

# December 2024 Hiking Schedule

## Updates & changes in RED

### NEW HIKES in GREEN

**The latest time to register for a hike is 4:00 pm the day before the hike.**

All hikes meet at the Welcome Center unless otherwise specified in the hike description.

Carpools can be arranged when the group meets at Welcome Center.

**Monday, December 2, 2024, X-Treme View [B/10mi/1800'/\$2/7:30am]** Meet at the Welcome Center to carpool to CSP. Hike from CSP Main TH on the Sutherland Trail to trek up the Rocky Road, to where we leave the road to see the potted rock, cross the Cargodera and perch on slick rock to nosh, be awed by the rushing water, and admire our treasured community. Bring binoculars if you would like to spot your home. This is an out and back hike. Deb Wehrung [debwehrung@gmail.com](mailto:debwehrung@gmail.com)

**Monday, December 2, 2024, Golf Course Bird Walk [D/3 miles/100'/6:45 am]** Meet at the grassy area behind The Views. I'm looking for early risers who'd like to explore the birds on the golf course with me! I'm happy to have both experienced birders and new birders who'd like to know more about our resident birds. We'll be watching for birds and listening for their calls. If you're new to listening for birds I highly recommend you download a free app from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. It's called Merlin. We'll talk about how to use it as we explore. We'll start off toward the ponds on hole 10 and keep going from there. We'll let the birds set our pace so our distance may vary. I have a spare pair of binoculars if anyone needs them. Debbie Carr-Taylor, [debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com)

**Monday, December 2, 2024, Pima Canyon Dam [C/7mi/1100'/\$2/7:00 am]** Meet behind Welcome Center to carpool to Pima Canyon trailhead. We hike a rocky trail through open areas up the canyon to a point near some Indian grinding holes beyond the dam. Great views of sheer canyon walls. Tom Meyer [tmeyer80@msn.com](mailto:tmeyer80@msn.com).

**Tuesday, December 3, 2024, Maeveen Behan Desert Sanctuary Trails Loop [D/4mi/150'/\$3/8:30am]** Carpool to hike a loop on various trails in Arthur Pack Regional Park near Mountain View High School and Crooked Tree Golf Course. Georgene Porter, [gvporter@live.com](mailto:gvporter@live.com)

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024, Romero Pools, Catalina State Park [C/6mi/1400'/\$2/8am]**

Meet behind Welcome Center. We'll take Canyon Loop Trail counter clockwise to Romero Canyon Trail to the upper pools and return by the same route. Phil Arms

[parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024, Anza Trail Palo Parado/Wisdoms [B/9mi/100'/\$11/8am]**

Meet at the Welcome Center. This is a hike along historic Juan Bautista de Anza Trail from the Richard Williams trailhead to Tumacacori and return. We will ramble through this Santa Cruz riparian area where the river flows year-round and trees abound. We cross water via a footbridge along the way. Enjoy lunch (Wisdoms) in Tumacacori at our halfway point. Return to Sun City around 4:00 pm. Doug Higgins [dahiggins@comcast.net](mailto:dahiggins@comcast.net)

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024, OSP Wildlife Corridor/Nature Loop [C/5 mi/500'/\$5/8:00am]**

Meet behind Welcome Center and carpool to Oracle State Park. Hike Kannally Wash to windmill, then return to ranch house via Wildlife Corridor and Nature Trails. Meg Gerken,

[meg\\_stuff3@icloud.com](mailto:meg_stuff3@icloud.com)

**Thursday, December 5, 2024, Lower Javelina Loop+, (D+/4m/300'/\$3/7:30AM),** Meet at

Welcome Center to carpool to Dove Mtn.Trailhead parking lot. Hike Lower Javelina trail south side and beyond, then return via Lower Javelina north side and back to the parking lot. Ron

Brillhart, [rdrill6660@gmail.com](mailto:rdrill6660@gmail.com)

**Friday, December 6, 2024, Tortolita Foothills "Lita" [C+/8mi/300'/\$0/8am]** Access Tortolita

Flats from Desert Oasis. Follow trails NW to find 3 Topo map triangulation markers "Lita". These are survey markers embedded in rocks placed in the 1930's This hike is on State Trust Land.

