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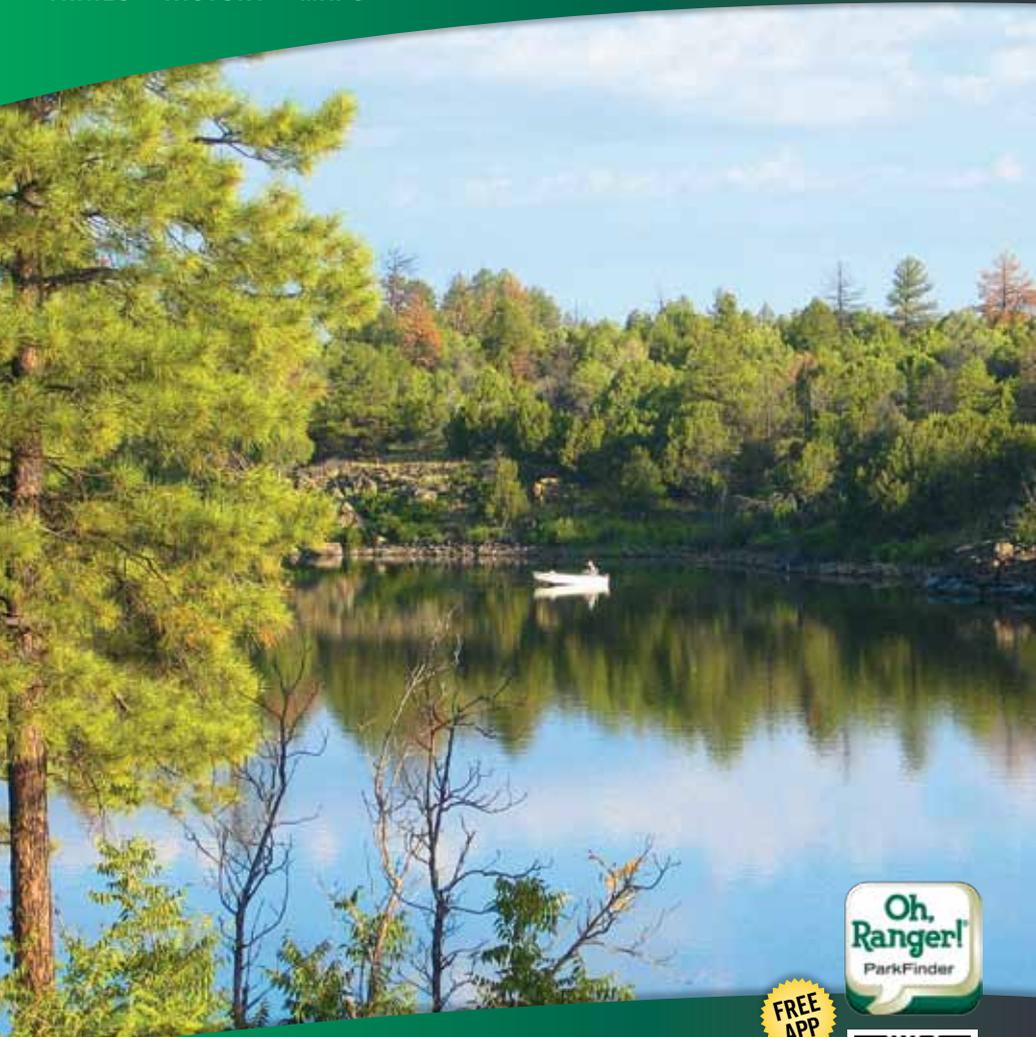
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ARIZONA STATE PARKS



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Talk with a company that specializes in RV insurance and ensure that you have the right amount of vacation protection—coverage that helps pay for hotels and travel if something happens to your RV while you're away from home.

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Welcome

Arizona State Parks



Bryan Martyn, Executive Director, Arizona State Parks



AZStateParks.com

Greetings from The Director:

I hope you find this handy park guide useful as you explore Arizona's stunning scenery and some of the many opportunities in Arizona's State Parks.

Having a good time in Arizona is easy if you plan your trip around Arizona's State Parks. No matter the time of year, there is always something to explore in a State Park. In the warm months you can head north to Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area or Lyman Lake and find a tent or RV spot, go fishing, hike in the cool pines or possibly rent a small, economical camping cabin. Spending time on our "West Coast" along the Colorado River is a great adventure year-round. Discover white sandy beaches, camp with your boat, camp lakeside, fish and then spend evenings enjoying the nightlife of Lake Havasu City and the Town of Parker. Finally, experience the majesty of southern Arizona in Historic Tubac Presidio State Park or world-renowned Kartchner Caverns State Park.

One of our newest and best features is that you can now go online and book your camping site or group area 12 months in advance and be assured you will have that perfect spot waiting for you when you arrive. Don't forget, our State Parks are perfect for small weddings, family reunions and *quinceañeras*. We make memories that last a lifetime.

We've partnered with *American Park Network* to create this booklet, at no cost to Arizona State Parks, to help you discover the treasures of Arizona State Parks.

I want to personally invite you to spend some time in our parks and become part of our family. Visit us online, make a reservation and sign up for our newsletters to get monthly updates of camping, cultural, hiking and OHV (off-highway vehicle) activities at AZStateParks.com.

See you in the Parks!

Bryan Martyn
Executive Director, Arizona State Parks



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(Cover: Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area in Show Low, courtesy of Arizona State Parks)

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



What's New!

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle. –Plato

My first and perhaps most memorable national park experience was with my brother Joel at Sequoia National Park. We had just purchased *American Park Network* to keep it from being shuttered and traveled cross-country to meet with park officials, concessioners and prospective sponsors. On the way to our first meeting, we stopped at the General Sherman tree, the largest living thing on earth! After a moment of staring, I realized that the tree's most compelling attribute wasn't its size, but rather the effect it had on visitors. People of all shapes and sizes, all perfect strangers, communed over this miracle of nature.

Upon visiting other parks, I quickly realized that it wasn't only a mighty sequoia that had this effect. All manner of grace and beauty in nature seemed to inspire the same in people. Something about these special places compels visitors to heed Plato's advice. In parks, kindness abounds.

As a New York City resident, my daily commute puts me in close contact with literally thousands of people. Riding my bike to work — and occasionally jumping onto public transportation — barely a day passes without a brush with what I'll politely



Mark, Joel & Alex — your partners in the parks.

call the *opposite* of kindness. Don't get me wrong, I know the world (including NYC) is full of amazing, generous, thoughtful people. I constantly meet them in parks. It's time more of us carry home the good feelings that come from being in nature. Let's eliminate expectations. Bring back civility and common courtesy. Focus our energy on the happiness of others. Perhaps the Golden Rule just needs a touch of green!

We can all benefit by heeding Plato's words, seeking goodness and meaning through the way we treat others, as our many daily battles are, indeed, often invisible to the outside world. Kindness opens a myriad of doors, most importantly, the ones to our hearts. So be green, be kind, be well...

mark@americanparknetwork.com

Oh, Ranger! Wi-Fi™ brings connectivity to parks!

Parks are about enjoying nature, but what if the need to be connected keeps you away? If you're a park/tourism administrator looking to add connectivity, 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.



Plan Your Visit

Arizona is a land of contrasts—bright sky overhead, sun-faded rock underfoot and cool mountain air just a short drive from the blazing desert heat. There's so much to see and do in the state. Whether you're heading north or south, Arizona's State Parks will introduce you to the state's natural and cultural wonders.

From boating on a lake to hiking through the desert, from paddling down a river to camping in the mountains, Arizona's State Parks and Natural Areas offer a chance to see the state's incredible diversity. Several parks are close enough to Phoenix and Tucson that you can enjoy a day trip, and be back to your home base in time for dinner. You can enjoy tent and RV camping at recreation parks, explore interpretive exhibits at historic parks, or learn more about the environment at educational parks.

Arizona State Parks also includes the State Trails Program, Outdoor-Related Grants Program, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Off-Highway Vehicle Program and more. The agency manages

SEASONAL HOURS

Some Arizona State Parks may only be open seasonally or are closed a few days a week. Before your trip, please visit AZStateParks.com or call (602) 542-4174 for current information.

seven of the top 25 most visited natural attractions in Arizona.

State Park Regions

Arizona is broken into four State Park regions. From the lakes and historical parks of Arizona's "West Coast," to the towering saguaro cacti of the Sonoran Desert in the south, to the cooler, forested regions of the north and the rolling grasslands and clear sky of the east, Arizona's parks and environments vary widely. For more information about the parks, see the regional chapters in the second half of this guide.

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

Many parks are open year-round, while some are currently open seasonally. Generally, State Park administrative offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (602) 542-4174 to reach the main office. For specific park schedules, go to AZStateParks.com.





Arizona Welcome Center

Stop at the **Lupton Welcome Center**, located on I-40 in northeastern Arizona, for helpful information and brochures.

