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ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

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STATE PARKS & TRAILS



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WELCOME



Doug Ducey
Governor



Bob Broscheid
Executive Director

Welcome!

It seems like yesterday I made my way to Arizona in search of a new beginning and new opportunities. Arizona is where I earned a college degree, started a family and built my business.

Today, Arizona remains a land of opportunity for all. Spend any amount of time here, and it's easy to see why so many people from across this country fall in love with our state.

Whether its evergreen forests, fertile deserts, whitewater rapids, historic destinations or natural wonders - Arizona has it all. Fishing, hiking, camping, biking, swimming, star-gazing, boating and more await you here in the Grand Canyon state.

There's something for everyone to enjoy. That includes eight historic state parks full of adventure, recreation, beauty, culture and fun that simply can't be beat.

We know you have many choices of where to spend your time. Thank you for joining the countless visitors from all over the world for choosing Arizona.

We hope you enjoy all the boundless beauty our state has to offer.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey | Governor of the State of Arizona



ARIZONA
GRAND CANYON STATE

The diversity of landscapes, climates, and life here is never better on display than at the more than 30 state parks across the state. With towering pine trees and cool lakes, rugged mountains, rushing rivers, majestic saguaro cactus and abundant wildlife, our parks offer an adventure for everyone!

Whether you choose to spend the day or a week, go hiking or float down the river, go fishing or go birding, set up camp or stay in a cabin, Arizona's state parks have it all, and more!

I'd like to welcome you to our parks!

Bob Broscheid | Executive Director

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(Cover: Paddling in Patagonia Lake State Park (AZSP))



For answers to all your questions, go to **OhRanger.com**



WHAT'S NEW! WE'RE ALL CONNECTED

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."

—John Muir

As a young man, John Muir, the naturalist known as, "Father of the National Parks," had an accident that left him temporarily blinded. It changed his life forever. When he regained his sight, he emerged into the light ever-determined to pursue his dreams of exploration. Fortunately for the world, Muir's trials led him to help move Congress to set aside Yosemite, one of his many contributions to our nation's preservation movement.

When faced with adversity, we have but two choices. We can either rise above our circumstance or succumb to our demons of doubt, fear, resentment and apathy. While Muir was lucky to have his sight return, his subsequent efforts drew strength from hope, compassion, kindness and love to rise up from personal adversity.

Lately, it feels like we're all dealing with too many hurdles. Every hour, "breaking" news spews forth accounts of tragedy and divisiveness. It was with this backdrop that I was preparing to teach a restorative yoga class, to create a safe environment for my students and provide an hour's worth of peace and quiet to carry out into the world. What theme would capture their imagination and neatly underscore our human need for connectedness?

When teaching, I try to use examples that marry ancient tradition with contemporary



Mark, Joel & Alex – connecting in parks!

science. I often find inspiration in parks. In its traditional form, yoga was about joining with the collective universe. So, too, is Muir's quote, best illustrated by an example from Yellowstone. When wolves were reintroduced there after a 70-year absence, the rampant elk population could no longer leisurely nibble on willows, graze in open meadows or congregate by the rivers. In a short period of time, the forests and meadows began to regenerate. Song birds appeared. Beavers flourished, building dams, which created habitats for otters, muskrats and ducks. Cooler waters, shaded by more trees, attracted different species of amphibians and fish. Tree roots stabilized the river banks, diminished erosion and even changed the geography of the park! Indeed, pick out anything by itself and we quickly find that *everything* is connected.

Now is the time to seek out connection—whether in a park, a yoga studio or anywhere you find inspiration—to find strength to rise up and overcome the obstacles that face us all...

Mark H. Hargreaves

mark@americanparknetwork.com



GET CONNECTED AT YOUR FAVORITE PARKS!

Parks are about enjoying nature, but what if you want to share a great picture or are awaiting an important email? If you're looking to add connectivity to your park, or if you already have Wi-Fi and would like help adding content or generating sponsor revenues, please let us know at wifi@americanparknetwork.com.



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PLAN YOUR VISIT

The beauty of Arizona is unparalleled in its diversity of landscapes. There's so much to see and do in the state. Whether you have a day or several weeks, Arizona's state parks will introduce you to the state's natural and cultural wonders. Arizona's state parks offer a chance to see and explore the state's incredibly diverse natural attractions and cultural exhibits. Reserve a cabin, campsite, or cave tour today at AZStateParks.com!

TRAVEL DISTANCES

Many state parks are within driving distance of Arizona's major cities, and make perfect day trip destinations. In fact, there are several state parks located within two hours of Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Tucson. See the centerfold map for a mileage chart.

OPERATING HOURS AND SEASONS

Arizona state parks are open year-round. For specific park schedules, go to AZStateParks.com. Call **877 MY-PARKS** for information and campground and cave tour reservations.

ARIZONA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS OUTDOOR RECREATION INFORMATION CENTER

Get travel and parks information just off I-17 at the Pinnacle Peak Road. 23751 N. 23rd Ave, Suite 190, Phoenix, AZ.

ENTRANCE FEES

Day use fees at the state parks range from \$2 to \$30. Prices may vary by season.

PARK PASSES

Arizona State Parks and Trails offers annual passes for frequent park visitors. The

Standard Annual Pass allows day-use access at all Arizona state parks for the pass holder and up to three additional adults in the same vehicle, except at Buckskin Mountain, Cattail Cove, Lake Havasu, Patagonia Lake, River Island, and Slide Rock on weekends (Friday–Sunday) and state holidays from April 1 to October 31.

The **Premium Annual Pass** is geared toward boaters who want to launch their boat on The Colorado at river parks any day of the week (including weekends). The Premium Annual Pass allows the pass holder and up to three additional adults in the same vehicle day-use access to all Arizona state parks, anytime.

Annual park passes are available at any state park, at the Arizona State Parks and Trails office in Phoenix, or at AZStateParks.com. Passes are good for one year from date of purchase and cannot be applied to other park fees, like camping or guided tours.

The **Military Discount Program** provides a 50 percent day-use discount to: active duty, guard, and reserve military; Arizona-resident retired military veterans (AZ Driver's License address); and service disabled (10–90 percent or 100 percent individual unemployability) veterans (with proof of military service and a verbal or written statement of Service Connected Disability).

A free day-use pass is available to all 100 percent service disabled veterans (with VA-certified proof of 100 percent Service Connected Disability). All passes also cover up to three accompanying adult family members at parks with per-vehicle pricing. Contact a park directly to receive your pass. Proof of eligibility required.

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COMMERCIAL GROUPS

Commercial groups may visit the parks. For Kartchner Caverns commercial tours, call (520) 586-4109.

GROUP-USE AREAS

More than 20 Arizona state parks have group-use areas, including picnic areas and shade ramadas. See the facilities charts in the regional chapters of this guide or call the park directly for more information.

ACCESSIBILITY

Arizona State Parks and Trails' new ADA program is working on updating accessibility information for each park. Cabin, beach, and trail accessibility upgrades will be taking place throughout the year. The trail data collection project will provide visitors with the grade, length, and slope of each trail. For information about specific facilities, trails, special services, or group access for individuals with disabilities, please call the ADA Coordinator at (602) 542-7130 or email access@azstateparks.gov. Visit the Ac-

cessibility tab on AZStateParks.com for updates.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Visit AZStateParks.com for upcoming events, park information, and other resources to help plan your trip.

The website also provides interactive driving directions, downloadable park maps, park hours and guidelines, and categories of campsites and park histories. Find specific information on recreation parks, historic parks, or parks with particular facilities or activities on the 'Find a Park' tabs.

Visitors to AZStateParks.com can also make campground and cabin reservations, schedule cave tours at Kartchner Caverns State Park, find information on Arizona's Off-Highway Vehicle Program (OHV), State Trails Program, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and grant funding options.

Stay connected by linking up with Arizona State Parks and Trails on social media at [AZStateParks](http://AZStateParks.com) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

PARK SAFETY AND REGULATIONS

Please review and observe the following tips, which are designed to enhance your safety and enjoyment.

- Always stay on trails. Share the trail and be aware when you are on the trail. Always let someone know your hiking itinerary and when you plan to return before you hit the trail.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Practice Leave No Trace (LNT.org) principles:
 - Plan ahead and prepare.
 - Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
 - Dispose of waste properly.
- Leave what you find.
 - Minimize campfire impacts.



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When visiting Arizona State Parks, camp only in designated areas and dispose of waste properly



PRESERVING OUR PAST. PROTECTING OUR FUTURE.

npca.org/join



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Arizona State Parks and Trails	1-877-MY-PARKS Reservations at AZStateParks.com
Off-Highway Vehicle Information	(602) 542-2146 • AZStateParks.com/ohv
State Historic Preservation Office	(602) 542-4009
Arizona Game & Fish Department	(602) 942-3000 • azgfd.com
Operation Game Thief 24-hour Hotline	(800) 352-0700
Fishing Regulations	azgfd.com/fishing
Hunting Regulations	azgfd.com/hunting
Arizona State Land Department	(602) 542-4631
Travel and Safety	
Arizona Office of Tourism	(866)-275-5816 • visitarizona.com
Arizona Fire Restrictions	(877) 864-6985 • azfireinfo.az.gov
Arizona Highway Patrol	(602) 223-2000
Arizona Road Conditions	(888) 411-7623
Traveler Information Service	511 (in Arizona) • az511.gov
Emergencies	911

- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of other visitors.
- No animals (except service dogs) are allowed in historic buildings.
- Never feed wildlife and always store your rations and trash securely.
- When boating, always wear a personal flotation device and make sure that you have enough for everyone on your craft.

PETS

Arizona State Parks and Trails welcomes pets at most parks! However, animals must be kept on a leash that does not exceed six feet at all times. Owners must also clean up after their pets. With the exception of service animals, pets are not allowed in historic buildings or museums, in cabana sites, on developed beaches, or at other environmentally or ecologically sensitive areas. Contact

individual parks for information about site-specific rules.

FRIENDS GROUPS

Arizona State Parks and Trails is supported by several dedicated non-profit organizations called Friends Groups that help sustain a variety of projects and increase awareness of the system's recreational, natural, and historic resources. They contribute to building new trails, provide funding for new signs, support volunteers, provide equipment, and much more. Friends groups are associated with the following: Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Kartchner Caverns, Catalina, Lost Dutchman, Oracle, Red Rock, Riordan Mansion, Slide Rock, Tonto Natural Bridge, Tubac Presidio Park and Museum, Sonoita Creek, Verde River Greenway, and the Arizona State Parks Foundation.



HISTORY & CULTURE

With its unique landscapes, destinations, habitats, and cultures, Arizona offers something for everyone. Today, more than seven million Arizonans live in places as varied as metropolitan Phoenix and Oraibi on the Hopi Mesas, one of the longest continuously-inhabited communities in North America. There are thousands of reminders of earlier lives, including ancient Native American settlements – like those at Homolovi State Park and Walnut Canyon National Monument.

NATIVE AMERICANS

Native Americans have been living in Arizona for at least 12,000 years. During the last Ice Age, "Paleoindian" bands moved about the landscape, gathering edible plants and hunting game. The end of the Pleistocene epoch corresponded with dramatic ecological changes, which triggered lifestyle adjustments.

About 4,000 years ago, these groups learned about maize. Over time, some of them became reliant on agriculture, which led to greater sedentism, rising populations, and growing social complexity. New archaeological traditions developed in different parts of the Southwest, based on available resources, climate, and proximity to neighboring groups. During the first millennium CE, the largest of these were the *Hohokam*, *Anasazi*, *Mogollon*, and *Patayan* (or *Hakataya*).

The Hohokam tradition dominated much of central and southern Arizona. Early on, people in Hohokam communities lived in "pithouses." Later, Hohokam villages had apartment-like compounds and giant platform mounds, like Pueblo

Grande (in Phoenix), Mesa Grande (in Mesa), and Casa Grande National Monument (in Coolidge).

