



Download a free digital copy of *Natural History of the Ironwood Forest National Monument: A Sonoran Desert Primer* by Royce Ballinger and Young Cage.

The Ultimate Guide

- There are no organized trails, no facilities and no visitor center.
- Most roads require high clearance or 4wd vehicles.
- Camping is dispersed.
- ❖ Managed to maintain its primitive state.
- ❖ Amazing wildlife including desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, desert tortoises, and gila monsters.
- ❖ Thousands of the namesake ironwood trees.
- ❖ Ranges with peaks as high as 4,200 feet.
- ❖ Multiple mountain ranges with peaks as far as the eye can see.
- ❖ Stands of saguaro cactus as

Desert habitat in the United States. some of the best examples of Sonoran National Monument. This land protects and Pinal counties as the Ironwood Forest proclaimed 129,000 acres of lands in Pima On June 9, 2000, President Clinton

The Lure of the Monument



- ❖ The ironwood provides shade and protection for other plants, roosting and nesting sites for birds and mammals and its flowers provide nectar for bees.
- ❖ Temperatures under the ironwood can be 15 degrees cooler than the surrounding desert.
- ❖ This drought tolerant tree can live to 800+ years and its wood is so heavy it will not float.
- ❖ Deep roots keep soil in place and the leaf litter provides organic matter that enriches the soil.

The Ironwood Tree

The monument is home to the largest remaining stand of ironwood trees in the Sonoran Desert, the only place it grows. The ironwood provides shade and protection for other plants, roosting and nesting sites for birds and mammals and its flowers provide nectar for bees. The Friends of Ironwood Forest is a local non-profit organization that works for the permanent protection of the biological, geological, archaeological, and historic resources for which the Ironwood Forest National Monument was established. We accomplish our mission by providing resources such as volunteers, expertise, public outreach education, and advocacy on behalf of the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Learn more at www.ironwoodforest.org.

About us

Conservation Lands System

SAFETY

- ◆ Cell service is not available in many areas.
- ◆ No facilities available.
- ◆ Bring plenty of WATER.
- ◆ Many roads are NOT indicated on this map.
- ◆ Most roads are primitive. High clearance vehicles advised.

GENERAL GUIDANCE & REGULATIONS

- + Camping allowed, permit not required for up to 14 days.
- + State Trust Lands require permit to enter.
- + No target shooting allowed.
- + No driving off maintained roads.
- + Do not disturb flora or fauna.
- + Do not pick up or deface any cultural artifacts.

EMERGENCY- CALL 911
NON-EMERGENCY: (800) 309-7081
[24/7 Federal Law Enforcement Dispatch]

For news and more information about the monument, go to our website:

FRIENDS OF IRONWOOD FOREST
ironwoodforest.org



This map is dedicated to the late Royce Ballinger, former board member, supporter and great friend to the monument. The map project was his idea. Royce, along with the late Young Cage (another former board member), are the authors of Natural History of the Ironwood Forest National Monument: A Sonoran Desert Primer which is the definitive book on the Ironwood.

Thank you, Royce
for all you have done!

We recognize
Ironwood Forest National Monument
is on the ancestral lands of

the **Tokono O'odham**

Driving Mileage

Paved Road:

- I-10 Avra Valley exit to dirt road (22mi)
- I-10 Marana Road exit to Silverbell dirt road (10mi)

Dirt Road:

- Sasco Rd. to Silverbell Rd. (10.1mi)
- Silverbell Rd. to Cemetery (12mi)
- Silverbell Rd. to Ragged Top turnoff (3.5mi)
- Silverbell Rd. to Group Campsite (5mi)

Warning:

Most of the monument is accessible by dirt roads whose conditions change rapidly. Low clearance vehicles not recommended.

Please do not summit peaks in the Silver Bells (including Ragged Top) or Watermans from January 1-April 30 during bighorn sheep lambing season. The Monument is closed to target shooting.



- Ironwood Forest National Monument
- Tohono O'odham Nation Land
- Other Protected Areas
- Highway
- Suggested Route (paved)
- Paved Route
- Dirt Road
- Cattle Guard
- Santa Cruz River
- Wash

