

Nearby Parks

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

Patagonia Lake State Park (1.3 miles)

Tucked away in the rolling hills of southeastern AZ is a hidden treasure. An ideal place to find whitetail deer roaming the hills and great blue herons walking the shoreline. The park offers a campground, beach, picnic area with ramadas, tables and grills, a creek trail, boat ramps, and a marina. (520) 287-6965

Tubac Presidio State Historic Park (33 miles)

Arizona's first state park, this historic site rests on the Anza Trail and commemorates the oldest Spanish presidio in Arizona with a museum, schoolhouse, colonial ruins, and picnic grounds. (520) 398-2252

Kartchner Caverns State Park (54 miles)

"Arizona's Best Attraction" as voted by USA Today's 2017 Reader's Poll, this hidden jewel features cave formations found nowhere else in the world. Take the Throne Room tour and see the five-story formation Kubla Khan! (520) 586-4100

Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park (62 miles)

Located in "the town too tough to die," this preserved court building houses a collection of historic artifacts and memorabilia from the legendary American Old West. (520) 457-3311



Established 1957

Sonoita Creek State Park

400 Patagonia Lake, Patagonia, AZ 85624

(520) 287-2791 | 1-877-MYPARKS

AZStateParks.com/sonoita-creek

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Established in 1994, the mission of **Sonoita Creek State Natural Area** is to preserve this fragile riparian area and its surrounding environment. Encompassing a major portion of the Sonoita Creek and Coal Mine Spring watersheds, this is Arizona's first significant natural area.

The natural area protects not only the endangered Gila Topminnow and several special-status birds, but also historical and cultural relics. Low impact recreation such as hiking and bird watching co-exist with educational and scientific research at Sonoita Creek State Natural Area.

Thank You for visiting!



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Habitat

Sonoita Creek State Natural Area is unique in that, within a relatively small area, seven distinct vegetative communities are present ranging from semi-desert grasslands to riparian deciduous forests. The visual and biological characteristics of these communities are markedly different, and their combined presence in a relatively small area is quite rare.

The natural area is located in a transitional zone between the Sonoran Desert and the Chihuahuan Desert. Representative species from each zone can be observed within its boundaries.

Management Goals

Sonoita Creek State Natural Area is home to one of Arizona's few permanently flowing streams and provides habitat for many rare species of fish, birds, and plants. Because of this, Arizona State Parks & Trails has distinct goals for managing this area.

Maintaining natural surface water flow supports many of our other goals, including protecting and restoring riparian and upland habitat, maintaining diverse and healthy populations of native wildlife, as well as protecting existing populations of special-status, native wildlife. The natural area is also a cultural resource for Native communities historically connected to the area.

We're happy to receive visitors, but because of the sensitivity of the area, please pack out what you bring in and leave all plants, animals, insects, rocks, and other items in the natural area.

Birding

The natural area offers exceptional birding opportunities. Over 315 resident and migratory bird species inhabit Sonoita Creek and Patagonia Lake including eastern, western, and accidental Mexican species such as the elegant trogon, rufous-backed robin, and the black-capped gnatcatcher. A schedule of birding hikes and boat tours are available online.

Park Rules

General Rules

- Do not litter! Recreate responsibly 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.

Fires

- Keep fires in grills or designated state parks fire rings. Never leave fires unattended!
- Only charcoal fires and propane fires are allowed in the park.
- **Do not gather firewood in the parks.** Firewood is for sale in most park stores.
- Fireworks are not permitted in state parks.
- Be "fire smart" and check fire restrictions at azstateparks.com/fire-safety.

Camping

- Campsites are limited to up to six adults and up to 10 people total.

Pets

- 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.

Natural Area Rules

- A permit is required for each person and each horse before entering the natural area. Permits are available at the Patagonia Lake Visitor Center.
- No bicycles or motorized vehicles.
- Horses must stay on designated trails and cannot stay overnight. Feed horses weed-free hay for seven days before entering the natural area.

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

SONOITA CREEK

STATE NATURAL AREA

	Campsite		Peak
	Gift Shop		Trailhead
	Market		Gate
	Overlook		Trail
	Parking		Wash
	Point of Interest		Creek
	Ranger Station		Other Boundary
	Restroom		Park Boundary
	Junction		

Trail Code	Trail Name	Length One Way mi	Length One Way km	Uses*
BH	Blackhawk	1.4	2.3	H
CC	Cat Cave	2.6	4.1	H
CM	Coal Mine Spring	6.5	10.5	H
CA	Coal Mine Spring Campsite	0.3	0.5	H
FH	Foothills	0.4	0.6	H
HC	Horse Corral	1.4	2.3	EH
OV	Overlook	0.7	1.2	H
RR	New Mexico & Arizona Railroad	5.7	9.1	P
SC	Sonoita Creek	1.5	2.4	P
VI	Vista	0.8	1.3	H

* E=Equestrian H=Hike P=Portions have an alternate equestrian route

Blackhawk/Sonoita Creek Loop (2.75 Mile Round Trip)

RR, CM, and FH trails have not been maintained. Travel at your own risk.

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Hiking Only Segments: Horses Follow Stream



To Patagonia 11mi 18km
To Nogales 15mi 24km