Meet at Desert Oasis at 8am. Sigrid and Dave Flatness, [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com)

**Friday, December 6, 2024, Big Wash to Oasis [C-/6mi/300'/\$0/8AM]** Park at Admin building

and hike 6 miles in loop via Big Wash / Oasis back to admin building. Max Haegele

[43avocet@gmail.com](mailto:43avocet@gmail.com)

**Monday, December 9, 2024, Vistoso Trails Natural Preserve [D/3mi/200'/\$0/9am]**

The Back Nine! Three-mile loop trail at Vistoso Trails Natural Preserve. A concrete trail winds through the former Vistoso Golf course. Beautiful mountain views and opportunities to view wildlife. There is a porta-potty at the beginning. No other separation breaks are available. Kevin

Kopp, [kkopp.eyes@comcast.net](mailto:kkopp.eyes@comcast.net)

**Monday, December 9, 2024, Arizona Trail Passage 14 (C/8mi/1300'/\$3/8am)** Park off Tiger Mine Road north of Oracle. Drive 1 mile to parking. Hike the first part of this passage. Trail is many ups and downs but none extremely steep. Wonderful views throughout. Meet at the welcome center at 8am. Phil Weinberg, [phweinb@gmail.com](mailto:phweinb@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024, Vision Seeker's Gorge [C/6mi/300'/\$3/8am]** Park at the Crow windmill 5.2 miles in on Rail-X Ranch Road. NOTE: Rail-X (Edwin) road west is somewhat rough. One mile of hike is off trail. No low clearance sport cars. Max Haegle [43avocet@gmail.com](mailto:43avocet@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, December 11, 2024, Honeybee Canyon Bird Walk [C/5+ miles/200'/8:00am]** Meet at the Copper Center parking lot. We'll walk down Rancho Vistoso to the back "road" into Honeybee Canyon. We'll let the birds set our pace as we make our way through the canyon, taking a short break at the picnic tables before we head up the wash toward the petroglyphs where there are some interesting birds. We'll return to Copper Center walking up Rancho Vistoso. I'm happy to have both experienced birders and new birders who'd like to know more about our local birds. We'll be both watching for birds and listening for their calls. If you're new to listening for birds I highly recommend you download a free app from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. It's called Merlin. We'll talk about how to use it as we explore. I have a spare pair of binoculars if anyone needs them. Debbie Carr-Taylor, [debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, December 11, 2024, Painted Hills Trail Loop [D/4mi/350'/\$4/8:30am]** Carpool to Painted Hills Trailhead and hike Slingshot and Monsoon Loop trails in this small urban Tucson Mountain Park on rocky, roller-coaster, desert trails with views. Optional brunch/lunch after at Teresa's Mosaic Restaurant, 2456 N Silver Mosaic Dr, Tucson, (<https://teresasmosaic.com/>) when signing up for hike let me know if you want to stop for food or not so I can make reservations. Georgene Porter, [gvporter@live.com](mailto:gvporter@live.com)

**Wednesday, December 11, 2024, Dripping Springs, Catalina State Park [C/5mi/500/\$2/8am]** Meet behind Welcome Center. We'll take Canyon Loop Trail counter clockwise to Sutherland Trail and to Dripping Springs. Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**Thursday, December 12, 2024, Wild Mustang/Wild Burro Loop, (B/8m/1600'/\$3/7:30AM),** Meet at Welcome Center to carpool to Dove Mtn.Trailhead pkglot. Hike Hotel spur and Upper Javalina T. to W. Mustang T. Hike Mustang T. to W. Burro T. and return thru Alamo Spring to pkglot. Good visuals of Catalina Mtn., Tucson Mtn., Avra Valley, and Picacho Peak. Ron Brillhart, [rdbri16660@gmail.com](mailto:rdbri16660@gmail.com)

**POSTPONED UNTIL 12/20. Thursday, December 12, 2024, Orientation Hike [D/3 mi/350'/\$2/8:00 am]** Reservation required. This is a prerequisite hike for joining or rejoining the SCOV Hiking Club. This hike meets behind the SCOV Welcome Center in the parking lot. After a bit of information is shared about our club, we will then drive to Catalina State Park Equestrian Center. Bring \$2 if you would like to carpool, or if you drive yourself, a State Parks pass is required or pay a \$7 entry fee at the gate. We will hike 1-1/2 miles up the 50-Year Trail and return. Bring sufficient water, wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots; if you use walking poles bring them, as well as a good sun hat. Please contact Meg Gerken at (520) 638-7204 or [meg\\_stuff3@icloud.com](mailto:meg_stuff3@icloud.com) to reserve a spot.

**Friday, December 13, 2024, Picture Rock Area Trails [C/5mi/500'/\$5/7:30am]** Meet behind Welcome Center to carpool. Park on Picture Rocks Road at the Com Bah Trailhead. It's about 0.6 miles west of the Park boundary sign. (Google Maps calls it "Picture Rocks parking lot".) First, we will hike a bit north on the Ringtail Trail. Then we will hike south making a loop on various trails. Sigrid and Dave Flatness, [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com)

