

December 2025 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 additional charge.**

Two once/year hikes are being offered this month:

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, Mt Wrightson [A/18miles/4000'/\$8/7am]

Friday, December 19, 2025, Buster Mountain [A-/5mi/1981'/\$2*/ 7:00 am]

Note this January once/year hike.

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, Thimble Peak [B/11mi/2300'/\$6/7am] Details at end of this list.

Monday, December 1, 2025, 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 at 7:07. Phil Arms

parms1950@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 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

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, Mt Wrightson [A/18miles/4000'/\$8/7am] Meet at the Welcome Center at 7am to carpool to the trailhead. We will take the super trail to the summit for lunch and return via the same route. This route is a bit longer but less steep. If Mother Nature decides to dump snow before then we will either shorten the hike or do another hike in that area. Limit 8 hikers. Dana Laudenbach dlaudenbach1@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, Cargodera Canyon via Canyon Loop

[C/6mi/700'/\$2*/8:00am] Hike Canyon Loop trail, to the Sutherland Trail, up to the flat rocks in Cargodera Canyon, have a snack break, and return by the same route. Meet in Catalina State Park main trailhead. Ken Percival knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com

Thursday, December 4, 2025, Full Moon Golf Course Walk [D/3 miles/100'/5:00 pm] It's Cold 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 last full moon of the year. And it's a supermoon! Phil Arms parms1950@gmail.com

Thursday, December 4, 2025, Anza Trail Palo Parado/Wisdoms [B/9mi/100'/\$11/8am]
Meet at the Welcome Center. This is a hike along historic Juan Bautista de Anza Trail from the Richard Williams trailhead to Tumacacori and return. We will ramble through this Santa Cruz riparian area where the river flows year-round and trees abound. We cross water via a footbridge along the way. Enjoy lunch (Wisdoms) in Tumacacori at our halfway point. Return to Sun City around 4:00 pm. Doug Higgins dahiggins@comcast.net

NEW HIKE. Thursday, December 4, 2025, Coffee Time Hike [D/4mi/50'/\$0/8:30AM] 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

Friday, December 5, 2025, Baby Jesus/Deer Camp Loop [B/9mi/1100'/\$2/8am] Drive out Golder Ranch Rd to corrals. Hike Baby Jesus trail to cutoff to Deer Camp trail. Take cutoff to Deer Camp and return via Deer Camp trail and fifty year trail. Max Haegele , 43avocet@gmail.com

Saturday, December 6, 2025, Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve [D/3mi/200'/\$0/9:00 am] Short, close-in hike; easy, paved, minimal elevation, three mile loop trail at Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve. If too hot we can go a shorter distance; A concrete trail winds through the former Vistoso Golf course. Beautiful mountain views and opportunities to view wildlife. Carpool from BEHIND SCOV Welcome Center; Debbie Hansen, djhansolo@comcast.net. Phone 425.931.3334

NEW HIKE. Monday, December 8, 2025, Rosewood Point [B+/6 mi/1700'/\$2/7:00 am]
Meet behind the Welcome Center to car pool to Iris O. Dewhirst Trailhead. This is a new hike for the club that will take you to a point where you will have spectacular views looking down on Tucson and Pima Canyon. This area is closed from Jan 1-Apr 30 for Bighorn Sheep lambing season, so this is a once-a-year hike. We will hike 2 miles in (300') on the Pima Canyon trail. From there we will bushwhack .6 mile (strenuous) up a wash and intermittent animal trails (1,200') to a saddle. From the saddle you will look down on the City of Tucson. Next, we

ascend (200') to a flat plateau that takes us to an overlook of Pima Canyon and the South face of the Catalinas. Great place to spot Bighorn Sheep. We will return by the same route.

Tom Meyer, tmeyer80@msn.com

Monday, December 8, 2025, Winter Birding in Madera Canyon [C/6 miles/850' /\$10/ 7:00am] Meet behind the Welcome Center to carpool to one of the canyon's lower parking lots. Madera Canyon is a beautiful place to hike and look for the birds that spend the winter in the canyon! This is designed as a full day outing with two 3-mile hikes and a picnic lunch break in between. We'll let the temperatures and bird activity guide which hikes we do. Typically, it'll be a great time of year for a lower canyon hike, followed by lunch, and then a middle canyon hike. If there's time, we'll rest our feet and enjoy the busy bird feeders at Santa Rita Lodge before heading home in the late afternoon. I have a spare pair of binoculars if anyone needs them. I'm happy to have both beginner and experienced birders join me. Limit 12 hikers. Debbie Carr-Taylor, debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com

