

# January 2026 Hiking Schedule

**Updates & changes in RED**

**NEW HIKES in GREEN**

All hikes meet at the Welcome Center unless otherwise specified in the hike description.  
Carpools can be arranged when the group meets at Welcome Center

**\* AZ State Park entrance fees increased on 2/25/25. The fee is now based on the number of people in a vehicle, if no one has a park pass. The fee is \$10 for one person and \$20 for 2 – 4 people total. The fee should be split among those in the vehicle. A park pass allows for up to 4 people to enter without charge.**

**A once/year hike is being offered this month:**

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026, Thimble Peak [B/11mi/2300'/\$6/7am]. See below for details.**

**HIKE IS FULL.** Friday, January 2, 2026, OSP “In and Out” [C-/4mi/680'/\$7\*/8:30am] Start the New Year with a hike highlighting the geology in Oracle State Park. We will drive 35 minutes to the OSP auxiliary parking lot on the north end of American Avenue, then hike to Kannally Ranch House and back. Optional brunch/snack afterwards at Oracle Patio Cafe. Limit 8. Meg Gerken, [desertdolphin99@gmail.com](mailto:desertdolphin99@gmail.com)

**Saturday January 3, 2026, Full Moon Golf Course Walk [D/3 miles/100'/5:00 pm]** It's Wolf Moon time! Meet by the putting green behind the pro shop. I'm looking for those who'd like to walk a three mile section of the golf course and enjoy the first full moon of the year.  
Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**Monday, January 5, 2026, Wild Burro/Cochie Springs in the Tortolita Mountains**  
[B+/15miles/2500'/\$4/7:00am] Meet at the Welcome Center at 7:00am to carpool to the trailhead at Dove Mt. We will hike the Wild Burro, Wild Mustang & Upper Javelina trails to the junction of the Cochie trail. The Cochie trail section will be an out and back finishing on the Hotel Spur trail. This is a beautiful loop of trails with some areas of steep climbs and rockiness. There are three well spaced stops for snacks/lunch to enjoy the gorgeous views. Limit 8 hikers. Dana Laudenbach [dlaudenbach1@gmail.com](mailto:dlaudenbach1@gmail.com)

**Monday January 5, 2026, Morning Golf Course Walk [D/2 miles/50'/7:00 am]** Meet by the putting green behind the pro shop. I'm looking for those who'd like to walk a two-mile section of the golf course and enjoy the sunrise over the Catalina's at 7:12. Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**Monday, January 5, 2026, Orientation Hike (D/3mi/350'/\$4\*/7:30am)** Reservation required. This is a prerequisite hike for joining the SCOV Hiking Club. *Orientation Hikes are restricted to returning and prospective members only.* This hike meets behind the SCOV Welcome Center in the parking lot. We will give a bit of information about our club. We will then drive to Catalina State Park Equestrian Center. We will hike 1-1/2 miles up the 50 Year Trail and return. A State Park Pass is required or an entry fee at the gate. Bring sufficient water, wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots, a pack in which to carry your personal belongings. If you use walking poles, bring them. Also bring a good sun hat. Please contact Gayle Franklin at [cactigal50@gmail.com](mailto:cactigal50@gmail.com) or Cary Roper at [carybayley@gmail.com](mailto:carybayley@gmail.com)

**HIKE IS FULL. Monday, January 5, 2026, Sausalito Loop [C/5 mi/350'/\$0/8:00 am]** Meet at Desert Oasis. Hike trails on both sides of Sausalito Wash. We will be on the lookout for an old cowboy camp, a crested saguaro, and a great view of Sausalito basin. An interesting hike on State Trust Land next to SCOV. Tom Meyer [tmeyer80@msn.com](mailto:tmeyer80@msn.com)

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026, Pima Canyon [C/6 mi./1000'/\$2/8:00am]** Meet at WC to share rides. We will park at the Pima Canyon trailhead, hike a rocky trail through an open area and a grove of large trees. We will go about 3 mi. and return. Jorgy Jorgenson [jorgyhikes@gmail.com](mailto:jorgyhikes@gmail.com) 406-671-2152