Entrance Fees

Day use fees at the State Parks range from \$2 to \$20, seasonally for adults.

Park Passes

Arizona State Parks offer annual passes for frequent park visitors.

The **Standard Annual Pass** costs \$75 and 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 Lake Havasu, Cattail Cove, Buckskin Mountain and River Island on

weekends (Friday-Sunday) and state holidays from April 1 to October 31.

The **Premium Annual Pass** at \$200 is geared toward boaters who want to launch their boat on the Colorado River parks any day of the week. 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 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 un-employability) 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. Contact a park directly to receive your pass. Proof of eligibility required.

Commercial Groups

Commercial Groups may visit the parks. For Kartchner Caverns commercial tours contact Vicky Wilson at (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 for more

YOU CAN HELP ARIZONA STATE PARKS

- Arizona State Parks need your help! Here are a few things you can do:
- Get outside! Take your family to visit Arizona State Parks.
 - Tell a friend about your experience at Arizona State Parks.
 - Sign up to receive the monthly parks e-newsletter at AZStateParks.com
 - Volunteer. Parks need volunteers to ensure that resources are protected, our amenities are at their best, and that visitors enjoy an unforgettable experience!
 - Become a fan on Facebook: facebook.com/AZStateParks
 - Follow along on Twitter: @AZStateParks
 - Become a member of the Arizona State Parks Foundation (ASPF). Learn more at arizonastateparksfoundation.org.
 - Purchase an Arizona State Parks Annual Pass, available at AZStateParks.com.



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Arizona State Parks	(602) 542-4174 • AZStateParks.com
Off-Highway Vehicle Information	AZStateParks.com/ohv
State Historic Preservation Office	(602) 542-4009
Arizona Game & Fish Department	(602) 942-3000 • azgfd.gov
Operation Game Thief 24-hour Hotline	(800) 352-0700
Fishing Regulations	azgfd.gov/fishing
Hunting Regulations	azgfd.gov/hunting
Arizona State Land Department	(602) 542-4631

Travel and Safety

Arizona Office of Tourism	(866)-275-5816 • arizonaguide.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

ONLINE RESOURCES

AZStateParks.com can help you plan your trip! The Arizona State Parks website, AZStateParks.com, is a great resource for planning your trip or vacation.

You can use the website to view a list of upcoming park **events**, get interactive driving **directions**, download park **maps**, see park **photo galleries** and find out about park rules, types of campsites and park histories. Visit 'Find a Park' to find exactly what you're looking for, whether it's recreation parks, historic parks or parks with specific facilities or activities.

Children will enjoy **Junior Ranger activities** at each park; examples of these can be downloaded and printed online.

In the spring, the **RangerCam** page posts photos of current wildflower and cactus blooms taken by rangers and park

volunteers. It's a great way to see what's in bloom at the parks. For more information, visit AZStateParks.com/RangerCam.

Visitors to AZStateParks.com can also learn about the State Parks Board, Arizona's Off-Highway Vehicle Program, the State Trails Program, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Arizona State Parks Grant Programs, and more.

Campground **reservations** and Kartchner Caverns State Park Cave Tour **tickets** are also available on the website.

The website also provides great information about how you can help **support your Arizona State Parks**. Learn about volunteering, joining a park friends group, making a donation to help the parks, and even linking up with Arizona State Parks via social media!

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OhRanger.com



Plan Your Visit

information. Group-use areas may be reserved by calling the park.

Accessibility

All Arizona State Parks provide access to parking areas, visitor centers, restrooms and picnic ramadas. For more information about specific facilities, special services or group access for people with disabilities, please contact the ADA Coordinator at (602) 364-0632. TTY service is available at (602) 542-4174.

Park Safety and Regulations

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

- Stay on trails. Share the trail and be

aware when you are on the trail.

- Camp only in designated spots.
- Dispose of trash properly or carry it out with you.
- Practice 'Leave No Trace' principles.
- No animals (except service dogs) are allowed in historic buildings.
- When boating, wear a personal flotation device.

Pets

Pets are welcome at Arizona State Parks, however, they must be kept on a leash that does not exceed six feet at all times. Owners must also clean up after their pets. At historic parks, pets are not allowed in buildings or museums. Except for service animals, pets are not allowed in cabana sites, on developed beaches or at other environmentally or ecologically sensitive areas. Contact individual parks for information about site-specific rules. *Pets are not allowed at Red Rock State Park, near the swim area at Slide Rock State Park, or on trails at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park.*

Friends Groups

The **Arizona State Parks Foundation** is a non-profit organization that helps to establish a central information base for local **Friends of Arizona State Parks** groups to exchange, share and improve activities and provide training. There are Friends groups associated with several State Parks: Kartchner Caverns, Catalina, Lost Dutchman, Oracle, Red Rock, Riordan Mansion, Roper Lake, Slide Rock, Sonoita Creek, Tonto Natural Bridge, Fort Verde, Yuma Territorial Prison, and Verde River Greenway. Other parks are forming Friends groups. For information, call (602) 920-4505 or visit arizonastateparksfoundation.org.



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History & Culture

Arizona is known around the world for its majestic scenery. From the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, which Major John Wesley Powell, a one-armed veteran of the Civil War explored by boat in 1869; through the Ponderosa Pine forests of the Mogollon Rim, the setting of many stories by famed Western writer Zane Grey; to the exotic saguaro landscape of the Sonoran Desert in the south, Arizona is a place of rugged beauty.

Arizona's 6.6 million residents live in places as varied as metropolitan Phoenix, the state capital, and the mesa-top pueblos of the Hopi Indians, the longest-inhabited communities in America. Whether in cities, villages, small towns or on rural ranches, Arizonans have been living the history of this place since before there was a United States. In addition to the modern

office buildings, high-tech manufacturing facilities and state-of-the-art research centers there are also thousands of reminders of earlier lives. These include ruins of ancient Native American societies such as at Homolovi State Park and Walnut Canyon National Monument, ghost towns from the 1800s, bungalow neighborhoods from the 1920s, and a Cold War-era missile silo with its Titan II rocket still in place.

Native Americans

Whether you are an Arizona native or have just recently arrived, you will gain a greater appreciation for the wonderland that is the 48th state if you can tie together the many strands of natural and cultural history into a story in which you yourself are playing a part. The oldest of those strands—apart from the geological



At the annual Civil War in the Southwest event at Picacho Peak State Park, visitors can experience authentic Civil War camps and battle re-enactments.

Arizona State Parks



and biological stories that can be seen in the state's mountains and canyons and in its flora and fauna—are those associated with the Native American tribes who have long inhabited this region. Their roots here date back some 15,000 years, when the first Paleo Indians lived by hunting and gathering in the arid and dangerous terrain. These early Arizonans began planting corn around 2,000 B.C., and thereafter began to develop societies of great complexity and cultural achievement.

In central and southern Arizona, the Hohokam built a society based on agriculture supported by a vast network of canals, which drew water from the Salt, Gila and other rivers. With their resources of farmed food and a large population, the Hohokam constructed numerous villages that can be seen now in parks such as Pueblo Grande Museum in Phoenix, Mesa Grande in Mesa and Casa Grande National Monument in Coolidge. Further north, the Anasazi built large pueblos, many constructed in the sides of cliffs for protection, such as at Montezuma's Castle National Monument in Camp Verde and Navajo National Monument on the Navajo Reservation. These societies were already in decline by the time the first Europeans arrived in the New World, their place taken by the modern native tribes we know today.

While tribes in other parts of the United States were displaced from their traditional homelands, many in Arizona have been able to retain both their cultural identity and at least a portion of their historic land. In addition to the ruins of ancient cultures, visitors can see other aspects of tribal history from the tragic battlefields of the 19th century Indian wars, to symbols of cultural survival such as the impressive

Council Chambers of the Navajo Nation in Window Rock, now a National Historic Landmark. The Council Chambers resemble a traditional Navajo hogan residence, but within are carried out the functions of the tribes' sovereign government, now fully acknowledged as a full partner in the future development of the state.

Spanish Explorers and Missionaries

On the San Xavier Reservation of the Tohono O'odham Tribe south of Tucson, is a monument of another important strand in Arizona history. There stands the still-functioning San Xavier del Bac Mission, first established by the Jesuit missionary Father Eusebio Kino in 1700. Kino was part of a wave of explorers, conquerors, and settlers who came north from Mexico between 1540 and 1821 to expand the Spanish empire. The Spanish established a chain of missions, presidios (forts), pueblos (villages) and ranchos (ranches), primarily in the region of the Santa Cruz River. Tucson traces its history to a presidio garrison established in 1775 and from Tubac Presidio (State Historic Park). It was this presidio where an expedition of settlers led by Juan Bautista de Anza set out on a journey in 1775 that resulted in the founding of the city of San Francisco.

