

Mt. Lemmon Nature Hikes - Winter/Spring 2023

Note:

All hikes meet the hike leaders 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 carpooling or caravanning to the trailhead. This is a peer-organized carpool, not a naturalist-organized carpool. Please leave the parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m. to arrive at the trailhead on time. Contact Cathy at cathyungbluth@gmail.com with any questions.

Date	Destination	Description
Jan 4	Meet at Gordon Hirabayashi (Prison Camp), milepost 7. Bathroom at trailhead.	Easy hike of 2.5 miles out and back, with about 200 feet of elevation change. We will hike through the campground to a rocky overlook on the Soldier Trail, then to a watery overlook on an unnamed trail (maybe a small waterfall). We will then explore the wash on the way back to the cars. Historic prison camp area.
Jan 18	Molino Basin to Bellota Trail. Meet at Molino Basin, milepost 5.6. Bathroom at trailhead.	Moderate hike, 2.5 miles up and back, with about an 800-foot elevation change. We will hike up the Bellota Trail, then maybe hit a short side trail on the way back. We can also explore the campground area for other interesting finds if we want.
Feb 1	Meet at Gordon Hirabayashi (Prison Camp), milepost 7. Bathroom at trailhead.	Easy hike of 2.5 miles out and back, with about 200 feet of elevation change. We will hike through the campground to a rocky overlook on the Soldier Trail, then to a watery overlook on an unnamed trail (maybe a small waterfall). We will then explore the wash on the way back to the cars. Historic prison camp area.
Feb 15	Rose Canyon Lake. Meet at the parking lot just past the entrance to Rose Canyon Lake, milepost 17. There is no bathroom at the parking lot; there may be an open bathroom in the campground.	Easy/moderate hike, 3.5 miles out and back, with about 300 feet of elevation change. We will hike through the campground (closed for the season) to the lake and back, exploring around the lake.
Mar 1	Organizational Ridge Road to the Palisades Trail. Meet at Palisades Visitor Center, milepost 19.6. Bathroom available across the street at the Bigelow trailhead.	3.0-mile hike. We will walk along Organization Ridge Road to the Palisades Trail, do 1 mile on the trail, then return to the start. About 500 feet of elevation change. The trail is narrow, rocky, and overgrown in spots. Easy/moderate.
Mar 15	Incinerator Ridge. Meet at the Mount Bigelow trailhead, milepost 19. Bathroom at the trailhead.	3-mile hike out and back, 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.
Mar 29	Box Camp trail. Meet at Box Camp trailhead, milepost 21.5.	Easy/moderate hike of 2.7 miles out and back, with about 500 feet of elevation change. We will hike the Box Camp Trail to a nice turn-around spot.

Apr 5	Green Mountain Trail toward Bear Saddle. Meet at Chiricahua Pine Picnic Area, milepost 10.5. Bathroom available.	2-mile roundtrip hike with about 350-foot elevation change. Moderate. We will hike the Green Mountain Trail toward the Bear Saddle to a nice turn-around spot. On the way back, we will detour through the Hitchcock campground, go under the highway, and end at the Chiricahua Picnic Area.
Apr 19	Sunset Trail to Marshall Gulch. Meet at the Sunset trailhead, milepost 22.6. No bathroom available.	Moderate 2.5-mile hike with about 400 feet of elevation change. 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. If some want to hike one way, a participant-initiated car shuttle can be arranged in advance.

About the winter/spring 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.
- All hikes meet the hike leaders 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 carpooling or caravanning to the trailhead. This is a peer-organized carpool, not a naturalist-organized carpool. Please leave the parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m. to arrive at the trailhead on time. Contact Cathy at cathyjungbluth@gmail.com with any questions.
- 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.
- Hikes are free and guided, with no reservations required. Forest Service parking fees apply at trailheads (\$8 day pass or an appropriate Interagency Pass).
- Bring plenty of water and a snack or lunch for longer hikes.
- 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.
- No pets allowed. No smoking. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- We plan to be finished by 1 p.m., but actual return times will vary. Allow 1 hour driving time to reach some trailheads.
- Cell phones for emergency only.
- Subject to last minute cancellation due to inclement weather or road closure. For the status of a hike, call Catalina Highway closure information at 520-547-7510 or email Cathy at cathyjungbluth@gmail.com.