The Anasazi (or Ancestral Puebloan) tradition was centered in the Four Corners region. They too lived in pithouses early on, but later switched to *pueblos* built of stone. These include cliff-dwellings, such as at Montezuma's Castle National Monument and those in Canyon de Chelly. The Mogollon culture area included eastern Arizona and their early sites are similar to early Hohokam sites, while later Mogollon settlements resemble later Anasazi villages. Mogollon sites include Shoefly Village and Rattlesnake Point. Patayan (or Hakataya) culture area lies in the riverine lowlands of western Arizona, along the lower Gila and Colorado rivers. Although Patayan communities did rely on agricul-

Arizona State Parks and Trails



Homolovi State Park honors the rich heritage of the Hopi tribe at the annual Suvoyuki Day event.

ture, they lived in smaller groups. Patayan communities were similar to Hohokam settlements, but on a smaller and more mobile scale.

Late in prehistory, Southwestern Indian communities experienced demographic change, including migration, dispersion, and coalescence. In the Hohokam area, some families dispersed across the landscape. Their descendants include the Akimel O'odham, Tohono O'odham, and Piipaash. Those descended from the Patayan tradition include the Cocopah, Quechan, and Chemehuevi. In the Anasazi and Mogollon areas, it seems that most people left their small villages and moved to very large settlements or settlement clusters. These include Hopi, Zuni, and the "Eastern Pueblos" along the northern Rio Grande.

While these changes were occurring, new people were arriving in the Southwest. Southern Athapaskan groups came down from the sub-arctic and eventually split into bands of what we know today as Navajo and Apache. Yuman-speaking *Pai Indians* – the ancestors of today's Yavapai, Hualapai, and Havasupai – may have come from the Great Basin or Lower Colorado River, and spread throughout northern and western Arizona.

Ancestral sites are not the only windows into our state's Native American history. Visitors can explore military outposts like Fort Verde State Historic Park and Fort Bowie National Historic Site, where soldiers and Indian Scouts lived while fighting during the Indian Wars of the late 19th century. They can also visit modern testaments to recent Native American history, such as the Navajo Code Talker Memorial in Phoenix, or the Tohono O'odham Himdaag Ki cultural center in Topawa.

SPANISH EXPLORERS AND MISSIONARIES

On the Tohono O'odham reservation south of Tucson stands the San Xavier del Bac Mission, built for Father Eusebio Kino in 1700 and still in use today. The Jesuit missionary accompanied the Spanish invasion of what is now Arizona, pulsing north out of Mexico between 1540 and 1821.

The Spanish established a chain of missions, forts, towns, and ranches throughout the region. One of the early Spanish forts was Tubac Presidio, now a state historic park. Several of our state parks owe a portion of their history to Spanish exploration, including Jerome State Historic Park and San Rafael State Natural Area.

MEXICAN INFLUENCE

After gaining independence from Spain in 1821, Mexico claimed governorship of Arizona until the United States gained control of the region following the Mexican-American War of 1846–48. Regardless of such changes, Arizona has always been influenced by other cultures, including Mesoamerican societies, Spain, and Mexico. Today, those with Hispanic ancestry account for about 31 percent of Arizona's residents.

WESTWARD EXPANSION

The arrival of the railroad in 1881 opened the state to mass settlement. Construction of Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River in 1911 and Hoover Dam on the Colorado River in 1935 harnessed the waterways for hydroelectric power generation and the use of desert lands for agricultural and urban uses. World War II opened the state to industrial development, and the post-war era of suburban growth transformed Phoenix into one of the largest cities in America.



PRESERVATION

By understanding and protecting the fragile natural and cultural resources of Arizona, you can help preserve them.

NATURAL AREAS

Arizona State Parks and Trails is responsible for more than 64,000 acres of parklands, about half of which are designated as Natural Areas. The State Natural Areas preserve and protect "parcels of land or water that contain examples of unique natural terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems, rare species of plants and animals and unusual or outstanding geologic or hydrologic features." These sites contain critical ecological communities supporting rare and sensitive flora and fauna, serving as a base for studying natural resources and provide an indispensable link to Arizona's natural heritage.

There are currently three designated State Natural Areas (SNA): **Sonoita Creek**, **Verde River Greenway**, and **San Rafael**. Additionally, several parklands contain substantial natural features that contribute to regional ecological processes and meet the criteria for Natural Areas within an existing park. Arizona State Parks and Trails works with a broad range of partners to help protect these Natural Areas for future generations.

A Natural Area success story, the **Gila topminnow**, a rare species of native Arizona fish, now has a better chance to thrive at **Sonoita Creek SNA**. The spring-fed pools here are home to one of the largest remaining wild populations of the endangered topminnows.

The **Verde River Greenway SNA**, a stretch of the Verde River located in Yavapai County, is a Natural Area work-in-progress. It was originally identified in the

late 1980s as a critical portion of the river based on its rich natural and cultural resources as well as a growing demand for recreational use. In 2006, the Arizona State Parks Board expanded the Verde River Greenway Project beyond the original six-mile stretch to encompass 30 miles of riparian wildlife corridor. In tandem with the expanded Greenway vision, additional land will soon be added to the Greenway to protect the habitats of the **southwestern willow flycatcher** and **bald eagle**.



LEAVE NO TRACE

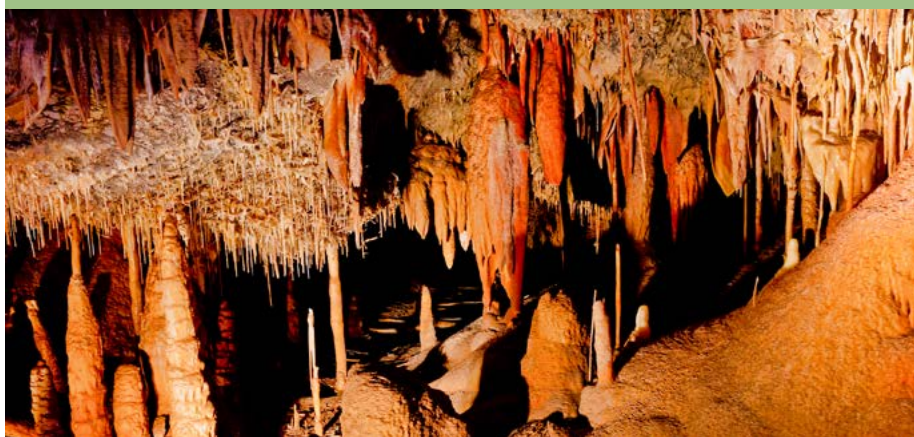
Leave No Trace is a national program that teaches people how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly, and promotes and inspires proper stewardship of America's public lands. Many land management agencies are cooperating partners in this program. You can help minimize impacts to the natural resources and social experiences of other visitors by practicing these seven principles. For more information, please visit LNT.org.

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Leave what you find.
- Minimize campfire impacts.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of other visitors.

Consider applying these principles during your travels. We always need your help in preserving our shared lands for future generations. It is the most important thing you can do for the places you love. Make the commitment to Leave No Trace today. You can make a difference.



ANNUAL RETURN OF THE BATS



Arizona State Parks

Kartchner Caverns is the summer home of the common cave bat and opens to the public October 15.

During March, the rangers at Kartchner Caverns State Park turn their attention to warm, furry, little creatures that fly the summer night skies. Eagerly anticipating the return of a small colony of *Myotis velifer*, or the common cave bat, rangers scan the evening sky to catch a glimpse of the first tiny bats returning to their summer home.

Though nobody knows for sure where the colony spends their winter, rangers suspect they may hibernate in caves located high in the Huachuca Mountains, only about 40 miles away from the park. About 1,000 bats live in part of the caverns seasonally each year. Rangers at Kartchner Caverns State Park count the bats each summer, and the data show that the colony is maintaining its population. In 2001, the count was about 900. In 2003, that number had doubled. The population has fluctuated since. In 2015, the population was 1,086; in 2016, the population was 2,131.

The bat population numbers can vary annually for many reasons. The biggest known factors are climate, specifically precipitation, amounts, as well as food source. In this case, bugs and lots of them!

During the summer, Cave Unit staff count the bats once a week by climbing down into the sink-

hole—the only natural entrance to the cave—at twilight, with a hand-held counter. As the bats leave their home that night, the rangers sit quietly in darkness and count each one they see.

The Cave Manager says that the colony's population fluctuates with the amount of rain the region receives each year because rainfall affects the insect population, and "When we've got bugs, we've got bats."

Each year on April 15, Cave Unit staff close all the doors to the Big Room, turn out the lights, and even pull out the electrical plugs to be sure no lights come on during summer. They will not enter that part of the cave until late September, after the bats have migrated away. The Big Room re-opens to the public on October 15. The Rotunda/Throne tour, which has no bats, stays open year-round.

During the summer, the colony of bats is busy giving birth, raising their pups, and teaching them to fly and hunt. The rangers feel good about honoring the privacy of the bats, knowing these creatures are continuing their life cycles, which have existed here for thousands of years.

The annual return of the bats to Kartchner Caverns State Park is a major indicator that the efforts made by the park rangers to protect the cave environment are working.

Arizona State Parks



Visitors can enjoy camping, hiking, and fishing at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species in Arizona are a serious and growing problem and represent a significant threat to both the economic and ecological health of Arizona.

These non-native species can cause harm to the local ecosystem, and may even jeopardize human and economic health. Many non-native species have been introduced intentionally, while others have hitchhiked on boats, commercial transports, pets, humans, livestock, and automobiles. Regardless of how they reached Arizona, these invaders spread into parks, preserves, wildlife refuges, and urban spaces.

The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (AISAC) has developed an initial working list of plants that pose a significant threat to Arizona's wildlands, and has made the development of a non-native wildlife species list a high priority.

Invasive aquatic fauna species include

bullfrogs, crayfish, and non-native fishes.

One of the latest invasive species to arrive in Arizona is the **quagga mussel**, a disruptive invader and cousin of the zebra mussel, which is spread by boats. It has a high potential for rapid adaptation to extreme environmental conditions and is capable of reproducing in a wide range of habitats.

Prevention is often the first and most effective line of defense against the damages and risks associated with invasive species. Once they've already been permanently established, the most effective action may be to prevent their spread or reduce their impacts through control and management.

Be aware and help stop the spread of invasive species. Assist resource managers in combating invasive species in Arizona by being aware that you, as a trail user, boater, outdoor enthusiast, home gardener, traveler by plane, car, or bicycle, could potentially transport these species.



THINGS TO DO

Arizona's state parks and natural areas are rich with diverse and exciting recreational opportunities. Visitors can hike among The Dead Horse Ranch of Sedona on the historic **Lime Kiln Trail**, cruise their boat under the **London Bridge of Lake Havasu**, or camp among towering saguaros in the **Sonoran Desert**. In the summer you can head to higher elevations to cool off from the heat in Arizona's natural water slide at Slide Rock State Park.

PARK PROGRAMS

Learning can be fun; let the parks show you how! Many parks offer guided hikes and nature talks or history programs about the area. Have you always wanted to hike by the light of a full moon? Or learn about some of the early survival methods used by the Sinagua Indians over 1,000 years ago? Star Parties and astronomy events with high-powered telescopes have become a popular program at many of the state parks. Check the Arizona State Parks and Trails calendar online at AZStateParks.com/events, visit an individual park's homepage at AZStateParks.com, or call an individual park for more information.

BICYCLING

Arizona offers a wide-variety of road and trail riding throughout the state, with some of the best year-round riding weather in southern Arizona. Bikes are welcome at Arizona state parks. Explore the parks' roads by bike, ride, on the designated mountain bike trails, or tour from park to park.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Nothing evokes the Old West as much as saddling up a horse and hitting the trail,

whether it's taking in the scenic Verde River or the desert's myriad cacti. You can visit **Dead Horse Ranch State Park** and **Catalina State Park**, which both have horseback riding opportunities and an equestrian staging area with the option for overnight horse camping.

EXPLORING ARIZONA'S LAKES AND RIVERS

Arizona may be known for its deserts, but its lakes and rivers are also treasured. **Lake Havasu State Park** is especially popular in the summer for swimming and fishing. For premier bass fishing, **Alamo Lake State Park** is an angler's dream, and when night falls, you'll find some of the best stargazing around. For a more peaceful time on the water, look no further than **Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area**, known for the fishing and crisp mountain air. Tucked away in the rolling hills of southern Arizona, discover the hidden wildlife treasures at **Patagonia Lake State Park**. A transformation is happening on the Colorado River in Yuma thanks to wetland restoration. Stroll along the river between **Colorado River** and **Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Parks** and see how the community is reclaiming the area for native vegetation, fish, and wildlife.