**Tuesday January 6, 2026, Golf Course Walk [D/3 miles/100'/5:00 pm]** It's Tuesday Night Football time! Meet by the putting green behind the pro shop. I'm looking for those who'd like to walk a three-mile section of the golf course and enjoy the sunset. Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026, Cactus Wren to Signal Hill [D/4mi/300'/\$5/8:00am]** Carpool from behind Welcome Center to park near the corner of Sandario and Rudasil Roads and take the easiest trail hike to Signal Hill Picnic area with tables and restroom in Saguaro National Park West. Eat snacks, look at pictographs and return via the same trail. Large stone steps, may need poles, at pictographs! **A NATIONAL/FEDERAL PARK PASS IS REQUIRED.** Georgene Porter, [gvporter@live.com](mailto:gvporter@live.com)

**Once/year Hike:**

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026, Thimble Peak [B/11mi/2300'/\$6/7am]** We will carpool to Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site off the Mt. Lemmon Highway. The hike begins with a descent into Sycamore Canyon, continues to a link trail to upper Bear Canyon trail, from there we will do our best to look for and follow a trail to the base of Thimble Peak. This section is not

necessarily maintained and has some steep sections with loose gravel. We return looking for the same trails or an optional loop. This is a special hike with water crossings in the canyon and spectacular vistas on the slopes. Deb Wehrung, [debwehrung@gmail.com](mailto:debwehrung@gmail.com)

**Wednesday January 7, 2026, McDougal Ridge [C/6mi/1400'/\$6/7am]** Meet at Welcome Center. Park at Ba'bad Du'ag Overlook, hike Ba'bad Du'ag Trail on the southern slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains to about 4800', generally paralleling Soldier Canyon. We continue past the "End of Trail" sign about 1/3 mile to a series of waterfalls and have lunch. Bring plenty of water. The ascent is steady uphill southern exposure. The views atop the trail are magnificent and well worth the climb. Doug Higgins [dahiggins@comcast.net](mailto:dahiggins@comcast.net)

**Thursday, January 8, 2026, Big Wash North [C/6mi/200'/\$0/8am]** Meet at Catalina Vista and walk into Big Wash. Follow bicycle trails to church in Catalina, then to 'Stonehenge' rock formation and return. Byron Wolffing, [wolffing5@gmail.com](mailto:wolffing5@gmail.com)

**Friday, January 9, 2026, Honey Bee Meadow/Tortolita Flats [C/5mi/200'/\$0/8am]** Meet at Desert Oasis parking lot. Hike from there out to the Flats on dirt trails to a loop and back. Pretty desert hike and mountain views, Hike is on State Trust Land. David and Sigrid Flatness, [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com)

**Saturday, January 10, 2026, Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve [D/3mi/100'/\$0/1:00 pm]** Please note later start time. Let's take advantage of the warmer, afternoon sun. Short, close-in hike; easy, paved, minimal elevation, three mile loop trail at Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve. A concrete trail winds through the former Vistoso Golf course. Social pace. Beautiful mountain views and opportunities to view wildlife. Carpool from BEHIND SCOV Welcome Center; Debbie Hansen, 425.931.3334 [djhansolo@comcast.net](mailto:djhansolo@comcast.net)

**Monday, January 12, 2026, Gabe Zimmerman to AZT South [C/7mi/500'/\$9/7:30am]** Meet at the Welcome Center to carpool to the Gabe Zimmerman trailhead (16000 E Marsh Station Rd., Vail). Hike Passage 8 of the Arizona Trail South, taking a tunnel painted like a rattlesnake head below I-10, then about 3 miles to a snack spot, and return. Byron Wolffing, [wolffing5@gmail.com](mailto:wolffing5@gmail.com)

