

Friday Hikes - Winter/Spring 2025

Date	Destination	Meet	Description
Jan 3	Modified Esperero Trail	Meet at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center by 7:45 for signup and briefing so we can start by 8:00.	Hike from the Visitor Center to the overflow parking lot trail, then taking the ridge option to the Esperero Trail back to the VC. Medium difficulty hike, about 2.5 hours.
Jan 17	Phoneline Trail	Meet at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center by 7:45 for signup and briefing so we can start by 8:00.	<p>This is considered a medium difficulty hike, 5.4 miles one way, with approximately a 900-foot elevation gain. The hike ends at shuttle stop #9, followed by a 3.7 mile walk within the Canyon back to the Visitor Center for approximately 9 miles total.</p> <p>Option to take the Sabino Crawler from shuttle stop #9 to the Visitor Center. Buy your ticket ahead for \$15 at https://sabinocanyoncrawler.com/ or pay \$8 one-way by credit card to “onboard” from shuttle stop #9.</p> <p>Restrooms at Visitor Center and near 1.5 and 6.5 miles. Magnificent views of the Canyon from above and within.</p>
Feb 7	Phoneline/Phoneline Link Loop	Meet at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center by 8:15 for signup and briefing so we can start by 8:30.	<p>Starting with 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 paved road back to the Visitor Center. Hiking poles recommended.</p> <p>This is a 4.5-mile loop, with an approximately 600-foot elevation gain.</p>

Date	Destination	Meet	Description
Feb 21	Sycamore Reservoir Trail	<p>Meet at the Gordon Hirabayashi (Prison Camp) trailhead, milepost 7 off the Catalina Highway. The entrance is on the left. Drive to the far end of the campground and park by the corral. There is a restroom at the campground.</p> <p>Please plan to meet at the trailhead at 8:45 for signup and briefing to start hiking at 9:00.</p> <p>Option to meet by 7:50am at the parking lot near the McDonald's on Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway, to carpool/caravan to the trailhead.</p>	We will hike a small lollipop of the Sycamore Reservoir Trail to the Sycamore Reservoir link, to Bear Canyon Trail, and back via Sycamore Reservoir Trail. 7 miles total with a 1500-foot elevation gain.
Mar 7	Blackett's Ridge	Meet at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center by 7:45am for signup and briefing.	We will take the Phoneline Trail to the Blackett's Ridge Trail. This is a 6.2-mile round trip difficult hike with an elevation gain of 1700 feet. Steep sections with beautiful views. Allow at least 3.5 to 4 hours.
Mar 21	Pima Canyon Trail to the dam	Meet at Pima Canyon Trailhead parking lot at the end of E. Magee Road, approximately 2 miles east of Oracle Road, by 7:45 for signup and briefing so we can start by 8:00.	<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.</p> <p>This is a medium difficulty hike of 6 miles round trip, with an elevation gain of approximately 1100 feet.</p>

Date	Destination	Meet	Description
Apr 4	Tanque Verde Falls Rim Trail	Meet by 6:50 a.m. 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 a.m. Option to meet at the lower Tanque Verde Trail parking lot on Reddington Road, possibly at the middle lot if the first one is full. We will start the hike at 7:30.	The Tanque Verde Rim Trail connects the three older trails that lead to the Falls and creek bed. There is some easier hiking and some steep grades as well. This is a 3.7-mile hike with 660 feet of elevation gain.
Apr 18	Incinerator Ridge Trail from Bigelow Trailhead (MP 19.8)	Meet at 6:50 a.m. 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 a.m.	This is a 3.9-mile hike with an 800-foot elevation gain to Leopold Point, a rocky outcrop overlooking the San Pedro Valley. The hike is steep in a few spots and includes a very mild rock scramble near the vista point. Views are worth it!

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.

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>) in late summer for a schedule of next fall's hikes