

Sabino Canyon Visitor Center (520)749-8700

Location: 5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road, Tucson AZ, 85750
Visitor Center Hours: Seven days a week, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas). Please stop at the visitor center for a schedule of activities, exhibits, materials, and brochures about the area.

Public Lands Interpretive Association (PLIA) Bookstore is located in the visitor center. PLIA is a not-for-profit educational organization which interprets the cultural and natural history of Sabino Canyon. Purchases made in the bookstore support educational programs and presentations. For more information or to purchase items from the PLIA Bookstore call (520) 749-7711 or visit publiclands.org.

For volunteer opportunities, contact:

- Coronado National Forest: fs.usda.gov/coronado
- Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists: sabinonaturalists.org
- Santa Catalina Volunteer Patrol: sevoluteerpatrol.com

For charitable donations and contributions, contact:

- Friends of Sabino Canyon: sabinocanyon.org

Sabino Canyon Shuttle Service

Sabino Canyon Crawler operates 360 days a year (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and 3 days for maintenance) with electric shuttle service to Sabino Canyon. A narrated, one-hour (7.4-mile roundtrip) tour to the upper end of Sabino Canyon describes the geologic and cultural history of the canyon. Free earbuds are provided. Departures are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., check for times. During periods of high water, an alternative tour is provided.

Shuttle service to Bear Canyon provides access (1.9 miles one way) to the Seven Falls Trailhead and Lower Sabino Canyon. Bear Canyon service is not narrated. Departures are every half hour from 9:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Shuttle fares are not included in the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area use fees.

Tickets may be ordered online in advance of your visit, or they may be purchased onsite using credit or debit cards at the shuttle Ticket Booth kiosk. Cash payments (exact fare) are accepted by the shuttle concierge. For fare details, please visit SabinoCanyonCrawler.com.

Photo credits: Fred Fisher, cover; David McCray, inside.

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Welcome . . . Sabino Canyon Recreation Area

Sabino Canyon Recreation Area's soaring mountain peaks and deep canyons draw over a million visitors a year to the Sonoran Desert and Santa Catalina Mountains. It is one of the most popular recreation sites in southern Arizona for hiking, jogging, wildlife viewing, photography, and picnicking.

Respect the Wilderness

Coronado National Forest lands adjoining the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area are part of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness.

- Follow "Leave No Trace" ethics, including "Pack It In, Pack It Out."
- Motorized and mechanized equipment are not permitted in the wilderness.
- Dogs are not allowed in all areas of the Wilderness. For more information please see the Bighorn Sheep Closure Area.

Recreation Area Restrictions

A Special Closure Order has been implemented within the recreation area prohibiting the activities listed below. Preserve and protect Sabino Canyon.

- Do not disturb or remove natural, prehistoric, and historic features
- No pets
- No overnight camping
- No alcoholic beverages
- No motorized vehicles, including e-machines
- No glass containers
- No nudity

The Sabino Canyon Recreation Area includes Sabino Canyon and Bear Canyon. Please refer to the map for boundary locations.

Bicycling Restrictions

Bicycling is permitted before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. Cycling is not permitted on Wednesdays or Saturdays. Speed limit is 15 miles per hour. Cyclists must yield to pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Recreation Passes

A day-use fee is collected in Sabino Canyon. Pass and fee information can be found at fs.usda.gov/coronado. Additional fees are charged at developed campsites and concession campgrounds. Cactus Picnic Area may be reserved at recreation.gov.

Purchasing a pass supports conservation of our nation's public lands, wildlife, waterways, and historical sites. Pass purchases also provide funding to develop and improve visitor services and recreational activities. Thank you for your investment in the Coronado National Forest.

