



Forest Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Coronado National Forest, Santa Catalina Ranger District | RG-R3-05-33 | Revised March 2025

Pima, Finger Rock, and Ventana Canyons

These steep, rugged trails in the front range of the Santa Catalina Mountains offer quick access from town to trail and lead into the Pusch Ridge Wilderness.

Know before you go



PARKING: No fee or pass required at Pima Co. trailheads. Lots fill quickly; carpool and have a backup plan if no parking is available.



HOURS: Sunrise to sunset. Permit required for overnight parking. Visit the [Pima County, AZ Trails](#) website to obtain a free permit.



SAFETY: Lock your vehicle and take any valuables with you.



PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT: Carry all trash back out with you, including food scraps, fruit peels, tissue, and toilet paper.



SEASONS: Fall through spring. During summer months, extreme heat, venomous wildlife, monsoon storms, and flash floods occur.



WATER: Drinking water is available at the Pima Canyon and Finger Rock Trailheads. Carry plenty of water with you.



NO PETS: Pets are prohibited on all trails within the Bighorn Sheep Management Area of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness.



JAN. 1-APR. 30 TRAVEL RESTRICTION: It is prohibited to travel more than 400 ft. from official USFS trails in the Bighorn Sheep Management Area during the bighorn sheep lambing season.

Attractions



BRINGING BACK BIGHORNS

Desert bighorn sheep roamed these canyons for thousands of years, but during the 1900s disease and development decimated their population. Reintroduction efforts here since 2013 enabled new herds to repopulate their native habitat. Look for these elusive ungulates high on canyon cliffs. Please help protect this special species by following all area rules.

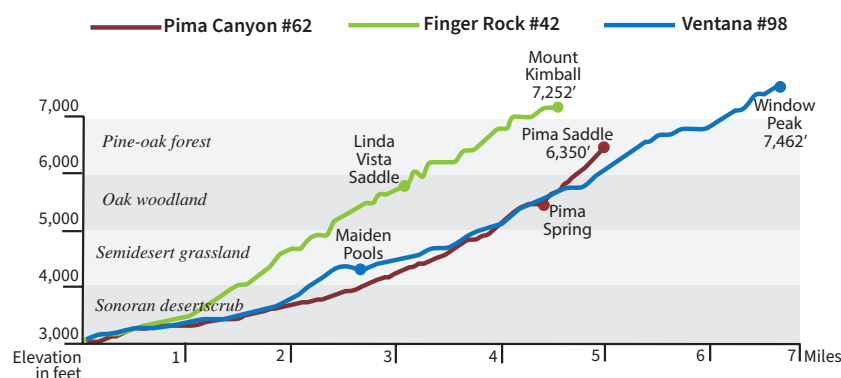
Photo © Diane Enright



PUSCH RIDGE WILDERNESS

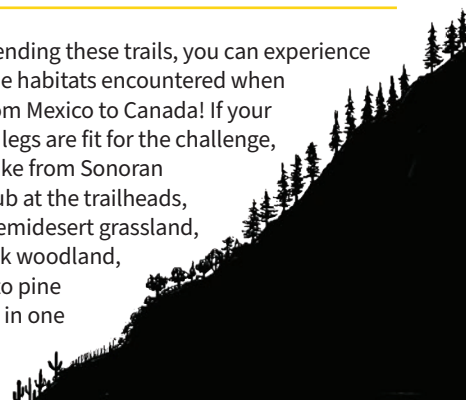
The 56,919-acre Pusch Ridge Wilderness protects a land of jagged cliffs, rocky spires, deep canyons with seasonal water, and unique and varied flora and fauna. Help preserve this special landscape so that future generations may experience its wildness as well. Reduce your impact by traveling in small groups, minimizing noise, taking only photographs, and leaving only footprints.

Trail elevation profiles (map on next page)



Prickly pears to pines

While ascending these trails, you can experience most of the habitats encountered when driving from Mexico to Canada! If your lungs and legs are fit for the challenge, you can hike from Sonoran desertscrub at the trailheads, through semidesert grassland, up into oak woodland, and on into pine forest—all in one day!



EMERGENCY OR FIRE: DIAL 911

SANTA CATALINA RANGER STATION: (520) 749-8700

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

HELP PROTECT BIGHORN SHEEP!