BOATING

Arizona's lakes, rivers, and reservoirs are a treasure in the desert state and a great place to have fun. Enjoy scenic shorelines and beautiful beaches at the open water of **Lyman Lake State Park**, **Lake Havasu State Park**, the best bass fishing at **Alamo Lake State Park**, canoe and kayaking rentals at **Fool Hollow Lake**



VOLUNTEER IN THE PARKS!



Arizona State Parks

Volunteer demonstrators help visitors learn more about Arizona State Parks and Trails.

Have you ever dreamed of leading nature talks, assisting with interpretive programs at an 1870s military outpost, or leading discussions about ancient Native American cultural artifacts? Arizona State Parks and Trails has many different ways for you to donate your time and talents and welcomes volunteers for one-time projects as well as long-term assignments. If you live near a park, you may choose to be a local **Parks Volunteer** on a regular basis. There are also opportunities for community outreach at local events and office

volunteers for our Central Office in Phoenix.

If you're interested in archaeology and paleontology, become a **Site Steward** volunteer. Site Stewards help protect and preserve the cultural resources and the heritage of Arizona. Their primary role is to monitor archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites and report any looting or vandalism to the land manager. Site Stewards make an important contribution to preserving our cultural heritage by working closely with archaeologists and federal, state, tribal, county, and municipal agency staff. If you have an RV and would like to volunteer on-site as a campground host or interpretive guide, please log on to AZStateParks.com/volunteer and click on "On-Site Park Volunteers." icon. Positions are available year-round in different parts of the state. Visit AZStateParks.com/volunteer for a list of site-specific volunteer opportunities, or submit a volunteer application. For more information, call (602) 542-7152.

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Recreation Area and the hidden treasure of **Patagonia Lake State Park**.

Remember you share the water with others who may not be familiar with boating rules and safety procedures. Generally, children under 12 may not operate a watercraft with a motor greater than eight horsepower, unless an adult is on board. For expanded information on registration, boating laws, and responsibilities, contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department at **(602) 942-3000** or visit azgfd.com.

HIKING

Arizona State Parks and Trails has more than 160 miles of hiking trails. A great way to hike the parks is along the **Lime Kiln Trail**, which links **Dead Horse Ranch State Park** in Cottonwood with **Red Rock State Park** in Sedona. The trail is about 15 miles and follows the old Lime Kiln wagon trail. Many state parks offer hiking opportunities. A few highlights are listed below.

Trails at **Catalina State Park**, located within the Coronado National Forest near Tucson, wind through ruins, perennial pools, and a variety of vegetation. Giant sun-bleached boulders crowd saguaros, creosote, and mesquite. The trails go to Mount Lemmon, Sabino and West Fork to provide a gallery of masterpieces. At Oracle State Park, you can connect to the Arizona Trail, an 800-mile trail stretching through Arizona from Mexico to Utah.

Hike to the mountaintop at **Picacho Peak State Park**, situated between Phoenix and Tucson, for a birds-eye view of the desert after a challenging 3,374-foot ascent.

Dead Horse Ranch State Park, in the scenic Verde Valley north of Phoenix, offers many levels of hiking trails and a multi-use trail system for hikers, moun-

tain bikers, and equestrians. **Lyman Lake State Park** in northeastern Arizona provides a unique opportunity to walk back in time.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

Arizona provides some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities in the nation, with more than 900 animal species and 50 million public acres of natural land to explore.

HUNTING

Contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department at **(602) 942-3000** or visit azgfd.com for more information.

FISHING

A variety of fishing opportunities across the state provide anglers a chance to catch a number of species, including large mouth bass, rainbow trout, channel catfish, and bluegill. A valid fishing license is required (except children under age 14). You may purchase a fishing license from a local dealer or Arizona Game and Fish Department office. For more information, contact **(602) 942-3000** or visit azgfd.com.

OHVS

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) opportunities in Arizona incorporate stunning desert and canyon landscapes, plateaus, woodlands, dense forests, and alpine meadows.

OHV enthusiasts use unpaved roads and trails to ride, sightsee, view wildlife, and access camping, trailheads, and hunting and fishing areas.

The comprehensive Arizona State Parks and Trails OHV website provides more information about safety and where to ride.

Be sure to get your OHV decal for your OHV. For more information, please visit AZStateParks.com/OHV.



Clockwise from top: Enjoy scenic shorelines and beautiful beaches at Lake Havasu State Park; Boating at Lake Havasu State Park; Lyman Lake is one of the few bodies of water in northeastern Arizona with no size restrictions on boats; Oracle State Park is Arizona's first designated International Dark Skies Park; Before you ride or drive OHVs, always contact the appropriate land manager to check on route closures, fire danger, local conditions, special permits or permission. All photos: Arizona State Parks and Trails except OHV photo: Larry Burns



SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

OHV TRAILS

Off Highway Vehicles ("OHVs") are our passports to adventure. They are **Freedom**. Every year sturdier, more nimble and fuel-efficient machines offer unprecedented access to previously unapproachable terrain, placing the riches of America's public lands at our fingertips. With more than 22 million acres of managed open space, and thousands of miles of designated trails - from forests to desert dunes - there may be nowhere in this country where OHV recreation more readily accessible than Arizona!

With great access, comes great responsibility.

The YAMAHA *Outdoor Access Initiative* works with OHV clubs, associations, and conservation groups across the country, funding worthwhile projects towards a goal of shaping responsible access to the trails and adventure we treasure. If you are a part of one of these groups, please visit www.yamahaoutdooraccess.com to learn more about the GRANT process and all of the great work being done.

YAMAHA and the agencies and partners working together for Open OHV Access in Arizona, encourage you to explore new areas in the state. No matter where you're going, please always ride only on **designated trails** and ride responsibly following TreadLightly!® principles.

Let's keep these trails clean and open!

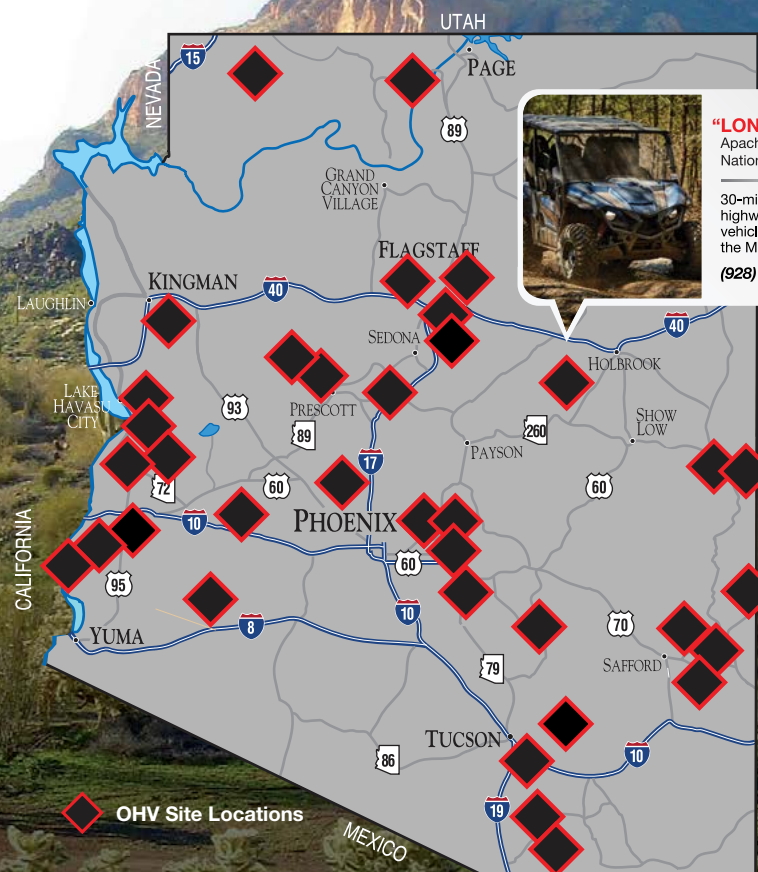
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For more information on ALL designated
OHV areas in the state, visit

AZStateParks.com/OHV/wheretoride



CAMPING

Arizona state parks include 16 camping parks that offer a wide variety of amenities and opportunities.

CAMPGROUNDS

Many campsites offer electric and water hook-ups for RV and tent campers, as well as showers and picnic areas. All camping parks offer reservations online or by phone, other campsites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Types of camping sites and amenities vary. Call **1-877-MY-PARKS** or check online at **AZStateParks.com/reserve** for information and availability.

FEES

Camping fees range from \$15 to \$50 per night. Reservations are available online or by phone for all camping parks. A non-refundable \$5 reservation fee per site will be added to camping fees at time of payment. Fees are charged per site. Individual developed-

campsites fees are based upon one vehicle per campsite. Each additional vehicle will be charged \$15 per vehicle per night. Cash and credit cards are accepted.

GROUP CAMPING

Several state parks offer group camping sites, available by reservation (fee required). Contact individual parks for more information.

RESERVATIONS

All 16 camping parks accept reservations by phone or online. The reservation system can be accessed online 24 hours a day at **AZStateParks.com**, or by calling the Arizona State Parks and Trails Reservation Center at **1-877-MY-PARKS**, open seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. MST.

There is a \$5 non-refundable reservation fee assessed per campsite. A maximum of five sites are reservable by one party. There is a two-night minimum for



Shutterstock

Camping in one of Arizona's State Parks gives you an unparalleled opportunity to see the Milky Way.



ARIZONA FAMILY CAMPOUT PROGRAM

Arizona State Parks and Trails



Families can get a taste for sleeping under the stars in the Arizona Family Campout Program

The Arizona Family Campout Program is designed for families that have little or no experience camping. Arizona State Parks and Trails hope to introduce you to the great experiences you can share with your loved ones and inspire you to continue to explore the great outdoors! These weekend adventures take place at a variety of Arizona state parks.

Based on the park, participant ages, and weather, the following activities may be part of your weekend adventure: guided hikes, mountain biking, archery, geocaching, fishing, live animal demonstrations, campfire stories, and presentations on geography, birding, geology and astronomy.

The program provides tents, sleeping mats, camp chairs, lanterns, flashlights, GPS units, water bottles, first aid kits, and all activity equipment. We'll also have drinks and campfire snacks available for you!

Families need to provide sleeping bags (or other bedding), pillows, clothing, good, sturdy shoes, and personal items (toothpaste, towels, soap, etc.). Families also need to provide enough food for four meals. Registration Fee: \$90 up to family of four. Additional family members \$5 each up to six people. One family per registration. For more registration information including which parks are participating and to make arrangements for larger families, groups, and anyone else in need of special arrangements, please visit **AZStateParks.com/Family-Camp**. The program is available to all children aged 6 years and older, but sorry, not your pets!



peak season weekend reservations (Friday through Sunday). Contact the parks or go to **AZStateParks.com** for detailed reservation information and cancellation policies.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Three private backcountry hike-in sites are available at **Sonoita Creek State Natural Area**, the only Arizona state park with backcountry camping. The closest site is about four miles from the trailhead. There is a six-person limit and a two night maximum stay per site. Sites cost \$12 per night. A day use permit (required) and campsite reservations are available at the visitor center or the Patagonia Lake State Park gatehouse, depending on the season.

CAMPING CABINS

Select parks offer camping cabin accom-

WHERE THE GREAT OUTDOORS MEETS THE GREAT INDOORS!

Arizona's state parks provide perfect destinations for family camping adventures without the need for an RV or tent. Cozy camping cabins are available at Roper Lake, Kartchner Caverns, Lake Havasu, Lost Dutchman, Lyman Lake, Patagonia Lake, Alamo Lake, and Dead Horse Ranch. Reserve yours at AZStateParks.com/cabins.



modations as an alternative to traditional camping. **Lake Havasu State Park, Lost Dutchman State Park, Patagonia Lake State Park, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Lyman Lake State Park, Alamo Lake State Park, Kartchner Caverns State Park, and Roper Lake State Park** each provide cozy log cabins with covered wood porches and comfortable features.

