

# December 2023 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.

**Friday, December 1, 2023 Canyon Loop/Birding Trail CSP [D/4mi/250'/\$2/8am]** At CSP, we hike the Birding Trail and then the Canyon Loop Trail. Meet behind Welcome Center at 8am. Sigrid and Dave Flatness [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com).

**Friday, December 1, 2023, Tortolita Preserve East Loop[C-/6mi/300'/\$2/7:30am]** Meet behind the Welcome Center to carpool to the end of the Moore Road segment west of Dove Mountain Blvd. Hike a short 6 mile loop of the established trail, and return. Mike Duellman, [kmduellman@gmail.com](mailto:kmduellman@gmail.com).

**Monday, December 4, 2023 Tortolita Preserve West Loop [C/7mi/340'/\$2/7:30am]** Meet at the Welcome Center for carpooling, then proceed to new parking lot at Tortolita Preserve. Hike the longer loop of the preserve trail. Byron Wolffing, [wolffing5@gmail.com](mailto:wolffing5@gmail.com).

**HIKE IS FULL. December 4, 2023 Monday, Sabino Lake Hike [C-/4mi/370'/\$4/8am]** This will be a clockwise loop. We hike the Esperero Trail, Rattlesnake Trail, and Bluff Trail to Sabino Lake and Sabino Dam. If it's a nice day we will spend a bit of time there snacking and enjoying the water. Return to the cars via the Bear Canyon Trail. This is a "C-" hike rather than a "D" hike due to some rocky terrain. Federal pass or fee required. As usual, we won't hurry. Limit 12 hikers. Bob Eschrich, 520-825-1482. [HikerBobE@aol.com](mailto:HikerBobE@aol.com)

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023 Alamo Canyon Loop [D/4mi/300'/\$2/8am]** Hike on north side trail from Romero Ruins start point to canyon precipice and cross over to south side. Continue on (east 300 yards to flat rock amphitheater area with season stream.) Return via south-side route following trails and washes. Several short but moderately steep/rocky sections on trails through washes/canyons descent. Jorgy Jorgenson, [launiebob@gmail.com](mailto:launiebob@gmail.com).

**TIME CHANGE. Tuesday, December 5, 2023 Buster Mountain [A-/5mi/1981'/\$2/8 7:30 am]** Rated A- due to degree of difficulty. <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/arizona/buster-mountain-via-birding-trail?p=-1&sh=z15job>. From C.S.P., take left loop of Birding Trail past to second bench on left; behind bench, take unmarked trails upward as trail becomes very steep but fairly well cairned. About half way to the top, the trail is a sparse path. Celebrate by absorbing the amazing views of upper Alamo Canyon, Pusch Ridge, Oro Valley and beyond; and by signing the register. Continue counterclockwise down sparse trail which becomes better as you go down. Tom Meyer, [tmeyer80@msn.com](mailto:tmeyer80@msn.com).

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023 Sutherland Trail and Wash [D/4mi/450'/\$2/8am]** Meet at Catalina State Park Trail head at 8 AM. Take Sutherland Trail and then head for Sutherland Wash. Take our snack break/rest. Return the same route. Julie Cherry, [Jewelscherry@gmail.com](mailto:Jewelscherry@gmail.com).

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023 New Member Orientation [D/3mi/300'/\$2/8am]** Reservation required. This is a prerequisite hike for joining the SCOV Hiking Club. Meet behind the SCOV Welcome Center/Library in the parking lot for a short talk about our club. We will then drive to the Equestrian Center at Catalina State Park, hike a short distance up the 50 Year Trail and return. Contact Meg Gerken, 520-638-7204.

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023 Middlegate Loop [C/5mi/500'/\$2/8am]** Meet at Golder Ranch corral, hike 50 year trail to gate, follow trail to lunch overlook and loop back to trailhead. Jack Evert, [jackevert439@gmail.com](mailto:jackevert439@gmail.com).