LEAVE PETS HOME

DAY GROUP SIZE LIMIT = 15 PEOPLE

NIGHT GROUP SIZE LIMIT = 6 PEOPLE

STAY ON OFFICIAL, DESIGNATED TRAILS

PUSCH RIDGE WILDERNESS



Mechanized and motorized equipment, including mountain bikes, is prohibited in Wilderness.

HEAT CAN BE DEADLY

KNOW WHAT TO DO

HEAT EXHAUSTION

SYMPTOMS: Dizziness Thirst Weakness Nausea Muscle cramps

ACTION: Move to a cooler area, loosen clothing, sip cool water, and watch for signs of heat stroke.

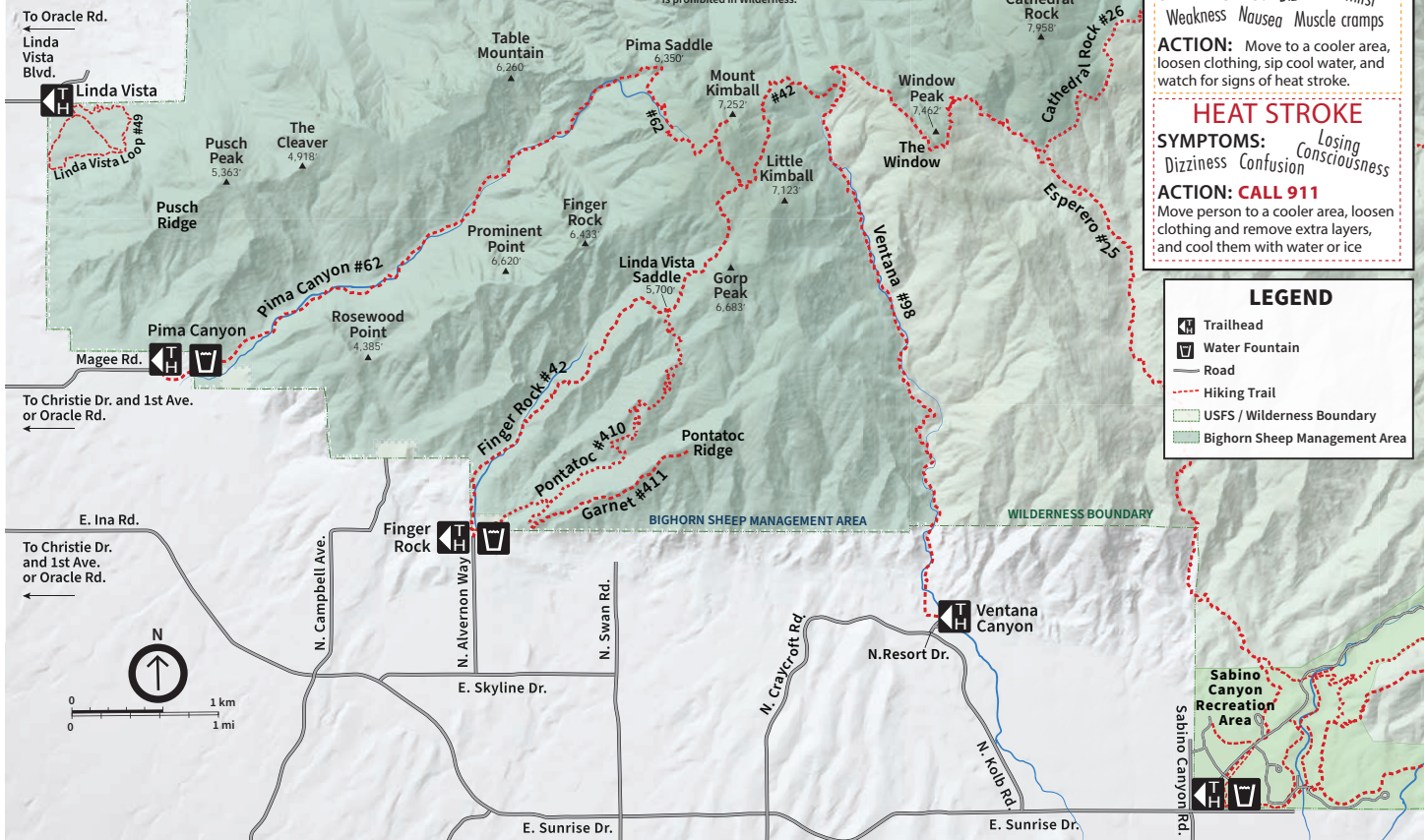
HEAT STROKE

SYMPTOMS: Dizziness Confusion Losing Consciousness

ACTION: CALL 911
Move person to a cooler area, loosen clothing and remove extra layers, and cool them with water or ice