RESERVATIONS

Camping cabin reservations can be made up to 365 days in advance. There is a two-night minimum stay on holiday peak weekends. Cabins can be rented for a maximum of 14 days. A non-refundable \$10 reservation fee is required.

RULES & REGULATIONS

Capacity: Maximum capacity for camping cabins is four adults, with no more than six people per cabin, including children.

Check In/Out: Check-in time is 3 p.m.; check-out time is 10 a.m. for cabins. Check-in time is 2 p.m.; check-out time is 12 noon for campsites.

Campsites: A campsite with or without water and electric hook-up is available for use next to most cabins for an additional charge.

No Shows: Cabins will be released to waiting customers the morning after the planned arrival date. Deposits are non-refundable.

Accessible ADA Sites: At least one ADA accessible cabin is available at each park. Contact individual parks for more information.

Park Rules: All park rules apply at cabins. Please adhere to them and practice 'Leave No Trace' principles.

Smoking and Cooking is not allowed in cabins.

Pets: A charge of \$5 per night per pet. Keep your pet on a leash at all times and clean up after them.



NATURE & WILDLIFE

Arizona can be said to have myriad habitats, but geologists divide the state into three major regions: the basin and range, the transition zone, and the Colorado Plateau, each with its own ecosystem.

Covering most of the southern portion of the state is the **basin and range** province. Wide sloping valleys interspersed with craggy mountain ranges make up the landscape. This region holds three of Arizona's four desert types but also includes forested sky islands. The **Sonoran Desert**, characterized by the stately saguaro cactus, is actually lush by desert standards. Both strong summer storms and winter rains bring enough moisture to support hardy trees, cactus and brushland. Bordering the southeastern portion of the state is the **Chihuahuan Desert**. This desert type gets more summer rains that support grasslands and signature plants like the creosote bush and lechuguilla. The western border contains the **Mohave Desert** with its sizzling summer temperatures and impressive Joshua trees.

Cutting diagonally across Arizona is the **transition zone**, where the rugged terrain hides steep canyons and basalt cliffs. The changing landscape captures the seasonal rains and this diverse region moves from desert, grasslands, and chaparral scrubland to juniper and piñon forests, and finally, to tall pines. An escarpment known as the Mogollon rim sharply marks the beginning of the **Colorado Plateau**. Large Ponderosa pines thrive along its edge, then it tips downward to the badlands of the high, cold **Great Basin Desert**. Perched on the plateau is the highest point in Arizona, the **San Francisco**

Peaks, and carved a mile into its mantle, the magnificent **Grand Canyon**.

THE RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEM

A common thread found throughout all of Arizona is an ecosystem defined as a riparian zone—a habitat associated with bodies of fresh water. Small areas along water routes sustain plant species that would otherwise shrivel and die if they were to move just a few yards away.

More than half of the wildlife species in Arizona depend on these habitats for survival. Not only are these areas important to wildlife, they are also the key to maintaining healthy water supplies. Riparian areas act as water filters, reduce soil erosion and provide recreational sites.

Yet this habitat is the rarest of all the biotic communities in Arizona. Ten percent of Arizona's landmass was classified as a riparian zone 100 years ago, whereas less than half of one percent is classified as such today. With the building of dams that control floods and bring water and electricity to population, most of the state's riparian systems have been compromised or lost completely. Although they tend to be small relative to other biotic communities, their biological importance far exceeds their limited occurrence.

The **wildlife** that appear in the chart in this chapter call Arizona home. During your travels, keep your binoculars and camera handy and your eyes peeled. Happy spotting!





WATCHABLE WILDLIFE



With more than 900 animal species and 50 million public acres of natural land to explore, Arizona provides some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities in the nation. Always remember to stay at a respectable distance to avoid disturbing them. Feeding wild animals makes them dependent on handouts and unable to fend for themselves when visitors leave for the season.

1 Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are abundant in Arizona and prey mostly on rodents, but will eat almost anything. Their distinct howls and yelps can be recognized by other coyotes over long distances. Often referred to in Native American lore as tricksters, coyotes are a classic symbol of the Southwest. • **Weight** 18 to 40 pounds • **Size** 32 to 40 inches long • **Height** 15-20 inches tall; Photo: iStock

2 Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) are well adapted to live in the hottest, driest, and seemingly most inhospitable places. They eat mesquite, jojoba and grasses and get their hydration from cacti and agaves when water is scarce. • **Weight** 75 to 225 pounds • **Size** 4 to 4.5 feet long • **Height** 2.5 to 3.5 feet tall at shoulders; Photo: iStock

3 The Gila monster (*Heloderma suspectum*) is one of only two venomous lizards in the world. Unlike a snake that injects its venom with its fangs, Gila monsters have venom in their saliva and use their strong molars to break their prey's skin, allowing the saliva to enter. While rarely fatal to humans, the Gila monster's bite can be very painful. • **Weight** up to 5 pounds • **Size** 18 to 24 inches long; Photo: iStock

4 Great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*) are commonly seen stalking their prey along lakes, rivers and ponds. They eat frogs, crayfish, snails and fish, but have also been seen at Dead Horse Ranch State Park helping out rangers by catching and eating nuisance gophers. • **Weight** 6 to 12 pounds • **Size** 39 to 52 inches long; 6 to 7 feet wingspan; Photo: iStock

5 Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) are easily identifiable by their prominent feathery "ear" tufts. The position of their ears and their ability to swivel their heads in incredible angles, give owls 3-D hearing to locate prey, which comprises rodents, rabbits, skunks and other birds, fish, and reptiles. • **Weight** about 3 pounds • **Size** 18 to 25 inches long; 4 to 5 feet wingspan; Photo: iStock



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE



6 Hog-Nosed Skunks (*Conepatus leucurus*) are easily identified by their lack of a stripe or entirely white back and tail and its slightly upturned snout. When threatened, the skunk ejects the foul smelling scent at would-be predators. • **Weight** 2.5 to 6 pounds • **Size** 9.5 to 22.5 inches long, including tail; Photo: Shutterstock

7 There are 16 species of **Horned Lizards** (*Phrynosoma*), sometimes referred to as horny toads, in the Western U.S. Their coloration and spikes, or horns, provide camouflage, allowing them to look like a rock, sand, or leaf. If hiding doesn't work, some species can squirt foul blood from their eye to deter predators. Their color can vary, but is often similar to the prevailing soil color. • **Size** 2 to 6.5 inches long; Photo: Shutterstock

8 Often mistaken for pigs, **Javelinas** (*Pecari tajacu*) are actually a type of peccary. They prefer the prickly pear cactus, but will also eat flowers, fruits, bulbs, roots, grubs, and reptiles. Javelinas live in herds of eight to 12 and prefer desert and arid woodland habitats. • **Weight** 35 to 60 pounds • **Size** 29 to 39 inches long • **Height** 17 to 23 inches tall; Photo: Shutterstock

9 Red-Tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) can be identified by their broad, rust-colored tails. They prey primarily on rodents, but will also eat insects, fish, larger mammals and other birds. The raptor's raspy cry is often used in TV and movies to represent the bald eagle, whose own cry is too meek. • **Weight** 1.5 to 4 lbs • **Size** 19 to 26 in long; 4 to 4.5 ft wingspan; Photo: Shutterstock

10 Coues White-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus couesi*) is one of two deer species that inhabit Arizona and can be found in several state parks. They are most visible near dawn or dusk as they feed on open hillsides, although they tend to visit water throughout the day. • **Weight** Bucks, 100 pounds average. Does, 65 pounds average. • **Size** 28-32 inches tall at the shoulder and about 56 inches from head to tail; Photo: Shutterstock

11 Desert Tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*) live 30 to 50 years; they grow slowly and generally have low reproductive rates. Spending most of their time in burrows or rock shelters to regulate body temperature and reduce water loss, they are most active after seasonal rains. • **Weight** 8 to 15 pounds • **Size** 10 to 14 inches long; 4 to 6 inches tall; Photo: Shutterstock



WATER & HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Arizona's "west coast" includes five state parks with ample available water activities. Alamo Lake, only a short distance away, adds to the featured camping, beaches, wildlife viewing and superb fishing opportunities. Downriver, discover Yuma's history and heritage as an agricultural oasis.

ALAMO LAKE STATE PARK

Nestled in the Bill Williams River Valley away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, Alamo Lake is one of Arizona's best-kept secrets. Along with rest and relaxation, visitors enjoy premier bass and crappie fishing. Spring rains bring an abundance of wildflowers and the lake environment attracts a variety of wildlife year-round, **including bald and golden eagles, waterfowl, foxes, coyotes, mule deer, and wild burros**. Stargazers are sure to enjoy the unbelievable view of the night sky, with the nearest city lights some 40 miles away! Camping is a great way to take advantage of these incredible star-viewing opportunities. Each fall the park hosts Star Parties to explore the night sky.

Alamo Lake was created with the completion of Alamo Dam in 1968. Unusually high flows during the late 1970s and through the 1980s have increased the average size of the lake, helping to create one of **Arizona's best fishing holes**. Fishing tournaments are common at the lake and anglers have an excellent opportunity to catch bluegill, largemouth bass, channel catfish and black crappie.

Stop by the **Bait Shop and Market** for camping and fishing supplies, including ice, firewood, fishing licenses, and food.

The park is open daily. Visitor center hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily. Hours may change. *Check AZStateParks.com before*



your visit. The park is located 37 miles north of Wenden (off U.S. Route 60) on Alamo Dam Road, Wenden, AZ 85357; **(928) 669-2088**. Phone available during visitor center hours only.

BUCKSKIN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Buckskin Mountain State Park commands one of the finest views along the Parker strip, an 18-mile stretch between Parker Dam and Headgate Dam. Mountains line the river

on both the Arizona and California sides, making this picturesque park a scenic respite with prime mountain hikes and fun-filled water adventures. The park has a beach, basketball and volleyball, courts, dog run, desert tortoise terrarium and ranger station.

The **visitor center and gift shop** is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (hours and days vary in summer, and fall). From January through March enjoy ranger led hikes, a weekly ice cream social in the visitor center and a campfire social at the fire ring where guests can meet, sing and tell stories.

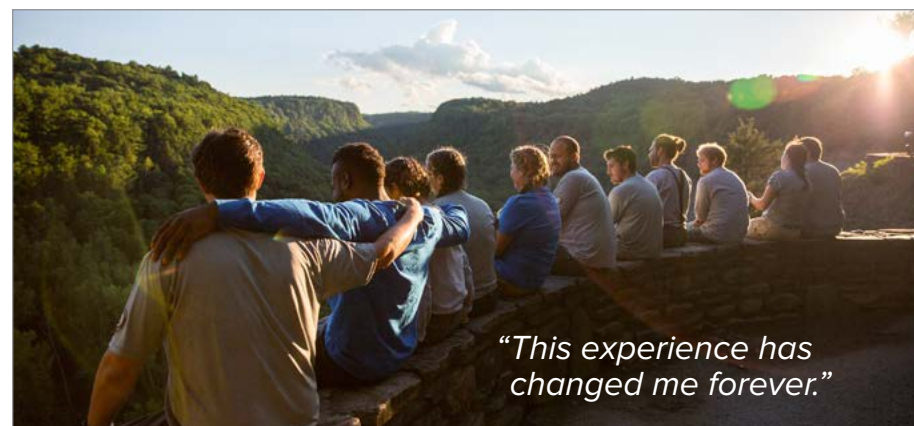
Stop by the **Buckskin Market** (located in the park) for firewood, ice, food and gasoline. It also has a restaurant and arcade. Buckskin Market is operated by a concessionaire and is closed in the winter.