**Monday January 12,, 2026, Morning Golf Course Walk [D/2 miles/50'/7:00 am]** Meet by the putting green behind the pro shop. I'm looking for those who'd like to walk a two mile section of the golf course and enjoy the sunrise over the Catalinas. Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026, Coffee Time Hike [D/4mi/50'/\$0/9:00AM]** Meet at the Oro Valley Hospital Medical building parking lot (meet towards the back of the lot in the SW corner). The hike will follow a paved path to the coffee shop located in The Encantada apartment complex. There is a short gravel walk from the parking lot to the paved path. Outside seating is available at the coffee shop. Hike is limited to 10. Jane Budden, [janeannabudden@gmail.com](mailto:janeannabudden@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026 Javelina/Lower Javelina Loop [C+/6mi/900'/\$3/8am]** Park at Dove Mt. Trailhead and take Street Southwest to Upper Javelina Trail and take west 1/2 of Lower Javelina trail. Complete lower Javelina loop and return to vehicles via Wild Burro trail. Max Haegele, [43avocet@gmail.com](mailto:43avocet@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026, Golf Course Walk [D/3 miles/100'/5:00 pm]** It's Tuesday Night Footfall time! Meet by the putting green behind the pro shop. I'm looking for those who'd like to walk a three-mile section of the golf course and enjoy the sunset Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026, Tortolita Scenic Stroll [C/6-7 miles/<400'/\$0/8:00]** Meet at Desert Oasis. Enter the bike trail at Summerstar, then enter State Trust Land onto Honeybee access trail. We'll make a short stop to view the Triangulation marker and then head down to the grove for a short break snack. We'll return up a ridge making a loop back. Ken Percival [knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com](mailto:knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026, Maeveen Behan Desert Sanctuary Trails [D/4mi/150'/\$3/8:30am]** Carpool from behind Welcome Center to hike a loop on various trails in this area, which is in Arthur Pack Regional Park near Mountain View High School and Crooked Tree Golf Course. Do NOT need a park pass. Optional lunch after at The Persian Room (<https://www.persianroom.com/lunch-menu/>). Check menu and let me know if you plan to eat when you sign up so I have an accurate count for the restaurant. Georgene Porter, [gvporter@live.com](mailto:gvporter@live.com)

**Thursday, January 15, 2026, Honey Bee Petroglyphs [D/4mi/223'/0\$/8AM]** Meet at the Mountain View Plaza parking lot and walk to Honey Bee Park. Take the North trail along Sausalito Wash to the Petroglyphs and then hike on to the second dam. Return same trail. Al Schmidt [scovhikeral@gmail.com](mailto:scovhikeral@gmail.com)

**Thursday, January 15, 2026, Bridal Wreath Falls Via Douglas Spring Trail [C/8mi/1200ft/\$5/8am]** Park at end of Speedway, take Douglas Spring Trail to Bridal Wreath Falls have a snack and return same route. Limit 10 Dennis Potter [potterdennis49@gmail.com](mailto:potterdennis49@gmail.com)

**CANCELLED AND COMBINED WITH JO EATON'S 1/30 HIKE. Same hike.** ~~Thursday, January 15, 2026, Linda Vista Saddle Loop [B/7 mi/2500'/\$3/8am]~~ Meet behind the Welcome Center. Drive to the Finger Rock Trailhead. Hike the Finger Rock Trail to Linda Vista Saddle. Hike down the Pontatoc Trail Extension (a recently added trail) to the Pontatoc Trail and follow that back to the trailhead. Larry Best, [lbestrun@gmail.com](mailto:lbestrun@gmail.com)

**Friday, January 16, 2026, Sahuarita Dams Rail X Rd [C/8mi/400'/\$3/7:30am]** Meet behind Welcome Center to carpool. This hike is out in the north Tortolita flats area. Will hike on dirt roads, trails and washes. Visit Sahuarita Dams. Hike is on State Trust Land. Sigrid and Dave Flatness, [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com)

**Saturday, January 17, 2026, Joe's Canyon Trail [B/7mi/1700'/\$15/7:30am]** In the southern end of the Huachuca Mountains the trailhead begins at the Coronado National Memorial Ranger Station near Coronado Peak. The trail offers spectacular views of the San Pedro Valley and Huachuca Mountains. At the ridgeline there are views deep into Mexico and the Sierra Madre mountains, the TH (mile 0) of the Arizona Trail, and where the unfinished "Wall" meets barbed wire boundary near monument 102. This is my favorite of the trails I hiked this year. National Park pass or equivalent required. We'll have lunch on the ridgeline. Doug Higgins [dahiggins@comcast.net](mailto:dahiggins@comcast.net)

