

# CATALINA STATE PARK – TRAIL GUIDE

*Unless otherwise noted in the trail description, all trails are multi-use for hikers, bicycles, horses and leashed dogs. Dogs must be leashed ALL TIMES / ALL AREAS.*

## **ROMERO CANYON TRAIL • 7.2 miles, one-way**

Moderately-difficult. Starts at the Trail Head parking lot and immediately crosses Sutherland Wash, which flows seasonally (might get your feet wet). The first mile is a relatively flat and easy walk to Montrose Pools (usually dry). The next 1.8 miles is a steep and rocky climb to Romero Pools, which is the first place where the trail crosses a streambed. Montrose Pools and Romero Pools are shallow catchments on canyon streams that flow seasonally. From the Trail Head to Romero Pools is 2.8 miles with an elevation gain of 1,000 feet. It's about 2 hours from the Trail Head to the pools.

To continue beyond Romero Pools, follow the trail to the right after it emerges from the streambed. It will make a short climb out of the streambed and then level-out heading up-canyon. The trail continues to climb another 4.4 miles up the canyon to Romero Pass at 6,000 feet elevation. From the Trail Head to Romero Pass is 7.2 miles with an elevation gain of 3,300 feet, about a 5-hour hike. Romero Canyon Trail ends at Romero Pass, where it intersects Mt. Lemmon Trail (to Mt. Lemmon) and West Fork Sabino Trail (to Sabino Canyon). Above Romero Pools, poor trail conditions might be encountered in some areas as a result of a forest fire in 2003. This is an un-maintained wilderness trail.

Because it is steep and rocky, Romero Canyon Trail is not recommended for horses beyond Montrose Pools (1 mile out from Trail Head). The trail is closed to bicycles and dogs beyond Montrose Pools because it enters the Pusch Ridge Wilderness, which includes a Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Area.

## **SUTHERLAND TRAIL • 10.8 miles, one-way**

The first few miles is easy hiking that begins at the Trail Head parking lot and gradually climbs about 700 feet in elevation. The trail then leaves Catalina State Park and climbs through Cargodera Canyon in Coronado National Forest. At this point, the trail becomes steep and rocky as it begins an ascent to about 8,600 feet elevation where it ends at an intersection with Mt. Lemmon Trail (to Mt. Lemmon). The total length of Sutherland Trail is 10.8 miles with an elevation gain of 5,900 feet. Day hikers usually do the first 2.6 miles to the park boundary and then return to the Trail Head the same way. This section of the trail crosses a wash several times, so seasonal stream flow might result in wet feet. Plan on about 90 minutes from the Trail Head to the park boundary. There is a 2.2-mile trail link on the north end of the park that connects the Sutherland Trail with the 50-Year Trail.

## **CANYON LOOP TRAIL • 2.3 miles, loop**

This is an easy 2.3-mile loop through the foothills that begins at the Trail Head parking lot. The loop is created by a link connecting the Romero Canyon Trail and the Sutherland Trail. Canyon Loop Trail crosses a wash several times, so seasonal stream flow might result in wet feet. The trail is relatively flat, but about halfway around there is a slope with about 90 stairsteps. There is a bypass trail around the steps for horses. It's about 60 minutes walking time to complete the loop.

## **NATURE TRAIL • 1 mile, loop**

An easy 1-mile loop beginning at the Trail Head parking lot, this trail meanders through low foothills in typical desert scrub vegetation. Trailside signs address the plants, animals, climate and geology of the area. Plan on about 45 minutes walking time.

## **BIRDING TRAIL • 1 mile, loop**

An easy one-mile loop beginning at the Trail Head parking lot, this trail passes through three different habitat types. Visitors have the opportunity to observe various bird species that tend to frequent desert scrub, mesquite bosque and riparian vegetation. Trailside signs address the relationships between certain bird species and the habitat types they prefer. The trail crosses a wash, so seasonal stream flow might result in wet feet. There are stairsteps that will be difficult for horses. About 45 minutes walking time.