Monday, December 8, 2025, Vision Seeker's Gorge [C/7mi/600'/\$3/8am] Park at the Crow windmill 5.2 miles in on Rail-X Ranch Road in the Tortolita Mountain foothills. Hopefully there will be some water in the creek leading to the gorge. We'll stop at the gorge for a snack/lunch. Hike on Arizona State Land Trust property. NOTE: Rail-X (Edwin) Road is partially paved and unimproved for three miles prior to the trailhead. Doug Higgins dahiggins@comcast.net

Monday, December 8, 2025, 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

Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 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

HIKE IS FULL. Waitlist available. Tuesday, December 9, 2025, Orientation Hike [D/3 mi./350'/\$*/8:00am] 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 Jorgy Jorgenson (406-671-2152) or launiebob@gmail.com

CANCELLED. Tuesday, December 9, 2025, Sabino Canyon History Hike [D/4 mi/300'/\$5/9:00 am] Meet at the Visitor Center at Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. Hike several trails and hear about the history of the park. Limit: 15. Jim Williams. jaswilliams128@msn.com

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, Agua Caliente Hill Trail [B/9 mi/2900'/\$6/7:30am] Meet behind the Welcome Center. Drive to the trailhead. Hike the trail – out and back hike. The trail has some steep sections especially at the end. Good views from the top. Larry Best, lbestrun@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, Saguaro Vista, Sun Circle & Blackrock Loop, Tucson Mts [C/5 miles/300'/\$3/7:30am] We will meet at the Welcome Center at 8am to carpool to the Sweetwater Preserve Trailhead. This is a beautiful trail in the Tucson Mt's with numerous saguaro cacti. The trail has some rocky areas but very gentle, rolling hills. Limit 8 hikers. Dana Laudenbach dlaudenbach1@gmail.com

Thursday, December 11, 2025, Gabe Zimmerman to AZT North [C/6mi/630'/\$9/7:30am] Meet at the Welcome Center to carpool to the Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead (16000 E. Marsh Station Road, Vail). Hike Passage 8 of the Arizona Trail North to the Cienega Creek riparian area with flowing water and several train trestles with frequent trains. Continue hiking for 3 miles, then return to the trailhead. Byron Wolffing, wolffing5@gmail.com

HIKE IS FULL. Thursday, December 11, 2025, Upper Romero Pools [B-/7mi/1600'/\$2*/7:30am] Hike Romero Canyon Trail to upper pools and return by same route. Meg Gerken desertdolphin99@gmail.com

Friday, December 12, 2025, Honeybee Canyon Bird Walk [D/4miles/200'/8:00 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

Monday, December 15, 2025, Tortolita Preserve West Loop [C/7mi/340'/\$2/7:30am] Meet at the Welcome Center for carpooling, then proceed to the new parking lot at Tortolita Preserve. Hike the longer loop of the preserve trail. Byron Wolffing, wolffing5@gmail.com

Monday, December 15, 2025, 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

Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 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

Tuesday, December 16, 2025, Cardiac Gap via Esperero Trail [B/8mi/2000'/\$4/7am] Hike up tram road .7 miles to Esperero Trail; take it to the saddle overlooking Esperero Canyon and hopefully the falls for lunch, and return. Hike is initially steep, then gets much steeper. If the group has extra energy we might go the additional mile up to Geronimo Meadow. When signing up please LMK if you can drive or need a ride. Thanks! Jo Eaton roadrunnerjo7@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 16, 2025, Pima Canyon [C+/6miles/1200'/\$3/7:30am] We will meet at the Welcome Center at 7:30 am to carpool to the trailhead on Magee Rd. We hike a bit of a rocky trail through some open areas up the canyon to the first dam. Great views of sheer canyon walls. Have a snack at the dam & return the same route. Limit 8 hikers. Dana Laudенbach. Dlaudenbach1@gmail.com

HIKE IS FULL. Wednesday, December 17, 2025, Dead Horse Canyon [C/5 mi/750/\$2*/8am] Meet behind the Welcome Center. Drive to Catalina State Park and park in the lot near the back side of the Alamo Canyon Trail. Hike up the Alamo Canyon Trail for about 1 mile and take the trail on the right across the wash. Follow that trail for about 3/4 mile and take the side trail to the left and follow it to the canyon. Some bushwacking may be required. Larry Best, lbestrun@gmail.com

