

ROMERO RUIN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL • 3/4 mile, loop
Access to this trail is from a parking lot on the main road near the picnic area. The Romero Ruin is an archaeological site that includes the remains of a Hohokam village dating back to about 500 A.D. The trail is an easy 3/4-mile loop through the remaining surface features. Trailside signs address the archaeology of the site, as well as the Hohokam culture. The trail crosses a wash, so seasonal stream flow might result in wet feet. Plan on about 30 minutes walking time. For the protection of cultural resources, this trail is for pedestrians only; no horses or bicycles. Dogs on leash are welcome.

50-YEAR TRAIL • 7.8 miles, one-way
An easy trail that is especially popular with equestrians and mountain bikers, the 50-Year Trail begins at the park Equestrian Center and follows a ridgetop 2.6 miles through the northern half of the park. After leaving the park, the trail continues for another 5.2 miles through open desert on State Trust land. The terrain is up-and-down through foothills, but there is only a few-hundred feet of elevation change from beginning to end. Plan for about 4 hours each way to walk the entire 7.8-mile length of this trail. There is a 2.2-mile trail link on the north end of the park which connects the 50-Year Trail with the Sutherland Trail.

BRIDLE TRAIL • 1.4 miles, one-way
A flat, easy 1.4-mile trail connecting the Equestrian Center with the Trail Head. Plan for about 45 minutes each way.

A Few Desert Hiking Safety Tips

- Never go into the desert without first informing someone as to your destination, your route, and when you will return.
- STICK TO YOUR PLAN.**
- Carry at least ONE GALLON OF WATER PER PERSON PER DAY of your trip.
 - If you have water - drink it. Do not ration it.
 - If water is limited - keep your mouth shut. Do not talk, do not eat, do not smoke, do not drink alcohol, do not take salt.
 - KEEP AN EYE ON THE SKY. Flash floods may occur any time "thunderheads" are in sight, even if it doesn't rain where you are.
 - Do not sit or lie directly on the ground, it might be 30 degrees hotter than the air.
 - A roadway is a sign of civilization. If you are lost and find a road, stay on it.
 - When not moving, use available shade or erect shade from tarps, blankets, etc. - anything to reduce the direct rays of the sun.
 - KEEP CLOTHING ON. It helps to keep the body temperature down and reduces the dehydration rate. Cover your head. If a hat is not handy, improvise a head covering.
 - While walking, REST FOR AT LEAST 10 MINUTES AN HOUR. If you are not normally physically active, rest up to 30 minutes each hour. Find shade and prop up feet. Loosen shoes, but do not remove. You might not be able to get them back on swollen feet.

Trail Etiquette

Hikers:

- When being approached by someone traveling faster than yourself, step aside and let them pass.
- If you are in a group, do not block the trail.
- If your group meets another group, those traveling uphill should have the right-of-way.
- Equestrians always have the right-of-way.

Don't Litter:

- Pack out what you pack in.
- Practice "leave no trace" ethics.

Follow Trails:

- Stay on designated trails. If there is no designated trail, try using animal paths. Remember, desert environments are easily damaged and slow to heal.
- Don't shortcut switchbacks - this can cause severe erosion problems.

Sanitation:

- When restrooms are not available, practice the "cat method" of digging a shallow hole and covering when done.
- Use as little toilet paper as possible.
- Be at least 100 feet away from the nearest water source.
- Remove pet waste in disposal bags, or bury away from the trail.