

Nearby Parks

If you’re having a great time here, don’t forget to visit one of the three nearby state parks!

Lost Dutchman State Park (36 miles) Located in Apache Junction in the Sonoran Desert, 40 miles east of Phoenix. Several trails lead from the park into the Superstition wilderness and surrounding Tonto National Forest. (480) 982-4485

Picacho Peak State Park (37 miles) A centuries-old historic landmark, this park offers day-use picnic areas, overnight and RV camping, and hiking trails on and off the peak. Enjoy the view from the top of Picacho Peak, but make sure you bring plenty of water. (520) 466-3183

Catalina State Park (53 miles) With miles of hiking, birding, biking, and equestrian trails winding through the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains and the Coronado National Forest, this park is truly a haven of desert wilderness. Canyons, pools, and saguaros beckon to visitors! (520) 628-5798



McFarland State Historic Park
24 W Ruggles St. Florence, AZ 85132
(520) 868-5216 | 1-877-MYPARKS
azstateparks.com/mcfarland

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06/26

Explore the history of Florence, Arizona and learn about the oldest courthouse still standing in the state at **McFarland State Historic Park** This building, constructed in 1878, is the largest adobe structure from the territorial period and is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

The park museum showcases examples of the history of Arizona and the people who helped shape it. **Thank you for visiting!**



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More than a Courthouse

In 1878, Florence was known as “the garden city.” Located in the middle of the desert, its lush grass would spread outward from tall stands of cottonwood trees that lined the hard-packed streets. Farmers, ranchers and miners would join townspeople at the Pinal County Courthouse, the center of activity, to socialize and transact business. The courthouse also served as a public dance hall.

Levi Ruggles drew the plans for the courthouse that was constructed of locally-made adobe blocks. The wood for the building was brought from northern Arizona by wagon. The Courthouse was enlarged in 1882 to provide additional offices and an upstairs for the sheriff’s quarters. A second courthouse, in Florence, was completed in 1891 and the county offices were moved. The first courthouse building was then converted into a hospital that served the County for almost 50 years. When the hospital moved, the old building was converted into a public health and welfare center. From 1968 to 1970 the building housed the Pinal County Historical Society Museum. The building was vacant until it sold to Governor McFarland at public auction in 1974.

Visit the park’s World War II Prisoner of War Camp exhibit depicting the lives of the people who were stationed and imprisoned there. Photographs and artifacts from U.S. servicemen and the Prisoners of War are displayed.



Park Rules

General Rules

- Do not litter! “Leave no trace” and pack out what you bring in, or use the trash receptacles provided in the park.
- Drive your vehicle only on designated paved surfaces. Park only in designated parking areas. Do not park on the side of the road.
- Stay on designated trails. Cutting trails degrades habitat and harms the landscape.
- Do not use glass containers in the park.
- All of our parks adhere to firearm and hunting regulations. Please familiarize yourself with this information.

Pets

- Please keep non-service animals out of park buildings.
- Keep your pets on a maximum six-foot leash at all times. Pets must be attended at all times.
- **Pick up after your pet.**
- For additional information related to pets, visit our website or ask park staff.

The rules of this park are not limited to the rules listed above. Additional park rules may be found at **azstateparks.com**

Governor Ernest McFarland

Ernest W. McFarland contributed to Arizona history through an active public service career and many lasting projects. He is the only known American to have served his state in the highest branches of government (U.S. senator, serving as majority leader; governor; and Arizona Supreme Court Justice).

Ernest McFarland is commonly referred to as the “Father of the G.I. Bill” because he wrote the home and business loan sections. He also signed the legislation creating the Arizona State Parks system in 1957. Governor McFarland purchased the courthouse and donated the structure, along with funds for its restoration and preservation, to Arizona State Parks in 1974.



McFARLAND

STATE HISTORIC PARK



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