**Wednesday December 6, 2023 It's Coffee Time Hike [D/4mi/50'/\$0/8am]** The hike will meet in Oro Valley hospital medical buildings parking lot. The hike will follow a paved bicycle path to the coffee shop located in the Encantada apartment complex. Outdoor seating is usually available. The hike is limited to 10. Contact: Judith Maisch [jam4930@yahoo.com](mailto:jam4930@yahoo.com).

**CANCELLED. Wednesday, December 6, 2023 Exploratory All-Around the Nature Trail in CSP [D/4mi/300'/\$2/8am]** Meet at the Equestrian Center. Try to circumnavigate the Nature Trail ridge. Getting lost is a possibility. Limit 8. Mike Duellman, [kmduellman@gmail.com](mailto:kmduellman@gmail.com).

**Thursday, December 7, 2023 Alamo & Dead Horse Canyons [C/7mi/1000'/\$2/8am]** Hike from parking lot near Romero Ruins. Continue on trail to amphitheater in Alamo Canyon. Then continue on the back side of this trail to the Dead Horse Canyon Trail link. Continue on this to unique and scenic overlook. Trail has some areas of steady climbing going to Dead Horse. Phil Weinberg, [phweinb@gmail.com](mailto:phweinb@gmail.com).

**Thursday, December 7, 2023 Lost Coyote/Honeybee Canyon South [D/4mi/200'/\$0/8am]** Meet at Mountain View Plaza parking lot and take a short walk on Rancho Vistoso to the powerline. After hiking on Lost Coyote Trail we'll turn onto the Honeybee Trail and hike to the park, restrooms and dam before returning. There are a couple of short uphill parts in this hike. Sigrid Flatness [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com).

**Friday, December 8, 2023 Dorothy's Wash [D/4mi/300'/\$2/8am]** Meet at the main trailhead in Catalina State Park. Take the Sutherland trail and loop to a spot in Sutherland wash and loop back to the parking area. LIMIT 16. Mike Duellman, [kmduellman@gmail.com](mailto:kmduellman@gmail.com)

**Friday, December 8, 2023 Tortolita Ramble [C/6mi/400'/\$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. Ron Brillhart, [rdrbrill6660@gmail.com](mailto:rdrbrill6660@gmail.com).

**Monday, December 11, 2023 Gabe Zimmerman to AZT North [C/6mi/630'/\$9/7:30am]** Meet at the Welcome Center to carpool to the Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead (16000 Marsh Station Rd., 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 to snack area and then return to trailhead. Byron Wolffing, [wolffing5@gmail.com](mailto:wolffing5@gmail.com).

**RESCHEDULED TO 12/16. Monday, December 11, 2023 50 YR trail area loop [D/4mi/300'/\$2/8am]** Meet at corral at end of Golder Ranch Rd at 8AM. Hike NE along 50 YR trail to Middlegate, thence south along the Sutherland wash to jeep trail and loop return to corral. Jack Evert, [jackevert439@gmail.com](mailto:jackevert439@gmail.com).

**NEW HIKE. Tuesday, December 12 McDougal Ridge [C/5mi/1300'/\$6/7am]** Meet at Welcome Center. Park at Babad Duag Overlook, hike Babad Duag Trail on southern slope of the Santa Catalina Mtns to about 4800', generally paralleling Soldier Canyon. We continue past "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)

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023 Breakfast Walk [D/3 mi/>50'/\$0/8am]** Meet in front of Walmart at the Market Place and walk the loop trail to Denny's for breakfast. Return on same loop trail. Bob & Leslie Esparza (520) 825-8271, [rlsuncity@yahoo.com](mailto:rlsuncity@yahoo.com).

**HIKE IS FULL. Tuesday, December 12, 2023 Suffolk Hills History Hike [C/5mi/200'/\$3/8am]** Walk a historic OV neighborhood and hear about early settlers, the Countess of Suffolk, and suburbia. Start at Trader Joe's parking lot on Oracle Rd. Limit: 15. Jim Williams. [jaswilliams128@msn.com](mailto:jaswilliams128@msn.com).

