



# Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule January, 2016

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 2** 10:00 a.m. **Sharing the Desert's Stories** Activity  
Children 5 to 10 years of age and parents are invited to come join us in the visitor center auditorium as we bring some of the Sonoran Desert's stories to life. This month's theme will be Winter in the Desert. **Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.** Wheelchair accessible.

**January 2** 1:00 p.m. **A Sticky Situation at Saguaro** Presentation  
**27** 11:00 a.m.

Here at Saguaro National Park East we have 20 species of cactus and each is beautiful in its own way. Finding them all can be a challenge, but we will see each one in a stunning photo gallery and learn a few uses these plants have to those living here and beyond. Theater presentation. Wheelchair accessible.

**January 2, 9, 16, 30** 2:30 p.m. **Living in a Cactus Forest**  
Our "Cactus Forest" was protected as a National Monument in 1933. But that doesn't mean it hasn't changed. Take an easy stroll through this desert preserve to learn about the past AND discuss the future of your National Park and the growing Tucson community.

**January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** 11:00 a.m. **The GIANT Cactus** ¾ mile 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! Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

**January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** 3:00 p.m. **CENTENNIAL!** Presentation  
Celebrate the National Park Service's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a tour through time. We'll share history and scenery from every corner of the country, going back 100 years and more!

**January 4, 8, 11, 12, 15** 10:00 a.m. **Sonoran Lifestyles** Guided Walk  
**18, 19, 22, 25, 26, 29**  
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 water.

**January 6, 13, 20, 27** 9:00 a.m. **Desert Morning Hike** Guided Hike  
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.

**January 7** 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 8, 15, 29** 2:00 p.m. **The Saguaro Nursery** ½ mile guided walk  
The reports of the saguaro's demise were greatly exaggerated! Take a stroll along a trail to see the next generation of young saguaros and the gradual renewal of the Cactus Forest.

**January 8, 22**                      3:00 p.m.                      **A Century of Tales**                      *Presentation*

Join us in the visitor center auditorium as we review a century of fun and interesting stories from those who lived and worked in what is today Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**January 8**                      7:00 p.m.                      **Night Walk**                      *1 mile 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, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. *As space is limited, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.*

**January 9, 30**                      1:00 p.m.                      **Flash, Whoosh, Gush, and Growth: Sonoran Desert Monsoon Rain\***  
20                      11:00 a.m.                      *Presentation*

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

**January 9, 16, 30**                      5:00 p.m.                      **Sunset Hike**                      *Guided Hike*

Sonoran Desert sunsets are famous for their blazing colors. Join a park ranger to discover how nature will paint the sky tonight. Wear sturdy walking shoes.

**January 11**                      9:00 a.m.                      **The Destruction of Granite: A Trip to the Fault**                      *Guided Hike*

Join a ranger on a guided auto tour and hike inside the loop drive at Saguaro National Park. We will discuss the geological history of the park as well as southeastern Arizona. The hike portion will be 5 miles round trip. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and a trail snack. *Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.*

**January 12, 19, 26**                      11:15 a.m.                      **A Taste of the Desert**                      *garden walk*

Join us for a stroll through our cactus garden and learn what plants can be used for food, clothing, medicine, shelter and much more. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**January 12**                      12:30 p.m.                      **Living With and Without Reptiles**                      *Presentation*

Join volunteer and herpetologist Bob Brandner in the visitor center auditorium to explore the biology of Sonoran Desert reptiles and how we can share the desert with them,

**January 12, 19, 26**                      3:00 p.m.                      **Birds of the Desert Southwest**                      *Presentation*

Join park naturalist in the visitor center auditorium to explore the wide variety of birds found here in the desert southwest.

**January 13, 20, 27**                      10:00 a.m.                      **Desert Discovery**                      *Guided Walk*

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.

**January 13**                      11:00 a.m.                      **The Point of the Matter is Cactus**                      *Presentation*  
23                      1:00 p.m.

Cactus 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. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**January 13, 20, 27**                      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! *Wheelchair accessible*

**January 14, 28**                      10:00 a.m.                      **Where Have All the Saguaros Gone?**                      *2 mile guided hike*

Why does it look like our saguaros are disappearing? Join a park naturalist to discover what historic activities, including lime kilns, have affected our saguaro forest and learn how these giant cacti are faring today.

**January 14, 28**                      2:00 p.m.                      **Drive-Thru Geology**                      *1 hour 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 15, 29**      *11:00 a.m.*      **The Changing Cactus Forest\***      *Presentation*

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to discover how the changes in the Cactus Forest over the years relate to potential changes in the future. Included will be a discussion of major climate change effects on parks, relating each to Saguaro national Park.

**January 15, 29**      *3:00 p.m.*      **Creating Saguaro National Park**      *presentation*

Join staff in the visitor center auditorium to discover how abuse, failure, politics, commitment, recovery and the Tucson Garden Club all played a part in creating today's Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**January 16**      *9:00 a.m.*      **Young Adult Hiking Club**      *5-mile hike*

Young adults 18 years and older are invited to come hike off that turkey dinner with a park ranger. The emphasis will be fitness and fun. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling the visitor center at (520) 733-5153. Wear comfortable walking/hiking shoes; bring water and a light trail snack

**January 16 & 30**      *10:00 a.m.*      **Meet the Cholla**      *Guided Walk*

On this easy walk, you will be introduced to the diverse members of the cholla cactus family and their relationships with the desert community. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

**January 18, 25**      *2:00 p.m.*      **Grizzlies, Jaguars and Wolves – Oh My!**      *Presentation*

Come listen in as we discuss the animals that once called Saguaro National Park home. Is there a chance that some of these creatures might return one day? What techniques are available to assist in their comeback?  
*Auditorium presentation.*

**January 19**      *12:30 p.m.*      **Tortoises of the United States\***      *Presentation*

Join volunteer and herpetologist Bob Brandner to discover the different species of tortoises found in the U.S and which ones call Arizona home.

**January 21**      *10:00 a.m.*      **Visitor's Choice/Naturalist's Choice**      *Guided Walk*

Here's your chance to take a walk with a park naturalist with 10+ years' experience in the Sonoran Desert. Bring your favorite question or topic, or just enjoy the best stories of the day: wildlife, wildflowers, or wilderness, as the weather and the seasons change. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

**January 22**      *2:00 p.m.*      **Sunset and Moonlight 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. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the visitor center at (520) 733-5153.

**January 26**      *12:30 p.m.*      **Venomous Reptiles at Saguaro National Park**      *Presentation*

Come discover the fascinating lives of the venomous reptiles that call the Sonoran Desert their home in this auditorium presentation by volunteer and herpetologist Bob Brandner.

**January 29**      *9:00 a.m.*      **The History of the Rincon Valley**      *Guided Hike*

Take a stroll down the Hope Camp Trail and learn about the homesteaders and ranchers who settled here, as well as other aspects of the Rincon and Tanque Verde Valleys. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water and a trail snack. Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.