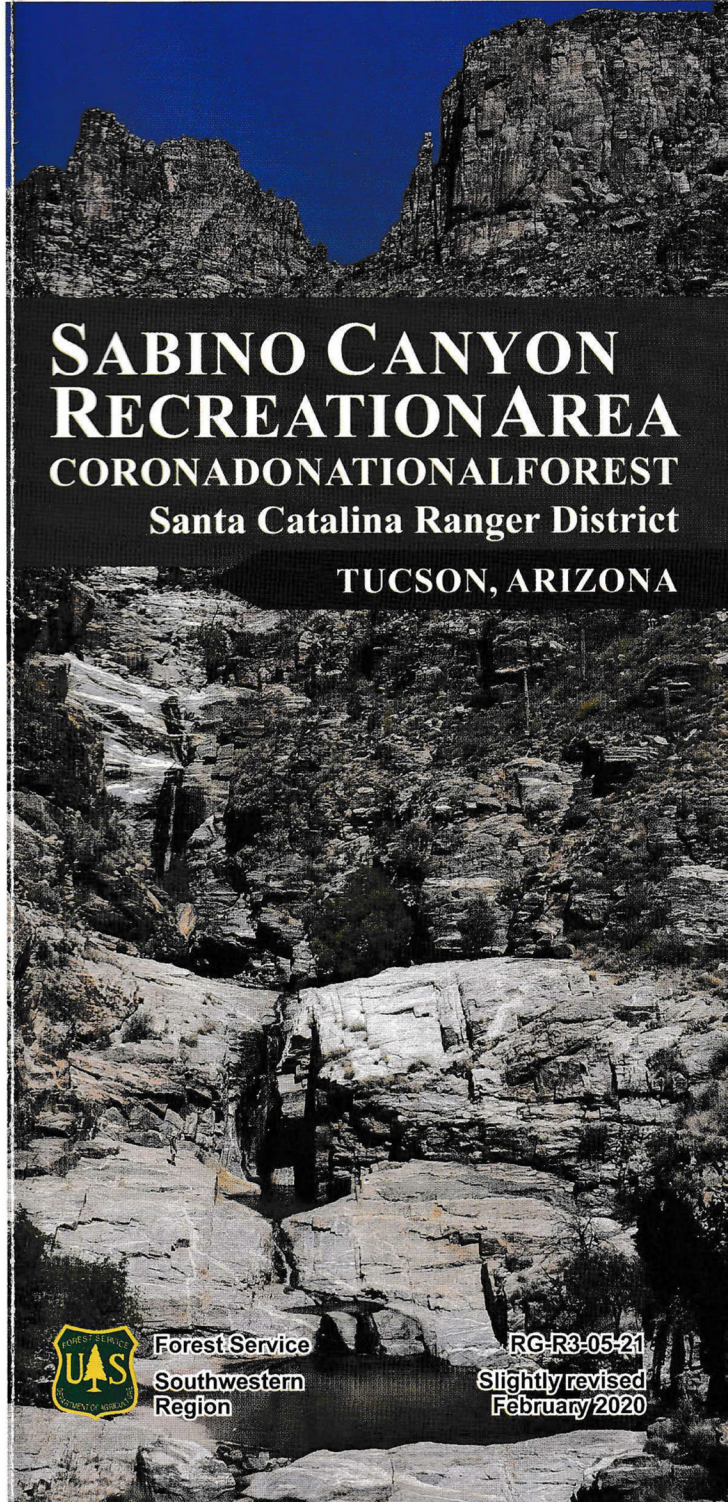
For more information, contact:

Santa Catalina Ranger District
Coronado National Forest
5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road
Tucson, AZ 85750
Phone: (520) 749-8700
Email: sm.fs.scrd@usda.gov



Or visit:

www.fs.usda.gov/coronado



SABINO CANYON RECREATION AREA

CORONADONATIONALFOREST

Santa Catalina Ranger District

TUCSON, ARIZONA



Forest Service
Southwestern
Region

RG-R3-05-21
Slightly revised
February 2020

Hikes by Time and Mileage

Check trail description for more information. The following hikes start at the Visitor Center.

Loop Hikes

15 minutes, 0.5 miles

Nature Views: Bear Canyon (#29), to Bajada Loop (#38), right on Bear Canyon (#29).

45 minutes – 1 hour, 2 miles

Desert/Dam Views: Bear Canyon (#29), to Sabino Lake (#30), to Bluff (#51), left on Sabino Canyon Road.

1-2 hours, 3.2 miles

Canyon/Dam Views: Sabino Walkway (#53), left on Esperero (#25), to Rattlesnake (#50), left on Sabino Canyon Road, to Phoneline Link (#27A), to Creek (#52), to Sabino Lake (#30), right on Bear Canyon Road and/or Trail (#29).