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023 Trails North from Desert Oasis [C/5mi/300'/\$0/8am]** Meet at Desert Oasis Recreation Center. Access trails via the nearby N Summerstar Blvd trailhead. Hike various trails northwest toward Sausalito Creek. We will have a snack break along the way. Mobile number for day of hike only: 520-235-4987. Bob Eschrich, [HikerBobE@aol.com](mailto:HikerBobE@aol.com).

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023 Tortolita Flats loop [C/7mi/500'/\$0/8am]** Meet at Desert Oasis, enter desert via Summerstar spur, hike westerly to windmill, lunch, and loop return. Jack Evert, [jackevert439@gmail.com](mailto:jackevert439@gmail.com).

**NEW HIKE. Thursday, December 14 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](mailto:dahiggins@comcast.net).

**Thursday, December 14, 2023 Big Wash to Oasis [C-/6mi/300'/\$0/8AM]** Park at Admin building and hike 6 miles in loop via Big Wash / Oasis back to admin building. Max Haegele [43avocet@gmail.com](mailto:43avocet@gmail.com).

**Thursday, December 14, 2023 Hike to the base of Jeffords Peak[D/4mi/246'/\$3/8am]** Park at the Crow windmill 5.2 miles west on Rail-X Ranch Road in Catalina. We will hike North and West on trails to the base of Jeffords Peak which is the highest peak in the Tortolita Mountains. Road is good getting to windmill. Tom Meyer, [tmeyer80@msn.com](mailto:tmeyer80@msn.com).

**Friday, December 15, 2023 Oracle State Park to the Windmill [C/5mi/700'/\$4/7:30am]** Meet behind the Welcome Center, carpool to the ranch house in Oracle State Park. Hike the wildlife trail to the windmill and back. LIMIT 16. Mike Duellman, [kmduellman@gmail.com](mailto:kmduellman@gmail.com).

**ORIGINALLY 12/11. Saturday, December 16, 2023 50 YR trail area loop [D/4mi/300'/\$2/8am]** Meet at corral at end of Golder Ranch Rd at 8AM. Hike NE along 50 YR trail to Middlegate, thence south along the Sutherland wash to jeep trail and loop return to corral. Jack Evert, [jackevert439@gmail.com](mailto:jackevert439@gmail.com)

**Monday, December 18, 2023 Not Picacho Peak [C/5mi/450'/\$8/8am]** Enjoy Picacho Peak from its south side without having to take the Hunter Trail to the summit. We drive to the Sunset Vista Trailhead at the end of Picacho Peak Road in Picacho Peak State Park. Pass or entry fee required. We hike the Sunset Vista Trail to a point at which it begins to climb steeply to the intersection with the Hunter Trail. That's our turn around point. Limit 12 hikers. Bob Eschrich, 520-825-1482, [HikerBobE@aol.com](mailto:HikerBobE@aol.com).

**Monday, December 18, 2023 Gabe Zimmerman to AZT South [C/7mi/500'/\$9/7:30am]** This is a new hike for the Club. 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, for about 3.5 miles to a snack spot, and return. Byron Wolffing, [wolffing5@gmail.com](mailto:wolffing5@gmail.com).

**Monday, December 18, 2023 Fifty-Year Trail South End [D/4mi/400'/\$2/8am]** Hike from Equestrian Center in CSP about 2 miles and return. Bob Jorgy Jorgenson, [launiebob@gmail.com](mailto:launiebob@gmail.com).

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023 Alamo Canyon Loop [D/4mi/334'/\$2/8am]** Start at Romero Ruins trailhead, take Alamo Canyon loop to creek for snack/rest. Return down the backside of canyon to finish loop at Romero Ruins trailhead. Julie Cherry, [Jewelscherry@gmail.com](mailto:Jewelscherry@gmail.com).