Mexican Influence

After gaining independence in 1821, Mexico exercised authority over Arizona until the United States gained control of the region following the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. Although no longer sovereign, the proximity of Mexico to Arizona has had an important influence on the culture and people of this state. Arizona



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Explore Ancestral Hopi Villages at Homolovi State Park near Winslow.

has long drawn workers and families from Mexico who worked in its mines and on its farms and ranches. People of Hispanic ancestry account today for approximately 31 percent of Arizona residents.

Westward Expansion

Landmark events of modern Arizona history include the arrival of the railroad in 1881, which opened the state to mass settlement and development. Construction of Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River in 1911 and Hoover Dam on the Colorado River in 1935 harnessed the great rivers for hydroelectric power generation and the

reclamation 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 the formerly small town of Phoenix into one of the largest cities in America.

Whether it relates to ancient tribal cultures, intrepid Spanish missionaries, ambitious American pioneers or modern families looking for opportunity, Arizona is a land that tells the history of its people. Arizona State Parks was established in 1957, in part to preserve some of the important places associated with this history. These historic parks educate Arizona's citizens and visitors about important aspects of the state's history, such as lumbering in northern Arizona, ranching in southern Arizona, Spanish settlement at Tubac and copper mining in the Verde River Valley. Explore Arizona's State Parks to become part of this cavalcade of history. The 28 State Parks also serve as the important economic engines for visitation to the rural towns in Arizona.



SEASONAL HOURS

Some Arizona State Parks may be open seasonally or are closed a few days a week. Before your trip, please visit AZStateParks.com or call (602) 542-4174 for the most up-to-date information.



Preservation

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

Natural Areas

Arizona State Parks 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, serve 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 Ranch**. 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 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

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.



YEARLY RETURN OF THE BATS

Ronnie Sidner, Bat Biologist



A colony of common cave bats returns to Kartchner Caverns State Park each spring.

During March, the thoughts of rangers at Kartchner Caverns State Park turn 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. The following year it jumped to about 1,600, and then went all the way up to 1,800 in 2003.

The population has fluctuated since. For 2011 and 2012, the population was around 890.

During the summer, Cave Unit staff count the bats once a week by climbing down into the sinkhole—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.

Cave Manager Ginger Nolan 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.

"I love it when the bats are here," says Nolan.

"It shows us that the cave is healthy and maintaining its biological purpose."



Arizona State Parks

Roper Lake State Park in Safford offers fishing, camping, swimming and a natural stone hot tub.

corridor. In tandem with the expanded Greenway vision, additional land will soon be added to the Greenway to protect the habitats of the endangered **southwestern willow flycatcher** and **bald eagle**.

Invasive Species

Invasive species in Arizona are a serious and growing problem and represent a significant threat to both the economic and ecologic 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, automobiles and boats. 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. But 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 red rocks of Sedona on the historic **Lime Kiln Trail**, motor their boat under the **London Bridge of Lake Havasu**, or camp among towering saguaros in the **Sonoran Desert**. Even though the locals may say "it's a dry heat" in Arizona, in the summer you can head to higher elevations to cool off in Arizona's natural water slide at Slide Rock State Park. For movie buffs, the Old West is alive and kicking on the main street Tombstone, but for the real history be sure to visit Tombstone Courthouse State Park. Whether you stay a day or a week, or maybe even longer, you'll find more than you imagined in Arizona.

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? In addition, Star Night Parties with high-powered telescopes has become a popular program



SEASONAL OPENINGS

Some Arizona State Parks may be closed all or part of a season, or have different operating hours than those listed in this guide. Before your trip, please call (602) 542-4174 or visit AZStateParks.com for updates.

at many of the State Parks. Check the Arizona State Parks calendar online at AZStateParks.com/find/calendar, or call an individual park for more information.

Bicycling

A number of popular bike trails are found in Arizona from Flagstaff to Tucson, including the nearly 800-mile **Arizona Trail** that stretches from Mexico to Utah. Bike trails are found primarily in three State Parks: **Dead Horse Ranch State Park**, **Catalina State Park** and **Lost Dutchman State Park**. Please ride on open trails only, practice 'Leave No Trace' principles, control your bicycle, yield to others, never scare animals and plan ahead.

Horseback Riding

Nothing evokes the Old West as much as saddling up a horse and hitting the trail, whether it's taking in Sedona's breathtaking red rocks 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.

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. Several State Parks offer excellent wildlife watching opportunities; look for a brown sign with the binocular symbol. See the "Nature & Wildlife" chapter for more information.



Arizona State Parks

The Lime Kiln Trail has incredible views, and connects Red Rock State Park and Dead Horse Ranch State Park. In spring 'Better Mountain Biking' classes are offered at Dead Horse Ranch.

Boating

Arizona's lakes, rivers and reservoirs are a treasure in the desert state and a great place to have fun. From the scenic shorelines and beautiful beaches of **Lake Havasu State Park** in the western part of the state, to the hidden treasure of **Patagonia Lake State Park**, tucked in Arizona's southern rolling hills, State Parks offer some great opportunities for boating.

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

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 when visitors spend all day on the lake swimming, fishing and generally having a good time. 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 still mountain air. A transformation is happening on the Colorado River in Yuma thanks to wetland restoration. Stroll along the river between **Yuma Quartermaster Depot** and **Yuma Territorial State Historic Parks** and see how the community is reclaiming the area for native vegetation, fish and wildlife.



VOLUNTEER IN THE PARKS!

Arizona State Parks



Volunteer demonstrators help visitors learn more about Arizona State Parks.

Have you ever dreamed of leading bird talks and discovering what brings people to Arizona, or assisting with interpretive programs at an 1870s military outpost or ancient Native American cultural artifacts? Arizona State Parks 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. Recruitment of community

members occurs throughout the year, with volunteer open houses and trainings occurring during busy seasons.

If you're interested in archaeology, become a **Site Steward** volunteer. Site Stewards help protect and preserve the cultural resources and the heritage of Arizona. A Site Steward's 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 check the Projected On-Site Openings grid. Positions are available year-round in different parts of the state.

Visit AZStateParks.com/volunteer for a list of site-specific volunteer opportunities, sign up for the volunteer newsletter and download a volunteer application. For more information call (602) 542-7152.

Hiking

Arizona State Parks have over 124 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. But the higher you climb the greater the pine. The trails go to Mount Lemmon, Sabino and West Fork to provide a gallery of masterpieces.

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. Hunter Trail (2 miles to the peak) and Sunset Vista Trail (3.1 miles to the peak) both take you through saguaros, chollas and ocotillos that dot the desert landscape.

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, mountain bikers and equestrians.

Lyman Lake State Park in northeastern Arizona provides a unique opportunity to walk back in time. The Petroglyph Trail winds past small boulders practically covered with well-preserved rock art. Special tours can be arranged to access the site and rangers are happy to share information on cultures that once

called the region home. (This State Park is open in summer and fall.)

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.

Hunting

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

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- Bathroom with shower
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Larry Burns



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.

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, trails and areas for a variety of purposes such as riding trails, sightseeing for pleasure, viewing wildlife, and accessing camping, trailheads, hunting and fishing areas.

Arizona State Parks promotes responsible use of vehicle operation on all lands in Arizona. The comprehensive Arizona State Parks OHV website provides information on where to ride, ethics and safety, OHV laws, land agency contacts, OHV clubs, permits, volunteering, vehicle equipment, mine shaft safety, the State

OHV Program, and much more. Be sure to get your annual sticker for your OHV license. For more information, please visit AZStateParks.com/OHV.

PACKING ESSENTIALS

Don't hit the trail without:

- Topographic Map and Compass + GPS
- Whistle
- Flashlight or Headlamp
- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and Hat
- High-energy Food and Plenty of Water
- Appropriate Clothing and Extra Layers
- Waterproof Matches
- Insect Repellent
- Pocket Knife
- First-Aid Kit
- Sturdy Footwear



Camping

Arizona State Parks include 15 camping parks that offer a wide variety of amenities and opportunities—from RV and tent sites to camping cabins.

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 parks directly or check online at AZStateParks.com for current information and availability. Also refer to the regional chapters in this guide for park-specific camping information and amenities charts.

Fees

Camping fees range from \$13 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 campsite fees are based upon one vehicle per campsite. Additional vehicles will be charged \$15 per vehicle per night. The extra vehicle fee does not apply to vehicles that are towed or are set-up to be towed behind a primary vehicle when the primary vehicle remains at the site and the towed vehicle is used for transportation, or if the second vehicle accompanying the primary vehicle is registered to the same address, or the same person as the primary vehicle. Cash and credit cards are accepted.



Arizona State Parks

Three parks offer camping cabin rentals: Roper Lake (pictured), Dead Horse Ranch, and Lyman Lake (open seasonally).

Group Camping

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

Reservations

All 15 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 Reservation Center at (520) 586-2283, 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 peak season weekend reservations (Friday through Sunday). Contact the parks or go

ARIZONA'S FAMILY CAMPOUT PROGRAM



Arizona State Parks

The first Arizona Family Campout Program took place at Lost Dutchman State Park.

