

Mt. Lemmon Hikes - Summer 2026

Note: All hikes start at **8:00 a.m.** at the indicated trailhead for each hike (**please note time change from previous years**). Hikers who do not wish to drive to the trailhead may meet no later than 6:50 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 7:00 a.m.

Date	Destination	Description
June 5	Aspen Loop from Marshall Gulch Trailhead, milepost 25.5	4.4-mile hike starts up the Marshall Gulch Trail, then around the Aspen Trail. Lots of shade and flowers along the way. Elevation gain of 900 feet.
June 12	Sunset Trail to Inspiration Rock from Marshall Gulch, milepost 25.5	5.2 miles out and back on trail and dirt road that heads uphill to a picnic area where we'll stop for lunch. Elevation gain of about 450 feet.
June 19	Upper Sabino Creek Overlook from Sunset Trailhead, milepost 22.9	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 about 500 feet.
June 26	Aspen Loop (in reverse) from Marshall Gulch Trailhead, milepost 25.5	4.4-mile hike along the popular Aspen Loop heading up the Aspen Trail first, then a nice downhill return on the Marshall Gulch Trail with flowers and shade along the way. Maybe even water flowing! Elevation gain of approximately 900 feet.
July 3	Bigelow Trail to Scenic Rock from Bigelow Trailhead, milepost 19.5	3.4-mile hike up to the Bigelow towers and beyond to an interesting rock overlook. 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.
July 10	Old Ski Run from Sunset Trailhead, milepost 22.9	3.0-mile hike through beautiful old growth trees, then up a steep climb to the top of the original Mt. Lemmon ski run (optional). We'll stop at the bottom to learn a bit of 1940s history about the ski run. Elevation gain minimal or 800 feet if going to the top.
July 17	Turkey Run, Aspen Draw from Summerhaven, milepost 24.7	5.2-mile hike starting on the paved Turkey Run Road past cabins, then up the Aspen Draw Trail to the top of the ski lift. Elevation gain of 1100 feet makes this great exercise, along with the beauty of nature.
July 24	Fire Lookout and Meadow from Ski Valley; turn right at milepost 24.6	6.4-mile hike up the Aspen Draw Trail to the top of the ski lift, then on to the Mt. Lemmon fire lookout and a beautiful alpine meadow. Elevation gain of about 1200 feet makes this quite a workout, but it's well worth it.
July 31	Mint Spring Trail from Carter Canyon Road; turn right at milepost 25.2	3.4-mile hike to Marshall Saddle. This trail was heavily burned in the 2003 Aspen Fire but has come back with new Aspen trees and great views. We'll try to locate the spring just off the trail. Elevation gain of 850 feet, then downhill on the return.

Date	Destination	Description
Aug 7	Palisades Trail from Bigelow Trailhead, milepost 19.5	3.5-mile hike will be a nice ramble along Organization Ridge Road to the Palisades Trail, then along the trail with a possible steep detour to a beautiful spot along a creek. We might be allowed to explore the Whispering Pines Girl Scout Camp on the return trip. Elevation gain of approximately 500 feet.
Aug 14	Incinerator Ridge Trail from Bigelow Trailhead, milepost 19.5	3.9-mile hike up the Bigelow Trail and then over the unsigned Kellog Trail to the Incinerator Trail, where we'll stop for a bit of history. We'll continue to a good spot to stop for a snack. Steep in a few spots. Elevation gain is about 800 feet.
Aug 21	Aspen Draw to Radio Ridge from Ski Valley; turn right at milepost 24.6	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 on the return!
Aug 28	Fire Lookout and Meadow from Summit Trailhead; turn right at milepost 24.6, then 1 mile past Ski Valley parking lot	3.0-mile loop hike through the lovely alpine meadow at Mt. Lemmon's summit, then on to the historic Fire Lookout House, where we'll stop for lunch before heading back up a jeep road. Approximately 500-foot elevation gain.

About the summer hikes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All hikes start at 8:00 a.m. at the indicated trailhead for each hike; hikers who do not wish to drive to the trailhead may meet no later than 6:50 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 7:00 a.m. Please note time change from previous years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hikes are not "nature walks"; rough and often steep terrain can be expected.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher elevation demands that participants be in good physical condition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hikes are free and guided, with no reservations required. (Forest Service fees at parking lots will apply: \$8 day pass per car or an appropriate Interagency Pass.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring plenty of water and a snack or lunch for longer hikes. We will stop for a short lunch break.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, hiking poles, and rain gear are recommended.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No pets allowed. No smoking.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate for older children with hiking experience who are accompanied by a parent.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No guaranteed return time. 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"> Bad weather may change or cancel the hike. Check the website calendar on the morning of the hike for cancellations. All event status updates or cancellations will be posted by 7 a.m. the day of the event.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For questions, call or text 520-488-8007.

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