

## Friday Hikes — Fall-Spring 2025–2026

Date	Destination	Meet	Description
Oct 3	Sunset Trail	<p>Meet by <b>7:45 am</b> at the parking lot at approximately milepost 22.9, on the left side of Catalina Highway, for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b>.</p> <p>Option to meet by 6:45am at the parking lot near the McDonald's on Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway, to carpool/caravan to the trailhead. We leave the parking lot promptly at 7am.</p>	<p>4.0-mile out and back hike along the Sunset Trail, crossing Sabino Creek at Marshall Gulch, then climbing a short distance up the Aspen Trail to a rocky outcrop overlooking the creek below for a nice lunch stop. Elevation gain of 500 feet.</p>
Oct 17	Aspen Draw to Radio Ridge from Ski Valley	<p>Meet at the parking lot in Ski Valley, next to the Iron Door Restaurant at <b>7:45 am</b> for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b>.</p> <p>Option to meet by 6:45am at the parking lot near the McDonald's on Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway, to carpool/caravan to the trailhead. We leave the parking lot promptly at 7am.</p>	<p>3.6-mile hike follows a shady trail up to the top of the ski lift. Lots of switchbacks and an elevation gain of 1100 feet make this a good exercise hike. Nice downhill return!</p>
Oct 31	Pima Canyon Trail	<p>Meet at Pima Canyon Trailhead parking lot at the east end of Magee Rd, approximately 2 miles east of Oracle Road, by <b>7:45 am</b> for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b>.</p>	<p>One of several canyons in the Pusch Ridge Forest with spectacular eastward cliffs. A gradual rocky/sandy ascent, with a slickrock natural dam for a nice break and snack before returning to the trailhead. This is a medium difficulty hike of 6 miles roundtrip, with an elevation gain of approximately 1100 feet.</p>

Date	Destination	Meet	Description
Nov 7	Phoneline/Phoneline Link Loop <b>Note change</b>	Meet at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, by <b>7:45 am</b> for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b> .	Starting from the Visitor Center on a flat trail hike, then an ascending climb onto the canyon wall with spectacular views of Sabino Canyon below, looping down a rugged descent to the Creek Trail and flat trails/paved road back to the Visitor Center. Hiking poles recommended. This is approximately a 4.5-mile loop and 600-foot elevation gain.
Nov 21	Blackett's Ridge	Meet at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, by <b>7:45 am</b> for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b> .	This is an out-and-back trail, leading up to the Sabino Canyon ridge to stunning views of the canyon and Tucson below. It is considered difficult due to steep sections, approximately 1300 feet elevation gain within 1.6 miles and with little shade. Total roundtrip mileage approximately 6 miles and 1700 feet elevation gain.
Dec 5	Tanque Verde Falls Rim Trail	Meet at <b>7:45 am</b> at the lower Tanque Verde Trail parking lot on Reddington Road, possibly at the middle lot if the first one is full. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b> .  Option to meet by 7:15 am at the parking lot near the McDonald's on Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway, to carpool/caravan to the trailhead. We leave the parking lot promptly at 7:30 am. ( <b>Please note later carpooling departure time than usual.</b> )	The Tanque Verde Rim Trail connects the three older trails that lead to the Falls and creek bed. The route has some easier hiking and some steep grades as well. This is a 3.7-mile hike with 660 feet of elevation gain.

Date	Destination	Meet	Description
Dec 19	Sycamore Reservoir Trail/Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site	<p>Meet at <b>7:50 am</b> at the trailhead, approximately 7 miles up Mt. Lemmon Highway to Prison Camp Rd. Turn left (west) into the parking area. Restrooms at the trailhead are closed for the season. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b>.</p> <p>Option to meet by 7:15 am at the parking lot near the McDonald's on Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway, to carpool/caravan to the trailhead. We leave the parking lot promptly at 7:30 am.</p>	<p>The hike will start near the WWII Catalina Federal Honor Camp site and head toward Sycamore Reservoir. The trail is also a segment of the Arizona Trail, providing majestic views, including Thimble Peak and Cathedral Rock. Approximately 5.5-mile roundtrip, with about a 700-foot elevation gain.</p>
Jan 2	Blackett's Ridge	<p>Meet at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, by <b>7:45 am</b> for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b>.</p>	<p>This is an out-and-back trail, leading up to the Sabino Canyon ridge to stunning views of the canyon and Tucson below. It is considered difficult due to steep sections, approximately 1300 feet elevation gain within 1.6 miles and with little shade. Total roundtrip mileage approximately 6 miles and 1700 feet elevation gain.</p>
Jan 16	Seven Falls	<p>Meet at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center by <b>7:45 am</b> for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b>.</p>	<p>Bear Canyon #29 Trail from Visitor Center to trail to Seven Falls in Bear Canyon. Medium difficulty hike, 8.5 miles roundtrip with an elevation gain of approximately 800 feet. Some rock hopping if water is present in the creek.</p>
Feb 6	Phoneline/Phoneline Link Loop	<p>Meet at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, by <b>7:45 am</b> for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b>.</p>	<p>Starting from the Visitor Center on a flat trail hike, then an ascending climb onto the canyon wall with spectacular views of Sabino Canyon below, looping down a rugged descent to the Creek Trail and flat trails/paved road back to the Visitor Center. Hiking poles recommended. This is approximately a 4.5-mile loop and 600-foot elevation gain.</p>