**Saturday, January 17, 2026, Big Wash South Loop [D/4mi/150'/\$0/8am]** Meet at the new Big Wash Trailhead just South of Del Webb Blvd. on Rancho Vistoso Blvd. (enter Vistoso Canyon Estates and enter the dirt parking lot on the left to the trailhead). Follow Big Wash and bicycle trails to ruins of old homestead and view construction of new subdivision. Byron Wolffing, [wolffing5@gmail.com](mailto:wolffing5@gmail.com)

**Monday, January 19, 2026, Tortollita's Benchmark [C+/4mi/1,100'/\$3/8:00 am].** Meet behind the Welcome Center. Carpool to Crow Windmill on Rail X road. Short hike with high rewards. We will follow trails to the base. Then a steep scramble off trail to the peak at 4,652'. Must be OK with bushwhacking. Great views of SCOV and the surrounding area. Tom Meyer, [tmeyer80@msn.com](mailto:tmeyer80@msn.com)

**Monday, January 19, 2026, Morning Golf Course Walk [D/2 miles/50'/6:30 am]** Meet by the putting green behind the pro shop. I'm looking for those who'd like to walk a two mile section of the golf course and enjoy the sunrise over the Catalinas. Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**Monday, January 19, 2026, Arizona Trail Passage 14 (C/8mi/1300'/\$5/8am)** Park off Tiger Mine Road north of Oracle. Drive 1 mile to parking. Hike the first part of this passage. The trail has many ups and downs but none extremely steep. Wonderful views throughout. Meet at the welcome center at 8am. Phil Weinberg, [phweinb@gmail.com](mailto:phweinb@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026, Golf Course Walk [D/3 miles/100'/5:30 pm] It's Tuesday Night Football time!** Meet by the putting green behind the pro shop. I'm looking for those who'd like to walk a three-mile section of the golf course and enjoy the sunset Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**NEW HIKE. Wednesday January 21 Hike in the Park [D/4miles/350'/\$4/8:30am].** Meet at Catalina State Park at the main trailhead or Welcome center to arrange a ride. We'll take Canyon Loop to a side trail to bypass water (if not passable) and head up toward Canyon Loop around to the Birding Trail. Poles will be helpful for water crossings, and rocks. Ken Percival [knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com](mailto:knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026, Petroglyph/Sausalito Creek [B/10 mi/450'/\$0/8am]** Meet at Desert Oasis. Walk to Chalk Creek to enter State Trust Land and hike bike trails to petroglyphs. Continue on to the windmill on Sausalito Creek and hike down the creek and return to Desert View. This is on State Trust Land. Larry Best, [lbestrun@gmail.com](mailto:lbestrun@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026, Wildflower Ridge Sweetwater Preserve [D+/4mi/400'/\$4/8:00am]** This is NOT the WW Treatment Plant! Carpool from behind Welcome Center to hike this Pima County Park through saguaros/desert landscape with occasional suburban views. Hike Roller Coaster up to Wildflower Ridge, Spine, down Ocotillo Hill to Homestead, Lost Arrow, and Saguaro Vista trails back to cars. Do NOT need a park pass. Don't expect wildflowers in January. Georgene Porter, [gvporter@live.com](mailto:gvporter@live.com)

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026, Wasson Peak Saguaro National Park West [B/9miles/2000'/\$4/7:30am]** Meet at the Welcome Center at 7:30am to carpool to the trailhead at El Camino Del Cerro. We will take the Sweetwater trail to the junction of King Canyon trails & then on up to the peak. The trail can be challenging as it gradually ascends all the way to the peak. We will take our time to appreciate the many stunning views. Limit 8 hikers. Dana Laudenbach, [dlaudenbach1@gmail.com](mailto:dlaudenbach1@gmail.com)