Day (4 - 6 hours), 8.5 miles

Mountain Views: Bear Canyon (#29), to Bear Canyon Road and/or Trail (#29), to Phoneline (#27), left on Sabino Canyon (#23), to Sabino Canyon Road or take the shuttle part of the way, fare required.

Out and Back Hikes

Half-Day (3 - 4 hours), 6 miles

Blacketts Ridge: Bear Canyon Trail (#29), to Phoneline (#27), to Blacketts Ridge (#38). Return.

Day (8 - 9 hours), 15.6 miles

Hutch's Pool: Sabino Canyon Road, to Sabino Canyon Trail (#23), to West Fork (#24). Cross stream bed, continue on trail, which will drop down to Sabino Creek. Look for cairns, cross the stream again. Look right to pick up the trail again. At "Y" in the trail marked by a cairn, take right fork, back down to stream bed, go left to the pool. Return, or take the shuttle part of the way, fare required.

Day (4 - 6 hours), 8.6 miles

Seven Falls: Bear Canyon (#29), after switchbacks, when pools are visible, take left fork at "Y." Return, or take the shuttle part of the way, fare required.

Desert Features

Plants

Sabino Creek originates near Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mountains and winds its way through miles of canyons before reaching the desert. The creek gives life to the riparian and desert flora within the canyon. Riparian areas in the canyon may support cottonwood, willow, walnut, sycamore, and ash trees. Desert flora found there may include mesquite, palo verde, brittlebush, saguaro, and many other cacti.

Wildlife

Although animals in Sabino Canyon are not highly visible, the area supports abundant wildlife. Birds, mammals, and reptiles have adapted to the desert environment and blend in with the landscape. Many animals are nocturnal and avoid the heat of the day by searching for food at night. Wildlife which may be seen near the canyon include Gambel's quail, eastern collared lizard, gopher snake, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, cactus wren, roadrunner, and rattlesnake.

Geology

The Santa Catalina Mountains were formed over 12 million years ago. Over time, the land around them sank, forming valleys while the mountain range was left standing. Episodes of erosion produced thousands of feet of sediment which now lies beneath Tucson. The rocks are primarily granite and a banded gray-and-white metamorphic rock called Catalina Gneiss.

For more information on Sabino Canyon hikes, please stop in the visitor center.

While Hiking, Always Have With You:

- Plenty of water, more than you think you need
- Sturdy shoes, a jacket and hat
- A fully charged cell phone and flashlight
- Snacks with salt or electrolytes
- Sun protection
- First aid kit

