

Coronado National Memorial

Many people searching for wealth or a better way of life have set their sights on southern Arizona. During the 16th century, Spain was seeking gold and riches in the vast territory north of Mexico City, and sent Francisco Vasquez de Coronado on an expedition to confirm rumors of seven glittering cities of gold and jewels. Coronado instead found humble Native American villages, the expedition was deemed a failure, and he and returned to Mexico to live out his brief life in obscurity. His discoveries paved the way for further colonization, however, and Spain never lost interest in the New World. Coronado National Monument was established to mark the outstanding achievements of the Spanish explorers.

Coronado National Memorial, located south of the train's route on the United States and Mexico border, was established in 1940 to provide visitors with an opportunity to reflect on the region and its landscapes and how it affected the many people who have explored, passed through, and settled here in southern Arizona.

The park is located near the center of the Sky Island bioregion. Here, four major biogeographic regions come together: Madrean, Sonoran, Chihuahuan, and Southern Rockies/Mogollon. As part of this unique region, the park and surrounding area are rich in biological and geological diversity. Visitors are able to enjoy many recreational opportunities that allow for the understanding and appreciation of the natural and human history of the area.

Within the park, visitors can view the area through auto tours and hiking. Other opportunities include caving and bird watching. Picnic sites are also available for your use. Tucson is the nearest Amtrak stop for Coronado National Memorial and car rentals are available.

Source(s):

www.nps.gov/coro

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