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# Saguaro National Park News Release

13-16

*For Immediate Release*

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## March PROGRAMS AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

Highlights of Saguaro National Park's programs for March include a variety of sunset and moonlight hikes in the West District; and Cactus Caravans, star parties, and patio programs in the East District. To view many other cultural and natural history programs and hikes, see the park's Website at [www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu) or visit us on Facebook. Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations.

### Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West, 2700 N. Kinney Road):

**March 2** 4:00 p.m. **Silhouettes at Sundown** Hike: 3 hours, 2 ½ miles roundtrip

**March 9, 16, 23** 4:15 p.m.

**March 30** 4:30 p.m. Trek along an arroyo as the setting sun magically silhouettes the Southwest's most famous icon – the giant saguaro. This hike is considered easy. Reservations required; 733-5158

**March 22** 3:00 p.m. **Wasson Peak** Hike: 7 hours, 8 miles roundtrip

This hike climbs 1,700 feet to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Enjoy a 360-degree view of the sunset before descending by the light of the moon. The hike is at an easy pace but is considered to be difficult due to elevation gain and hiking after dark. Reservations required; 733-5158

**March 23** 5:00 p.m. **Twilight Glow To Moon Shadows** Hike: 2½ hours, 2½ miles roundtrip

This easy hike bridges sunset and darkness. Hikers will experience the desert both in the twilight glow and in moon shadows. Reservations required; 733-5158

**March 24** 4:30 p.m. **Sunset Hike** Hike: 4 hours, 3 ½ miles roundtrip

This moderate hike gains 700 feet with most of the elevation change in switchbacks near the ridgeline. Hikers will watch the sunset before descending under moonlight. Reservations required; 733-5158

**March 25** 5:15 p.m. **Moon Take Night, Make Day** Hike: 3 hours, 2 ½ miles roundtrip

Visitors will enjoy the sunset before returning in the moonlight. This hike is considered easy but includes a few high-stepping rocky outcroppings in the wash. Reservations required; 733-5158

**March 2, 9, 16, 17, 23, 30** 9:45 a.m. **Life in an Arroyo** Hike: 1½ hours, 1½ miles

**March 3** 1:15 p.m. Whether called an arroyo or a wash, this path for water runoff also provides a roadway, shelter, air conditioning, habitat, and sustenance for plants, critters, and humans. This hike goes – where else – into an arroyo. No sandals, please!

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** 10:45 p.m. **A Gem of a Desert** Walk: 1 hour; 1 mile

The Sonoran Desert is a gem with various facets. Join a geologist/naturalist in search of desert surprises, including ancient rock formations, plants, lizards, and other habitats and inhabitants.

**March 5, 12, 19, 26** 3:15 p.m. **Whales in the Desert** Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the unique connection between whales and the Sonoran Desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**March 6, 13, 20, 27** 10:45 a.m. **Petroglyphs: Communications Etched In Stone** Talk: 30 minutes

The Hohokam people carved and pecked symbols into stone, leaving meanings still subject to speculation centuries later. What is the current thinking about the meanings of petroglyphs, and what might have indigenous people been communicating? *Wheelchair accessible.*

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## EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## **Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East):**

**March 1, 2, 3 9:00 - 5:00**

### **WNPA hosts Mata Ortiz Pottery, Oaxacan Carving and Zapotec Rug Expo and Sale**

Join park staff in the visitor center to meet the craftspeople who create these works of art. Explore the history, culture and techniques behind the art. Special videos will be shown each day at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium, followed by book signings. Pottery firing at 1:00 p.m. on March 2 and 3.

**March 5, 12, 19, 26 3:00 p.m. Reptiles and Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert Presentation**

Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**March 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28 3:00 p.m. Candid Camera Presentation**

Where are the mountain lions? Join park staff to view real video and candid snapshots of wildlife, right here at Saguaro National Park! You will find out about recently discovered species and discuss the loss of habitat of some of our large mammals.

**March 8, 15 & 29 10:30 a.m. Cowboys in the Rincons 2.5 Mile Guided Hike**

Explore the history and nature of the Rincon Valley on this 2-hour, 2 ½-mile hike, where homesteaders and ranchers met, when cowboys and *vaqueros* roamed the saguaro forests and mountain heights. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended. **MEET AT LOMA ALTA TRAILHEAD.**

**March 8 7:00 p.m. Dark of the Moon Hike 2.5 Mile Guided Hike**

Join a park naturalist to explore the desert during the "Dark of the Moon". Sturdy walking shoes and water are recommended. **Reservations are required. Call (520)733-5153.**

**March 14 7:00 p.m. Star Party Illustrated Program & Activity**

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. **Reservations required. Call (520)733-5153. Wheelchair accessible.**

**March 22 7:00 p.m. Night Walk 1 Mile Guided Walk**

Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. **Reservations required. Call (520)733-5153.**

**March 24 3:30 p.m. Sunset/Moonlight Hike 5 Mile Guided Hike**

View the Arizona sunset from a perch high in the foothills of the Rincon Mountains, then experience the magic of a walk through the moonlit Cactus Forest. **Reservations are required. Call (520)733-5153.**

**March 27 3:00 p.m. The Expedition of Juan Bautista de Anza Presentation**

Join park ranger Al Watson in the visitor center auditorium to retrace the steps of Juan Bautista de Anza on his historic expedition of 1775 – 1776. What discoveries were made and hardships endured as these intrepid travelers made their way from Tubac, Arizona to San Francisco, California. *Wheelchair accessible.*

### **Daily Programs**

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

### **Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers**

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)  
2700 North Kinney Road  
Tucson, AZ 85743  
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)  
3693 South Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85730  
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

[www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu)

[www.friendsofsaguaro.org](http://www.friendsofsaguaro.org)

[www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)

[www.rinconinstitute.org](http://www.rinconinstitute.org)

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