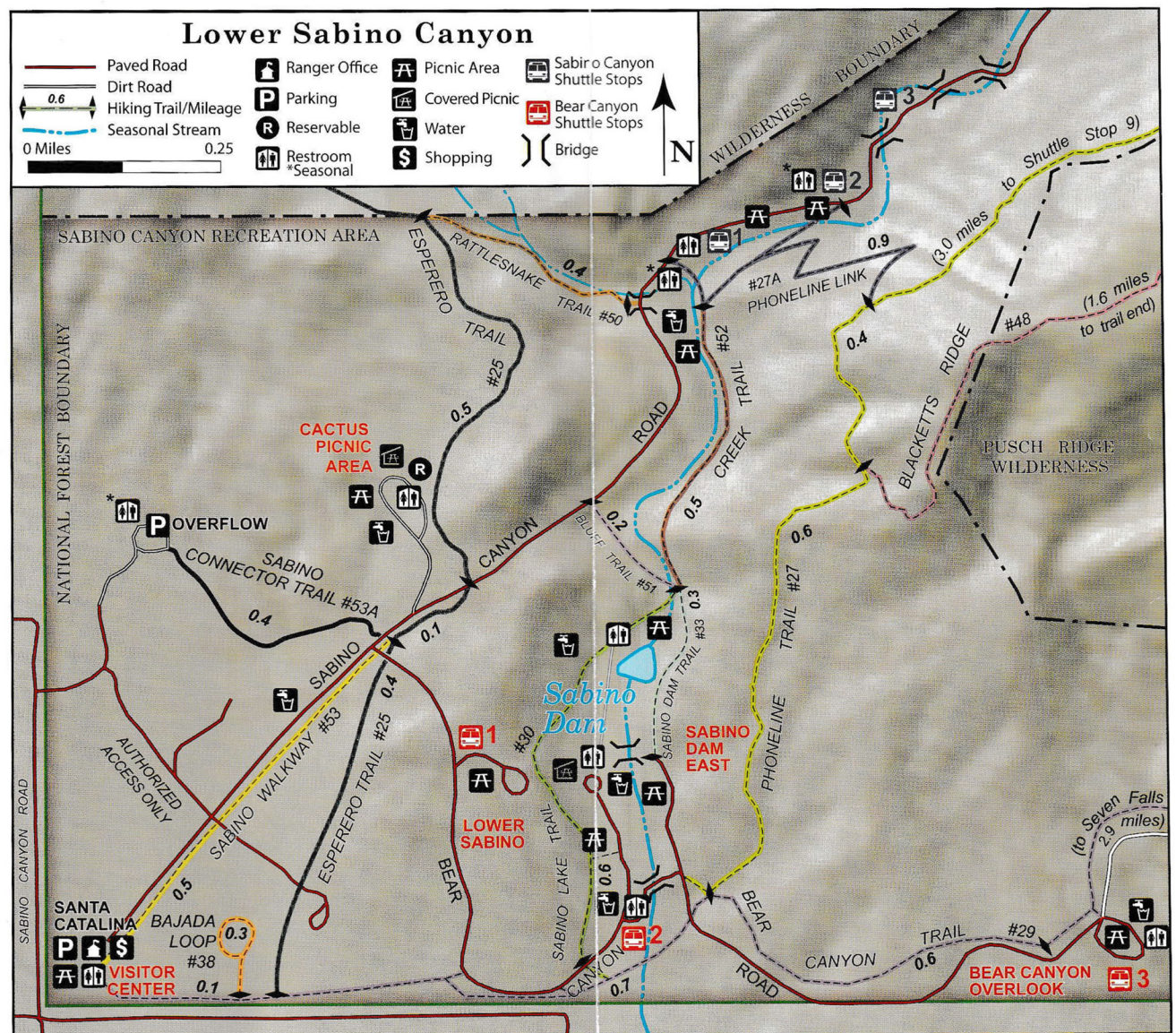
Leave No Trace Seven Principles:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Please Keep In Mind:

- Inform someone of your plans before leaving on your hike
- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated
- Do not hike in extreme weather conditions
- Sabino Canyon is a natural area with inherent dangers: falling rocks, wild animals, sudden storms and lightning, and flash floods

Pets are not permitted within the Recreation Area. Bicycling is permitted before 9:00 a.m. and after 5 p.m. Cycling is not permitted on Wednesday or Saturdays.



Sabino Canyon Recreation Area Coronado National Forest Santa Catalina Ranger District

