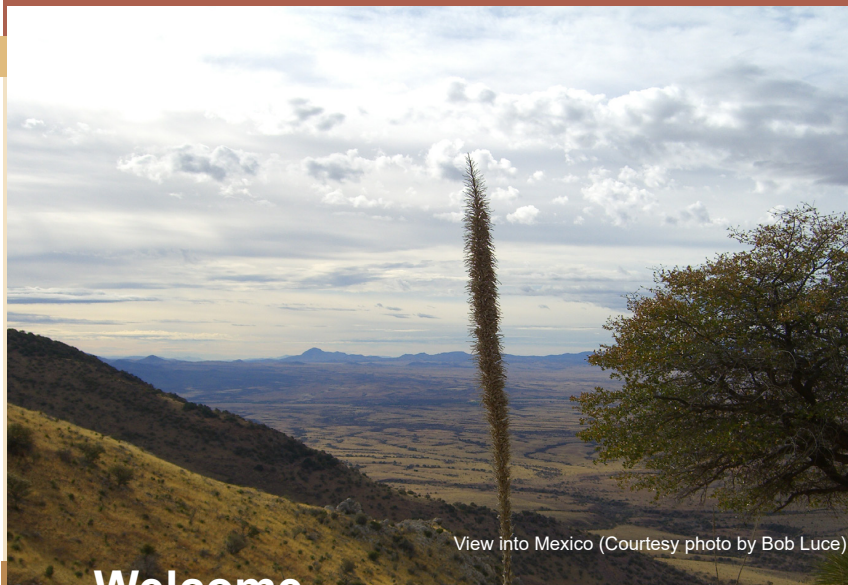


Arizona National Scenic Trail



View into Mexico (Courtesy photo by Bob Luce)



Picket Post Mountain (Forest Service photo by David Fothergill)



Little Eden Mountain (Forest Service photo by Laura White)



Kaibab Plateau (Photo by USDA Forest Service)

Welcome

The Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) stretches over 800 miles from the U.S. border with Mexico to Utah, connecting deserts, mountains, canyons, wilderness, history, communities, and people. The AZT has something for everyone, from remote and challenging wilderness to easily accessible passages near many gateway communities. This trail showcases Arizona's diverse vegetation, wildlife, scenery, and history in a way that provides a unique and unparalleled Arizona experience.

Eighty-five percent of the AZT is on federal land. The Trail crosses national monuments and memorials, national parks, national forests, Bureau of Land Management land, and state parks. Portions are on State Trust land where it is managed by county governments or the Bureau

of Land Management. County and municipal governments also manage portions of the Trail on their own lands. A small amount crosses private land.

The Arizona Trail is divided into 43 passages beginning in the south with the Huachuca Mountain Passage and ending in northern Arizona with the Buckskin Mountain Passage. Descriptions of each passage, and access points, can be found on the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) website at aztrail.org

Every year more hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, and trail runners are discovering the AZT. Some only travel a few miles, or do one passage at a time, while others complete the entire trail in one season.



Sunset at Mormon Lake Village (Forest Service photo by Laura White)



Kaibab National Forest Fall Colors (Photo by USDA Forest Service)



Grandview Tower, Kaibab National Forest (Photo by USDA Forest Service)



Arizona Trail Association photo

Trail Safety

Trail Safety

The AZT traverses wild, rugged, and primitive parts of the state. Trail users may often find themselves miles from help and outside of cell phone service areas. A personal locator device is recommended. Carry paper maps for back up in case your electronic navigation system fails.

Plan Your Trip

Knowledge of the area, weather, terrain, and your limitations, plus a little common sense, can help ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

- Leave a copy of your itinerary with a responsible person. Include where you are planning to travel, the equipment you're bringing, the weather you've anticipated, and when you plan to return.
- Travel with a companion.
- Be able to navigate without a GPS or phone app.
- Be aware of natural hazards in your environment.

