

Mt. Lemmon Nature Hikes - Winter/Spring2024

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 8:00 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 8:30 a.m.

Date	Destination	Description
January 3	Gordon Hirabayashi (Prison Camp). Meet at Gordon Hirabayashi Prison Camp (MP 7) at 9:00am. There is a bathroom at the trailhead.	2.5 miles out and back, with about a 200-foot elevation change. Easy. We will hike through the campground to a rocky overlook on Soldier Trail, then to an overlook on an unnamed trail (maybe a small waterfall). Historic prison camp area.
January 17	Lower Bug Springs. Meet at Lower Bug Springs Trailhead parking (MP7.7) at 9:00am. No bathroom at trailhead, but there is one at the nearby Gordon Hirabayashi trailhead.	We will hike 3 miles out and back, with about a 700-foot elevation change. We will hike from the trailhead to a turnaround spot. Moderate.
January 31	Molino Basin. Meet at Molino Basin (MP 5.6) at 9:00am. Bathroom at trailhead.	We will hike 2 miles out and back, with about a 100-foot elevation change. Easy. We will hike the unnamed trail across the highway and follow Molino Creek. Expect creek crossings. We can also explore the campground area for other interesting finds if we want.
February 7	Gordon Hirabayashi to Shreve Saddle. Meet at the farthest parking lot at Gordon Hirabayashi (Prison Camp), MP 7, at 9:00am. Bathroom at trailhead.	2.2 miles out and back, and about 300 feet of elevation change. We will hike from the campground, up to the Shreve Saddle, then return (maybe back through the wash). Moderate.
February 21	Molino Basin towards Prison Camp. Meet at Molino Basin (MP 5.6) at 9:00am. Bathroom at trailhead.	4 miles out and back, with about 600 feet of elevation change. We will hike through the campground to the trail then as far as Gordon Hirabayashi trailhead and back. Moderate.
March 6	Rose Canyon Lake to Munchkinland Trail. Meet at the parking lot just past the entrance to Rose Canyon Lake (MP 17) at 9:00am. No bathroom at parking; possible open bathroom in campground.	4 miles out and back, with about 400 feet of elevation change. We will walk through the campground (closed for the season) to the lake, then go to the Munchkinland Overlook. Moderate. Mostly paved campground road, with Munchkinland being a rocky and poorly defined trail.
March 20	Mount Bigelow Trail. Meet at the Bigelow Trailhead (MP 19) at 9:00am. There is a bathroom at the trailhead.	3 miles total, with about an 800-foot elevation change. Moderate. Starting at the Bigelow Trailhead, we will hike to Incinerator Ridge, then to Mt. Bigelow before returning to the cars.

Date	Destination	Description
April 17	Sunset Trail to Marshall Gulch. Meet at the Sunset Trailhead (MP 22.6) at 9:00am. No bathroom.	2.5 miles, with about 400 feet of elevation change. Moderate. We will end our Mt. Lemmon Nature Hike season with a hike on the Sunset Trail to Marshall Gulch, with a quick side trip to the old Soldier Lake. Weather permitting, we can have a picnic lunch at Marshall Gulch before hiking back to the cars.

About the winter/spring hikes:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 8:00 a.m. at Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway, in the parking lot a few rows out from McDonald's, for caravanning to the trailhead. Please leave the parking lot promptly at 8:30 a.m. to arrive at the starting trailhead on time. |
| <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. |