Friday, December 19, 2025, Cargodera Canyon via Canyon Loop [C/6mi/700'/\$2*/8:00am]
Hike Canyon Loop Trail, then take the Sutherland Trail, lunch on the flat rocks in Cargodera Canyon, and return by the same route. Jorgy Jorgenson launiebob@gmail.com (406-671-2152)

NEW HIKE. Friday, December 19, 2025, Buster Mountain [A-/5mi/1981'/\$2*/ 7:00 am]
Meet behind the Welcome Center to carpool to CSP trailhead. We will take a clockwise route to the top and return the same way. Follow the left loop of Birding Trail to unmarked trail after first wash crossing. The trail is steep leading to the top of a high ridge. From there we will bushwhack the final distance via animal trails to the summit. Celebrate by absorbing the amazing views of upper Alamo Canyon, Pusch Ridge, Oro Valley and beyond; and by signing the register. This is a once-in-a-year hike because the summit is closed Jan 1-Apr 30 for Bighorn Sheep lambing season. Tom Meyer, tmeyer80@msn.com.

Saturday, December 20, 2025, Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve [D/3mi/200'/\$0/9:00 am] Short, close-in hike; easy, paved, minimal elevation, three-mile loop trail at Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve. If it is too hot we can go a shorter distance. A concrete trail winds through the former Vistoso Golf course. Beautiful mountain views and opportunities to view wildlife. Carpool from BEHIND SCOV Welcome Center; Debbie Hansen, djhansolo@comcast.net. Phone 425.931.3334

Monday, December 22, 2025, Tortolita Loop [C/6mi/300'/\$0/8am] Meet at Desert Oasis parking lot, hike bicycle trails in Tortolita flats and foothills, pass a mysterious concrete triangular pillar on return. This hike is on State Trust land. Byron Wolffing, wolffing5@gmail.com

Monday, December 22, 2025, 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

Tuesday, December 23, 2025, 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

Friday, December 26, 2025, Tortolita Flats [B/9mi/300'/\$0/8am] Meet at Desert Oasis parking lot, hike mostly on dirt roads and trails through the flats and foothills of Tortolita Mountains. This hike is on State Trust Land. You do not have to sign up for this hike in advance. Just show

up at the Desert Oasis by 8 AM, get added to the hike sheet and off we go into the local flats. Will be back by 12:30 PM. Max Haegele 43avocet@gmail.com

Monday, December 29, 2025, 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

Tuesday, December 30, 2025, 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

NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK Catalina State Park, Flycatcher Group Area, 11:30 am

Wednesday, December 31, 2025, Canyon Loop Trail [D/2.5mi/250'\$2*/9am] Catalina State Park hike before Club Picnic. At CSP, we'll hike the Canyon Loop Trail. Some steps up and some steps down; Meet behind the Welcome Center at 9am to carpool. Debbie Hansen 425.931.3334 djhansolo@comcast.net

Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 50 Year, CDO Ridge, Powerline, CDO Trail [D/4mi/390'/\$2*/9am] Meet at the Welcome Center at 8:40am to carpool to the CSP Equestrian Center. Take the 50 Year Trail a short distance until it branches off into the CDO Ridge Trail. This trail connects to the Powerline Trail which descends to the CDO wash, then return to the Equestrian Center and the picnic. Byron Wolffing, wolffing5@gmail.com

HIKE IS FULL. Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 50 Year Trail Loop [D/4mi/400'/*/8:45am] Meet at the Equestrian Center Parking Lot in Catalina State Park (or arrange carpools among yourselves) by 8:45am. Hike the 50 Year Trail uphill 2 miles to the CDO Trailhead then follow this rocky, sometimes steep, side trail downhill to where it connects to the 50 Year Trail and follow it back to the parking lot. Georgene Porter, gvporter@live.com

HIKE IS FULL. Waiting list available. Wednesday, December 31, 2025, Hole in the Rock [C/5mi/500'/\$2*/8:30am] Hike from Bridle Trail side of main trailhead at Catalina State Park, taking various (mostly horse) trails to boulder with large hollow. Meg Gerken desertdolphin99@gmail.com

Once/year Hike:

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, Thimble Peak [B/11mi/2300'/\$6/7am] Park at GHRA, hike into Sycamore Canyon, take link trail to upper Bear Canyon trail, follow a trail to base of Thimble Peak, and return. Hike is a series of ups and downs, not one continuous climb. Deb Wehrung, debwehrung@gmail.com