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023 Vision Seeker's Gorge [C/6mi/300'/\$3/8am]** We will drive to Crow windmill 5.2 miles in on Rail-X Ranch Road. One mile of hike is off trail. NOTE: Rail-X (Edwin) road west is a gravel road which may have rough spots at times. No low clearance sports cars. Max Haegele, [43avocet@gmail.com](mailto:43avocet@gmail.com).

**CANCELLED. Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Sutherland Trail to X-Stream View**

**[B/10mi/1500'/\$2/8am]** From CSP we hike Sutherland Trail to the rocky power-line road and follow it up Cargondera Canyon. We proceed on the Sutherland past the Baby Jesus Trail connection for one mile; then take a short bushwhack to a picturesque point in Cargondera Canyon where two streams meet and flow over large flat rock formations. We lunch there and return by the same route. See photo on club web site. Ron Brillhart, [rdb Brill6660@gmail.com](mailto:rdb Brill6660@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023 New Member Orientation Hike**

**[D/3mi/300'/\$2/8am]** Reservation required. This is a prerequisite hike for joining the SCOV Hiking Club. This hike meets behind the SCOV Welcome Center/Library in the parking lot. We will introduce ourselves and 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 Parks pass is required or a \$7 entry fee at the gate. Bring sufficient water, wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots; if you use walking poles bring them, as well as a good sun hat. Contact Mike Duellman, 847-951-3934.

**Thursday, December 21, 2023 Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs [C/7mi/500'/\$2/8am]** Park cars at the Corral one-half mile from the end of Golder Ranch Rd. Hike a jeep trail down to some big cottonwood trees. Cross the wash and head south on a trail for 1.5 miles to find some petroglyphs and a lunch spot. This hike is on State Trust Land. Max Haegele [43avocet@gmail.com](mailto:43avocet@gmail.com) or 520-818-9178.

**Friday, December 22, 2023 Big Wash Ramble [D/4mi/200'/\$0/7:30am]** Meet at Catalina Vista and hike the Big Wash for 4 miles at the whim of the guide. Technically a bushwhack on state trust land. Mike Duellman, [kmduellman@gmail.com](mailto:kmduellman@gmail.com).

**Friday, December 22, 2023 Dripping Springs [C/5mi/300'/\$2/8am]** Meet behind Welcome Center. We'll take Canyon Loop Trail counter clockwise to Sutherland Trail and to Dripping Springs. Sigrid and Dave Flatness [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com).

**CANCELLED. Monday, December 25, 2023 Green Rock Summit [C/4mi/700'/\$2/8:30am]**

Celebrate Christmas morning with other little elves! This is a steep bushwhack scramble to the top of Green Rock in Catalina State Park, where we will get a grand view of the area and perhaps sing carols. Limit 8 hikers. Meg Gerken, [meg\\_stuff3@icloud.com](mailto:meg_stuff3@icloud.com).

**NEW HIKE. Monday, December 25, 2023 Sanctuary Cove/Packrat Trail**

**[C-/3mi/475'/\$4/8:30am]** From Welcome Center, we drive a half hour on Christmas morning to the base of Safford Peak in Marana, where we explore the trails around Sanctuary Cove and the edge of Saguaro National Park West. Sanctuary Cove bills itself as a small nonprofit that maintains these grounds as a place of peace. Hike is rated C- for occasional steep, rocky sections; using two poles is recommended. Meg Gerken, [meg\\_stuff3@icloud.com](mailto:meg_stuff3@icloud.com).