The new Arizona Family Campout Program is designed for families that have little or no experience camping. Arizona State Parks 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 nine Arizona State Parks during 2014. Parks include Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Lost Dutchman State Park, Patagonia Lake State Park, Catalina State Park, Kartchner Caverns State Park, Buckskin Mountain State Park, Red Rock State Park and Lyman Lake State Park.

Based on the park, participant ages, and weather, these 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. Also, water, lemonade, coffee, and all food including two lunches, one dinner, one breakfast, daily snacks and campfire treats are provided!

Families need to provide sleeping bags (or other bedding), pillows, clothing, good, sturdy shoes and personal items (toothpaste, towels, soap, etc.).

The registration fee is \$85 and includes up to four family members. Additional family members are \$5 each. Sorry, the program is not open to children ages 5 years old and younger or pets. To learn more about this program, including dates for specific parks, please visit AZStateParks.com/family.



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 accommodations as an alternative to traditional camping. The cabins are furnished and have electricity, but visitors must bring their own linens. Cabin campers are encouraged to bring the following items: food; flashlight and matches; towels, bedding, pillows and/or sleeping bags; cooking and eating utensils; and lawn chairs. **Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Lyman Lake State Park and Roper Lake State Park** each provide cozy log cabins with covered wood porches and comfortable features. Ideal for campers who would rather spend time relaxing and playing than setting up camp, the cabins are variably furnished with a bunk bed, a full-size bed, a table and chairs, electricity, light and a lockable door. Picnic tables and charcoal grills make for a well-equipped outdoor setting. Restrooms and showers are within walking distance, and there is a gift or supply shop in each park. Cabins at Dead Horse Ranch are accessible

by car, and the ones at Lyman Lake and Roper Lake are accessible by car or RV, and equipped with electric hook-ups (additional fee).

Reservations

Camping cabin reservations can be made up to 365 days in advance, and a minimum of two days in advance. There is a two-night minimum stay on peak weekends. Cabins can be rented for a maximum of 14 days. A non-refundable \$5 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.



Camp among 100-foot pine trees beside a quiet lake at Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area near the city of Show Low.

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: A cabin will be released to waiting customers the morning after the anticipated arrival date. Deposit will not be refunded.

Pets: There is a charge of \$5 per night per pet.

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

Smoking and Cooking: No smoking or cooking is allowed inside cabins.

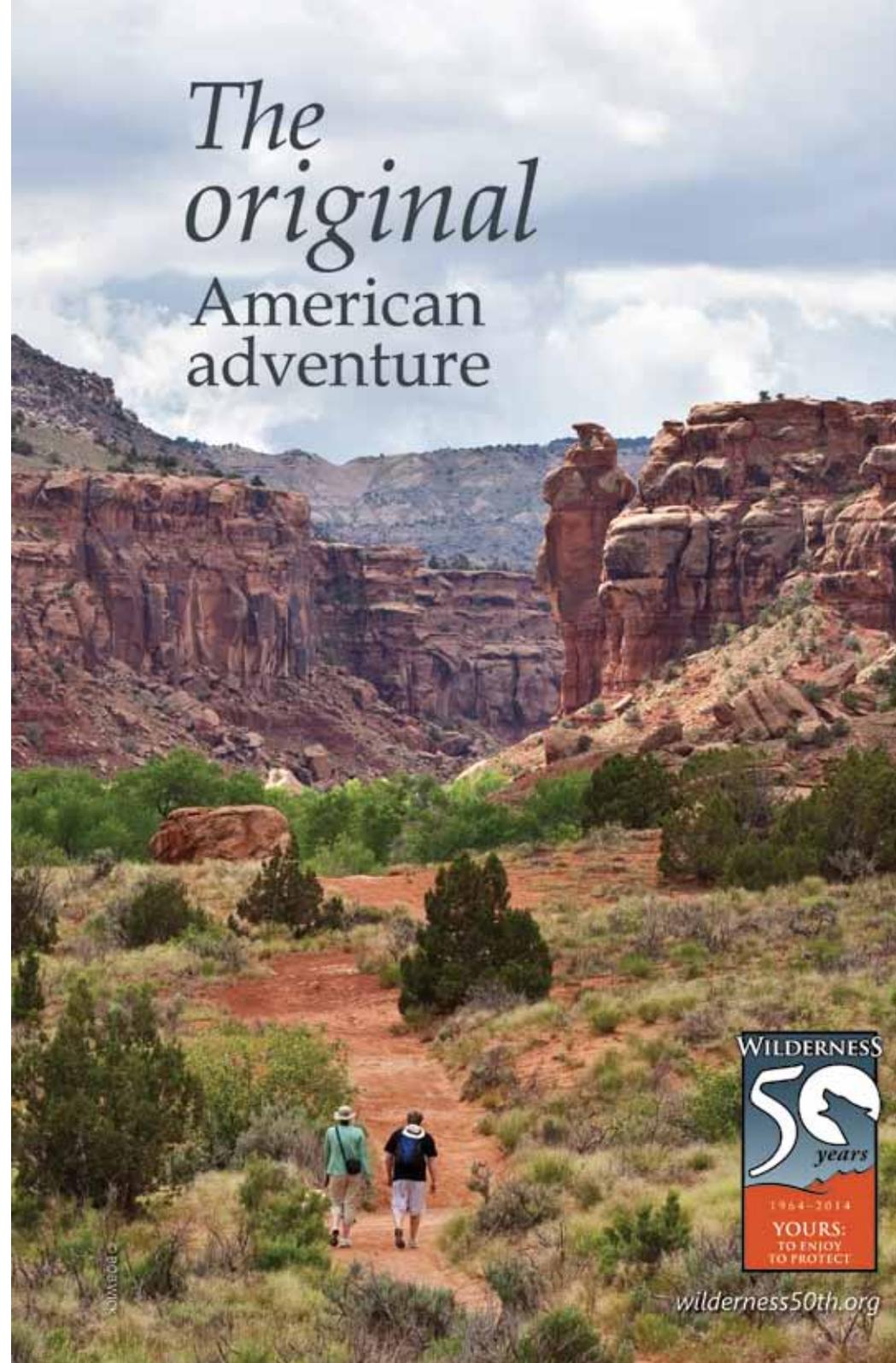
Park Rules: All park rules apply to cabins. Please adhere to them and practice 'Leave No Trace' principles.

ONLINE RESERVATIONS

ARIZONA STATE PARKS CAMPING CABINS

Book your favorite campsite early! There are 15 Arizona State Parks that offer online campground reservations. Reservations are available for both **tent sites** and **camping cabins**. Please visit AZStateParks.com to reserve yours. Reservations are also available by calling (520) 586-2283.

Refer to the "Things to Do" chapter of this guide for an exclusive **discount** on your next reservation!



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Nature & Wildlife

Arizona can be said to have a myriad of 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 (pronounced "Muggy-own") 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 shrivel and die 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 the floods and bring water and electricity to the 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 handy and your eyes peeled. Happy spotting!



As one of the largest conservation funders in the world, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation supports projects to save imperiled species, promote healthy coasts, forests and grasslands, and guarantee water for wildlife and people.

With public and private partners, we're working to restore our nation's precious natural heritage.



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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. Like our own homes, these natural habitats provide food, water, shelter and space necessary for survival. Wherever you are observing animals, 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. Never feed wild animals under any circumstances.



COYOTE (*Canis latrans*)
Coyotes 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, coyote are a classic symbol of the American Southwest. • **Weight** 18-40 lbs • **Size** 32-40 in long • **Height** 15-20 in tall



DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*)
These well-adapted desert dwellers live in the hottest, driest, steepest and seemingly inhospitable places. They eat mesquite, jojoba and grasses and get their hydration from cacti and agaves when water is scarce. • **Weight** 75-225 lbs • **Size** 4-4.5 ft long • **Height** 2.5-3.5 ft tall at shoulders



GILA MONSTER (*Heloderma suspectum*)
The Gila monster 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 extremely painful. • **Weight** up to 5 lbs • **Size** 18-24 in long



GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*)
These herons 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** 6-12 lbs • **Size** 39-52 in long; 6-7 ft wingspan



GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*)
These large owls are identifiable by their prominent "ear" tufts, which are actually made from feathers. Ears off-set on the sides of their heads, plus the ability to swivel their heads in incredible angles, give owls 3-D hearing that can locate and lock in on prey. • **Weight** about 3 lbs • **Size** 18-25 in long; 4-5 ft wingspan

Arizona State Parks



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE



HOG-NOSED SKUNK (*Conepatus leuconotus*)
The hog-nosed skunk is easily identified by its lack of 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** 2.5-6 lbs • **Size** 9.5-22.5 in long, including tail



HORNED LIZARD (*Phrynosoma*)
There are 16 species of horned lizards, 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** 2-6.5 in long



JAVELINA (*Pecari tajacu*)
Often mistaken for pigs, javelinas 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** 35-60 lbs • **Size** 29-39 in long • **Height** 17-23 in tall



RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
This raptor can usually be identified by its broad, rust-colored tail. Its eats mainly rodents, but it will also eat insects, fish, larger mammals and other birds. The red-tailed hawk's raspy cry is often used in TV and movies to represent the bald eagle, whose own cry is too meek to make the sound check. • **Weight** 1.5-4 lbs • **Size** 19-26 in long; 4-4.5 ft wingspan



TARANTULA (*Aphonopelma chaleodes*)
They have eight eyes, but can't see more than a few inches and must rely on their hairs, which serve as sensory receptors. Instead of spinning webs, they hunt for prey. Insects who venture into a tarantula's territory are subject to being pounced upon, injected with venom, predigested with enzymes, and slurped up. • **Size** up to 2 in long; leg span about 5 in



DESERT TORTOISE (*Gopherus agassizii*)
Desert tortoises live approximately 30 to 50 years; they grow slowly and generally have low reproductive rates. They spend most of their time in burrows or rock shelters to regulate body temperature and reduce water loss. They are most active after seasonal rains and are inactive during most of the year. • **Weight** 8-15 lbs • **Size** 10-14 in long; 4-6 in tall

Arizona State Parks



The Colorado River anchors Arizona's "West Coast" and offers water-based recreation year-round. People flock to the region's lakes for relief as summer temperatures climb. Finding a hidden cove for fishing, boating, or just relaxing is worth the effort!

If you're looking for a more natural experience, head south toward the Parker Dam. The area is popular with wildlife enthusiasts because the river is a flyway for migratory birds. Even farther south, Arizona history is alive and well in Yuma. Military history buffs and families will enjoy the Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park, the Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park, and the Yuma Crossing area.

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. Visitors here enjoy outdoor fun, premier bass fishing, rest and relaxation. 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 an annual Star Night event.

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 4:30 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 court, playground 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 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 camp-grounds are not your style and you have your own boat, motor out to a primitive campsite on the lake.

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

You may also rent boats and campsites with trailers at **Sandpoint Marina and RV Park**, as well as have dinner at **Sandpoint's Cafe**. Relax and enjoy "The View," an in-park restaurant featuring lakeside dining, along with great food and fine drinks. The restaurant is open daily, except Wednesday, for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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Catalina State Park, Tucson

Arizona State Parks
AZStateParks.com

Arizona State Parks
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at AZStateParks.com or Call (520) 586-2283



Arizona State Parks



The recently completed docks at Windsor Beach at Lake Havasu State Park can accommodate all sizes of watercraft.

The park is open year-round, with the ranger station open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located 15 miles south of Lake Havasu City on Hwy 95, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405; (928) 855-1223.

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.

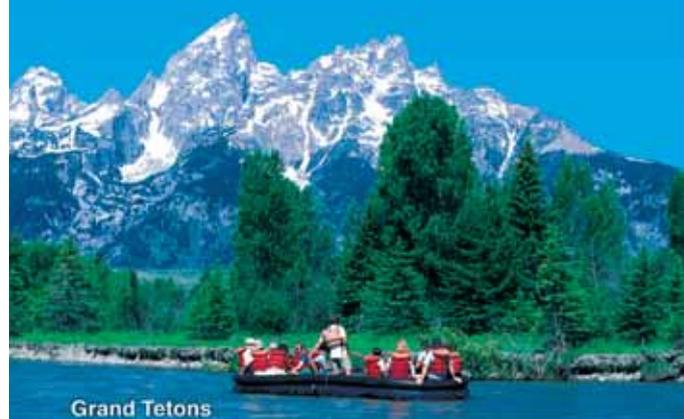
At 1.5 miles in length, the **Mohave Sunset Trail** is a great way to stretch your legs and take in the sights as it winds through the lowland desert and along the shoreline.

Boat rentals are available through the park's concessionaire, **Windsor Beach Rentals**. For more information visit windsorbeachrentals.com or reserve your personal watercraft by calling (928) 453-4792 or (888) 428-2792.

The park is open daily. Day use hours are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The ranger station hours are: October through March: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and April through September: 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekends. *Park hours may change. 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 one mile 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).



Grand Tetons



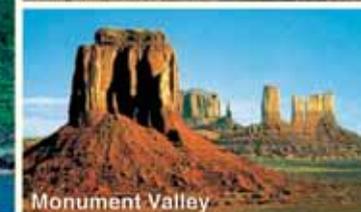
Yellowstone Park



Zion Park Lodge



Grand Canyon



Monument Valley



Vintage Red Jammer, Glacier Park

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Stop by River Island Market located a quarter-mile south of the park entrance for groceries, food deli, gas, propane, clothing boutique and storage.

The park and ranger station is 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, and was a model institution for its time. The only punishments were the dark cells for inmates who broke prison regulations, and the ball and chain for those who tried to escape. The park offers a museum with exhibits, a gift shop and a video presentation.

The park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until May 31, 2014. From June 1 through September 30, the park will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but will be 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 AZStateParks.com before your visit. The park is located at 100 N. Prison Hill Road, Yuma, AZ 85364; (928) 783-4771.

Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park & City of Yuma Visitor Center

As you walk the grounds of the park, imagine the once-bustling grounds teeming with soldiers preparing to travel to all parts west. The depot was used by the U.S. Army to store and distribute supplies for all the military posts in Arizona, and some in Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Texas. Five of the original depot buildings remain on the park grounds, and four of them contain exhibits that cover both the military history of the site and the history of the Bureau of Reclamation's construction of major irrigation works in the Yuma area.

The Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park is located within the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, an area that seeks to conserve, enhance, and interpret the natural and cultural resources of the community. The park offers a visitor center, exhibits, video presentation, gift shop, 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 closes at 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day and on December 24, and is closed December 25. Park hours are limited during the summer months (June-September) and *hours may change Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at 201 N. 4th Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364; (928) 783-0071.

WESTERN ARIZONA

	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	YUMA QUARTERMASTER DEPOT STATE HISTORIC PARK
ELEVATION (feet)	1,300	420	450	480	420	120	120
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)	9	1.5	15	1	1	1	1
CAMPING UNITS	250	89	61	45	37	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS	0	0	33	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	•	•	•	•	•		



Northern Arizona

Many Arizonans know to head north for cooler weather, winter snow and relief from the summer heat. Northern Arizona is also home to mountains and pine trees, including the largest ponderosa pine forest in North America.

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 **mountain biking** in the **Coconino National Forest**, **hiking** along the **Verde River**, **canoeing**, **picnicking**, **fishing**, **watching wildlife**, **camping** (including ADA accessible sites, all of which are available by reservation), or just wading in the cool water. If you want a more comfortable camping experience, stay in one of the park's eight **camping cabins**, available by reservation.

The park's three **fishing lagoons** are stocked periodically with rainbow trout and channel catfish, and visitors will also find largemouth bass, catfish, bluegill, and crappie, making this a terrific spot for anglers. Large and smallmouth bass and catfish are in the Verde River year-round, with rainbow trout stocked in the river November through March.

There are trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use, and the historic **Lime Kiln Trail** connects the park with Red Rock State Park in Sedona.

Another way to explore the park is by going on a **wrangler-guided trail ride**. To schedule your leisurely horseback ride, contact **Trail Horse Adventures**

at (928) 634-5276 or (866) 958-7245 or trailhorseadventures.com.

The Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival is held on the last weekend of April, Thursday through Sunday. For more information, visit BirdyVerde.org.

The 2014 **Verde River Day** event, a festival promoting environmental stewardship through outdoor activities, informational exhibits and live entertainment, is scheduled for Saturday, September 27.

Reservations are available online at AZStateParks.com. 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 of the desert's last free-flowing rivers and sustains a large regional wildlife population and a lush riparian community. 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).

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Red Rock State Park has incredible views of the Sedona area, including a stunning view of the House of Apache Fire.

Even though there are many parcels of public land along the Verde River, please remember to respect the private properties that are also located along the river.

Life along the river changes with the season, giving visitors a glimpse of **great blue herons, black hawks, coyotes, mule deer, beavers, frogs and toads**. The Verde River corridor also supports nearly 20 threatened or endangered species including **river otters, southwestern bald eagles, southwestern willow flycatchers and lowland leopard frogs**. This area 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 periodically.

Today visitors can experience three **historic homes** that are all furnished in the style of the 1880s and are listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places. The former administration building houses the museum and the visitor center with interpretive exhibits, period artifacts from military life, and history on the Indian Scouts and Indian Wars era. The park offers RV and tour bus parking and is ADA accessible.

The park is open Thursday through Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). It is also closed 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.

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 Days 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 pre-Columbian sites in the southwest, to be part of their homeland. They continue to make pilgrimages to these sites, renewing the ties of the people with the land.

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.

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). As a town, Jerome's modern history began in 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 was the largest producing copper mine in the Arizona Territory by the early 20th century.

