

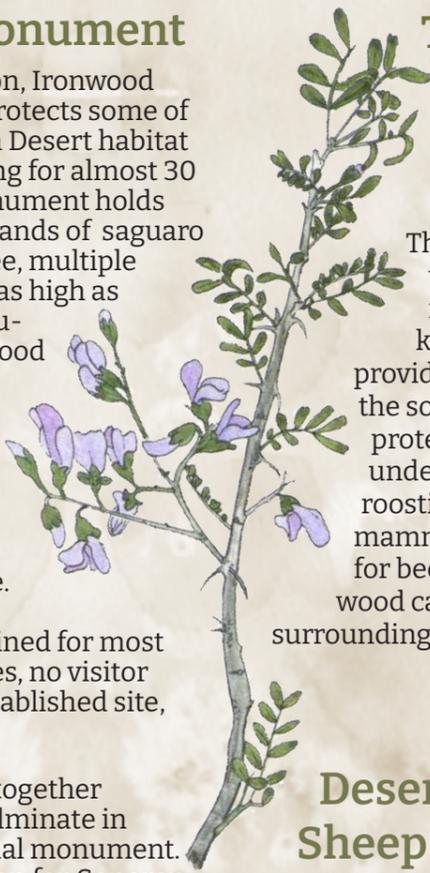
## The Lure of the Monument

Only a short drive from Tucson, Ironwood Forest National Monument protects some of the best examples of Sonoran Desert habitat in the United States. Stretching for almost 30 miles north to south, the monument holds amazing natural treasures: stands of saguaro cactus as far as the eye can see, multiple mountain ranges with peaks as high as 4,200 feet and of course, thousands of the namesake ironwood trees. You will find amazing wildlife including desert big-horn sheep, golden eagles, desert tortoises, and gila monsters.

The monument is managed to maintain its primitive state. There are no organized trails and the roads are not maintained for most vehicles. There are no facilities, no visitor center, and except for one established site, camping is dispersed.

Many (magical) things came together between 1997 and 2000 to culminate in the designation of this national monument. Pima County and the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection offered proposals while Secretary Babbitt obtained resolutions from the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Gila River Indian Tribes and the Pinal Board of Supervisors. On June 9, 2000 President Clinton proclaimed 129,000 acres of lands in Pima and Pinal counties as the Ironwood Forest National Monument.

Friends of Ironwood Forest is a nonprofit that supports the ongoing protection and management of the monument. We work with the Bureau of Land Management to help people appreciate, enjoy, and preserve the biological and cultural heritage in the monument. We invite you to explore one of the best kept secrets of southern Arizona.



## The Ironwood Tree

The monument is home to the largest remaining stand of ironwood trees in the Sonoran Desert, the only place it grows.

This drought tolerant tree can live to 800+ years. Its wood is so heavy it will not float. The deep roots keep soil in place and the leaf litter provides organic matter that enriches the soil. The tree provides shade and protection for other plants growing under its canopy, its branches provide 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.

## Desert Bighorn Sheep

There are over 200 desert bighorn sheep on the monument. The majority are in the Silver Bell, Waterman, Pan Quemado and Ragged Top mountains. Numerous water sources in these ranges were placed by Arizona Game and Fish and the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society. These have been instrumental to the growth of the sheep population.



## Conservation Lands System

Ironwood Forest is a part of the National Conservation Lands system. America's newest designation of publicly-owned lands are some of the most spectacular natural, historical, cultural and archaeological sites managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

### Learn more

Titan II Missile Interpretive Site

[ironwoodforest.org/titan](http://ironwoodforest.org/titan)

Waterman Restoration Site

[ironwoodforest.org/waterman-restoration-site](http://ironwoodforest.org/waterman-restoration-site)

80 Armed Saguaro

[ironwoodforest.org/80-armed-saguaro](http://ironwoodforest.org/80-armed-saguaro)

Silverbell Road Group Site

[ironwoodforest.org/silverbell-group-camp-site](http://ironwoodforest.org/silverbell-group-camp-site)

Silver Bell Cemetery

[ironwoodforest.org/silver-bell-cemetery](http://ironwoodforest.org/silver-bell-cemetery)

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

**Thank you, Royce**  
*for all you do and have done!*

## 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)

# Discover

## IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT

We recognize  
Ironwood Forest National Monument  
is part of the ancestral lands to

the **Tohono  
O'odham**

**FRIENDS OF IRONWOOD FOREST**  
ironwoodforest.org