**Thursday, January 22, 2026, Orientation Hike [D/3mi/350'/\*\$/8AM]** Reservation required. This is a prerequisite hike for joining the SCOV Hiking Club. Orientation hikes are restricted to returning and prospective members only. This hike meets behind the SCOV Welcome Center in

the parking lot. After a bit of information is shared about our club, we will then drive to Catalina State Park Equestrian Center. We will hike 1-1/2 miles up the 50 Year Trail and return. A State Parks Pass or an entry fee at the gate is required. Bring sufficient water, wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots. If you use walking poles, bring them, as well as a good sun hat. Please contact Cecil Maxfield at [ctreez4me@yahoo.com](mailto:ctreez4me@yahoo.com) or 802.380.7971 or Meg Gerken at [desertdolphin99@gmail.com](mailto:desertdolphin99@gmail.com)

**Thursday, January 22, 2026, Brown Mountain [C/5mi/ 700'/\$6/8:00am]** Meet behind Welcome Center at 8:00 AM to caravan to trailhead. We will park at Juan Santa Cruz picnic area in the Tucson Mountains near Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, loop hike adjacent to the mountain then up rocky trails to follow its ridge-line with stops for snacks/water and great views. Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**Friday, January 23, 2026, Twin Pillars Rail X Rd [C/5mi/400'/\$3/8am]** Meet at Welcome Center to carpool. This hike is out in the north Tortolita Flats area. Park at windmill approx 5miles down Rail X Rd. Hike north on State Trust land to a hill with two stone pillars. On the return we will detour to a large dam. Sigrid and Dave Flatness, [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com)

**HIKE IS FULL. Friday, January 23, 2026, Petroglyphs from Sutherland Wash**

**[D/4mi/400'/\$2/8am]** This is the shortest Hike to the Petroglyphs. Drive out Golder Ranch Rd. Turn Right after Cattle Guard crossing. Higher clearance vehicles needed (SUV or Equivalent) to drive one mile down road to north Catalina State Park gate. The road is a little rough for only 1/4 mile. Hike moderate trail to hundreds of Petroglyphs and some Metates. This hike is on State Trust Land. Max Haegele, [43avocet@gmail.com](mailto:43avocet@gmail.com) or 520-818-9178.

**TIME CHANGE. Saturday, January 24, 2026, Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve**

**[D/3mi/100'/\$0/1:00-3:00 pm]** Please note later start time. Let's take advantage of the warmer, afternoon sun. Short, close-in hike; easy, paved, minimal elevation, three-mile loop trail at Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve. A concrete trail winds through the former Vistoso Golf course. Social pace. Beautiful mountain views and opportunities to view wildlife. Carpool from BEHIND SCOV Welcome Center; Debbie Hansen, 425.931.3334 [djhansolo@comcast.net](mailto:djhansolo@comcast.net)

**Monday, January 26, 2026, Morning Golf Course Walk [D/2 miles/50'/6:30 am]** Meet by the putting green behind the pro shop. I'm looking for those who'd like to walk a two-mile section of the golf course and enjoy the sunrise over the Catalinas. Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)



**NEW HIKE.** Monday, January 26, 2026, Honeybee Canyon Bird Walk [D/4miles/200'/7:30 am] Meet at the Copper Center parking lot. We'll walk down Rancho Vistoso to the back "road" into Honeybee Canyon which is lined with bird feeders so it's great for birders. We'll let the birds set our pace as we make our way through the canyon, taking a short break at the picnic tables before we head back. I'm happy to have both experienced birders and new birders who'd like to know more about our local birds. We'll be both watching for birds and listening for their calls. If you're new to listening for birds I highly recommend you download a free app from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. It's called Merlin. We'll talk about how to use it as we explore. I have a spare pair of binoculars if anyone needs them. Debbie Carr-Taylor, [debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 50 Year Trail Loop [D/4mi/400'/\$4\*/7:45AM]** Meet behind the Welcome Center at 7:45AM to carpool to CSP Equestrian Center. Hike to CDO Trail Head and proceed to the 50 Year Trail and descend back to the parking lot. Al Schmidt [scovhikeral@gmail.com](mailto:scovhikeral@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026, Golf Course Walk [D/3 miles/100'/5:30 pm] It's Tuesday Night Football time!** Meet by the putting green behind the pro shop. I'm looking for those who'd like to walk a three mile section of the golf course and enjoy the sunset Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**HIKE IS FULL.** Wednesday, January 28, 2026, Catalina Regional Park [D/4 miles/250'/\$4/8:00am]. This is an Exploratory hike in the flood plain of the CDO Wash. We'll park at the area of Golder Ranch Rd and hike down a rough trail that is a portion of the 50 Year trail to the Wyman trail. We'll end up at the freshwater pond at the southern end of the CRP. We'll then return up the flood plain and road back to the 50 Year trail to the parking lot. A state trust land permit is required for the parking area. Limit 7 hikers. Ken Percival [Knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com](mailto:Knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com)

