



Trails in the Tucson Mountain District

Red Hills Visitor Center (520) 733-5158

Short Walks and Nature Trails

Cactus Garden Trail (100 yards)

The Cactus Garden Trail is located in front of the Red Hills Visitor Center. Interpretive signs will acquaint you with some of the common plants in the Tucson Mountain District. This paved trail is wheelchair accessible and offers resting benches throughout.

Desert Discovery Trail (.5 miles)

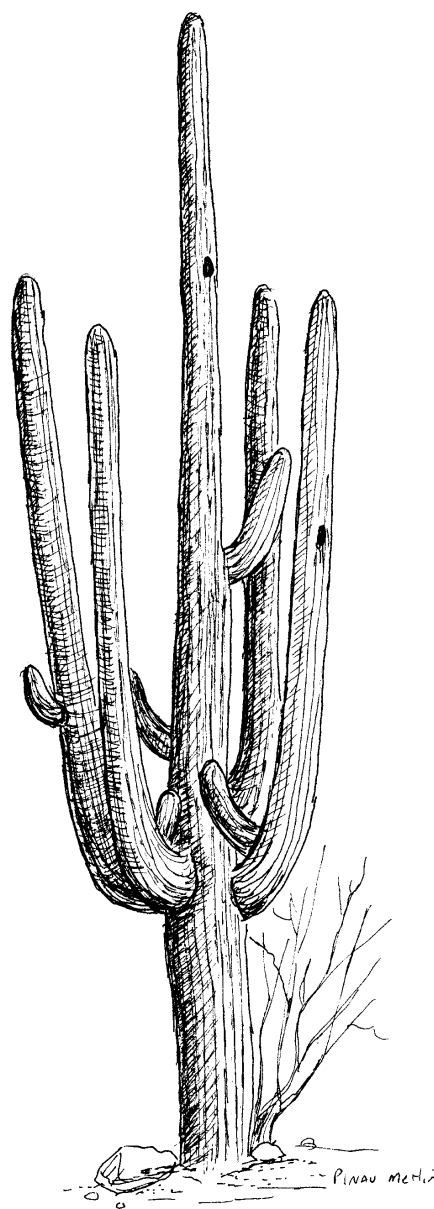
You will find the trailhead to this self-guided nature trail on Kinney Road, 1 mile northwest of the Red Hills Visitor Center. Exhibits discuss the native plants, animals and ecology of the Sonoran Desert. This paved trail is wheelchair accessible and offers resting benches and shade ramadas.

Valley View Overlook Trail (.8 miles)

The Valley View Overlook Trail is located on the Bajada Loop Drive, 3.5 miles north of the Red Hills Visitor Center. While hiking this trail you will pass through two washes and then gradually ascend a ridge. The view from this ridge is superb, with Avra Valley below and Picacho Peak to the north. The trail is rough and uneven in places and contains rock steps.

Signal Hill Petroglyphs Trail (.5 miles)

This easy climb takes you to dozens of petroglyphs scattered around a rocky hilltop. The trail zig-zags up a small hill just north of Signal Hill Picnic Area, which is located off Golden Gate Road, 5 miles from the Red Hills Visitor Center. The trail is rough and uneven in places and contains rock steps.



Desert and Mountain Hiking Trails

King Canyon Trail (3.5 miles, one way)

The trailhead and parking area for this hike are directly across Kinney Road from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, two miles east of the Red Hills Visitor Center. The first .9 miles is a gradual climb up to Mam-A-Gah Picnic Area, which was named after a Tohono O'odham Indian Chief. The next 1.4 miles to the junction of the Sweetwater Trail are steeper. Numerous switchbacks on the next .9 miles lead to the Hugh Norris Trail. The final .3 miles ascends the Hugh Norris Trail to the top of Wasson Peak (elevation 4,687 feet), the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Livestock are prohibited above the Sweetwater Trail junction.

Hugh Norris Trail (4.9 miles, one way)

This is the longest trail in the Tucson Mountain District. It begins off the Bajada Loop Drive, 2.5 miles north of the Red Hills Visitor Center. The trail was named after a former Chief of the Tohono O'odham Indian Police. The trail begins with a series of switchbacks that climb to a ridge overlooking the cactus forest. From there, the trail follows the ridge-top through areas with splendid views and unique rock formations until it reaches Amole Peak, approximately 4.1 miles from the trailhead. The next .8 miles goes up a final series of switchbacks and a gradual climb that leads to the top of Wasson Peak. Livestock are prohibited on this trail.

Sendero Esperanza Trail (3.2 miles, one way)

This trailhead is approximately 6 miles from the Red Hills Visitor Center, 1.5 miles east of the intersection of Hohokam Road and Golden Gate Road. The first mile of trail follows the sandy path of an old mine road. The next .7 mile climbs a series of switchbacks to the top of the ridge where it crosses the Hugh Norris Trail. The trail then descends 1.4 miles on the western side of the range to Mam-A-Gah Picnic Area and the King Canyon Trail. It is .9 miles down the King Canyon Trail to Kinney Road, directly across from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Cam-Boh Trail (2.7 miles, one way)

This trail runs parallel to Picture Rocks Road from Cam-Boh Picnic Area to the Ringtail Trail. As a major connection between the east and west parts of the Tucson Mountain District, the Cam-Boh Trail provides several loop opportunities for both equestrians and hikers.

Ringtail Trail (1 mile, one way)

The Ringtail Trail provides access to numerous trails in the eastern part of the Tucson Mountain District. Several different loop opportunities exist using Cam-Boh Trail, Mule Deer Trail, Ironwood Forest Trail or Picture Rocks Wash Trail. The terrain varies from fairly level, to gently rolling to moderately steep. Use extreme caution while entering or exiting this trailhead as vehicle traffic on Picture Rocks Road can be heavy.

Sweetwater Trail (3.4 miles, one way)

The Sweetwater Trail is the only access to Wasson Peak from the eastern side of the Tucson Mountains. The trailhead is located at the western end of El Camino del Cerro Road. The trail climbs 3.4 miles to a ridge where it ends at the King Canyon Trail. To reach Wasson Peak, continue up the King Canyon Trail .9 miles to the Hugh Norris Trail, then .3 miles to Wasson Peak. Livestock are prohibited on the King Canyon Trail from the Sweetwater Trail to Hugh Norris Trail.

Cactus Wren Trail (1.5 miles, one way)

The Cactus Wren trail runs from the corner of Sandario Road and Rudasill Road to Signal Hill Picnic Area. This area is fairly flat and crosses several washes. Livestock are prohibited on the Cactus Wren Trail south of the Encinas Trail.

