









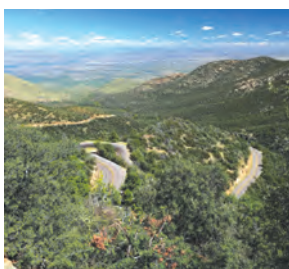
Mount Graham

Follow the Swift Trail up the slopes of the Pinaleno Mountains to the forested high country in the Gila Valley's backyard. Enjoy incredible views and trails, picnic areas, and campgrounds along the way.

Know before you go

-  **SEASONS:** Year-round. Upper road closes to vehicles Nov. 15 to April 15. Contact ranger station for current conditions.
-  **ROAD SAFETY:** Narrow road with steep dropoffs and blind turns. Drive with caution. Watch for wildlife and bicyclists.
-  **RESTRICTIONS:** Vehicles (including trailers) longer than 22 feet are not recommended.
-  **INFORMATION:** The Columbine Visitor Center offers indoor and outdoor exhibits. Open weekends during summer.
-  **DAY USE FEE:** Some sites on Mount Graham, including Riggs Flat Lake, require a day-use fee. Pay on site with cash or check.
-  **FISHING AND BOATING:** Visit www.azgfd.com for stocking schedule, regulations, and to purchase licenses.
-  **BEAR SAFETY:** Store and dispose of all food in bear-safe containers and trash bins, or keep it locked in your vehicle.
-  **WATER:** Drinking water available during the warm months at Upper Arcadia, Treasure Park, Columbine, and Riggs Flat Lake.

Attractions



SWIFT TRAIL PARKWAY

This winding road climbs more than 7,000 feet over 35 miles, skirting the slopes of the Pinaleno Mountains and offering incredible vistas of the surrounding landscape. The first 22 miles are paved; the last 13 miles are dirt. High-clearance recommended on dirt. Drive with caution; the road is steep and narrow with many switchbacks.



RIGGS FLAT LAKE

Nestled in forest at 8,600 feet, this 11-acre lake offers fishing, boating, picnicking, and camping. Trout are stocked in summer. All anglers 10 years and older require a valid fishing license. Boats are limited to one 10 hp motor or less. A paved boat ramp and fishing pier are available.

About Mount Graham

Mount Graham, known as *Dzit Nchaa Si'an* (or Big Seated Mountain) to the Western Apache, has been home to Indigenous people for thousands of years.

In the late 1800s, Apache tribes that lived here for generations were forced onto reservations, restricting their access to the natural resources and spiritual sites on this mountain. Mount Graham still holds profound cultural significance to tribes today, and many sites are considered sacred.

An influx of Mormon farmers and ranchers in the late 1800s, and mining ventures in the early 1900s, prompted a need for lumber from the pine-covered mountain. Numerous sawmills were built across the range; remnants of some mills are present today.

The Swift Trail follows the original wagon route used to transport lumber down the mountain. Place names along the parkway recall early pioneers, from the namesake Forest Supervisor T. T. Swift, to the families that tended orchards,

planted crops, and grazed cattle along the mountain creeks and meadows.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, which employed young men in the 1930s during the Great Depression, had multiple camps on Mount Graham. They constructed roads and bridges, such as the original stone bridge that crossed Wet Canyon. They also developed recreation sites on the mountain, including many of the trails and campgrounds enjoyed by visitors today.

EMERGENCY OR FIRE: DIAL 911

SAFFORD RANGER STATION: (928) 428-4150

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Recreation Opportunities



PICNICKING
Enjoy an outdoor meal at one of the many picnic sites on the mountain. Picnic tables are available at all developed campgrounds. A day-use fee is required at some sites. The Columbine Ramada accommodates large groups.



CAMPING
Camping options at all elevations along the Swift Trail Parkway offer something for everyone throughout the year. See map for locations. High-elevation campgrounds (beyond Shannon) close approximately Nov. 15 through April 15.



HIKING, BIKING, and HORSEBACK RIDING
Hundreds of miles of single-track trails and forest roads weave across the slopes and canyons of the range providing options for all ages and abilities. Horse corrals available at some locations. See map for details.



OUTDOOR LEARNING
Plaques at campgrounds and meadow-side pullouts tell about area history. The Columbine Visitor Center offers a children's discovery room, as well as indoor and outdoor exhibits about the natural and cultural history of the area.

Camping Information TH = Trailhead W = Water

Bears and other wildlife frequent campgrounds. Please properly contain all food and garbage and practice [Leave No Trace](#) principles.

