USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Coronado National Forest | RG-R3-05-21 | Revised August 2026

SABINO CANYON RECREATION AREA

Santa Catalina Ranger District
TUCSON, ARIZONA



Welcome to 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 southeastern Arizona for hiking, wildlife viewing, photography, picnicking, and riding the Sabino Canyon Crawler.



Recreation Passes

A day-use fee is collected at Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. Pass and fee information can be found at: *fs.usda.gov/r03/coronado/passes*, or at the Visitor Center. Cactus Picnic Area may be reserved at *recreation.gov*.

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

Friendly Reminders

Be Prepared!

- Remember to pack:
  - More water than you think you need; turn around before half your water is consumed
  - Snacks with salt or electrolytes
  - Sun protection and first aid kit
  - Fully charged cell phone and flashlight
- Inform someone of your hiking plans
- Don't hike in extreme weather or heat
- Pack your trash out
- Sabino Canyon is a natural area with inherent dangers: watch out for falling rocks, wild animals, sudden storms, lightning, and flash floods

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
Website: *fs.usda.gov/r03/Coronado*

Coronado NF Info

Sabino Canyon Visitor Center (520)749-8700

Located at: 5700 N Sabino Canyon Road, Tucson, AZ 85750

Sabino Canyon Visitor Center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Day Use Fee:

- If you have an interagency pass or Coronado annual, day, or week pass, please display it on your vehicle dashboard. Interagency passes and Coronado National Forest passes can be obtained in the Visitor Center. Day or week passes can be purchased online through *recreation.gov* or at self-pay stations.

Western National Parks Giftshop (520)749-7711

Western National Parks (WNP) is a nonprofit partner that operates in 70+ National Forests and Parks in 12 western states. Established in 1938, WNP has provided $176+ million in support to public lands across the west. Purchases support education, research, community engagement, and visitor services. For more information about WNP, visit *wnp.org*.

Sabino Canyon Crawler (520) 792-2953

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

The Sabino Canyon Crawler is an emission-free electric shuttle service in the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. Disembark at each shuttle stop to access various trails, interpretive information, picnic areas, and other points of interest. The shuttle operates daily and is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and in extreme weather. During periods of rainfall, a Highwater Tour is available. Tickets can be purchased at the ticket kiosk on site or online at *sabinocanyoncrawler.com*. Please arrive 30 minutes before the shuttle departs, as shuttles will not wait for late arrivals.

The **Sabino Canyon** shuttle is a narrated, one-hour, 7.4-mile tour that details the history of Sabino Canyon's formation, native plants and animals, and important historical and cultural information. Narration is available in English and Spanish. Hourly departures start at 9:00 a.m. with the last shuttle departing at 4:00 p.m.

The **Bear Canyon** shuttle is a 4-mile ride that stops at Sabino Dam and Shuttle Stop B3, which leads to Seven Falls. Hourly departures start at 9:15 a.m. with the last shuttle departing at 4:15 p.m.



Suggested Hikes

All of the following hikes start at the Visitor Center and all mileage is shown as a round trip.

Sabino Canyon Tramway

Length: 7.6 miles | Elevation Gain: 1,233 feet | Out and Back

Paved tramway that offers beautiful views and access to several trailheads. Walk or ride the Sabino Canyon Crawler 3.8 miles each way and enjoy the nine historic stone bridges that cross Sabino Creek.

Dam Loop

Length: 2.3 miles | Elevation Gain: 220 feet | Loop

Scenic loop to the historic Sabino Dam, often filled with water and wildlife after rainfall. Bear Canyon Trail, right on Bear Canyon Tramway to Shuttle Stop B2. Head left/straight (north) at the fork, go beyond the pavement, up the dirt road, past picnic tables, to the dam. Head to Bluff Trail, turn left on Sabino Canyon Tramway.

Rattlesnake Loop

Length 2.9 miles | Elevation Gain: 350 feet | Out and Back

Relaxed journey with canyon views and water access. Sabino Canyon Tramway to Shuttle Stop S1, the Canyon Interpretive Outpost. Left on Rattlesnake Trail, left on Esperero Trail, right on Sabino Canyon Tramway.

Blacketts Ridge

Length: 5.8 miles | Elevation Gain: 1,980 feet | Loop

Strenuous hike that rewards visitors with beautiful views of the canyon and surrounding areas. Bear Canyon Trail, right on Bear Canyon Tramway to Shuttle Stop B2, right at the Y in the road, cross Lower Sabino Creek. Continue straight at T in the road to Phoneline Trail, turn right on Blacketts Ridge Trail. Hike for 1.5 miles to the trail's terminus with a full 360-degree view.

Phoneline Loop

Length: 9.1 miles | Elevation Gain: 1,143 feet | Loop

Rocky, ridgeline trail, with views ~600 feet above the canyon floor. Take Bear Canyon Trail, right on Bear Canyon Tramway to Shuttle Stop B2, right at the Y in the road, cross Lower Sabino Creek, and then straight at T in the road to Phoneline Trail. Follow Phoneline Trail to Shuttle Stop S9, follow Sabino Canyon Tramway for 3.7 miles back to the Visitor Center.