**DATE CHANGE.** Thursday, January 29, 2026 ~~Wednesday, January 28, 2026~~, Rock Wren, 5th Avenue, Yetman and Starr Pass Loop [C/5mi/400'/\$4/8:00am] Carpool from behind Welcome Center to Starr Pass Trailhead to hike loop of trails through desert and mountain vistas of this Tucson Mountain Park. Do NOT need a park pass. Georgene Porter, [gvporter@live.com](mailto:gvporter@live.com)

**Thursday, January 29, 2026, Bellota Ranch [B/9mi/1600ft/\$6/7am]** Park at Molino Basin parking lot We climb 500 ft. to a ridge, descend 900ft. to a valley, and stop at a spring that



waters cattle, from there the trail is mostly level past the ranch buildings to a knoll where we have lunch. We return by the same route. Limit 10. Dennis Potter, [potterdennis49@gmail.com](mailto:potterdennis49@gmail.com)

**HIKE MOVED TO 2/5/26. Hike is almost full. Waitlist available. Thursday, January 29, 2026, Isabella Lee Natural Preserve [D/3.5mi/50'/\$5/1:30pm]** ~~An afternoon hike at the confluence of the Agua Caliente and Tanque Verde washes. It's a dry mesquite bosque featuring cottonwoods (one of which is the largest in SE AZ) and Arizona walnuts. Also, this preserve is a renowned birding hotspot for resident and migratory birds. Following our hike we'll stop (for those who wish) at the nearby Sydney's Sweet Shoppe which features pies, cupcakes, and more with ample seating. Doug Higgins [dahiggins@comcast.net](mailto:dahiggins@comcast.net)~~

**NEW HIKE. Friday, January 30, 2026, Golf Course Bird Walk [D/3 miles/100'/6:45 am]** Meet at the Pro Shop. I'm looking for early risers who'd like to explore the birds on the golf course with me! I'm happy to have both experienced birders and new birders who'd like to know more about our resident birds. We'll be watching for birds and listening for their calls. If you're new to listening for birds I highly recommend you download a free app from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. It's called Merlin. We'll talk about how to use it as we explore. We'll start off toward the ponds on hole 10 and keep going from there. We'll let the birds set our pace so our distance may vary. I have a spare pair of binoculars if anyone needs them. Debbie Carr-Taylor, [debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com)

**Friday, January 30, 2026, Middle Gate, Cherry Tank, Cowboy Slickrock and Deer Camp [C+/8mi/800'/\$2/7:30am]** Meet behind Welcome Center. Drive Golder Ranch Rd to corral. Hike the Middlegate/Cherry Tank trail before cutting over to Cowboy slickrock area and return on the 50 year/Deer Camp trail. Sigrid and Dave Flatness [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com)

**Friday, January 30, 2026, Finger Rock to Pontatoc Loop [B+/7.5mi/2500'/\$3/7:30am]** A new connector trail by the USFS in 2024 makes a lovely cardio loop with spectacular views. Park at the end of Alvernon. Hike is clockwise hiking up steep parts on Finger Rock for approximately 3 miles and then connect on the descent via many switchbacks to Pontatoc. We will stop at the Linda Vista saddle for snacks and views. Reviewers on AllTrails state the challenges are steep climbs, narrow paths with a bit of exposure on rocky terrain, and some slippery down sections with recommendation to have poles. When signing up please LMK if you can drive or need a ride. Meet at Welcome Center for a prompt departure at posted time. Jo Eaton [roadrunnerjo7@gmail.com](mailto:roadrunnerjo7@gmail.com)