parks / Saguaro

#arizona

- *Last updated: Oct 16*
- A map

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The Tucson Mountain District (TMD) on the west, and the Rincon Mountain District (RMD) to the east, are 30 miles (45-60 minutes) apart with Tucson in between.

NPS

The TMD (west) boasts large stands of saguaro cactus creating a breathtaking saguaro forest, whereas the RMD (east) hosts a magnificent sky island, where you can find bears, cougars and the ever elusive coati (aka coatimundi). / Hiking Safety Checklist

Scenic Loop Drives

- **East: Cactus Forest Scenic Loop Drive** features several trailheads, scenic vistas and pullouts in a total of 8 miles (12.9 km). Starts at Rincon Mt. Visitor Center.
- **West: Bajada Loop Drive** explores the district's foothills. This unpaved, graded dirt road offers scenic pullouts, picnic areas, and hiking trailheads in a 6 mile (9.7 km) loop. High clearance or four-wheel drive is not needed to drive the loop. The Loop begins at Hohokam Road, 1.5 miles west of the Red Hills Visitor Center.

Hiking Trail Recommendations

- **Garwood Dam and Wildhorse Tank (east)**: From the Douglas Spring trailhead, continue until you take a right on the Garwood Trail (.2 mile). You'll enter the kind of cactus forest that inspired the creation of this park in 1933. A steep section will lead to the Garwood Dam, built by Nelson Garwood in the 1950's. A further trail leads to Little Wildhorse Tank, one of the only perennial areas of water in the park.
- **Loma Verde Loop (east)**: Take the Loma Verde Trail north through a grove of mature mesquite trees. Beyond a seasonally flowing wash, you'll climb a bluff onto the *bajada*, the Spanish word for a gravel plain at the base of a mountain. Pass the Loma Verde Mine and take a right on the Pink Hill Trail. A short spur trail leads to a fine overlook of the cactus forest and Tanque Verde Ridge.
- **Wild Dog Trail (west)**: Take the Valley View trail to the Wild Dog trail. This trail ends at the junction of Golden Gate Rd. and the turnoff to Signal Hill picnic area.
- **King Canyon/ Gould Mine Loop (west)**: Take the King Canyon Wash trail up the sandy wash bottom between the canyon walls to the junction and return via the King Canyon trail (an old mining road).
- **Sendero Esperanza Trail to the Ridge**: Take the Sendero Esperanza trail to the Hugh Norris trail junction on the ridgeline. The first mile is relatively flat, but it quickly ascends up switchbacks (220 feet elevation) towards the ridge. Great panoramic scenes of the valley come into view.

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28th July 2026
Joshua Tree

22nd July 2026
Olympic

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