**Monday, December 16, 2024, Pontatoc Ridge (C+/5mi/1500'/7:30am)** Meet at Welcome Center to caravan to parking lot on left side at the end of Alvernon Way. Hike up to the end of the trail and return. Good views of Tucson and Finger Rock. Steep for the last mile. LIMIT 6 for limited space at top. Phil Weinberg, [phweinb@gmail.com](mailto:phweinb@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, December 17, 2024 Alamo Canyon Loop Bird Hike [D/4+miles/300'/8:00 am]** Meet at the Romero Ruins parking lot in Catalina State Park. Everyone from experienced birders to those who'd like to learn a bit about the birds around the park are welcome to join the hike! We'll do a counterclockwise hike, starting on the side of the canyon with more trees to watch and listen for wintering birds. If you're new to listening for birds I highly recommend you download a free app from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. It's called Merlin. We'll talk about how to use it as we explore. We'll make our way to the amphitheater area where there's a seasonal stream for a short snack and return to the parking lot coming down the more open, grassy area. Poles may be helpful in a few rocky, steeper areas. We'll let the birds set our pace so the total hike time may be longer than a typical hike. After the loop is finished anyone interested can check out the picnic area with me for some interesting birds that are often seen there. I'll be having a picnic lunch in the covered shelter if the weather permits so feel free to join me if time allows. Limit 10 hikers. I have a spare pair of binoculars if anyone needs them. Debbie Carr-Taylor, [debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, December 17, 2024, Campo Bello History Hike [ D/4 mi/100'/ \$3/8:30 am]** Meet at James Kriegh Park on Calle Concordia and walk several early neighborhoods that pre-date the founding of Oro Valley. Hear about the history of the area. Maximum: 15. Jim Williams. [jaswilliams128@msn.com](mailto:jaswilliams128@msn.com)

**NEW HIKE. Tuesday, December 17, 2024, Golf Course Full Moon Walk [D/3 miles/100'/6:45 am]** Meet by putting green behind the pro shop. I'm looking for early risers who'd like to walk the front nine of the golf course with me. Phil Arms [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, December 17, 2024, Buster Mountain [A-/5mi/1981'/\$2/ 7:00 am]**

Meet behind the Welcome Center to carpool to CSP trailhead. We will take a clockwise route to the top and return the same way. Follow the left loop of Birding Trail to unmarked trail after first wash crossing. The trail is steep leading to the top of a high ridge. From there we will hike the final distance via animal trails to the summit. Celebrate by absorbing the amazing views of upper Alamo Canyon, Pusch Ridge, Oro Valley and beyond; and by signing the register. Tom Meyer, [tmeyer80@msn.com](mailto:tmeyer80@msn.com).

**Wednesday, December 18, 2024, Gabe Zimmerman to AZT North [C/6mi/630'/\$9/7:30 am]**

Meet at the Welcome Center to carpool to the Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead (16000 Marsh Station Road, Vail). Hike Passage 8 of the Arizona Trail North to the Cienga Creek riparian area with flowing water and several train trestles with frequent trains. Continue hiking 3 miles to the snack area then return to trailhead. Byron Wolfing, [wolfing5@gmail.com](mailto:wolfing5@gmail.com).

**Thursday, December 19, 2024, Deer Camp Round the Mountain Loop [B/9miles/1300'/**

**\$2/8:00 am]**. Park at the corral on the Equestrian Trail off Golder Ranch Road. Follow the jeep trail down to Sutherland Wash. Head NE /Cherry Tank "around the mountain" and returning to Trailhead via connecting trails. Bring lunch. I first went on this hike led by Clive Probert, former Chief Guide, and found it to be a lot of fun. He had many, many .gpx tracts (hikes) in this interesting area that have since disappeared. This hike is on State Trust Land. Meet at the Welcome Center parking lot. Doug Higgins, [dahiggins@comcast.net](mailto:dahiggins@comcast.net)

**Thursday, December 19, 2024, Black Rock Loop Sweetwater Preserve**

**[D/4mi/300'/\$4/8:30am]** This is NOT the WW Treatment Plant! Carpool to hike this lollipop trail in Pima County Park through saguaros/desert landscape with occasional suburban views. Saguardo Vista to Black Rock Loop and back to cars. Georgene Porter, [gvporter@live.com](mailto:gvporter@live.com)

**ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED 12/12. Friday, December 20, 2024, Orientation Hike [D/3 mi/350'/\$2/8:30 am]** Reservation required. This is a prerequisite hike for joining or rejoining

the SCOV Hiking Club. This hike meets behind the SCOV Welcome Center in the parking lot. After a bit of information is shared about our club, we will then drive to Catalina State Park Equestrian Center. Bring \$2 if you would like to carpool, or if you drive yourself, a State Parks pass is required or pay a \$7 entry fee at the gate. We will hike 1-1/2 miles up the 50-Year Trail and return. Bring sufficient water, wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots; if you use walking poles bring them, as well as a good sun hat. Please contact Meg Gerken at (520) 638-7204 or [meg\\_stuff3@icloud.com](mailto:meg_stuff3@icloud.com) to reserve a spot.