Seven Falls

Length: 8.4 miles | Elevation Gain: 1,448 feet | Out and Back

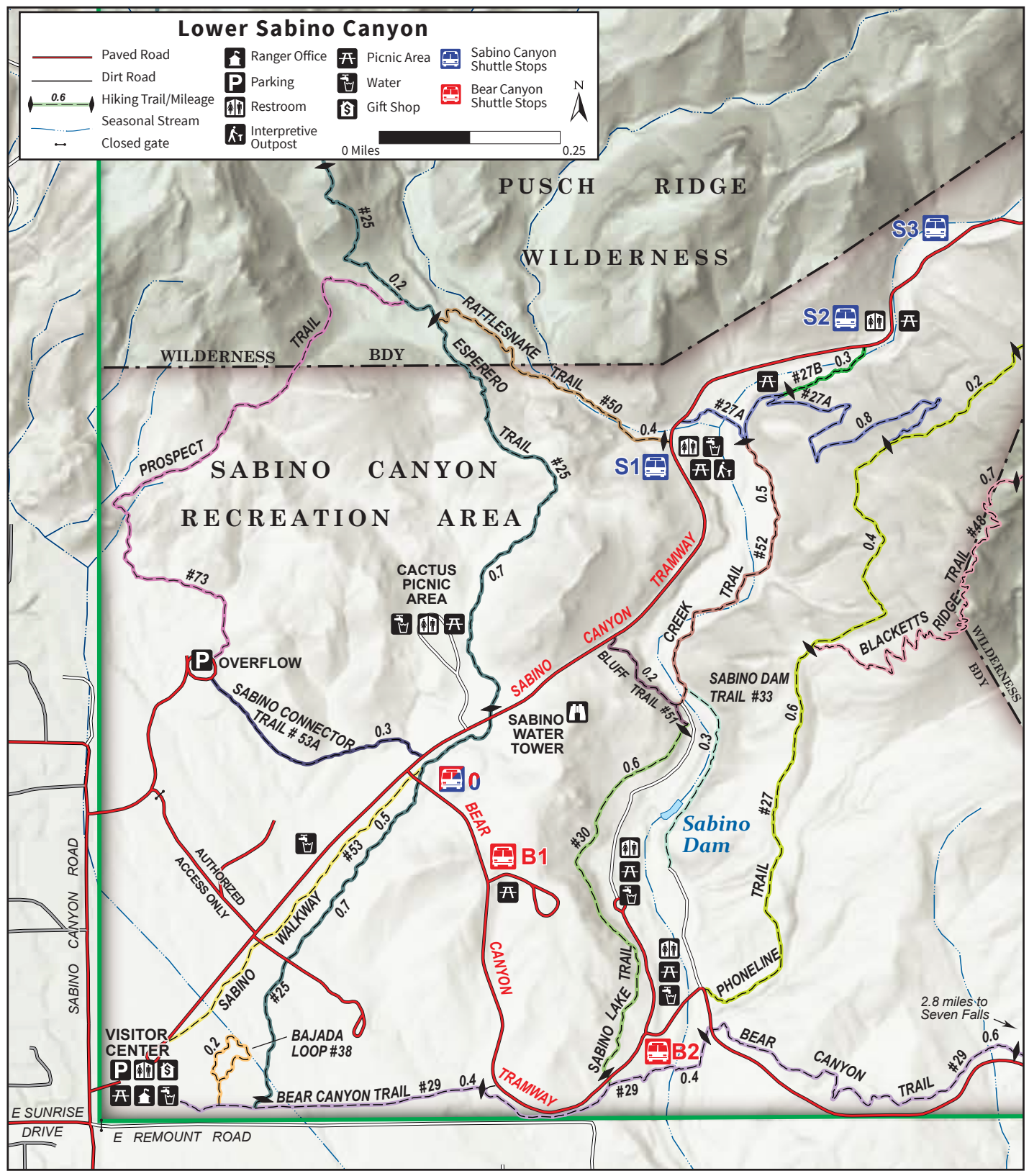
Bear Canyon Trail, right on Bear Canyon Trail or Bear Canyon Tramway, rejoin trail at the end of pavement near Shuttle Stop B3 and continue northeast on Bear Canyon Trail. The trail runs 2.5 miles up Bear Canyon Creek and crosses the stream seven times before reaching Seven Falls.

Restrictions

The following activities are prohibited within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area: No pets, motorized vehicles (including e-bikes), camping, alcohol, glass containers, or nudity.



Do not disturb or remove natural, prehistoric, or historic features.
Bicycling is permitted before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m., but not permitted on Wednesdays or Saturdays.



