

Wilderness Stewardship Program

Rincon Mountain Wilderness Monitoring Day Hikes/Car Camping

February 8-9, 2014 (Saturday - Sunday)

Difficulty:  3/5 [read more](#)

Mileage: ≤ 13 miles *Total Mileage*

Camping: Dispersed Camping

Time: Start 8:00 am Saturday
End 4:00 pm Sunday

About Rincon Mountain Wilderness Area

The Rincon Mountain Wilderness is 38,590 acres of beautiful Sonoran Desert landscape located within the Coronado National Forest east of Tucson. Designated a wilderness area in 1984, Rincon Mountain Wilderness wraps around the north, east, and south side of the Saguaro Wilderness (57,930 acres) which is managed by the National Park Service. Together the Rincon and Saguaro Wilderness areas make a contiguous 96,520 acre wilderness centered around the Rincon Mountains. Elevations range from 8,482 feet at the top of Rincon Peak all the way down to 3,200 feet in the desert lowlands. Numerous drainages cut through the mountains and a few have reliable water making for biological oasis. There are only three official trails within the Rincon Mountain Wilderness although many more miles of trail are available in the adjoining Saguaro Wilderness. Though the Rincon Mountain Wilderness lies just outside the border of Tucson, it offers exceptional opportunities for solitude and adventurous explorations.



Rincon Mountain Wilderness

Trip Description

This trip will be a car camping trip with day hikes on Saturday and Sunday. Of the three official trails within Rincon Mountain Wilderness, two begin at nearly adjacent trailheads. For this trip we will drive to the east side of the wilderness to the Miller Creek Trailhead. We will hike the 1.5 miles of the Coronado NF-managed Miller Creek Trail (#28) while monitoring and continue through into the Saguaro Wilderness within the National Park (Saturday total of ~5–6 miles, easy/moderate hiking difficulty). Our turn-around is dependent on time, but ultimately we will return the way we came and camp at the trailhead/parking.

On Sunday, we will carpool the 2+ miles to the Turkey Creek trailhead. We will the Turkey Creek Trail (#34) for the 1.5 miles while monitoring and again cross into the Saguaro Wilderness (Sunday total of ~6–7 miles, easy/moderate hiking difficulty). Like the day before, we will turn around depending on time and return to the vehicles.

Participants should be prepared to hike a total of 13 miles (average 6-7 miles per day) on rugged and at times steep Forest Service trails with daypacks. All necessary training for monitoring recreation impacts and non-native plants will be provided on site. Camping will be at our vehicles. AWC will provide dinner Saturday night.

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REGISTRATION REQUIRED



for Rincon Mountain Wilderness, February 8-9th
Questions? (928) 350-2204

Itinerary

- Saturday, February 8th (~5–6 miles hiking – easy to moderate difficulty)
- 8:00am **Briefing and Safety Talk** (Miller Creek Trailhead, *directions below*)
- 8:45am Depart parking area
Hike Miller Creek Trail (#28) to Rincon Mountain Wilderness boundary (1.5 miles)
Continue hiking Trail #28 into Saguaro Wilderness, as time permits (~1.5 miles)
Lunch on the trail
Return the same route
- 4:00pm Arrive at trailhead/camp
Dinner provided by AWC (vegetarian)
- Sunday, February 9th (~6–7 miles hiking – easy to moderate difficulty)
- 7:30 am Breakfast & break down camp
- 8:30 am **Carpool to Turkey Creek Trailhead**
Hike Turkey Creek Trail (#34) to Rincon Mountain Wilderness boundary (1.5 miles)
Continue hiking Trail #34 into Saguaro Wilderness, as time permits (~2 miles)
Lunch on the trail
Return the same route
- 4:00 pm Arrive at trailhead

Gear List

- A daypack large enough to carry water, food, and other gear for a full day hike.
- Water — 3-4 liters/day. Water availability in the creeks is unreliable.
- Food — Breakfast, Lunches/snacks. AWC will provide dinner on Saturday.
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (NO SANDALS FOR HIKING).
 - Under our volunteer agreement with the Forest Service, *you must wear closed-toe shoes for trail work or you will not be able to join us.*
 - Sandals are okay in camp.
- Appropriate clothing. Warm layers for the evenings. *See weather link below to plan appropriately.*
- Sun protection (sun screen, sunglasses, hat, etc.)
- Camping equipment: sleeping bag, sleeping pad, tent/shelter, flashlight (batteries), plate/bowl, utensils, toiletries/toothbrush, first aid kit, other?