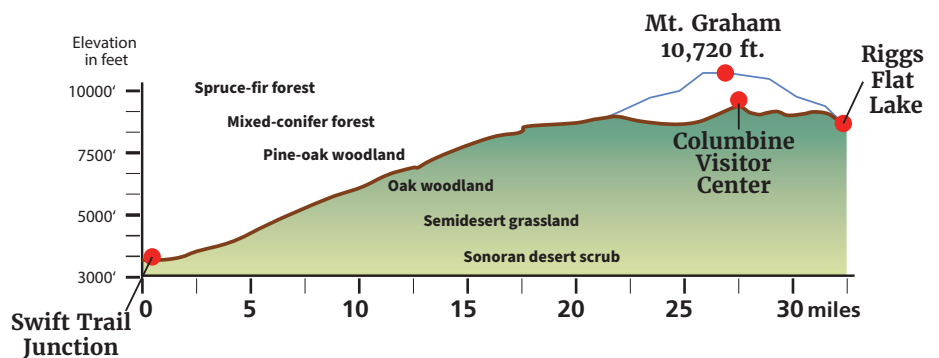
DEVELOPED CAMPGROUNDS (FEE)	
First come, first served. Pay with cash or check on site. See map for locations.	
Noon Creek	Tent only
Arcadia	Tent only
Shannon (TH)	Tents and trailers up to 16 ft.
Hospital Flat	Tent only
Cunningham (TH)	Tents and trailers up to 22 ft.
Columbine Corrals (TH, W)	Tents and trailers up to 22 ft.
Soldier Creek (TH)	Tents and trailers up to 22 ft.
Riggs Flat (W)	Tents and trailers up to 22 ft.

GROUP CAMPSITES (FEE)	
Make reservations up to 6 months in advance at www.recreation.gov .	
Upper Arcadia (TH, W)	Tent only
Twilight	Tents and trailers up to 22 ft.
Treasure Park (W)	Tents and trailers up to 22 ft.
Riggs Flat (W)	Tents and trailers up to 22 ft.

DISPERSED CAMPING (FREE)
Dispersed, undeveloped camping is allowed anywhere on Mt. Graham except in restricted areas. Eight designated dispersed areas are marked on the map. No camping within 100 ft. of any water source. These sites are undeveloped and have no toilet facilities. Please plan accordingly and pack out all trash.

Mount Graham: A Sky Island

Mount Graham is the tallest of southeastern Arizona's *sky islands*—mountain ranges that rise like forested islands out of a desert sea. Ascending this mountain is the ecological equivalent of traveling from Mexico to Canada. Varied biotic communities, layered in life zones, provide ideal habitat for a diverse array of plants and animals, including endemic species found nowhere else in the world. The uppermost life zone is home to relic species from the last ice age, including the southernmost stand of Englemann spruce in the United States. High-elevation meadows, cool forests, groves of aspen, and perennial streams make for an enchanting escape from the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts below.