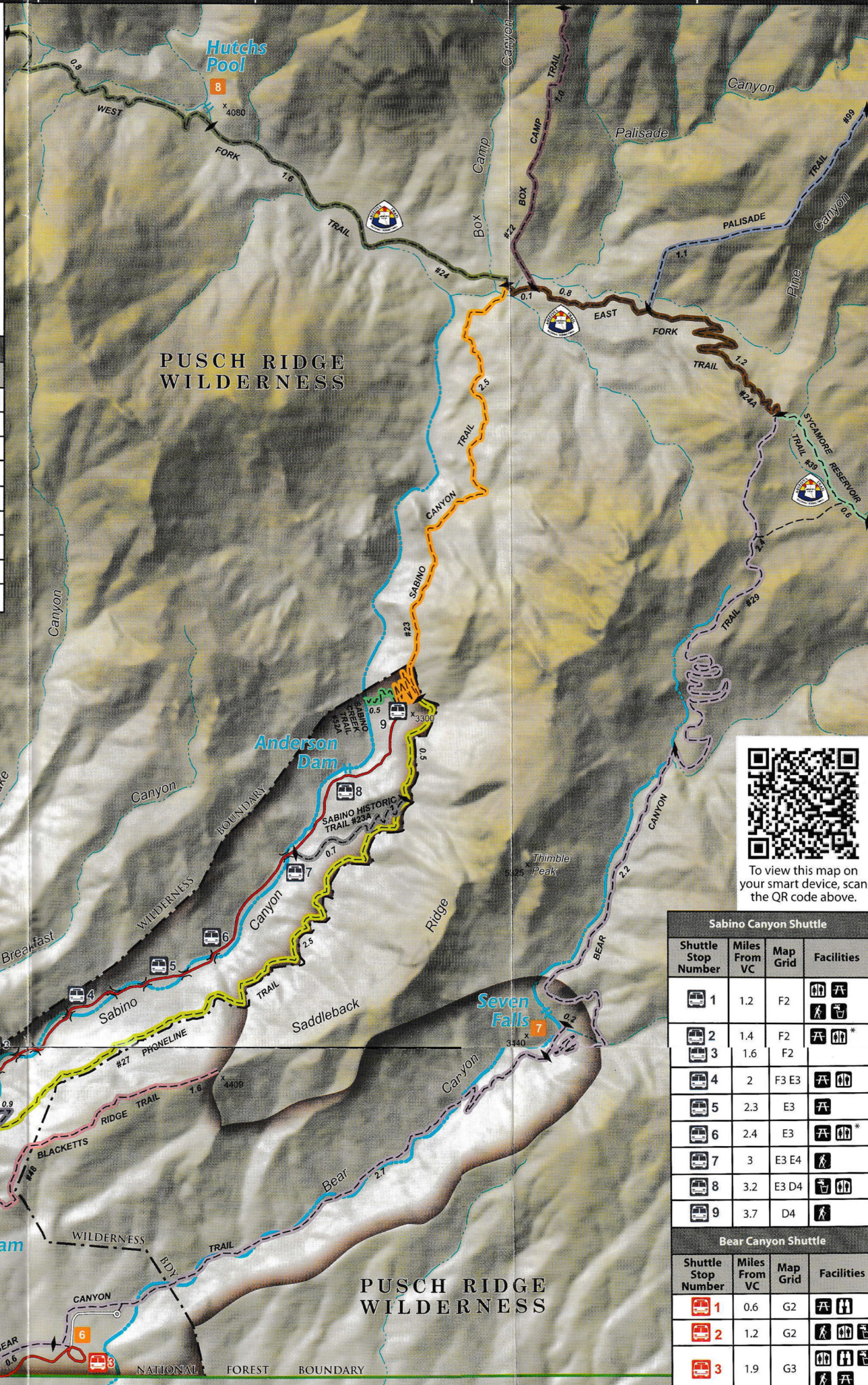
- Coronado NF Land
- Pusch Ridge Wilderness
- Recreation Area
- Paved Road
- Dirt Road
- Hiking Trail and Mileage
- Seasonal Stream
- Waterfalls
- Spot Elevation
- Bridge
- Shopping
- Ranger Office
- Restrooms*seasonal
- Picnic/Rest Area
- Covered Picnic
- Hiking Trail
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Drinking Water
- Parking
- Reservable at Recreation.gov

0 mile 0.5 1 N

Points of Interest

Site Number and Name	Map Grid	Facilities
1 Visitor Center (VC)	G1	
2 Lower Sabino	G2	
3 Sabino Dam East	G2	
4 Cactus Picnic Area	G2	
5 Overflow Parking Lot	G1	Open 10/15-4/30
6 Bear Canyon Overlook	G3	
7 Seven Falls	F5	
8 Hutchs Pool	A3	

Blue symbols above denote accessible facilities.



To view this map on your smart device, scan the QR code above.

Sabino Canyon Shuttle			
Shuttle Stop Number	Miles From VC	Map Grid	Facilities
1	1.2	F2	
2	1.4	F2	
3	1.6	F2	
4	2	F3 E3	
5	2.3	E3	
6	2.4	E3	
7	3	E3 E4	
8	3.2	E3 D4	
9	3.7	D4	

Bear Canyon Shuttle			
Shuttle Stop Number	Miles From VC	Map Grid	Facilities
1	0.6	G2	
2	1.2	G2	
3	1.9	G3	

Pets are not permitted within the Recreation Area. Bicycling is permitted before 9am and after 5pm, and not permitted at all on Wednesday and Saturday.