Water

Think before you drink! No matter how clean or pure stream water looks, it's likely to contain water-borne parasites and microorganisms that can cause discomfort and sometimes serious illness. Pack your water in and filter water you find and/or purify it with chemical treatment. Carry more than you need. Always carry two water filters in case one fails.

Dehydration (losing more fluid than you take in causing your body functions to falter) will occur if you don't replace lost fluids and electrolytes, especially in hot weather.

Heat Exhaustion/Heat Stroke

Heat exhaustion is a condition whose symptoms may include heavy sweating, rapid pulse, nausea, and cramping, a result of your body overheating. Heat stroke is a more serious form of heat injury and can occur if your body temperature rises to 104 F (40 C) or higher. Heatstroke requires

emergency treatment and can quickly damage your brain, heart, kidneys, and muscles. Know the symptoms and take preventative measures.

Storms

Forming quickly in the mountains, lightning storms are common in the summer. Snow can occur at higher elevations.

Flash Floods

Possible during the summer monsoon season, flash floods can happen when thunderstorms are occurring anywhere nearby. Avoid hiking or camping in washes (dry riverbeds), especially when thunderstorms are uphill from you. Do not try to cross a flooded wash in your vehicle under any circumstances. Check the weather before heading out at www.weather.gov.

Lightning

Stay low when outdoors – lightning hits the tallest object. Avoid elevated areas such as hills,

We Need Your Help!

From its inception, dedicated volunteers have played an important role in bringing the AZT to life. Volunteers connect with other outdoor enthusiasts through the ATA, helping to build and maintain the Trail. For more information on how you can preserve the Trail for future generations, please contact the ATA.

**"Along the Arizona Trail
A reverence and peace you'll know
Through deserts, canyons, and
mountains**

From Utah to Old Mexico"
-A portion of a longer poem by Dale Shewalter,
Father of the Arizona Trail



Photo by Shannon Villegas

**"The Arizona Trail is an incredible
testament to choice, to life, and finding a
way no matter what difficulties. I'm
glad I walked the journey, I'll always
remember how breathtaking the sights,
how powerful the moments and how
solemn the message. Because the reason
for that message has allowed me to
find that place, that center, that place
deep inside--my soul where it brings me
peace."**

-Mike Buckley



Mountain Biker at Dates Butte, photo by Scott Morris

Sites to See

Scenery and Nature

The Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) begins at the Coronado National Memorial on the U.S.-Mexico border and ends within the Bureau of Land Management's Arizona Strip District on the Utah border. In between, the Trail winds through some of the most rugged and spectacular scenery in the western United States. It is one of only three national scenic trails for which a connected route exists for the entire length of the trail.

Geology

The diverse geology along the AZT is complex and spans much of the range of geologic time. The scenery was created from environments ranging from warm shallow seas to windy desert dunes and from violent volcanic eruptions to lazy lava flows.

Two very different types of landscapes occur in Arizona: the Basin and Range Province of southwestern Arizona and the Colorado Plateau

Province of northern Arizona, with a third area called the Transition Zone between them.

The Basin and Range Province is undergoing extension, stretching to create uplifted mountain ranges and down-dropped basins. Beginning near the U.S.-Mexico border and extending into the central highlands, it is dominated by the Sky Islands and the Sonoran Desert. The Transition Zone is bordered by the Mogollon Rim and Colorado Plateau and includes Picketpost Mountain, the Superstition Mountains, and Goldfield Volcanic Zone. The Colorado Plateau Province stretches from the Mogollon Rim north to the border with Utah and takes in the Kaibab Plateau and the Grand Canyon with 2 billion years of geologic history and nine major geologic layers. In this province you will also find San Francisco Mountain stratovolcano, the highest point in Arizona.