The **Douglas Mansion** has been an eye-catching landmark in Jerome since 1916, when James S. Douglas built it on the hill just above his Little Daisy Mine. This former home is now a museum devoted to the

history of the Jerome area and the Douglas family. The **museum** features photographs, artifacts and minerals in addition to a video presentation and a 3-D model of the town with its underground mines. There are more displays outside along with a picnic area offering a beautiful panoramic view of the Verde Valley.

Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit. The museum and visitor center hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The park is closed December 25. 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. A guided nature walk is offered seven days a week at 10 a.m. 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, and common merganser**.

The park offers a daily **guided nature walk** at 10 a.m. and a daily activity at 2 p.m. The park also hosts **monthly special events** including lectures and moonlight hikes (seasonally).

The **visitor center** is a great place to start your exploration. Hands-on exhibits bring to life the variety of habitats found within the park. *Pets are not allowed at Red Rock State Park.*



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

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. At the heart of the Flagstaff community for over 50 years, their efforts advocating for the community continue to benefit residents today. Seen 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 to April. The park is open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. from May to September. It is also closed on Thanksgiving Day and December 25. Tours are conducted on the hour; reservations are recommended. *Park hours may change. Please check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park, which is open as a partnership between Arizona State Parks and the Arizona Historical Society, is located at 409 W. Riordan Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001; (928) 779-4395.

Slide Rock State Park

Slide Rock State Park, named for the **natural water slide** in Oak Creek Canyon, 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.

Stop by **Slide Rock Market** for snacks, water, sunscreen and Slide Rock memorabilia. It is open year-round with seasonal hours of operation.

The park is open daily October through April from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in May from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., in September from 8 a.m. to 6 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.

NORTHERN ARIZONA

	DEAD HORSE RANCH SP & VERDE RIVER GREENWAY	FORT VERDE STATE HISTORIC PARK	HOMOLOVI STATE PARK	JEROME STATE HISTORIC PARK	RED ROCK STATE PARK	RIORDAN MANSION STATE HISTORIC PARK	SLIDE ROCK STATE PARK
ELEVATION (feet)	3,300	3,260	4,900	5,000	3,900	6,900	4,930
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)	1	1	2	4	5	1	7
CAMPING UNITS	150	0	53	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	•		•		•	•	•

Arizona State Parks



The sunny East Wing Breakfast Room at Riordan Mansion features original Craftsman lighting fixtures and a fountain.



The eastern part of Arizona is a delight for outdoor enthusiasts with its many trails and clear skies. Anglers can enjoy fishing at lakes such as Lyman Lake, Show Low Lake and Fool Hollow Lake. And for water skiing enthusiasts, Lyman Lake has a water ski course available to run.

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 crisscrossing 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 eucalyptus and red gum trees; cacti from North, Central and South America; camera-ready cliffs of volcanic rhyolite, and the adjacent **Picket Post 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 September through April from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and May through August 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 (#37615 US Hwy 60). For recorded information, call

(520) 689-2811; contact staff during business hours at (520) 689-2723.

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 invites **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 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 for trail riders with ample trailer parking.

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.

Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area

Imagine camping among 100-foot 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 Forests** among the picturesque mountain pines of Show

Low, the recreation area is a unique partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, Arizona State Parks, 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 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 11 a.m. and 3:30 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.

Lost Dutchman State Park

Named after the fabled lost gold mine, Lost Dutchman State Park is located in the Sonoran Desert, 40 miles east of Phoenix. Several trails lead from the park into the **Superstition Wilderness** and the surrounding **Tonto National Forest**. Take a stroll along the **Native Plant Trail** or hike the challenging **Siphon Draw Trail** to the top of the Flatiron. Depending on the



Arizona State Parks

Lost Dutchman State Park, east of Phoenix, provides access to the Superstition Wilderness and surrounding Tonto National Forest.

Oh, Ranger! What is Arizona's official state mammal?

It's the ringtail! The small 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**

beach camping and a group camping area are available.

Stop by **Lyman Lake Market** to pick up camping and fishing supplies, including ice, firewood, fishing licenses and food. It is open seasonally May through November.

At press time the park was open seasonally. In 2014 the park will be open from May 2 to December 1. Visit AZStateParks.com for updates. The park is located 12 miles south of St. Johns on U.S. Highway 191/180, St. Johns, AZ 85936; (928) 337-4441.

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 many roles, most notably 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, the park 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,

year's rainfall, you might be treated to a carpet of **desert wildflowers** in spring. Enjoy a weekend of camping and experience native wildlife including **coyote**, **javelina** and **jackrabbit**.

The visitor center sells maps and other publications. Before you hike, be prepared with enough water and proper footwear as the trails are steep and challenging.

The park is open daily from sunrise until 10 p.m. *Hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at 6109 N. Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ 85119; (480) 982-4485.

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 proximity of speedboats and water-skiers. The fishery consists of wall-eye, channel catfish and largemouth bass.

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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 Street and Ruggles in Florence, AZ 85132; (520) 868-5216.

Oracle State Park

Oracle State Park, a 4,000-acre wild-life refuge 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. On weekends the public can enjoy guided walks, workshops, presentations and Kannally Ranch House tours.

During the week the park provides educational programs for school groups.

The historic **Kannally Ranch House** is a unique Mediterranean-style building offering patio views, birdwatching and home tours. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a museum with historic photos, original artwork and unique design features.

▼ *At press time the park was scheduled to be open on a limited basis. The park is open year-round on weekends only.* The park is located at 3820 Wildlife Drive, Oracle, AZ 85623; (520) 896-2425.

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.

The park 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 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.

Arizona State Parks



Tonto Natural Bridge is believed to be the largest natural travertine bridge in the world.

EASTERN ARIZONA

	BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM STATE PARK	CATALINA STATE PARK	FOOL HOLLOW LAKE RECREATION AREA	LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK	LYMAN LAKE STATE PARK	McFARLAND STATE HISTORIC PARK	ORACLE STATE PARK	TONTO NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK
ELEVATION (feet)	2,400	2,650	6,300	2,000	6,000	1,500	4,600	4,530
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)	3	1	2	5	12	1	1	8
CAMPING UNITS	0	120	123	134	61	0	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS	0	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	•	•	•	•	•		•	•



Southern Arizona

The Sonoran Desert is considered lush by desert standards. With enough rainfall, the desert blooms and mountain ranges glow with golden Mexican poppies and blue lupine. Stately saguaro cacti show off their waxy white flowers, as do palo verde trees with their clusters of yellow. Hikers going into the Superstition Wilderness or the Catalina Mountains will experience a desert unlike what they're used to seeing.

Arizona's, and indeed America's, history is told in tales from the oldest settlement at Tubac and the Wild West heyday at Tombstone. Grab your camera and your sense of adventure while traveling through history at the many iconic towns in the region.

Kartchner Caverns State Park®

Experience a stunning limestone cave in southeastern Arizona that boasts world-class features. This "live" 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 dripping down like icicles and giant stalagmites reaching up from the ground. Tour guides will unveil this fascinating underground landscape during a memorable **one and a half hour tour**.

New in 2014 is the Big Room Helmet & Headlamp Tour. From mid-October to mid-April experience the cave as the discoverers did in 1974 using only the light provided by a 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

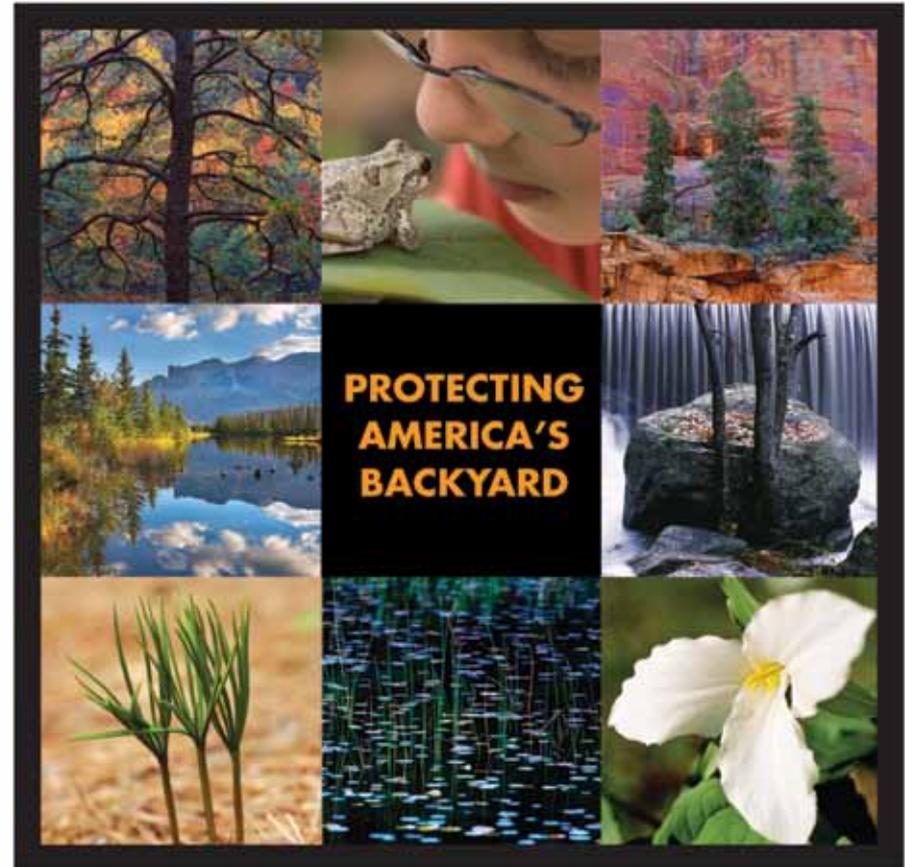
displays, a theater, and educational information about the caverns and the surrounding landscape. There are also campgrounds, hiking trails, lockers, shaded picnic areas, a cafe, an amphitheater and a hummingbird garden.