The park is open daily. Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit. The park is located at

5476 N. U.S. Highway 95, Parker, AZ 85344; **(928) 667-3231**.

CATTAIL COVE STATE PARK

Cattail Cove offers a chance to get away and enjoy tranquility along Lake Havasu. The 45-mile-long lake creates a haven for **water sports** enthusiasts, who can boat on the blue waters, sail into quiet coves, or use personal watercraft or water ski out on the open lake. Anglers will enjoy **fishing** for small, largemouth and striped bass, channel and flathead catfish, bluegill and crappie. The park won the Bronze Award for Favorite Snowbird RV Park or Campground—Arizona in the 5th Annual Reader's Choice Awards presented by RVwest magazine. Camping is available, but if campgrounds are not your style and you have your own boat, motor out to a rustic campsite on the lake.



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Nestled in the Bill Williams River Valley, Alamo Lake is one of Arizona's best-kept secrets.

The area surrounding the park is also a geologist's paradise. Rock, geodes, jasper, obsidian, turquoise, and agate can be found outside **Lake Havasu City**.

The park is open year-round, with the ranger station open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located 15 miles south of Lake Havasu City on Highway 95, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405; **(928) 855-1223**.

HAVASU RIVIERA STATE PARK

Meet Lake Havasu's newest lakeside attraction! Opening at a yet to be announced date in 2019 with limited amenities, the park will be complete by 2020. Lake Havasu's clear blue waters, beaches, nature trails and lakeside camping appeal to year-round

residents as well as new visitors to Arizona's west coast. Water sport enthusiasts, anglers and recreationists flock to Lake Havasu year-round to enjoy the city's water based recreation opportunities. Plans for a waterfront marina, launch facility, and boat storage at the park will provide much needed additional watercraft access points. Boat slips, a beach, swimming area, and ramadas along the 10,000 feet of shoreline are also planned.

LAKE HAVASU STATE PARK

The two sides of this park are as different as night and day—or maybe weekend and weekday. During summer months, weekend revelers use the park as a favorite launching point to cruise the lake, explore the scenic shoreline and float under the **historic London Bridge** of Lake Havasu City. Weekdays are more peaceful, as fishermen come to fish the open waters or find a quiet cove. Whatever your speed, Lake Havasu is an ideal place to enjoy beautiful beaches and nature trails. Convenient RV and tent campsites, with 50 amp electrical and potable water, provide campers with an excellent view of the lake.

The **Arroyo-Camino Interpretive Garden** showcases the diverse life that exists within the park and in this area of the desert, a transition zone between the Sonoran and Mohave deserts. **Birds, lizards, and desert cottontails** are common sights.

At 1.5 miles in length, the **Mohave Sunset Trail** is a great way to stretch your legs and take in the sights as it winds through the lowland desert and along the shoreline.

Boat and jet ski rentals are available at **Wet Monkey Powersports Boat Rentals**. Please visit **wetmonkeyrentals.com** or call **(928) 855-2022** for more information.

The park is open daily. Day use hours are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The ranger sta-

tion hours are Monday to Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., except on Friday to Sunday May through September 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Park hours may change. Please check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located at 699 London Bridge Rd., Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403; **(928) 855-2784**.

RIVER ISLAND STATE PARK

River Island State Park is located 1.5 miles east north of Buckskin Mountain State Park and is an ideal destination for tent campers and RVers. Enjoy a sandy beach (sheltered from the main river channel in a cove), boat launch, hiking trail, dog run, 50 amp electric sites and access to OHV backcountry roads. Also available is a group ramada with a campfire ring and large BBQ grill. The ramada area is available for group camping or day use (reservations for this area are available with some restrictions). Stop by River Island Market located a quarter-mile south west of the park entrance for groceries, food deli, gas, propane, clothing, and storage. The park and ranger station are both open daily. The park is located at 5200 N. U.S. Highway 95, Parker, AZ 85344; **(928) 667-3386**.

YUMA TERRITORIAL PRISON STATE HISTORIC PARK

On July 1, 1876, the first seven inmates entered the Territorial Prison at Yuma and were locked into the new cells they had built themselves. Walk through the actual strap iron cells and solitary chamber of the Arizona Territory's first prison. Now a **museum**, the building houses photographs and colorful exhibits of those who once involuntarily stayed there and the prison life they had to endure. A total of 3,069 prisoners, including 29 women, lived within the walls

during the prison's 33 years of operation.

Despite an infamous reputation, written evidence indicates that the prison was humanely administered. The park offers a museum with exhibits, a gift shop, and a video presentation. Park hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. year-round, but from June 1 through September 30, the park is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The park closes at 2 p.m. on December 24, and is closed on Thanksgiving Day and December 25.

*Park hours may change. Check the website **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located at 100 N. Prison Hill Road, Yuma, AZ 85364; **(928) 783-4771**.

COLORADO RIVER STATE HISTORIC PARK

Park exhibits focus on the past, present, and future of the Colorado River, and follow the river's story through two time periods: the U.S. Army's construction and operation of the site as the Yuma Quartermaster Depot (1865–1883), and the later occupation of the depot grounds by the Bureau of Reclamation (1904–1949). Due to its location on the Colorado River, the Yuma Depot became the primary supply depot for the U.S. Army in Arizona Territory during the Indian Wars period. Later, the Bureau of Reclamation transformed the site into their Yuma Project headquarters. The Yuma Project turned the desert of the Yuma Valley into one of the nation's richest agricultural areas. The park offers a visitor center, exhibits, video presentations, gift shop, pie/tea shop (seasonal), picnic areas, group use areas, and restrooms. It is open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can tour the park grounds from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The park is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas, and on Mondays from June–September. The park is located at 201 N. 4th Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364; **(928) 783-0071**.

WATER & HERITAGE CORRIDOR	PARK	ALAMO LAKE STATE PARK	BUCKSKIN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK	CATTAIL COVE STATE PARK	LAKE HAVASU STATE PARK	RIVER ISLAND STATE PARK	YUMA TERRITORIAL PRISON STATE HISTORIC PARK	COLORADO RIVER STATE HISTORIC PARK
ELEVATION (feet)		1,300	420	450	480	394	120	120
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)		38	1.5	15	1	1	1	1
CAMPING UNITS		250	89	61	45	37	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS		0	0	32	0	0	0	0
VISITOR CENTER		•	•	•	•		•	•
CAMPING RESERVATIONS		•	•	•	•	•		
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING				•				
CONCESSION/GIFT SHOP		•	•	•	•		•	•
RESTROOMS		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SHOWERS		•	•	•	•	•		
ELECTRIC HOOK-UP SITES		•	•	•	•	•		
NON-ELECTRIC SITES		•	•	•	•	•		
DUMP STATION		•	•	•	•	•		
CAMPING CABINS		•			•			
MUSEUM							•	•
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS			•				•	•
SELF-GUIDED TOURS			•				•	•
PICNIC AREAS / SHELTERS		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
GROUP-USE AREAS		•	•		•			•
SWIMMING		•	•	•	•	•		
FISHING		•	•	•	•	•		
BOAT RAMP		•	•	•	•	•		
HIKING TRAILS		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
BIKING TRAILS								
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS								
WILDLIFE VIEWING		•	•	•	•	•		



SEDONA/VERDE LOOP

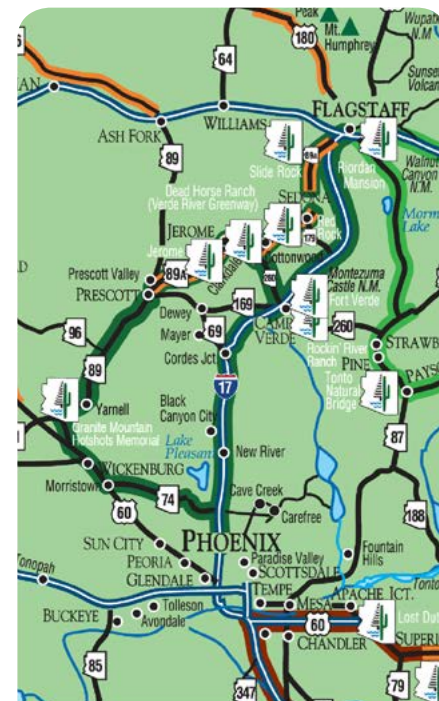
Nestled between Grand Canyon National Park and Phoenix is one of the most beautiful and activity filled areas in the country. The red rocks of Sedona provide the perfect backdrop for adventure, while nearby the Verde Valley offers an array of state and national parks. Kayak the Verde River, explore the mining history of Jerome, or experience the local wine scene.

DEAD HORSE RANCH STATE PARK

Travel to northern Arizona's Verde Valley to enjoy water sports and abundant wildlife at this park, located in the town of Cottonwood. The 3,300-foot elevation provides mild temperatures that are ideal for hiking along the Verde River, **mountain biking** in the **Cocconino National Forest**, canoeing, picnicking, fishing, watching wildlife and birds, and camping (including ADA accessible sites, all of which are available by reservation). **Camping cabins** are also available. The park's three fishing lagoons are stocked periodically seasonally with rainbow trout in winter and channel catfish in summer, and visitors will also find large mouth bass, catfish, bluegill, and crappie. Large and smallmouth bass and catfish swim the Verde River year-round; rainbow trout are stocked November through March. The park is open daily. The ranger station is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except December 25. *Park hours may change. Please check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at 675 Dead Horse Ranch Rd., Cottonwood, AZ 86326; (928) 634-5283.

VERDE RIVER GREENWAY STATE NATURAL AREA

The nearly 180-mile long Verde River is a significant resource in Arizona; it is one



- KEY**
- Arizona State Park
 - Interstate Highway
 - Paved Highway
 - Scenic Roads
 - Sedona/Verde Loop
 - Prominent Peak

Map not to scale

of the desert's last free-flowing rivers and sustains a large regional wildlife population and a lush riparian community. The river has a National Scenic River designation, and the Natural Area encompasses nearly 480 acres, is six miles long, and is **adjacent to Dead Horse Ranch State Park**. The Greenway conserves the land in its natural state, so it doesn't have restrooms

or modern camping facilities. Use Dead Horse Ranch State Park as your base camp to enjoy the **hiking, canoeing, picnicking, fishing**, and the natural surroundings of the Verde River Greenway. Please practice 'Leave No Trace' ethics (see the "Preservation" chapter).

The Verde River corridor supports nearly 20 threatened or endangered species, and has been designated as an important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

The Natural Area is open daily. Dead Horse Ranger Station is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except December 25. *Hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The Greenway is located at 675 Dead Horse Ranch Rd., Cottonwood, AZ 86326; **(928) 639-0312**.

FORT VERDE STATE HISTORIC PARK

Experience life through the eyes of a frontier soldier at Fort Verde SHP. The fort was a base for General Crook's U.S. Army Indian scouts and soldiers in the 1870s and 1880s. From 1865 to 1891, Camp Lincoln, Camp Verde, and Fort Verde were home to officers, doctors, families, enlisted men and scouts. The park is the best-preserved example of an Indian Wars period fort in Arizona. Four of the **original adobe buildings** still stand and **living history programs** are held periodically.

Experience three **historic homes** listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places and furnished in the style of the 1880s.

The park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except December 25. *Park hours and days of operation may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located at 125 E. Hollamon St., Camp Verde, AZ 86322; **(928) 567-3275**.

GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOTS MEMORIAL STATE PARK

The park was dedicated in 2016 as a place to remember the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshot Firefighters who were lost on June 30, 2013, while fighting the Yarnell Hill Fire. Hike the trail to better understand the experience of these men and appreciate the beauty of the town of Yarnell and the surrounding areas. The Hotshots Trail begins from the parking lot trailhead up to the overlook, where you'll see sweeping views in every direction, and pay tribute at the remembrance wall. Continue the hike down the Memorial Trail to the site where the Hotshots were recovered. The hike is approximately 3.5 miles long from the trailhead to the Fatality Site, for a full length of about seven miles. The park is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit. The park is located two miles south of Yarnell on southbound State Route 89.

ROCKIN' RIVER RANCH STATE PARK

This 209-acre park, located south of Camp Verde along the picturesque Verde River, is Arizona's newest state park. Rockin' River Ranch is an extremely rare find in Arizona, with over a mile of frontage on the Verde River. The scenic park is beautiful and truly unique. This ideal location is just over an hour from north Phoenix and Scottsdale and 30 minutes from the red rocks of Sedona. The site features hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, and Verde River access.