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Sabino Canyon Recreation Area

Coronado National Forest

Santa Catalina Ranger District

- Coronado NF Boundary
- Pusch Ridge Wilderness
- Recreation Area
- Paved Road
- Dirt Road
- Hiking Trail
- Mileage Marker
- Seasonal Stream
- Falls
- Spot Elevation (x3300)
- Bridge
- Closed Gate
- N
- Gift Shop
- Visitor Center
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area
- Drinking Water
- Parking
- Hiking Trail
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Interpretive Outpost

0 — 0.5 — 1 mile

Sabino Canyon Shuttle

Shuttle Stop Number	Miles From Visitor Center	Facilities
0	0.5	
S1	1.2	
S2	1.4	
S3	1.6	
S4	2.0	
S5	2.3	
S6	2.4	
S7	3.0	
S8	3.2	
S9	3.7	

Bear Canyon Shuttle

Shuttle Stop Number	Miles From Visitor Center	Facilities
0	0.5	
B1	0.6	
B2	1.2	
B3	1.9	

Points of Interest

Site Number and Name	Facilities
1 Visitor Center	
2 Overflow Parking Lot	
3 Cactus Picnic Area	
4 Interpretive Outpost	
5 Sabino Dam	
6 Bear Canyon Overlook	
7 Seven Falls Trailhead	

Motorized equipment (including e-bikes) are prohibited within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area

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

Trail Information

Trail Number	Trail Name	Symbology	Length (in miles)	Difficulty	Trail Descriptions Note: trails are listed by proximity to Visitor Center (closest to farthest) and info is one way from southern most origin of trail.
29	Bear Canyon Trail		*8.5	Moderate to Difficult	Begins at east end of the Visitor Center. Provides access to Esperero Trail #25, Sabino Lake Trail #30, and Phoneline Trail #27. Follows the canyon floor, crossing the creek 7 times (may be wet) before regaining elevation to Seven Falls (3.4 miles). Beyond Seven Falls, steep switchbacks climb to Sycamore Basin, reaching East Fork and Sycamore Reservoir Trails. Not recommended during high water. *5.5 miles shown on map.
53	Sabino Walkway		0.5	Easy	Begins at the end of the Visitor Center sidewalk. Parallels the road.
38	Bajada Loop Trail		0.2	Easy	Barrier-free, flat trail with benches and a crested saguaro.
25	Esperero Trail		*6.8	Moderate to Difficult	Ascends into the high peaks of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. *3.2 miles of trail is shown on map.
53A	Sabino Connector Trail		0.3	Easy to Moderate	Mostly level, scenic trail connecting the Overflow Parking Lot to Sabino Canyon Tramway and Shuttle Stop 0. Has steps, wheelchairs not advised.
30	Sabino Lake Trail		0.6	Easy to Moderate	Desert trail with rocky terrain, ending in riparian area.
73	Prospect Trail		0.9	Easy to Moderate	Begins in Overflow Lot and ascends to connect to Esperero Trail #25 near the junction of Rattlesnake Trail #50.
27	Phoneline Trail		4.0	Moderate	Rocky, narrow, ridgeline trail on steep slopes, ~600 feet above the canyon floor. Eventually levels out to contour the east side of Sabino Canyon with expansive views of the area. Trail ends in steep switchbacks descending to Shuttle Stop S9.
33	Sabino Dam Trail		0.3	Easy	Shady trail follows the creek and hillside. Not recommended during high water.
51	Bluff Trail		0.2	Easy to Moderate	Desert trail with rocky terrain. Contours bluffs above Sabino Creek and provides views of the riparian area.
52	Creek Trail		0.5	Easy	Fairly well shaded, follows creek (may get wet). Starts at the junction of Sabino Dam Trail #33 and Sabino Lake Trail #30. Ends at Phoneline Link Trail #27. Not recommended during high water.
29A	Lower Bear Link Trail		0.1	Easy	Connects Bear Canyon Trail to the Pima County Trailhead off North Bear Canyon Rd.
50	Rattlesnake Trail		0.4	Moderate	Low elevation, rocky desert trail. Crosses dry streambed.
48	Blacketts Ridge Trail		1.6	Difficult	Steep climb with switchbacks and false summits. Trail ends on ridge top with sign and 360-degree views.
27A	Phoneline Link Trail		0.8	Moderate	Crosses creek bottom then ascends switchbacks.
27B	Phoneline Link Trail North		0.3	Moderate	Connects Phoneline Link Trail #27A to Sabino Canyon Tramway and Shuttle Stop S2.
23A	Sabino Historic Trail		0.7	Moderate to Difficult	Steep, rocky ascent to Phoneline Trail #27 from Shuttle Stop S7.
52A	Sabino Creek Trail		0.3	Easy to Moderate	Descends to Sabino Creek from Shuttle Stop S9.
23	Sabino Canyon Trail		*2.5	Moderate to Difficult	Steep switchbacks climb from Shuttle Stop S9. Contours along ridgeline from Sabino Basin into Mt. Lemmon. *1 mile of trail 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 judgement.