

# Saguaro National Park

The Giant Saguaro cactus is a well-recognized symbol of the American west. With its arms reaching to the sky and covered in thick thorns, it has found a place in American folklore. Yet, this unique cactus grows nowhere else on earth and only in a small geographical area of the United States. The blossom of the Saguaro is the state flower of Arizona. These iconic symbols of the American West are protected and can be easily seen in Saguaro National Park which abuts the city of Tucson.

Separated by the Tucson, Saguaro National Park is made up of two districts; the Rincon Mountain District and the Tucson Mountain district. Together they comprise over 92,000 acres and include over 1,600 species of plants. The park is located within a bioregion known as the Sonoran Desert and the Saguaro cactus grows naturally in this desert. About 1.6 million individual saguaro plants grow within Saguaro National Park.

There are nearly 165 miles of hiking trails and just under 15 miles of bicycling trails within the park. These are great ways to see the park up close and look at the plants and animals that survive in this unforgiving, but beautiful environment. Some unusual species endure the harsh climate to make this their home, including roadrunners, horned lizards, Gila monsters, kangaroo rats, and javelinas.

A variety of park naturalist programs are offered at various times of the year at Saguaro National Park. Here you can learn about the Saguaro and the wildlife that inhabit Southern Arizona. In the summer, the area is hot, with daytime temperatures averaging over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, so outdoor activities are somewhat limited. More interpretive programs are offered in the winter, which is the busy season for the park. While there are no overnight campground facilities within the park, there are picnic grounds available to the public.

Public support is a critical component of the management of the National Park Service. No other federal agency relies as heavily on the generosity and kindness of its visitors. The National Park Service thanks you for your past support and looks forward to future partnerships. For more information on Saguaro National Park, please visit the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu)

## **Source(s):**

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