Date	Destination	Meet	Description
Feb 20	Prospect/Esperero Trails	Enter into the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area from the <b>OVERFLOW PARKING LOT</b> , approximately .35 miles north of the main entrance, meeting by <b>7:45 am</b> at the lot for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b> .	Exploring the west side of the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, we will hike northward from the Overflow parking lot and link to the Esperero Trail. We will break for snack at a nice spot in Bird Canyon. We will pass an interesting old mine along the way. Approximately 4 miles and 500 feet elevation.
Mar 6	La Milagrosa/Agua Caliente Trail Loop	<p>Parking is roadside at the gate near Avenida de Suzenu and N Horsehead Rd. Meet at <b>7:45 am</b> for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b>.</p> <p>Option to meet by 7:15 am at the parking lot near the McDonald's on Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway, to carpool/caravan to the trailhead. We leave the parking lot promptly at 7:30 am.</p>	La Milagrosa and Agua Caliente Canyon Trail loop is an amazing tour through a saguaro-filled desert and across two unique canyons. This is a moderately difficult hike, with a 6.1-mile loop and an approximate elevation gain of 1200 feet.
Mar 20	Garnet Trail	<p>Due to limited parking at the trailhead, plan to meet at the parking lot in front of Ace Hardware at the northeast corner of Sunrise and Swan. Please be there so we can depart right at 7:30.</p> <p>If you want to take your chance on the limited parking, meet at the Pontatoc Ridge Trailhead parking lot. Take Skyline to N. Alvernon Way, heading north to its end. Trailhead parking is on the west side of the end of the street. Meet by 7:45 am for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b>.</p> <p>Also, due to the expected heat that day, we recommend a minimum of two liters of water/person.</p>	The Garnet Trail begins at the same point as the Pontatoc Ridge Trail trailhead. At 0.8 miles the Garnet Trail branches south (to the right) and works its way towards the prominent ridge, eventually reaching Pontatoc Saddle. At the saddle you'll be rewarded with excellent views of Tucson lying at the foot of the Catalinas and stretching toward other mountain ranges across the Tucson basin. Approximately 4.5 miles round trip, with some steep sections and an approximate 1,450-foot elevation gain.

Date	Destination	Meet	Description
Apr 3	Pima Canyon Trail	Meet at Pima Canyon Trailhead parking lot at the east end of Magee Road, approximately 2 miles east of Oracle Road, by <b>6:45 am</b> for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>7:00 am</b> . <b>Please note the earlier start time.</b>	One of several canyons in the Pusch Ridge Forest with spectacular eastward cliffs. A gradual rocky/sandy ascent, with a slickrock natural dam for a nice break and snack before returning to the trailhead. This is a medium difficulty hike of 6 miles roundtrip, with an elevation gain of approximately 1100 feet.
Apr 17	Bigelow Trail	Meet at trailhead parking near milepost 19.5 by <b>7:45 am</b> for signup and briefing. The hike begins at <b>8:00 am</b> .  Option to meet by 6:45 am at the parking lot near the McDonald's on Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway, to carpool/caravan to the trailhead. We leave the parking lot promptly at 7:00 am.	2.4-mile hike up to the Bigelow towers. Even though this hike goes to the second highest Mt. Lemmon peak at 8550 feet, we will only have an elevation gain of approximately 600 feet.

#### About the Friday hikes:

- All hikes are free, guided, and open to the public, with no reservations required. (Forest Service fees at parking lots will apply.)
- Start times are not the same for all hikes, due to varying starting locations. All mileages are round trip numbers, unless otherwise noted.
- Hikes are NOT “nature walks”; rough and often steep terrain can be expected.
- Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, hiking poles, sunscreen, and rain gear are recommended.
- Bring plenty of water and a snack or lunch for longer hikes.
- No pets allowed. No smoking. No vaping. No guns. Silence the cell phones. Please!!
- Cell phones for emergency only.
- Please remember many of these hikes are in National Parks or National Recreation Areas. Do not remove any plants, rocks, or artifacts.
- Children under 18 years must be accompanied by a parent.
- Subject to last minute cancellation due to inclement weather or road closure. Call Catalina Highway closure information at 520-351-8844 or check the website calendar at <https://www.sabinonaturalists.org> on the morning of the hike for closures.
- If you have questions, contact Beatriz at [fridayhikes@sabinonaturalists.org](mailto:fridayhikes@sabinonaturalists.org).

**Parking fees:**

- United States Forest Service pass is \$8/day, \$10/week, \$40 annual. Also accepted: Interagency Senior Pass, Interagency Access Pass; Interagency Annual Pass \$80/year
- (Veterans and active-duty military may be free or discounted. Check with locations)

**Please watch the SCVN website (<http://www.sabinonaturalists.org>) for a schedule of summer 2026 hikes**