Trail Description						
Name and Number	Code	Map Grid	Elevation (in feet)	Length (in miles)	Difficulty	Comments - all info is one way from southern most origin of trail
38 - Bajada Loop		G1	Average 2600	0.3	Easy	Barrier-free, flat trail with vegetation identification. Trail guide available.
29 - Bear Canyon		G1 C6	2800-4800	8.9	Moderate to Difficult	Open and uncovered trail provides access to Esperero trail (0.1 mile), Sabino Lake trail (0.5 mile), and Phoneline trail (0.8 mile). Follows the canyon floor, crossing the creek 7 times (may get wet) before gaining elevation to Seven Falls (4.3 miles). Beyond Seven Falls trail, switchbacks follow contours of ridge line, then steep climb to Sycamore Basin ending at East Fork and Sycamore Reservoir trails. Not recommended during high water.
48 - Blacketts Ridge		G2 F3	2800-4400	1.6	Difficult	Steep climb with switchbacks, and false summits. Trail ends on ridge top with sign.
51 - Bluff		G2	Average 2600	0.2	Easy to Moderate	Desert trail with rocky terrain contours bluffs above Sabino Creek providing views of the riparian area.
22 - Box Camp		A5 B5	3700-8050	*6.0	Moderate to Difficult	Ascends from Sabino Basin to a prominent view point before entering the Mt. Lemmon area with high elevation and heavy timber. *1.0 miles of trail is shown on map.
52 - Creek		F2 G2	Average 2800	0.5	Easy	Fairly well shaded, follows creek (may get wet). Starts at the junction of Sabino Dam (#33) and Sabino Lake (#30) Trails and ends at Phoneline Link (#27A). Not recommended during high water flows.
24A - East Fork (AZ Trail)		B5 C6	3820-4400	2.1	Moderate	Narrow trail climbs a steep slope out of Sabino Basin.
25 - Esperero		G1 D1	2800-7280	*6.7	Moderate to Difficult	Ascends into the high peaks of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. *3.4 miles of trail is shown on map.
99 - Palisade		A6 B5	4160-7840	*6.4	Moderate to Difficult	Ascends from Sabino Basin to a prominent view point before entering the Mt. Lemmon area. Last 3 miles in heavy timber with north trailhead off Organization Ridge Road. *1.1 miles of trail is shown on map.
27 - Phoneline		G2 D4	3060-3680	4	Moderate	Rocky and narrow on steep slopes. Contours the east side of Sabino Canyon.
27A - Phoneline Link		F2	2800-3060	0.9	Moderate	Crosses creek bottom then ascends switchbacks. Also connects to Shuttle Stop 2.
50 - Rattlesnake		F2	Average 2800	0.4	Moderate	Low elevation, rocky desert trail. Crosses dry streambed.
23 - Sabino Canyon		D4 B5	3600-3820	2.5	Easy to Moderate	Steep switchbacks at pavement end. Contours along ridgetline from Sabino Basin into Mt. Lemmon.
53A - Sabino Connector		G1	2700-3300	0.4	Easy to Moderate	Mostly level, scenic trail connecting the overflow parking area to the Sabino Canyon Road. The trail has steps, wheelchairs not advised. Open Oct 15-April 30.
52A - Sabino Creek		D4	Average 3250	0.5	Easy to Moderate	Descends to Sabino Creek from Shuttle Stop 9.
33 - Sabino Dam		G2	Average 2600	0.3	Easy	Shady trail follows the creek and hillside. Not recommended during high water flows.
23A - Sabino Historic		E4	3600-3820	0.7	Moderate to Difficult	Steep, rocky ascent to Phoneline (#27) from Shuttle Stop 7.
30 - Sabino Lake		G2	Average 2600	0.6	Easy to Moderate	Desert trail with rocky terrain, ending in riparian area.
53 - Sabino Walkway		G1	Average 2800	0.5	Easy	Begins at the end of the Visitor Center sidewalk. Parallels the road.
39 - Sycamore Reservoir (AZ Trail)		C6	4400-4800	*3.2	Moderate to Difficult	Ascends 1 mile to Sycamore Reservoir. Moderate climb from wilderness boundary to an old road bed about .8 miles long before entering the trailhead located at the back of the Gordon Hirabayashi Campground. *0.6 miles of trail is shown on map.
24 - West Fork (AZ Trail)		B5 A2	3820-6200	*6.5	Moderate to Difficult	Wilderness trail, follows canyon bottom to Hutchs Pool, then climbs to Romero Pass. *2.4 miles of trail is shown on map.

Please be aware that conditions of trails and roads change. Risk is assumed with the use of this map and venturing into the outdoors. Please be responsible and use good judgment.