LEGEND

- Trailhead
- Water Fountain
- Road
- Hiking Trail
- USFS / Wilderness Boundary
- Bighorn Sheep Management Area



Hiking Trails

Safety: Be prepared with plenty of water, sun protection, and extra layers.

Route Finding: At creek crossings, look for the trail on the other side. Trails do not go in the creekbed.

Pima Canyon #62
Pima Co. Trailhead:
1598 E. Magee Rd.

The first mile of this trail traverses the hillside before dropping into the canyon. The next three miles follow the creek, gradually gaining elevation into oak-studded grassland. After mile 4, the trail climbs steeply along the cliffs of the upper canyon. For shorter outings, find a small cottonwood grove at mile 1.5 and Pima Dam (built by the Arizona Game and Fish Dept. to store water for bighorn sheep) at mile 3.
Distances (one way): 4.5 mi. to Pima Spring; 5 mi. to Pima Saddle; 7 mi. to Mt. Kimball and junction with Finger Rock #91

Finger Rock #42
Pima Co. Trailhead:
7119 N. Alvernon Way

The first mile of this trail meanders through a forest of saguaros. Reach Finger Rock Spring (seasonal water) at mile 1. This is a good turnaround spot for easier outings. Beyond the spring, the trail climbs steeply over rugged terrain as it gains 2,000 ft. of elevation in just 2 miles. The effort is rewarded with spectacular views of the canyon cliffs, Finger Rock, and Tucson. Turn around here, make a 7-mi. loop with Pontatoc #410, or continue the ascent into the oak and pine forest of Mt. Kimball.

Distances (one way): 3 mi. to Linda Vista Saddle and junction with #410; 4.5 mi. to junction with Pima Canyon #62; 5 mi. to Mt. Kimball

Pontatoc #410
Pima Co. Trailhead:
7119 N. Alvernon Way

This trail follows Pontatoc Canyon, dipping in and out of the drainage as it gains elevation. Arrive at the Garnet Trail #411 junction at 1 mile. Turn left (north) to stay on Pontatoc #410 and hike up into the canyon. At mile 1.7, the trail turns to the northwest, climbs out of the canyon, and switchbacks along the grassy slopes of the upper Pontatoc basin en route to join Finger Rock #42.

Distances (one way): 1 mi. to junction with Garnet #411; 4 mi. to Linda Vista Saddle and junction with Trail #42

Garnet #411
Pima Co. Trailhead:
7119 N. Alvernon Way

Take Pontatoc #410 for 1 mile to reach the junction with this trail (formerly Pontatoc Ridge Trail), and turn right (south) to begin the rugged ascent of Pontatoc Ridge. The trail ends at the abandoned Pontatoc Ridge Mine. Enjoy great views of Tucson and the canyon below all along the route.

Distances (one way): 1 mi. to start of trail at junction with Pontatoc #410; 1.8 mi. from junction to end of trail

Ventana #98
Pima Co. Trailhead:
6601 N. Resort Dr.

This trail starts along private property, but quickly turns north and heads into the canyon. The trail follows the drainage, crossing the wash many times as it gradually gains elevation. At mile 2, the trail climbs a series of switchbacks before dropping back into the canyon and continuing the ascent to reach The Window, a 15-by-20 foot opening in a rock wall. Enjoy excellent views all along this trail!

Distances (one way): 1 mi. to Wilderness boundary; 2.5 mi. to Maiden Pools; 6.7 mi. to junction with Trail #42; 7 mi. to The Window

These trailheads are managed by the Pima County Department of Conservation Lands and Resources.

www.pima.gov