**Tuesday, December 26, 2023 Tortolita Flats [B/10mi/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 sign the hike sheet and off we go into the local flats. Will be back by 12:30 PM. Max Haegele [43avocet@gmail.com](mailto:43avocet@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, December 27, 2023 Golden Gate Trail to Yetman Trail [C/4mi/500'/\$6/8am]** Drive 1.7 miles west of Gates Pass to turnout G8 on the south side of the road. (You might, at the Club web site, got to "Maps and Tracks" then "Pima County Lands Info" then "Tucson Mountain Park" to locate turnout G8.) The hike starts here. We hike informal trails 0.7 miles to reach the Golden Gate Trail then continue east to the junction with the Yetman Trail. This is our snack and turn around point. Return via the same route. Leisurely pace. Limit 12 hikers. Bob Eschrich, 520-825-1482, [HikerBobE@aol.com](mailto:HikerBobE@aol.com).

**Wednesday, December 27, 2023 Desperado Loop Sweetwater Preserve [D/4mi/270'/\$4/8am].** This is NOT the wastewater treatment plant. Meet at Welcome Center for carpooling to Sweetwater Preserve Trailhead and hike this Pima County park. Byron Wolffing, [wolffing5@gmail.com](mailto:wolffing5@gmail.com).

**Thursday, December 28, 2023 Seven Mile Loop in Oracle State Park [C/7mi/1100'/\$5/8am]** Carpool to Kannally Ranch House. Hike the Manzanita Trail to the Arizona Trail, take it 1.5 miles, make a side trip to the windmill, and return to Kannally Ranch via Wildlife Corridor Trail. Kurt Schulz, [kurt.james.schulz@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.james.schulz@gmail.com).

**Friday, December 29, 2023 Canyon and Birding Trail [D/4mi/196'/\$2/8am]** Meet at the CSP Trailhead to leave at 8 AM to take the Sutherland/Canyon Loop trail, and the birding trail loop. Julie Cherry, [Jewelscherry@gmail.com](mailto:Jewelscherry@gmail.com).

**Sunday, December 31, 2023 New Year's Eve Party at Flycatcher Group Area at Catalina State Park.** Mark your calendars. Full announcement to follow so you can sign up for morning hikes in the CSP before the party begins at 11:30 AM.

**HIKE IS FULL. NEW HIKE. Sunday, December 31, 2023 Alamo Canyon Loop [D/4mi/330'/\$2/8:45am]** Hike from Romero Ruins parking lot in Catalina State Park through trails and washes, a canyon precipice and flat rock amphitheater area with seasonal stream. Several short but moderately steep/rocky sections. Meet behind Welcome Center at 8:45am or at CSP's Romero Ruins ready to start hiking at 9:00am. Limit 12 hikers. Meg Gerken, [meg\\_stuff3@icloud.com](mailto:meg_stuff3@icloud.com).

**NEW HIKE. Sunday, December 31, 2023 50-Year With Side Trail Loop [D/4mi/400'/\$2/9:00am]** Meet behind Welcome Center at 8:45am to caravan or at Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park at 9:00am (need State Park pass). An easy hike along an old jeep road leaving from the Equestrian Center uphill 2 miles and return on a grassy side trail. Georgene Porter, [gvporter@live.com](mailto:gvporter@live.com)

**NEW HIKE. Sunday, December 31, 2023 Sutherland Trail [C/6mi/700'/\$2/8am]** Meet at CSP main trailhead at end of road. Hike Canyon Loop Trail then take Sutherland Trail to flat rocks and return. Sigrid and Dave Flatness [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com)

**NEW HIKE. Sunday, December 31, 2023 Canada Del Oro Wash Loop [D/4mi/120'/\$2/9am]** Meet at Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park (or arrange carpools among yourselves for \$2). Hike the CDO Wash to Rancho de los Cerros Meeting Center, then return. Byron Wolffing, [wolffing5@gmail.com](mailto:wolffing5@gmail.com).

**NEW HIKE. Sunday, December 31, 2023 Hole in the Rock Loop [D/4mi/350'/\$2/9am]** Meet at the CSP Flycatcher Group Picnic area or arrange carpools among yourselves. Hike from picnic area on horse trails past the Hole in the Rock back to the picnic area. Millie Sparling, [milliesparling79@gmail.com](mailto:milliesparling79@gmail.com).