JEROME STATE HISTORIC PARK

Make Jerome State Historic Park and the Douglas Mansion your first stop when you visit Jerome! At the park you will learn about copper, one of the 5 C's that helped found Arizona. (The other four being: cattle, citrus,

climate, and cotton). Jerome dates to 1876 when three prospectors staked claims on rich copper deposits. The United Verde Copper Company formed in 1883, and with several changes in ownership, it grew to be the largest producing copper mine in the Arizona Territory by the early 20th century.

The **Douglas Mansion** has been a Jerome landmark since 1916, when James S. Douglas built it on the hill above his Little Daisy Mine, and is now a **museum** featuring photographs, artifacts, and minerals in addition to a video presentation and a 3-D model of the town and underground mines. There are more displays outside along with a picnic area offering a beautiful panoramic view of the Verde Valley.

The museum and visitor center hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed December 25. *Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* It is located at 100 Douglas Road, Jerome, AZ 86331; **(928) 634-5381**.

RED ROCK STATE PARK

Surrounded by the natural beauty of Sedona's red rocks, Oak Creek meanders through Red Rock State Park and provides visitors the opportunity to experience nature along a five-mile network of trails.

The park, a center for environmental education, offers information and programs about scenic northern Arizona, including **guided geology hikes, bird walks, and moonlight hikes** with knowledgeable park staff or volunteers. The park is also included in the **Lower Oak Creek Important Bird Area**, and is home to species like the **common black hawk, wood duck, yellow-breasted chat, blue grosbeak, and common merganser**.

A guided nature walk is offered seven days a week at 10 a.m. The hike moves to 9 a.m. during June, July, and August. The park also

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You can bike on the Lime Kiln Trail between Dead Horse Ranch and Red Rock state parks.

hosts monthly special events including lectures and moonlight hikes (seasonally). The **visitor center** is a great place to start your exploration with hands-on exhibits. *Pets are not allowed at Red Rock State Park.*

The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended summer hours, and the park's visitor center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *Please check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located at 4050 Red Rock Loop Rd., Sedona, AZ 86336; **(928) 282-6907**.

SLIDE ROCK STATE PARK

Named for the **natural water slide** in Oak Creek Canyon, Slide Rock State Park is a refreshing way to enjoy summer in Arizona. Grab your swimsuit and an extra pair of shorts and cool off in the invigorating waters of the creek. Originally the Pendley Homestead, the park has a 43-acre historical **apple farm** where visitors still enjoy ripe fruit in the fall.

The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., except May 1 to September 4 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and November 1 to Jan 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located at 6871 N. Highway 89A, Sedona, AZ 86336; **(928) 282-3034**.

SEDONA/VERDE LOOP	PARK	DEAD HORSE RANCH SP & VERDE RIVER GREENWAY	FORT VERDE STATE HISTORIC PARK	GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOTS MEMORIAL STATE PARK	JEROME STATE HISTORIC PARK	RED ROCK STATE PARK	SLIDE ROCK STATE PARK	ROCKIN' RIVER RANCH
ELEVATION (feet)		3,300	3,260	4,320	5,000	3,900	4,930	3,021
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)		1	1	2	4	5	7	8
CAMPING UNITS		150	0	0	0	0	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VISITOR CENTER		•	•		•	•		•
CAMPING RESERVATIONS		•						
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING								
CONCESSION/GIFT SHOP		•	•		•	•	•	•
RESTROOMS		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SHOWERS		•						•
ELECTRIC HOOK-UP SITES		•						
NON-ELECTRIC SITES		•						
DUMP STATION		•						
CAMPING CABINS		•						
MUSEUM			•		•			
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS			•	•	•	•	•	•
SELF-GUIDED TOURS			•		•	•		•
PICNIC AREAS / SHELTERS		•	•		•	•	•	•
GROUP-USE AREAS		•				•	•	•
SWIMMING							•	•
FISHING		•					•	•
BOAT RAMP		•						
HIKING TRAILS		•		•		•	•	•
BIKING TRAILS		•				•		•
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS		•				•		•
WILDLIFE VIEWING		•		•		•	•	•



COPPER CORRIDOR

Along the Copper Corridor, you'll find six state parks that offer everything from camping to pristine botanical gardens, with plenty of stories about Arizona's past. The roads linking Phoenix with Tucson travel along dramatic mountain ranges and through communities ripe with history and culture.

BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM STATE PARK

An hour's drive due east of Phoenix is one of Arizona's crown jewels. Boyce Thompson Arboretum SP, open year-round, has more than three miles of paths and trails criss-crossing 100 acres worth of gardens, and features plants from desert ecosystems all across the planet. **Arizona's oldest and largest botanical garden** features towering 150-foot red gum eucalyptus trees; cacti from North and Central America; camera-ready cliffs of volcanic rhyolite, and the adjacent **Picketpost Mountain** and **Arizona Trail**. The **Queen Creek riparian corridor** sustains native cottonwood, sycamore and ash trees and hydrates the gardens (also earning the Audubon Society's prestigious designation as an Important Bird Area). Weekend nature walks, kids activities, and special events are also offered.

The park is open daily October through April from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and May through September from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. The park is closed December 25. *Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at Highway 60 milepost #223 as you approach the historic mining town of Superior at #37615 US Hwy 60, Superior, AZ 85173. For recorded information, call (520) 689-2811; contact staff during business hours at (520) 689-2723.



- KEY**
- Arizona State Park
 - Interstate Highway
 - Paved Highway
 - Scenic Roads
 - Copper Corridor
 - Prominent Peak

Map not to scale

CATALINA STATE PARK

Catalina State Park sits at the base of the majestic Santa Catalina Mountains, just minutes from the Tucson metropolitan area. The park is a haven for wildlife and desert plants including nearly 5,000 **saguaros**. The 5,500 acres of foothills, canyons and streams invite **camping, picnicking, and birdwatching**—more than 150 species of birds call the park home. The park provides miles of **equestrian, birding, hiking, and biking trails** that wind through the park and into **Coronado National Forest**.

Park facilities include the new Bobcat Amphitheater, grills, a group-use area for day or overnight use (available by reservation), and a gift shop. All restroom and shower facilities are accessible. The park also offers an

equestrian center that provides a staging area with ample trailer parking for trail riders. The park is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. The ranger station/gift shop is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The park is located at 11570 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ 85737; **(520) 628-5798**.

LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK

Named after the fabled gold mine, Lost Dutchman State Park is located in the Sonoran Desert at the base of the Superstition Mountains, 40 miles east of Phoenix. Several trails lead from the park into the surrounding Tonto National Forest and Superstition Wilderness area. Stroll along the easy Native Plant trail or hike the more challenging Siphon Draw Trail to the top of the Flatiron, or mountain bike through the four miles of singletrack. Depending on the year's rainfall, you might be treated to a carpet of **desert wildflowers** and **cactus blooms** in spring.

The park is open for day use from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. The visitor center offers maps, souvenirs, and food and beverages. The

park offers reservable group camping areas and group shade ramadas for picnicking. Hours may change so please check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.

The park is located at 6109 N Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ 85119; **(480) 982-4485**.

MCFARLAND STATE HISTORIC PARK

Constructed in 1878, the courthouse at McFarland SHP is the oldest standing in Arizona, and the building is the largest adobe structure from the territorial period (1863–1912). The Courthouse is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This adobe brick building served as a jailhouse, a hospital, and the first Pinal County Courthouse. It also held the sheriff's office, courtroom, judge's chambers, and jail on the first floor. After the building was restored in 2009 and 2010, it was reopened as a park and visitor center for the Town of Florence.

Inside the park, be sure to visit Florence's WWII Prisoner of War Camp exhibit. This exhibit depicts the lives of the people who were stationed and imprisoned at the camp. Photographs and artifacts from U.S. servicemen and the prisoners are also displayed. Visitors can also visit the Ernest W. McFarland exhibit; McFarland is referred to as the "Father of the G.I. Bill." He also contributed to Arizona history through an active public service career.

The visitor center offers free information on local and regional attractions. The gift shop sells hiking and children's books, local artwork, postcards, jewelry, and state park items. The park is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Sundays and on December 25. *Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.* The

park is located at the corner of Main and Ruggles Streets in Florence, AZ 85132; **(520) 868-5216**.

ORACLE STATE PARK

Oracle State Park, a 4,000-acre wildliferefuge and a center for environmental education, is located in the northern foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains north of Tucson. Ranging from 3,700 to 4,600 feet in elevation, the surrounding landscape transitions from oak woodland to desert grassland, with sweeping views all around. The public can enjoy guided walks, workshops, presentations, and Kannally Ranch House tours. The park has over 15 miles of trails, including the National Scenic Arizona Trail, for use by hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

The historic **Kannally Ranch House** is a unique Mediterranean-style building listed on the National Register of Historic Places offering patio views, birdwatching, and home tours. Visit its museum with historic photos, original artwork, and unique design features. The ranch house and patios may be rented for weddings and other group gatherings, by special use permit.

Oracle State Park was also the first state park in Arizona to be designated an International Dark Skies Park. Star Parties are frequently hosted here to help visitors enjoy the night sky.

A primitive group campground is also available for reservation at the park. There are 15-tent campsites available.

The park is open year-round 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The American Avenue trailhead parking lot is open seven days a week to access the Arizona Trail and to accommodate after hours use by stargazers. The park is located at 3820 Wildlife Drive, Oracle, AZ 85623; **(520) 896-2425**. **www.AZStateParks.com**.

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Catalina state park is a home to more than 5,000 saguaro cacti and 150 bird species.

PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK

Visitors traveling along I-10 in southern Arizona can't miss the prominent 3,374-foot peak at Picacho Peak State Park. Enjoy the view as you hike the trails that wind up the peak and, often in the spring, overlook a sea of **wildflowers**. The peak's unique shape has been used as a landmark by travelers since prehistoric times. One of the first recordings was in the 1700s by the Anza Expedition as it passed through the area.

The park facilities include a visitor center with exhibits and a gift store, and 85 electric campsites. The group-use areas, for day and overnight use, are available by reservation. Before you hike, be prepared with enough water, proper footwear, and gloves for cable railings, as the trails are steep and challenging.

The park's Gold LEED certified visitor center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (hours vary by season), and the entrance gate is closed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Trails are closed from sunset to sunrise. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit. The park is located off I-10, Exit 219, Picacho, AZ 85141; **(520) 466-3183**.

Oh, Ranger! FUN FACTS

Q. WHAT IS ARIZONA'S OFFICIAL STATE MAMMAL?

A. It's the ringtail!
This cute fox-like animal is about 2.5 feet long and is a shy, nocturnal creature.



For answers to all your questions, go to **OhRanger.com**

COPPER CORRIDOR

	PARK					
	BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM STATE PARK	CATALINA STATE PARK	LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK	McFARLAND STATE HISTORIC PARK	ORACLE STATE PARK	PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK
ELEVATION (feet)	2,400	2,650	2,000	1,500	4,600	2,000
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)	3	1	5	1	1	1
CAMPING UNITS	0	150	134	0	15	85
BOAT CAMPING UNITS	0	0	0	0	0	0
VISITOR CENTER	•	•	•	•	•	•
CAMPING RESERVATIONS		•	•		•	•
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING						
CONCESSION/GIFT SHOP	•	•	•	•	•	•
RESTROOMS	•	•	•	•	•	•
SHOWERS		•	•			•
ELECTRIC HOOK-UP SITES		•	•			•
NON-ELECTRIC SITES		•	•		•	
DUMP STATION		•	•			•
CAMPING CABINS			•			
MUSEUM				•	•	
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS	•	•	•	•	•	•
SELF-GUIDED TOURS	•	•	•	•	•	•
PICNIC AREAS / SHELTERS	•	•	•	•	•	•
GROUP-USE AREAS	•	•	•	•	•	•
SWIMMING						
FISHING						
BOAT RAMP						
HIKING TRAILS	•	•	•		•	•
BIKING TRAILS		•	•		•	
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS		•			•	
WILDLIFE VIEWING	•	•	•		•	•



CULTURAL CORRIDOR

Traveling south of Tucson the land gently rises, resulting in a cooler year-round climate. Explore the culture and natural wonders of the region, shaped by history and influenced by multiple cultures, from Arizona's southern vineyards to the area's sky islands (mountains rising up from the surrounding lowlands that create isolated ecosystems). Eclectic communities offer specialized shopping, local restaurants, and unique accommodations.