**Friday, December 20, 2024, Sahuarita Dams Rail X Rd [C/7mi/400'/\$3/7:30am]** Meet behind Welcome Center to carpool. This hike is out in the north Tortolita flats area. Will hike on dirt roads, trails and washes. Visit Sahuarita Dams. Hike is on State Trust Land. Sigrid and Dave Flatness, [sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com)

**Monday, December 23, 2024, Tortolita Loop [C/6mi/300'/\$0/8am]** Meet at Desert Oasis parking lot, hike bicycle trails in Tortolita flats and foothills, pass the mysterious concrete pillar. This hike is on State Trust land. Byron Wolff, [wolffing5@gmail.com](mailto:wolffing5@gmail.com).

**Thursday, December 26, 2024, Tortolita Flats [B/8mi/300'/\$0/8am]** Meet at Desert Oasis parking lot, hike mostly on dirt roads and trails through the flats and foothills of Tortolita Mountains. This hike is on State Trust Land. You do not have to sign up for this hike in advance. Just show up at the Desert Oasis by 8 AM, sign the hike sheet and off we go into the local flats. Will be back by 12:30 PM. Max Haegele [43avocet@gmail.com](mailto:43avocet@gmail.com)

**Friday, December 27, 2024, Vistoso Trails Natural Preserve [D/3mi/200'/\$1/9:00 am]** Short close-in hike for a busy week. Carpool to hike a 3-mile loop trail at Vistoso Trails Natural Preserve. A concrete trail winds through the former Vistoso Golf course with beautiful mountain views and desert scenery. Georgene Porter, [gvporter@live.com](mailto:gvporter@live.com)

**Monday, December 30, 2024, Petroglyphs from Sutherland Wash [D/4mi/400'/\$2/8am]** This is the shortest Hike to the Petroglyphs. Drive out Golder Ranch Rd. Turn Right after Cattle Guard crossing. Higher clearance vehicles needed (SUV or Equivalent) to drive one mile down road to north Catalina State Park gate. The road is a little rough for only 1/4 mile. Hike moderate trail to hundreds of Petroglyphs and some Metates. This hike is on State Trust Land. Max Haegele [43avocet@gmail.com](mailto:43avocet@gmail.com) or 520-818-9178.

**Tuesday, December 31, 2024, New Year's Eve Hike: Bridle Trail [D/3mi/50'/\$2/9am]** We will leave from the Sun City Welcome Center at 9am. and drive to the flycatcher picnic area at Catalina State Park. We will hike on the bridle trail going to the equestrian center, then back on

the bridle trail past the picnic area to the main trailhead, and then return to the picnic area for a total of 3 miles. Very little elevation gain. Bob and Leslie Esparza, [rlsuncity@yahoo.com](mailto:rlsuncity@yahoo.com)

**Tuesday, December 31, 2024, Water's Cascade [C/4+mi/800'/\$2/8am]** Meet at Parking lot behind Welcome Center if needed to carpool. At CSP, drive to the first parking lot after crossing CDO wash. We will follow the trail up the SW side of Alamo Canyon for 1.0 miles then take a side trail on the right that goes to the stock tank. After 0.8 mi (before the stock tank) take a side trail to a special place for a nice view of Oro Valley. Sigrid and Dave Flatness  
[sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com](mailto:sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, December 31, 2024, Hole in the Rock Loop [D/4mi/350'/\$2/9am]** Meet at the Flycatcher group picnic area. Hike from the picnic area on various trails to Hole in the Rock and back to the picnic area. Millie Sparling, [milliesparling79@gmail.com](mailto:milliesparling79@gmail.com)

**NEW HIKE. Tuesday, December 31, 2024, New Year's Eve Hike Dripping Springs, Catalina State Park [C/5mi/500'/\$2/9am]** Meet behind Sun City Welcome Center for drive to flycatcher picnic area at Catalina State Park. We'll take the Bridle Trail to Canyon Loop Trail clockwise to Sutherland Trail and on to Dripping Springs. Phil Arms, [parms1950@gmail.com](mailto:parms1950@gmail.com)

**NEW HIKE. Tuesday, December 31, 2024, Fifty-Year Trail Side Trail Loop [D/4mi/400'/\$2/8:30am]** Meet behind Welcome Center at 8:30 to carpool to Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park (need State Park pass). Hike uphill along an old jeep road leaving from the Equestrian Center 2 miles and return on a rocky side horse trail. Georgene Porter, [gvporter@live.com](mailto:gvporter@live.com)

**Tuesday, December 31, 2024, New Year's Eve Party at Flycatcher Group Area at Catalina State Park.** Mark your calendars. Full announcement to follow so you can sign up for morning hikes in the CSP before the party begins at 11:30 AM.