Both cave tour tickets and campsites can be reserved both online and over the phone. To reserve either cave tour tickets or campsites online go to AZStateParks.com/Parks/KACA. To reserve tickets over the phone call the Reservation line at (520) 586-2283, seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. There is a \$5 reservation fee per campsite.

Hours may change seasonally. Please visit AZStateParks.com for current park hours and cave tour times. The park is closed on December 25 and closes at 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving and December 24. The park

GRAB A BITE AT THE BAT CAVE CAFÉ!

The Bat Cave Café at Kartchner Caverns State Park is a quick, healthy alternative to standard fast food in a relaxing patio atmosphere surrounded by the Hummingbird Garden. The café is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and offers a variety of fresh baked pizzas, including the Southern Arizona style pizza with roasted green chilis. Batdogs, Batwurts and quesadillas, along with a variety of fresh, filling sandwiches and salads are also available. Beverages include prickly pear lemonade, soda, coffee and tea. For a treat, try a habañero chocolate sundae!



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K.L. Day and Arizona Conservation Projects, Inc.



The cave formations at Kartchner Caverns State Park started forming approximately 200,000 years ago.

is located at 2980 Highway 90, Benson, AZ 85602. For cave and park information call (520) 586-4100. To make reservations call (520) 586-2283.

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 is 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 Creek Trail to see **elegant trogon**,

canyon towhee, Inca dove, vermilion flycatcher, black vulture and several species of **hummingbirds**. This park has been designated as an Important Birding Area by the Audubon Society.

The park offers a beach, a horseshoe pit, picnic tables and grills, a creek trail, boat ramps, a marina, boat-in campsites, and 105 electric and water sites, two non-electric sites, and 12 boat-in campsites.

Stock up on supplies at the **Lakeside Market and Gift Shop**, which is operated by the park concessionaire and is located in the boat trailer parking lot. The market also sells fishing licenses, bait, firewood, grocery items, ice cream, soda, beer and wine and other camping supplies. Hours vary by season. For more information, please call (520) 287-5545.

Boat rentals are available through **Patagonia Marina and Boat Rental** located in the boat trailer parking lot. For more information about renting canoes, rowboats, paddleboats and pontoon boats, call (520) 287-5545 or visit patagonia-lake.com.

Contact the Arizona State Parks Reservation Center at (520) 586-2283 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. From April to October, the ranger station hours are 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 not uncommon for campsites to fill to capacity, reservations are highly recommended. *Park hours may change.*

Please check AZStateParks.com before your visit. The park is located at 400 Patagonia Lake Rd., Patagonia, AZ 85624. For park information 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 and its surrounding environment. It protects the endangered **Gila topminnow** and several special-status birds, as well as historical and cultural relics. This area has been designated as an Important Birding Area by the Audubon Society.

Visitors enjoy low-impact recreation such as **hiking, backpacking and bird-watching** that co-exist with education and scientific research. 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.

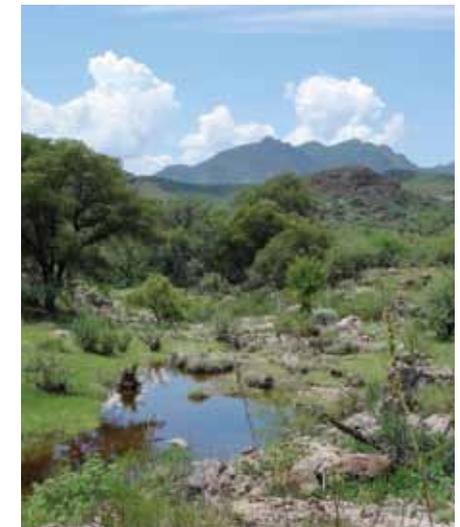
The visitor center is located within Patagonia Lake State Park and is open Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., October 15 through April 15. Although the area is always open, the visitor center is closed during the summer.



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.

Picacho Peak State Park

Visitors traveling along I-10 in southern Arizona can't miss the prominent 1,500-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.



Arizona State Parks

Throughout the fall and winter months, the Sonoita Creek State Natural Area's visitor center offers a variety of unique hikes, programs and boat tours.



The park facilities include a visitor center with exhibits and a gift store, and 85 electric campsites. Select sites can be used as non-electric sites. 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. *This park is closed during the summer season. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located off I-10, Exit 219, Picacho, AZ 85141; (520) 466-3183.

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, and bluegill/sunfish and is stocked with rainbow trout in the fall and winter, making it a great place for kids to catch their first fish. **Boats** are limited to small electric motors, creating ideal conditions for a sail board or a canoe. Enjoy five miles of **trails** in the park and at nearby Dankworth Pond. Take advantage of excellent **birdwatching** and glimpse **Gamble's quail** and **heron**.

Roper Lake has 30 lake surface acres, a boat ramp, natural stone hot tub, a swimming beach, a day use island with picnic tables and grills, camping cabins and campgrounds. Reservations are available for camping cabins, campsites and ramadas.

Dankworth Pond: There are two different sections to the park: the main unit, Roper Lake and Dankworth Pond unit, three miles to the south. Dankworth Pond is comprised of 150 acres of land surrounding a 15-acre pond and was once a hatchery for rearing catfish. It has picnic ramadas, trails to a re-created Native American Village and a playground. Waterfowl, migratory birds and wildlife can be found near the pond.

All campsites at Roper Lake are available for reservation. Reserve online at AZStateParks.com or call (520) 586-2283.

Both the park and Dankworth Pond 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. *Park hours may change. Please check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* The park is located at 101 E. Roper Lake Rd., Safford, AZ 85546; (928) 428-6760.

Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park

Get a glimpse of the true Old West at Tombstone Courthouse. Built in 1882 in the shape of a Roman cross, 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 authentic 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. Displays include a tax license for operating a brothel and an invitation to a hanging. A replica of the gallows in the courtyard represents where seven men were hanged.

The park includes a museum, exhibits, a gift shop, and shaded picnic areas.

Ed Schieffelin Monument: Three miles west of the park is a memorial to Ed Schieffelin, founder of the town of Tombstone. The 25-foot monument represents the type of marker a miner used when staking a claim.

The park is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on December 25. *Park hours may change. Check AZStateParks.com before your visit.* 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 Arizona's oldest European community, established in 1752. Visit the underground archaeological

exhibit of the **Presidio ruins**, tour the **museum**, 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.

The park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except December 25. The park is located at One Burrell Street, Tubac, AZ 85646; (520) 398-2252.

STAR NIGHT PARTY ASTRONOMY EVENTS

Nine Arizona State Parks have provided fun, educational Star Night Parties! The astronomy program has been in operation for six years and continues to grow! At a typical star night event you can hear a lecture (often with guest speakers), and view celestial objects (planets, nebulas 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. Parks that have held a Star Party



Dark night skies at Arizona State Parks provide prime stargazing opportunities.

include: Kartchner Caverns, Alamo Lake, Catalina, Lost Dutchman, Roper Lake, Tonto Natural Bridge, Red Rock, Patagonia Lake and Oracle. Watch an infrared video of a recent Star Party at AZStateParks.com/find/starparty.html.

Arizona State Parks



SOUTHERN ARIZONA

PARK	KARTCHNER CAVERNS STATE PARK	PATAGONIA LAKE STATE PARK & SONOITA CREEK	PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK	ROPER LAKE STATE PARK	TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC PARK	TUBAC PRESIDIO STATE HISTORIC PARK
ELEVATION (feet)	4,700	3,750	2,000	3,130	4,539	3,500
NEAREST SERVICES (miles)	9	12	1	6	1	1
CAMPING UNITS	62	108	85	71	0	0
BOAT CAMPING UNITS	0	12	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	•	•	•	•		•

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Photography

National parks and public lands offer unparalleled opportunities for outdoor photographers of every level. Parks boast a variety of superlative subject matter like rugged shorelines, towering waterfalls, snow-capped mountains and iconic wildlife. The diversity of subject matters is surpassed only by the number of ‘photo ops,’ which presents a challenge for photographers—what lenses to use and when? It is also important to consider whether your DSLR has a ‘crop factor’—you can find this out in your owner’s manual. For optimal results, make your lens selection based on how you want to represent the scene in front of you. Experiment and take as many photographs as you can from the same location with a different lens and/or perspective. The following are several suggestions that will help prepare you to capture the image you want to take when you want to take it.