KARTCHNER CAVERNS STATE PARK®

Experience a stunning limestone cave in southeastern Arizona that boasts world-class features. This "living" cave, discovered in 1974, is host to a wide variety of unique minerals and formations. Water percolates from the surface and calcite formations continue to grow, including stalactites hanging down like icicles and giant stalagmites reaching up from the ground. Tour guides will unveil this fascinating underground landscape during a



Map not to scale

memorable one-and-a-half hour tour.

A Helmet & Headlamp Tour is offered in the Big Room from mid-October to mid-April, and the Rotunda/Throne Room the rest of the year. Experience the cave as the Discoverers did in 1974, using only the light provided by the headlamp on your helmet. This special tour runs on Saturdays only. Call the park for dates and times. The Discovery Center features museum exhibits, a large gift shop, regional displays, a theater, and educational information about the caverns and the surrounding landscape. There are also campgrounds, cabins with wheelchair access, hiking trails, lockers, shaded picnic areas, a cafe, an amphitheater, and a hummingbird garden. Cave tour tickets, cabins, and campsites can be reserved online at [AZStateParks.com/kartchner](https://www.azstateparks.com/kartchner) or by phone



GRAB A BITE AT THE BAT CAVE CAFÉ!

The Bat Cave Café at Kartchner Caverns State Park is a quick, healthy alternative to fast food in a relaxing patio atmosphere surrounded by the Hummingbird Garden. The café is open daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (seasonal hours may vary) and offers a variety of fresh baked pizzas (including Southern Arizona style with roasted green chilies), Batdogs, Batwursts, and quesadillas, along with a variety of sandwiches and salads. Beverages include prickly pear lemonade, soda, coffee and tea. For a treat, try one of the many dessert options!



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Patagonia State Park is home to a 265-acre man-made lake that's perfect for fishing.

at **1-877-MY-PARKS**, seven days a week, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

There is a \$5 reservation fee per campsite and cabin. Hours may change seasonally. Please visit AZStateParks.com for current park hours and cave tour times. The park is closed December 25, and closes at 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving and December 24. The park is located at 2980 Highway 90, Benson, AZ 85602. For cave and park information or to make reservations, visit AZStateParks.com/kartchner or call **1-877-MY-PARKS**.

PATAGONIA LAKE STATE PARK

Tucked away in the rolling hills of southeastern Arizona, Patagonia Lake is an ideal place to find whitetail deer roaming the hills and great blue herons walking the shoreline. The campground overlooks a 265-acre man-made lake where anglers catch crappie, bass, bluegill, and catfish. Trout are stocked every three weeks from October through March.

The tracks of the New Mexico/Arizona railroad lie beneath the lake and remnants of the old historic line may be found at the Nature Conservancy in Patagonia. Hikers can stroll along the beautiful Sonoita Creek Trail to see elegant trogon, canyon towhee, Inca dove,

vermillion flycatcher, black vulture, and several species of hummingbirds. The Audubon Society has designated this park as an Important Birding Area.

The park offers a beach, a horseshoe pit, picnic tables and grills, a creek trail, boat ramps, a marina, 105 electric and water campsites, three non-electric campsites, seven camping, cabins, and 12 non-electronic boat-in campsites. Boat rentals are available through Patagonia Marina and Boat Rental located in the boat marina. For more information about renting canoes, rowboats, paddleboats, and pontoon boats, call **(520) 287-5545** or visit AZstateparks.com/patagonia-lake/

Contact the Arizona State Parks Reservation Center at **1-877-MY-PARKS** seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to make reservations for this park. You may also make reservations online at AZStateParks.com. The park is open daily from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m., and the entrance gate is closed 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. The park ranger station is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additionally, from April to October, the ranger station is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Park quiet hours are from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m.

It is common for campsites and cabins to fill to capacity, therefore reservations are highly recommended. Park hours are subject to change. Please check website AZStateParks.com before your visit. The park is located at 400 Patagonia Lake Rd., Patagonia, AZ 85624. For park information please call **(520) 287-6965**.

SONOITA CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA

Sonoita Creek State Natural Area encompasses a major portion of the Sonoita Creek and Coal Mine Spring watersheds and helps preserve the fragile riparian area

Catalina State Park

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Dark Canyon Wilderness, UT © Jim Rueckel

and its surrounding environment. It protects the endangered Gila topminnow and several special-status birds, as well as historical and cultural relics.

The Audubon Society has designated this area as an Important Birding Area. There are three private backcountry hike-in camping sites, plus 20 miles of trails are available for hiking and eight miles of trails are shared with equestrians.

Sonoita Creek State Natural Area is adjacent to Patagonia Lake State Park. The Natural Area conserves the land in its natural state, so there are no restrooms or modern camping facilities. Use Patagonia Lake State Park as your base camp to enjoy the hiking, horseback riding, and natural surroundings of the Sonoita Creek area. Please practice 'Leave No Trace' ethics (see the "Preservation" chapter) during your visit. The visitor center is located within Patagonia Lake State Park and is open Thursdays through Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., October 15 through April 15. Although the natural area is always open, the visitor center is closed during the summer.

Permits for hiking, hunting or horseback riding can be obtained from the Patagonia Lake State Park visitor center or by calling (520) 287-6965. Park hours may change. Please check AZStateParks.com before your visit. The park is located at 400 Lake Patagonia Road, Patagonia, AZ 85624; (520) 287-2791.

ROPER LAKE STATE PARK

After a long day of driving or hiking, the natural hot springs at Roper Lake State Park are inviting and invigorating. Enjoy desert vegetation, an accessible fishing dock and stunning views of Mount Graham. Roper Lake has largemouth bass, channel catfish, crappie, bluegill, and red-

ear and is stocked with rainbow trout in the fall and winter.

Boats are limited to small electric motors, making ideal conditions for paddleboards or canoes. Enjoy five miles of **trails** in the park and at nearby **Dankworth Pond State Park**, three miles to the south, which features picnic ramadas trails to a re-created American Indian Village. Enjoy excellent **birdwatching** and glimpse **waterfowl**. Reservations are available for camping cabins, campsites, and day-use ramadas. All campsites at Roper Lake are available for reservation. Call **1-877-MY-PARKS** or reserve at AZStateParks.com. Both the park and Dankworth Pond State Park are open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and the park visitor center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (hours vary by season), year round. The park is located at 101 E. Roper Lake Rd., Safford, AZ 85546; (928) 428-6760.

TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC PARK

Experience the Old West at Tombstone Courthouse. Built in 1882, the two-story Victorian structure once housed the sheriff's office, jail, and courtrooms of Cochise County. Today, the courthouse is a **museum** filled with the glitter and guns of those who tamed the territory. Exhibits portray the history of Tombstone as a frontier silver mining boomtown. Learn about miners, cattlemen, and pioneers, and see a reproduction of the courtroom and sheriff's office. The park includes a museum, exhibits, a gift shop, and shaded picnic areas.

The park is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on December 25. The park is located at 223 Toughnut Street, Tombstone, AZ 85638; (520) 457-3311.

TUBAC PRESIDIO STATE HISTORIC PARK

Travel to Arizona's first state park to learn about the state's oldest European community, established in 1752. Visit the underground archaeological exhibit of the **Presidio ruins**, glimpse the 1890s **Rojas House**, see **Arizona's first printing press**, and explore the **furnished 1885 schoolhouse**. Tubac Presidio serves as a trailhead for a 4.5-mile section of the **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail** that leads to Tumacácori Mission National Historical Park.

Juan Bautista de Anza II, second commander of the presidio, led two overland expeditions to the Pacific in 1774 and 1775, resulting in the founding of San Francisco. Each October, the park celebrates the Anza expedition with **Anza Days** and a re-enactment of the journey. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except December 25, the park is located at One Burrue Street, Tubac, AZ 85646; (520) 398-2252.

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Kartchner Caverns State Park is the newest designated International Dark Sky Park in the state.

Arizona State Parks and Trails provides fun, educational Star Night Parties! At a typical star night event you can hear a lecture (often with guest speakers), and view celestial objects (planets, nebulae and stars) through a variety of telescopes. Some events have information tables and afternoon solar viewings as well.

These events are supported by Arizona

Astronomy Clubs, including Astronomers of Verde Valley, Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, Superstition Mountain Astronomical League and the Huachuca Astronomy Club of Southeast Arizona. To see upcoming event dates and participating parks, learn more about our partner astronomy clubs, and watch an introduction video with infrared footage visit AZStateParks.com.



HIGH COUNTRY LOOP

CULTURAL CORRIDOR

	PARK				
	KARTCHNER CAVERNS STATE PARK	PATAGONIA LAKE STATE PARK & SONOITA CREEK	ROPER LAKE STATE PARK	TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC PARK	TUBAC PRESIDIO STATE HISTORIC PARK
ELEVATION (feet)	4,700	3,750	3,130	4,539	3,500
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)	9	12	6	1	1
CAMPING UNITS	62	110	64	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS	0	12	0	0	0
VISITOR CENTER	•	•	•	•	•
CAMPING RESERVATIONS	•	•	•		
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING		•			
CONCESSION/GIFT SHOP	•	•	•	•	•
RESTROOMS	•	•	•	•	•
SHOWERS	•	•	•		
ELECTRIC HOOK-UP SITES	•	•	•		
NON-ELECTRIC SITES		•	•		
DUMP STATION	•	•	•		
CAMPING CABINS	•	•	•		
MUSEUM	•			•	•
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS	•	•		•	•
SELF-GUIDED TOURS	•	•	•	•	•
PICNIC AREAS/SHELTERS	•	•	•	•	•
GROUP-USE AREAS	•	•	•	•	•
SWIMMING		•	•		
FISHING		•	•		
BOAT RAMP		•	•		
HIKING TRAILS	•	•	•		•
BIKING TRAILS					
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS		•			•
WILDLIFE VIEWING	•	•	•		•

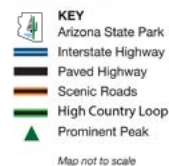
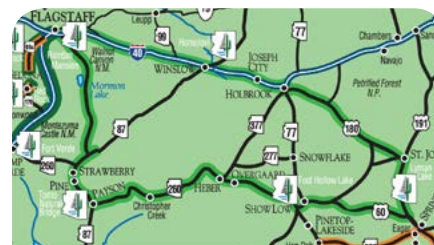
High in Arizona's White Mountains, cool mountain lakes rest among a pine forest and volcanic fields—perfect for summer camping, boating, or a relaxing cabin stay. Drive the loop to experience Hopi culture and the history of Flagstaff. The dramatic edge of the Colorado Plateau, known as the Mogollon Rim, is where you will find what is believed to be the world's largest travertine bridge.

HOMOLOVI STATE PARK

In the high grassland of 14th-century northern Arizona, an ancient people found a home along the Little Colorado River. These people, the Hisat'sinom, paused in their migrations to till the rich flood plain and sandy slopes before continuing north to join people already living on the mesas; people who are today known as the Hopi. The park serves as a center of research for the late migration period of the Hopi from the 1200s to the late 1300s. While archaeologists study the sites—the park has two main pueblo ruins—and confer with the Hopi to document the history of Homolovi, visitors can explore the sites, a visitor center, museum, bookstore, trails, and a campground. Covered picnic tables are located throughout the park and pullouts provide opportunities to observe wildlife.

Consider visiting during the Suvoyuki Day Festival, which takes place on the first Saturday in August, to celebrate the partners who have helped to protect these Hopi ancestral villages.

The Hopi people of today still consider Homolovi, as well as other sites in the southwest, to be part of their homeland. They continue to make pilgrimages to these sites, renewing the ties of the peo-



ple with the land and holding the annual Suvoyuki Day celebrations.