Woodpecker (Forest Service photo by Laura White)



Javelina (Saguaro National Park photo)



Roosevelt Lake (Courtesy photo by David Fothergill)

Scrub Kaibab (Forest Service photo by Laura White)

National Scenic Trails

Growing conservation ethics and a desire to access the nation's unparalleled outdoor spaces led Congress to pass the National Trails System Act in 1968. Today, this system consists of 11 national scenic trails, including the Arizona Trail. There are also 19 national historic trails and more than 900 national recreation trails. For more information visit:

www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/trails/national

Information and publications as well as online maps, directions, and other resources are available from the Forest Service and the ATA. For more information on trailheads, passages, trail conditions, closures, and to purchase printed materials, such as guidebooks and maps, please visit the ATA website at aztrail.org



CONTACT

Forest Service
Southern Region
333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
520-388-8328
www.fs.usda.gov/azt



Arizona Trail Association
534 N. Stone Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85705
602-252-4794
aztrail.org



Arizona National Scenic Trail



Exploring the Trail

LEAVE NO TRACE

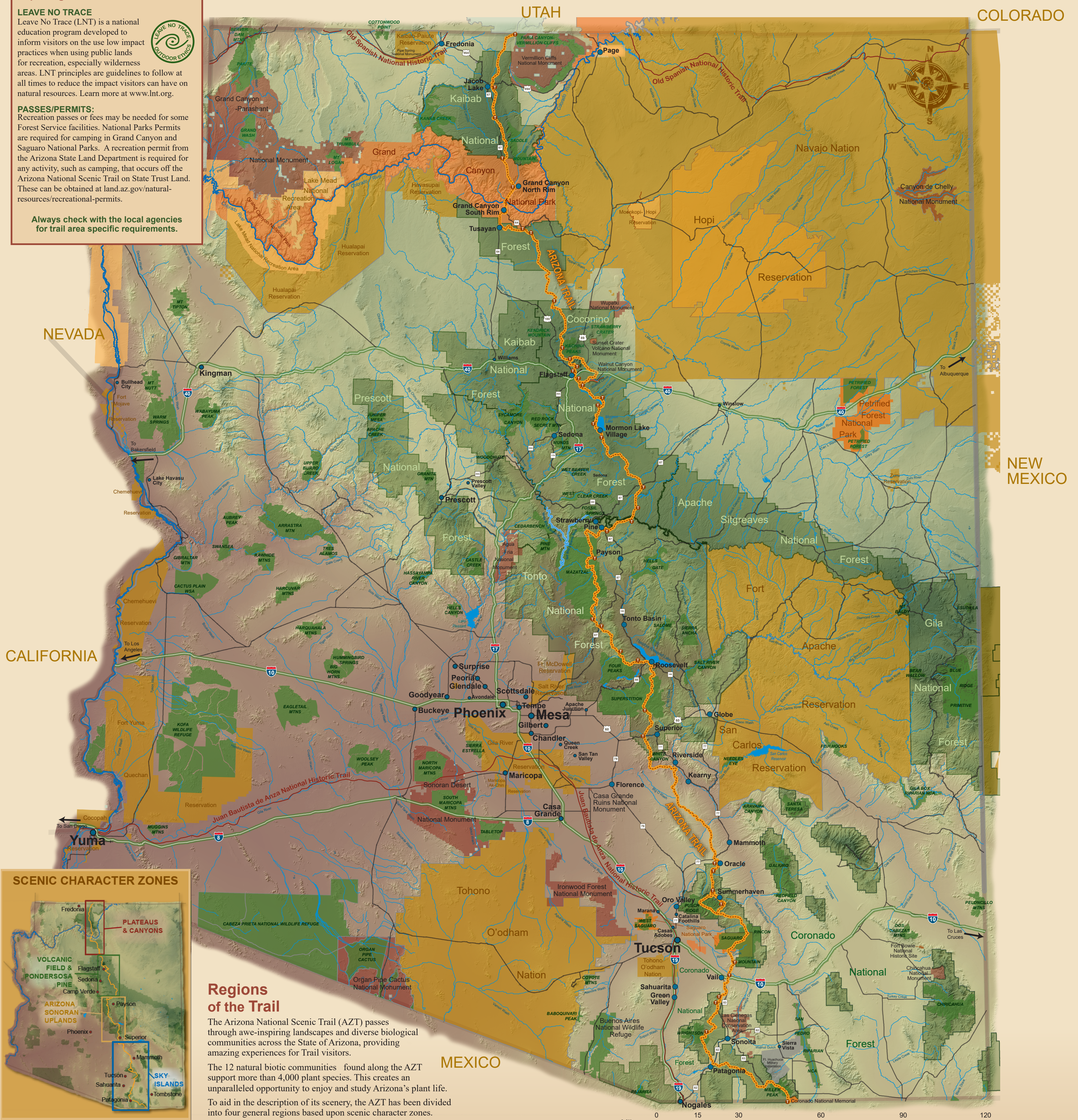
Leave No Trace (LNT) is a national education program developed to inform visitors on the use of low impact practices when using public lands for recreation, especially wilderness areas. LNT principles are guidelines to follow at all times to reduce the impact visitors can have on natural resources. Learn more at www.lnt.org.