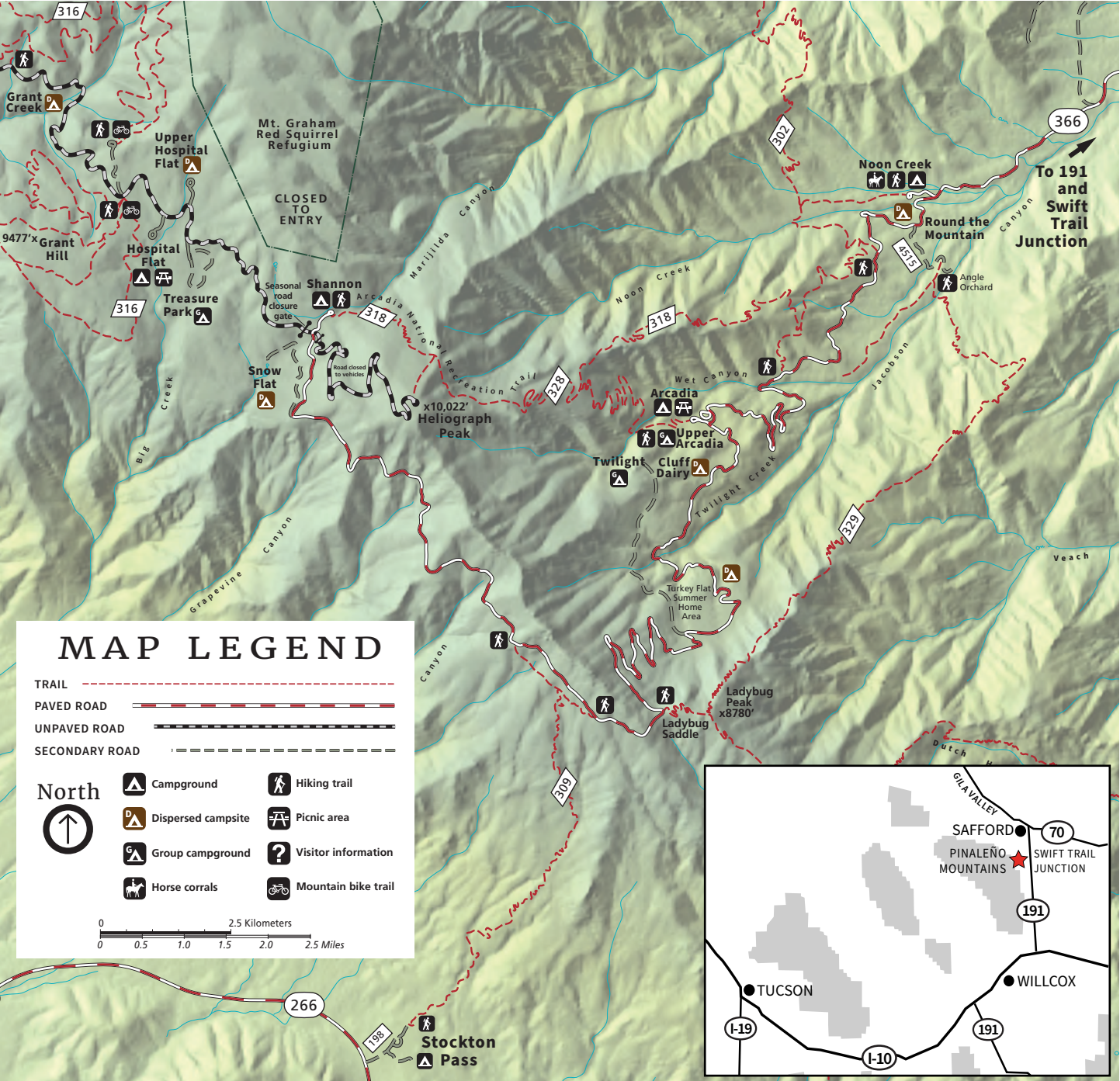
Viewing Wildlife

The geographic location, topography, and varied habitats of Mount Graham create a wonderland for wildlife. Common species include Coues white-tailed deer, Gould's turkey, coatimundi, and black bear. Rare species include the Mount Graham red squirrel, Mexican spotted owl, and goshawk. The best times to see wildlife are early or late in the day. Please observe wildlife from a distance for their safety and yours.

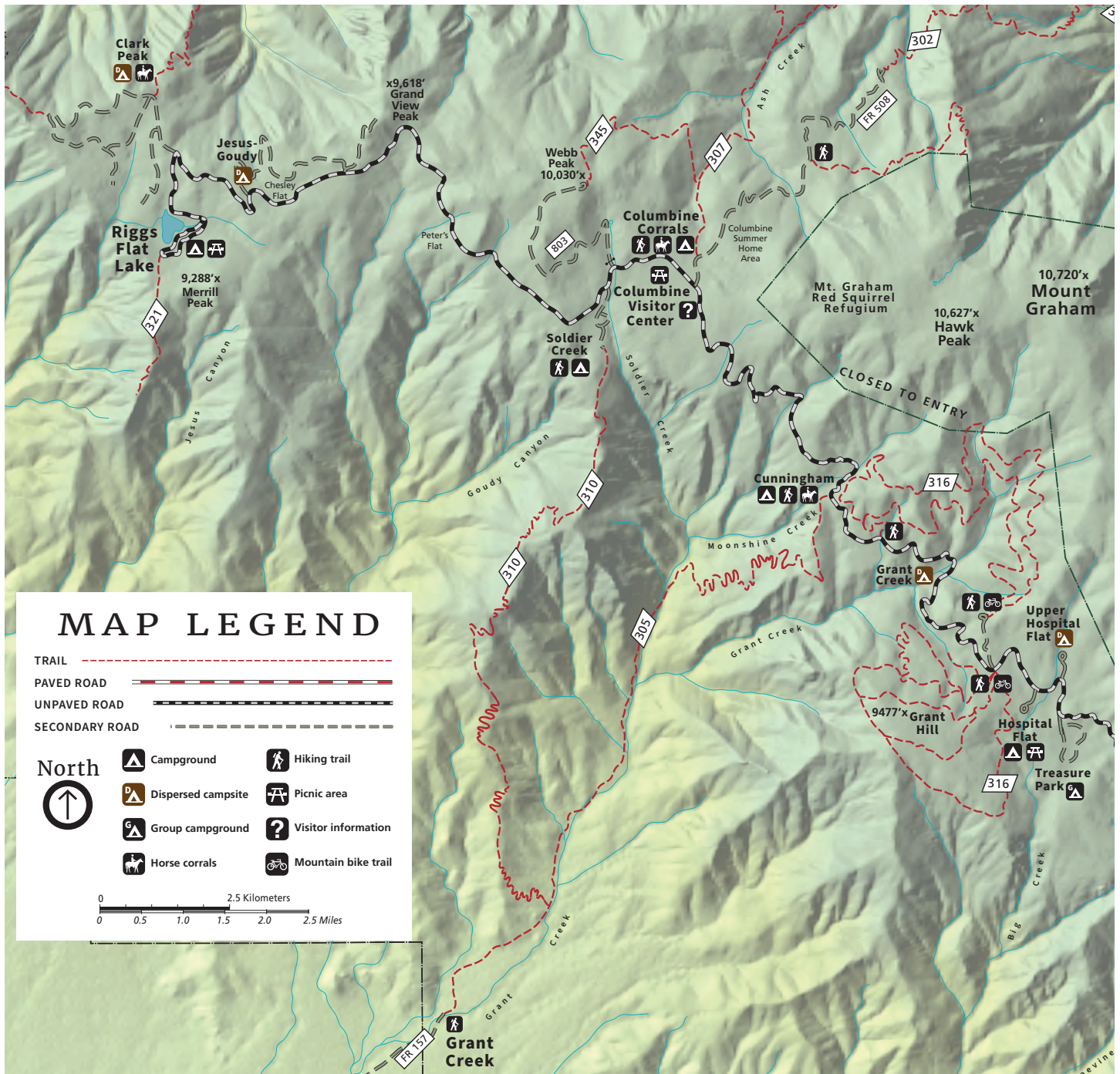
The Swift Trail Parkway passes through more life zones than any other single road in North America.