The park is open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed December 25. Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit. The park is located off of I-40, Exit 257. Head north on Highway 87 for 1.5 miles to the park in Winslow, AZ 86047; (928) 289-4106.

RIORDAN MANSION STATE HISTORIC PARK

The duplex style Riordan Mansion is one of the finest examples of American Arts and Crafts style architecture open today. Designed by Charles Whittlesey, the architect of the El Tovar Hotel at the Grand Canyon, the mansion was built in 1904 with hot and cold running water, central heat, and electric lights; reflecting the most modern technology and design of the time.

Go back in time as you tour the expansive home and imagine early 20th-century living. The Riordan family moved to Flagstaff in the 1880s as managers and then owners of the Arizona Lumber and Timber Company. Seen



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Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area is known for its great fishing, camping, hiking, and kayaking.

by guided tour only, the mansion showcases all original family belongings, including fine examples of early Stickley furniture. Park hours and days of operation vary seasonally. The park is open Thursday through Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday) from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. from November through April. The park is open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. from May through October. It is also closed on Thanksgiving Day and December 25. Tours are conducted on the hour; reservations recommended. Park hours may change. Please check AZStateParks.com before your visit. Open as a partnership between Arizona State Parks and Trails and the Arizona Historical Society, the park is located at 409 W. Riordan Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001; (928) 779-4395.

FOOL HOLLOW LAKE RECREATION AREA

Imagine camping among pine trees beside a quiet lake watching majestic great blue herons at a cool 6,300 feet in elevation. Located in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest among the picturesque mountain pines of Show Low, the recreation area is a unique partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, Arizona State Parks and Trails, Arizona Game and Fish and the City of Show Low. The recreation area is an ideal place for camping, fishing, picnicking, boating, and wildlife viewing. Boat horsepower is limited here, so come prepared for quiet and relaxation. Camping reservations are recommended during peak season (May through September). Canoe and kayak rentals are available mid-May to mid-September. During summer, enjoy a Friday morning nature

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation protects and restores our nation's wildlife and habitats. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

Pick your park and start your adventure!



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ALAMO LAKE STATE PARK

walk at 9 a.m. or a Saturday evening interpretive talk (times vary).

The tiny town of Adair has long since been covered by the lake, but it was Thomas Jefferson Adair who was responsible for the name Fool Hollow. In 1885, Adair moved into the area with the intention of farming. The locals joked that only a fool would try and farm the place. The name stuck!

The recreation area is open daily. Day use hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and the park gate is closed between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. The park visitor center is open April 1 to October 15 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and October 16 to March 31 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit. The park is located at 1500 N. Fool Hollow Rd., Show Low, AZ 85901; **(928) 537-3680**.

LYMAN LAKE STATE PARK

Created as an irrigation reservoir by damming the Little Colorado River, Lyman Lake SP in northeastern Arizona is home to great fishing, camping, hiking, and some of the smoothest water skiing in the state. This large lake is one of the few bodies of water in Arizona with no size restrictions on boats. The west end of the lake is buoyed off and restricted as a no wake area, allowing anglers a chance at a variety of fish without the disturbance. The fishery consists of walleye, channel catfish and largemouth bass.

Camping cabins overlooking the lake, beach camping and a group camping area are available.

Stop by Lyman Lake General Store to pick up camping and fishing supplies, including ice, firewood, fishing licenses and food. Visit **AZStateParks.com** for updates.

The park is open daily. Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit.

fore your visit. The park is located 12 miles south of St. Johns on U.S. Highway 191/180, St. Johns, AZ 85936; **(928) 337-4441**.


TONTO NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK

Tucked away in a tiny valley surrounded by a forest of pine trees, this natural bridge has been in the making for thousands of years and is believed to be the largest natural travertine bridge in the world. The bridge stands 183 feet high over a 400-foot long tunnel that measures 150 feet at its widest point.


Visitors can stand on top of the bridge or hike down below to appreciate the true size and beauty of this geologic wonder. The nearby 300-foot Waterfall Trail ends at a waterfall cave where visitors marvel at the water-loving mosses and flowers in the high desert. Pets are not allowed on the four park trails, which descend into a canyon and are all steep and strenuous.

Historic Goodfellow Lodge is also open for group reservations and tours at the park. This one-of-a-kind rustic hideaway was built in the 1920s and features 10 bedrooms along with a furnished basement suite.

The park is open daily, year-round. From Memorial Day to Labor Day hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The rest of the year, hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with no entry after 4:30 p.m. It is closed December 25. Park hours may change. Check **AZStateParks.com** before your visit. The park is located 10 miles north of Payson off Arizona Highway 87/260, Payson, AZ 85547; **(928) 476-4202**.



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HIGH COUNTRY LOOP	PARK	FOOL HOLLOW LAKE RECREATION AREA	HOMOLOVI STATE PARK	LYMAN LAKE STATE PARK	RIORDAN MANSION STATE HISTORIC PARK	TONTO NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK
ELEVATION (feet)		6,300	4,900	6,000	6,900	4,530
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)		2	2	12	1	8
CAMPING UNITS		123	53	61	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS		0	0	0	0	0
VISITOR CENTER		•	•	•	•	•
CAMPING RESERVATIONS		•	•	•		
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING						
CONCESSION/GIFT SHOP		•	•	•	•	•
RESTROOMS		•	•	•	•	•
SHOWERS		•	•	•		
ELECTRIC HOOK-UP SITES		•	•	•		
NON-ELECTRIC SITES		•	•	•		
DUMP STATION		•	•	•		
CAMPING CABINS				•		
MUSEUM			•		•	•
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS		•	•	•	•	•
SELF-GUIDED TOURS		•	•	•	•	•
PICNIC AREAS/SHELTERS		•	•	•	•	•
GROUP-USE AREAS		•		•	•	•
SWIMMING		•		•		
FISHING		•		•		
BOAT RAMP		•		•		
HIKING TRAILS		•	•	•		•
BIKING TRAILS		•		•		
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS				•		
WILDLIFE VIEWING		•	•	•	•	•



PHOTOGRAPHY

For millennia, we've looked towards the heavens and contemplated what's beyond our orbit and universe. More recently, stargazing has become increasingly difficult for millions of people living in developed areas. If you live in a populated area east of the Mississippi or along the Pacific coast, odds are that you can count the number of stars you see on your hands. National and state parks—remote and minimally developed—not only protect our land, but also our dark skies which are ideal for astrophotography.

There are two primary types of astrophotography shots that yield different, but stellar compositions. A long exposure setting will show stars trailing across the sky, while a shorter exposure will show pinpoints of light—objects that a camera can capture that the unaided eye cannot. Both require a camera with interchangeable lenses and manual controls to set aperture, ISO, and exposure settings. Here's what you'll need to start:

- **A sturdy tripod:** Simply put, a shaky tripod will yield blurry photos.
- **A cable release or remote control or intervalometer:** You'll want to avoid touching your camera to minimize shake. The addition of an intervalometer will allow you to take sequential long exposures.
- **Batteries:** Your aperture may be open for several hours, so it's important to have multiple fresh and fully charged batteries.
- **A wide lens:** Use the fastest, widest lens available.
- **A head lamp:** It'll be useful to set up your equipment and illuminate your foreground.

Check the cloud cover; if there's too much wait until you have a clearer night. Before you start, set your focus to infinity and turn off your autofocus and high ISO noise reduc-

tion. Next, set your white balance to daylight settings (5500k) and turn on your mirror lock to avoid mirror shake. Wait until the moon is out, too, as it'll illuminate and add detail to your foreground. Make sure that it's behind you. To capture star trails:

- Set your ISO at 200 to reduce digital noise.
- Compose your image, making sure you have interesting features in the foreground.
- Choose your focal length. The longer the focal length, the quicker your star trails will start to form.
- Set your camera to manual mode so that you can select your shutter speed and aperture.
- Set your aperture between f/2.8 and f/4 for best results.
- Select "bulb mode" as your shutter speed.
- Use your cable release or remote to open the shutter or set your timer for two to four minutes.

Check your results. If your picture is too dark, increase the exposure time. If your trails are too short, increase the exposure time. Keep playing around with your settings to get the results you desire. To learn how to take photos of the milky way and millions of points of light, visit ohranger.com/brightskies.

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Photographing the night sky is as close as many of us will get to exploring space.



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JUST FOR KIDS

There are plenty of activities for kids at Arizona State Parks and Trails! Kids can have fun while learning how to appreciate and preserve the beauty of the parks for everyone to enjoy.

JUNIOR RANGERS

Children between the ages of 6 and 12 can become a Junior Ranger at an Arizona state park. Kids can pledge to do their part to help preserve the beauty of the parks for everyone to enjoy. Kids can get Junior Ranger booklets at park visitor centers, ranger stations and offices. Complete the activities during your visit and then bring it to a park ranger for review. When a park ranger approves your work, you can take the Junior Ranger Pledge and get sworn in as a Junior Ranger.

WATER & HERITAGE CORRIDOR

At **Lake Havasu State Park**, kids can go boating and fishing with their parents. Before your trip, download a free boating safety coloring book from **AZStateParks.com**. Find



Kids love to go boating and fishing with their parents at Lake Havasu State Park.

out how people communicated before there were phones (or the internet!) at Colorado River State Historic Park.

SEDONA/VERDE LOOP

Kids will love sliding down a natural water chute at **Slide Rock State Park**. The half-mile stretch of slippery creek bottom with a smooth sandstone base is a popular summer getaway for families.

COPPER CORRIDOR

Learn about the life cycle of the giant saguaro cactus at **Catalina State Park**.

HIGH COUNTRY LOOP

It's fun to take a tour at **Riordan Mansion State Historic Park** and see how different it was to live in the early 1900s.

At **Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area**, kids can look for wildlife like elk, foxes, beavers, great blue herons, and porcupines.

CULTURAL CORRIDOR

At **Tubac Presidio SHP**, kids can see what life was like during the 1700s in Spanish Colony of Tubac, where everything had to be done by hand! Many of the exhibits in the Discovery Center at **Kartchner Caverns State Park** are perfect for kids! A "caving wall" allows children to create the experience of crawling through several narrow cave passages. Animal displays highlight the unique creatures that live in and around the cave—kids love having their picture taken with the giant sloth exhibit! Before your trip, visit **AZStateParks.com** to download the Discovery Center Scavenger Hunt. Kids can explore the exhibits to find all the answers!

Bill Morrow



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TRAILS LESS TRAVELED



Mia & Steve Mestrday

Explore the wonders of nature at Fool Hollow State Park near Show Low.

Stand in awe of the largest natural travertine bridge in the world (and the warm spring that formed it) on Pine Creek Trail in **Tonto Natural Bridge State Park**.

Revel in the contrast of red rock hills and lush green meadows from a spectacular view atop Eagle's Nest Trail at **Red Rock State Park**.

For an early morning challenge with an even bigger payoff, take Hunter Trail at **Picacho Peak State Park** for 360-degree views of the Sonoran Desert from this timeless landmark.

Walk among wildflowers and a diverse array of mammals and birds on **Oracle State Park's** Mariposa Trail.

Cross the Santa Cruz River not once, but twice, on horseback on the Anza Trail at **Tubac Presidio State Historic Park**.

Land a catfish at **Patagonia Lake State Park**, then camp the backcountry of Sonoita Creek State Natural Area, a unique transitional zone between the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts.

Only accessible by boat, the half-mile Ultimate Petroglyph Trail lies on the east side of **Lyman Lake State Park** and culminates at a boulder covered in ancient rock carvings.

Bank on some of the best birdwatching in the world along the Verde River Greenway at **Dead Horse Ranch State Park**.

Tackle Romero Canyon Trail in **Catalina State Park** and refresh with a dip in the hillside Montrose and Romero Pools.

Soak in sweeping views of the Colorado River and Buckskin Mountains from the Wedge Hill Trail at **River Island State Park** River Island Unit.

Travel the Treasure Loop Trail to the Praying Hands rock formation for views of the Superstition Mountains and Sonoran Desert at **Lost Dutchman State Park**.



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reminds us
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CONNECTED TO
rather than what
WE ARE SEPARATED FROM."
terry tempest williams



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