PASSES/PERMITS:

Recreation passes or fees may be needed for some Forest Service facilities. National Parks Permits are required for camping in Grand Canyon and Saguaro National Parks. A recreation permit from the Arizona State Land Department is required for any activity, such as camping, that occurs off the Arizona National Scenic Trail on State Trust Land. These can be obtained at land.az.gov/natural-resources/recreational-permits.

Always check with the local agencies for trail area specific requirements.



SCENIC CHARACTER ZONES



Regions of the Trail

The Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) passes through awe-inspiring landscapes and diverse biological communities across the State of Arizona, providing amazing experiences for Trail visitors.

The 12 natural biotic communities found along the AZT support more than 4,000 plant species. This creates an unparalleled opportunity to enjoy and study Arizona's plant life.

To aid in the description of its scenery, the AZT has been divided into four general regions based upon scenic character zones.

Sky Islands

Found in southern Arizona, this area provides striking contrasts. Massive, pine-clad mountain ranges rise abruptly above an ocean of broad desert plains, forming an arid archipelago. You will encounter enormous diversity by climbing from the desert into mountains reaching 9,000-10,000 feet in elevation. It is this mosaic of low deserts and high mountains that results in an incredible range of landscapes and plant and animal life.



Arizona Sonoran Uplands

This region provides a transition between the Sonoran Desert and the wetter, cooler high country to the north. It encompasses the heavily dissected mountainous areas between the Mogollon Rim and the Verde, Gila, and Salt River canyons. Landforms vary from desert plains and hills to forested plateaus and mountains. Several streams and rivers flow perennially. Major watercourses include the Verde and Salt rivers.



Volcanic Field & Ponderosa Pine Plateau

This region is defined by two zones: Plateau Country and the San Francisco Volcanic Field. The Ponderosa Pine Plateau extends from the Mogollon Rim to the southern edge of the volcanic field. The latter is dominated by the San Francisco Peaks, which reach a height of 12,633 feet and are sacred to many Native American tribes. The volcanic field then extends north to the Coconino Plateau.



Plateaus and Canyons

This area of high forested plateaus is separated by the Grand Canyon, which ranges from 5 to 15 miles wide and 3,500 to 7,000 feet deep, and was formed by the Colorado River. The plateaus differ in elevation and ecology from the canyon. The Coconino Plateau, south of the Grand Canyon, has gently rolling terrain mostly between 6,500 to 7,000 feet in elevation. The Kaibab Plateau to the north reaches over 9,000 feet. This high block plateau is tilted and gradually declines over the course of 65 trail miles to the Vermilion Cliffs, which are at approximately 5,000 feet.