Lower Mountain Trails

Round the Mountain #302	15 mi. one way	Access this challenging trail from the Round the Mountain undeveloped recreation site or Columbine Corral. The trail traverses the eastern and northern flanks of Mount Graham as it dips in and out of many drainages.
Ladybug Trail #329	5.5 mi. one way	Access this challenging trail from the trailhead at the entrance to Angle Orchard, Turkey Flat, or Ladybug Saddle. Hike out and back any distance or through hike between trailheads. (Distance shown is entire length of trail.)
Ladybug Peak	1 mi. one way	This short, easy trail starts at Ladybug Saddle. Follow the Ladybug Trail to a spur trail that leads to the peak. Soak in the stunning views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. You might see swarms of ladybugs in early summer.
Arcadia National Recreation Trail #328	5 mi. one way	Access this beautiful trail from the Upper Arcadia Group Area or Shannon Campground. From Upper Arcadia, the trail climbs through pine-oak woodland up to the spruce, fir, and aspen forests near Shannon.
Shake Trail #309	5.25 mi. one way	Access this challenging trail from a parking pullout just above Ladybug Saddle or from Stockton Pass off SR 266. Hike out and back any distance or use a shuttle car to through hike between trailheads.



The Swift Trail Parkway (SR 366) is managed in partnership with the Arizona Department of Transportation.



Upper Mountain Trails

Arcadia Trail #328 and Heliograph Peak #328A	2 mi. one way	Follow the Arcadia Trail for 1 mi. from Shannon Campground to access a 1-mi. spur trail to Heliograph Peak. Return the way you came, or follow the dirt access road to make a 4-mi. loop back to the campground.
Grant Hill Loops #322	4.2 mi. loop	These loop trails wind along the slopes above Hospital Flat on a system of old logging roads and singletrack trails and offer nice views of the Sulphur Springs Valley and Galiuro Mountains. Distance shown is outer loop only.
Webb Peak Trail #345	1.6 mi. one way	This easy trail starts at the Columbine Corrals Campground and climbs through a forest of aspen and the Frye Fire burn scar to reach the fire lookout atop Webb Peak. Excellent views of Mt. Graham and the surrounding valleys.
Grant Creek Trail #305	5 mi. one way	This difficult trail starts at Cunningham Campground and drops down into Post Creek Canyon and then Grant Canyon near Fort Grant. Hike out and back any distance or use a shuttle car to through hike the entire length.
Grant Goudy Ridge Trail #310	5.3 mi. one way	This difficult trail starts at the Soldier Creek Campground and follows Grant Goudy Ridge down to Grant Canyon near Fort Grant. Hike out and back any distance or use a shuttle car to through hike the entire length.

BURNED AREA WARNING: Use caution recreating in areas affected by wildfire as burned trees pose hazards.