Optional items

- Camera/Binoculars
- Hiking pole(s) or stick
- Swimsuit



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Weather

As the event gets closer, please check the weather to ensure you are properly prepared. The weather forecast near where we will camp: [Rincon Mountain Wilderness](#)

We will be camping at approximately 4,200-foot elevation.

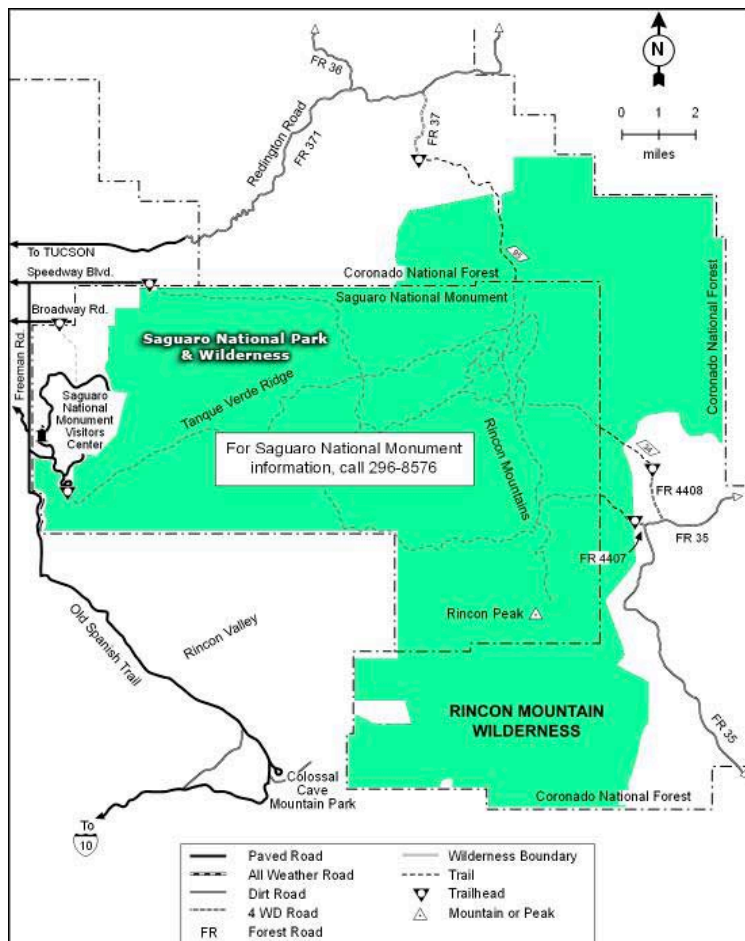
Driving Directions

We will rendezvous at the Miller Creek Trailhead. A portions of the driving route is dirt road, but passable by passenger car.

From Tucson:

1. Take I-10 East of Tucson
2. Exit 297, Mescal Road
3. Drive north on J-6 Ranch/Mescal Rd for approximately 16 miles
 - Mescal Road becomes FR 35 (dirt road, suitable for passenger car)
4. Turn left onto FR 4407
 - look for large sign indicating Miller Creek trailhead
5. Follow FR 4407 for 0.2 miles to parking area/rendezvous

Approximate driving time from the junction of I-10 and I-19 is about 1 hour 20 minutes.



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**Trip Leader:
Sam Frank (928) 830-8499 (cell)**