

Mt. Lemmon Nature Hikes - Fall 2023

Note: All hikes start at 9:00 a.m. at the indicated trailhead for each hike; hikers who do not wish to drive to the trailhead may meet no later than 7:50 a.m. at Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway, in the parking lot a few rows out from McDonald's, for caravanning to the trailhead. We leave the parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m.

Date	Destination	Description
November 1	Lemmon Meadow Loop. Meet at the lot near the observatory at the top of Ski Hill Run Road (turn right on Ski Hill Road at ~milepost 24). Bathrooms available.	2-mile loop with about a 300-foot elevation change. Easy hike.
November 15	Marshall Gulch and Lower Aspen Loop. Meet at the Marshall Gulch Trailhead parking, milepost 26. Bathroom at trailhead.	4-mile loop, with about a 750-foot elevation change. Moderate hike.
November 29	Green Mountain Trail. Meet at Chiricahua Pine Picnic Area (Milepost 10.5). Bathroom at trailhead. We will hike the Green Mountain Trail up towards the Bear Saddle to a nice turn-around spot. On the way back, we will detour through the Hitchcock campground, under the highway, and end at the Chiricahua Picnic Area.	2-mile lollipop route, with about a 350-foot elevation change. Moderate.
December 6	Rose Canyon Lake. Meet at parking area outside gate to Rose Canyon Lake (Milepost 17). There is no bathroom.	We will walk 3.5 miles out and back, with about a 300-foot elevation change. We will walk the campground (closed for the season) to the lake and back, exploring around the lake. Easy/moderate hike.
December 20	Palisades Trail. Meet at the Palisades Visitor Center (Milepost 19). A bathroom is across the street at the Bigelow trailhead.	We will walk Organization Ridge Road to the Palisades Trail, do 1 mile on the trail, then return to the start. The hike is 3 miles out and back, with about 500 feet of elevation change. The trail is narrow, rocky, and overgrown in spots. Easy/moderate.

About the fall hikes:

- Join Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists as we explore different trails on Mt. Lemmon. Exercise both bodies and brains in one (or more) of the eight biomes as we discover the flora and fauna and learn the history that makes the Santa Catalina Mountains so special.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are nature discovery hikes, not “destination” hikes. The pace will be fairly slow, but good fitness is required for hiking at higher elevations. Please read the hike descriptions and know your limits.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hikes are free and guided, with no reservations required. Forest Service parking fees apply at trailheads (\$8 day pass or an appropriate Interagency Pass).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring plenty of water and a snack or lunch for longer hikes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear hiking boots or supportive shoes, and dress in layers for the unpredictable mountain weather. Bring binoculars if you have them. Hiking poles may be helpful.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No pets allowed. No smoking. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We plan to be finished by 1 p.m., but actual return times will vary. Allow 1 hour driving time to reach some trailheads.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell phones for emergency only.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to last minute cancellation due to inclement weather or road closure. Check the website on the morning of the hike for closures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Cathy at lemmonhikes@sabinonaturalists.org with questions.

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