Landscapes and Wildlife

There are two primary considerations when selecting a lens—its magnification and its speed. The former governs focal length and determines the size of the area you’ll be able to capture. The “longer” the lens or focal length, the greater its power of magnification. Short focal lengths, by contrast, have the opposite impact, reducing the size of the image. Lens speed is regulated by the aperture, which controls the size of the lens opening and the depth of field (the amount of space in front of and behind the point of focus that is acceptably sharp).

If your goal is to emphasize the sheer scope of your composition, opt for a **wide-angle lens**. Incorporate a strong foreground element to emphasize scale. A wide-angle lens may also be well suited to capture confined or intimate spaces like slot canyons and other geologic features. They will also stretch the space in the frame and have a tendency to make elements appear farther apart than they are in real life.

Are you trying to create the feeling of an infinite horizon, like a field of wildflowers that goes on forever? Immerse yourself among your subjects and select one or two points to emphasize the foreground. Always try to align the edges of your frame and your background to minimize unnecessary distractions.

If you want to bring a distant subject closer, go with a **telephoto lens**. It will compress space and move the foreground and background into the same plane, making them appear closer together than they are in reality. Their narrower angle of view is also great for cropping out parts of a scene, which may distract from the primary subject. Even when taking photos up close, simply backing up and zooming in will eliminate distractions in the background.

If you are photographing wildlife, a telephoto lens will help you stay a safe distance from your subject, keeping you both out of harm’s way. Your lens will magnify everything, including camera movement. To counteract these effects and ensure a sharp image, shoot with a fast shutter speed, and whenever possible, use a tripod.

FITS

GRAND CANYON
National Park

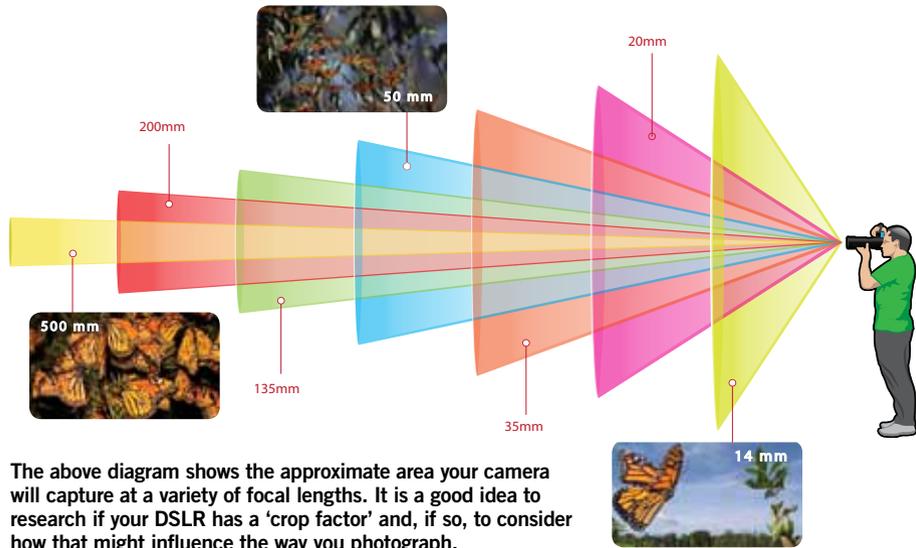
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The above diagram shows the approximate area your camera will capture at a variety of focal lengths. It is a good idea to research if your DSLR has a 'crop factor' and, if so, to consider how that might influence the way you photograph.

Macro

If you want to take close-ups of flowers, insects or show off nature's abstract patterns, you probably won't get the desired results with the limited capabilities of a standard lens. All "glass" has a minimum focal distance, which could prevent focusing on objects close to the camera. A specialized **macro lens** or macro setting on a point-and-shoot camera will allow you to focus extremely close.

The size of the lens opening (aperture) varies from lens to lens and will greatly affect how much light the camera's sensor is able to record. Since aperture also affects depth of field, it is the key to giving your photograph a blurred background. A lens with a larger aperture or opening allows for faster shutter speed and shallower depth of field. These factors are especially critical when photographing moving

objects in low light or when a tripod will not work. In these situations, choosing your fastest lens may be more important than choosing between wide-angle or telephoto. If want more of your composition in focus (a deeper depth of field), use a smaller aperture setting, which requires a slower shutter speed. The options, like horizons, are endless—the more different combinations you try, the more comfortable you will become.

While there is really no perfect lens, different subjects or circumstances will be easier to capture with a dedicated type of lens. Having a couple of options will give you the flexibility to create radically different compositions from the same position. Not having the "right" piece of equipment should not get in the way of making your next award-winning photograph. What is in front of—and behind—the camera is just as important as the lens you choose.



Just for Kids

There are plenty of activities for kids at Arizona State Parks! 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 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.

Western Region

At **Lake Havasu State Park**, kids can go boating and fishing and with their parents. Before your trip, download a free boating safety coloring book from AZStateParks.com. Find out how people communicated before there were phones (or the Internet!) at **Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park**.

Northern Region

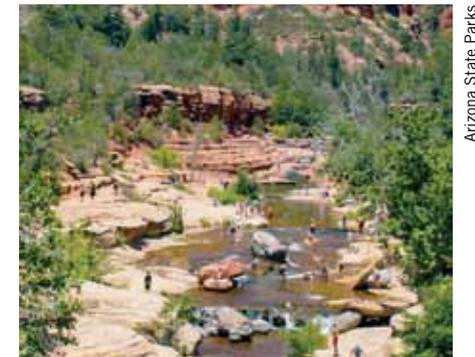
It's fun to take a tour at **Riordan Mansion State Historic Park** and see how different it was to live in the early 1900s. Kids will love sliding down a natural water chute at **Slide Rock State Park**. The half-mile stretch of slippery creek bottom with a smooth sandstone base is a popular summer getaway for families.

Eastern Region

Learn about the life cycle of the giant saguaro cactus at **Catalina State Park**. At **Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area**, kids can look for wildlife like elk, foxes, beavers, great blue herons and porcupines.

Southern Region

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!



Kids will enjoy swimming and sliding down the natural water chute at Slide Rock State Park.

Arizona State Parks



If You Only Have a Day

So you're wondering where to spend that extra day on your vacation? The day trips below provide a mix of outdoor recreation and cultural exploration, and will help you experience the best of the Southwest, no matter where you're coming from! For more ideas you can always visit AZStateParks.com.

From Flagstaff

Located next to the Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, **Riordan Mansion State Historic Park** is a remarkable example of Arts and Crafts style architecture, featuring an exterior of log-slab siding,

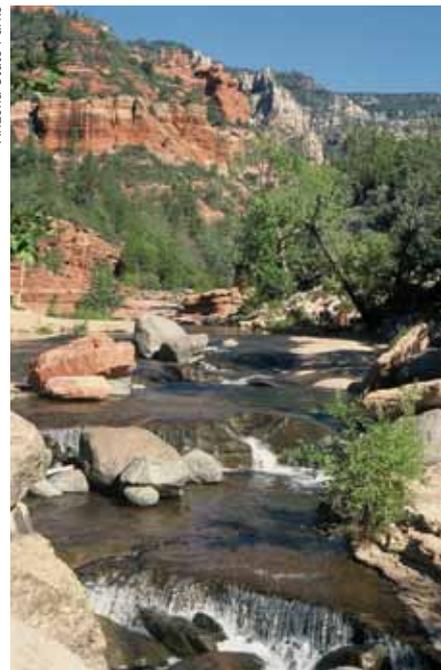
stone arches, and hand-split wooden shingles. Guided tours reveal details of period pieces and original décor that help you envision life in a territorial logging town. The 13,000 square-foot house was built for two brothers and their families who were instrumental in the lumber industry and the development of Flagstaff.

Slide Rock State Park, named for the natural water slide in Oak Creek Canyon, 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!

From Tucson

Fifty miles southeast of Tucson is **Kartchner Caverns State Park**, one of Arizona's greatest treasures. Tour the caverns to see elaborate cave formations, and visit the Discovery Center to learn the tale of two young cavers who crawled through the original sinkhole in 1974 and the resulting steps that have made the caverns one of Arizona's top natural attractions. Look for birds and butterflies in the Hummingbird Garden, stretch your legs on the hiking trails that lead into the Whetstone Mountains and grab a bite to eat at the Bat Cave Café.

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 **saguaro cacti**, symbols of the American Desert Southwest. The 5,500 acres of foothills, canyons and streams invite camping, picnicking and birdwatching.



Slide Rock State Park in Sedona is a perfect destination for a day trip from Phoenix.

Arizona State Parks

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