saguaro Cactus. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

**January 5, 12, 26** 11:00 a.m. **Life and the Desert** *Tour/Activity*  
**January 25** 3:00 p.m.  
Explore the basic principles and structures of life. Then, use this knowledge to investigate life in the desert to determine the forces various species have had to overcome and the adaptations those species have acquired to thrive in the desert. **Accessible program**

**January 5 & 19** 3:00 p.m. **A Century of Tales** *Presentation*  
Join us as we review a century of fun and interesting stories from those who lived and worked in what today is Saguaro National Park. **Accessible Program**

**January 6** 10:30 a.m. **Children's Desert Art Class** *Activity*  
Children of all ages are invited to meet our ranger/nature artist Maria at the Visitor Center to create their own desert artwork. Art supplies will be provided.

**January 6 & 20** 1:00 p.m. **Flash, Whoosh, Gush & Growth: Monsoons** *Presentation*  
**January 31** 11:00 a.m.

The summer heat and humidity bring the mighty and sometimes destructive monsoon rain. Saguaros, toads, and others depend on these drenching afternoons to begin a new season of life in the dry desert. A fabulous video opens this theater presentation. **Accessible Program**

**January 10, 17, 24, 31** 10:00 a.m. **Desert Discovery** *Guided Hike*  
Join a park naturalist on this 2-mile, 2-hour hike to discover what's out there in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

**January 11, 19, 26** 2:00 p.m. **Cactus Caravan** *Auto Tour*  
Begin your exploration of the Cactus Forest Drive with a park ranger and become familiar with some of the common cacti. A great introduction to the park! **Accessible Program**

**January 11** 3:00 p.m. **Night as Day: Nocturnal Life in Saguaro National Park** *Presentation*  
Discover the ecological community that comes to life in the nighttime, including nocturnal animals, night-blooming plants and pollinators. **Accessible Program**

**January 11** 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 are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153. Accessible Program**

**January 12 & 26** 3:00 p.m. **Creating Saguaro National Park** *Presentation*  
Saguaro National Park has a unique and interesting history. This theater presentation will highlight the commitment, compromise, and decision's that created the Park. **Accessible program**

**January 13** 1:00 p.m. **The Point of the Matter is Cactus** Presentation  
**January 24** 11:00 a.m.

Cacti are much more than strange plants with spines. They are uniquely equipped to thrive in the desert environment, and every year bloom with spectacular flowers. This theater presentation will highlight these survival marvels with a beautiful photo gallery. **Accessible Program**

**January 13** 2:00 p.m. **Drive-Thru Geology** Auto Tour

Hop in your car for a journey through 25 million years of earth history...in one hour! We'll observe the varied landforms of the desert – bajadas, washes, outcrops – and find out why geology students from around the world come to see the Rincon Mountain foothills. (Hint: it's the mylonitic gneiss!)

**January 13** 4:30 p.m. **Sunset Hike** Guided Hike

Join a park guide to take a short hike up to a rocky overlook of the Tucson Basin. Nature will determine how good the sunset is, but bring your camera just in case it's a famous Arizona sundown!

**January 14 & 21** 11:00 a.m. **The GIANT Cactus** Guided Walk

Saguaro National Park is famous for its gigantic saguaros. Still, you have to know where to look to find a real giant among giants. The best way is to join a ranger for a walk along a desert wash for a lesson in trees of the desert and a look at the only tree-like cactus in the U.S. You'll be surprised by the size! Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

**January 14 & 21** 3:00 p.m. **Easy Being Green** Garden Walk

In the desert, you'd think it's *not* easy being green. But there are plants everywhere in the Sonoran desert! We'll give you a model that shows how every plant gets by in this land of little rain. **Accessible program**

**January 14, 21** 4:30 p.m. **Closing Time at the Ridge View Trail** Guided Hike

**January 28** 4:45 p.m.

Join park staff to hike up the Ridge View Trail to watch and capture the sunset. Water and a flashlight are required on this 1.8 mile hike, roughly 2 hours. Reservations are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153.

**January 15, 22, 29** 2:00 P.M. **The Adventures of Thelma the Tortoise** Presentation

Go on a fantastic trip across the Sonoran Desert with one adventurous tortoise who called Saguaro National Park her home – until she set her eye on farther horizons! **Accessible Program**

**January 16, 23, 30** 11:00 a.m. **Creepy Crawlies** Presentation

Come discover the fascinating world of snakes, insects and arachnids that live in Saguaro National Park in this 30-minute presentation. **Accessible Program**

**January 19** 7:00 p.m. **Night Walk** Guided Walk

Join a park naturalist for this easy two-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather. Comfortable walking shoes, water and a flashlight are recommended. **Reservations are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153**

**January 20** 11:00 a.m. **Poetry Morning in the Desert** Activity

Bring an original or one of your favorite desert/nature poems to read and/or share. Or simply come to enjoy the beautiful views and words. Reservations are recommended. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5151.  
**Accessible program**

**January 21 & 28** 10:00 a.m. **Desert Botany 101** Garden Walk

Review the basic principles of desert botany on this easy walk through our Cactus Garden. **Accessible Program**

**January 24 & 31** 11:30 a.m. **History of the Rincon Valley** Guided Hike

Take a stroll down the Hope Camp and Ridge View Trails and learn about the homesteaders and ranchers who settled here, as well as other aspects of the Rincon and Tanque Verde Valleys. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

**January 25** 11:00 a.m. **The Saguaro TIME HIKE** Guided Hike

What was it like to live in a Cactus Forest? What do people do in this valley today? And what about an uncertain future? Explore all three eras on a short hike to the Loma Verde Copper Mine historic site. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

**January 26** 9:00 a.m. **Douglas Spring Hike** Guided Hike

Come explore the sights along the Douglas Spring Trail, including Bridal Wreath Falls (will there be water?) and Wildhorse Tank. This is 5-mile, 4-hour hike. Sturdy hiking shoes, water and a trail snack are recommended.

**January 26** 10:00 a.m. **Is it a Cactus or A ... spargus?** Garden Walk

We all know a cactus when we see it, right? Maybe not! Find out how our two families of spiny succulent plants are the same, but different. **Accessible program**

**January 28** 2:30 p.m. **Sunset & Moonrise Hike** 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. Sturdy hiking shoes, water and a trail supper are recommended.

**Reservations are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153.**

**January 31** 5:30 p.m. **Full Moon Hike** 2-mile, 2-hour Guided Hike

Explore the Sights and Sounds of the Sonoran Desert as it comes to life under the full moon. Sturdy walking shoes, water and a flashlight are recommended. Reservations are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153.