

# TORTOLITA MOUNTAIN

## TRAIL GUIDE



**DISCOVER MORE OF MARANA**

**STAY THE NIGHT**  
From budget-friendly hotels to premier resorts, Marana has it all when it comes to places to rest your head after a long day of adventure. If you're looking for a luxurious, rejuvenating experience in a secluded canyon, then you'll love the Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain. Relax among the scenic desert landscape at this Forbes Double Five Star-certified and AAA Five Diamond-rated resort. The resort even has its own trail connection to the Wild Burro Trail, and offers guided hikes and many other fun activities to explore the Tortolita Mountains surrounding you.

**HIT THE LINKS**  
Marana is a golf oasis in the desert, home to several championship-level golf courses, which have hosted some of the game's top players in pro tournaments throughout the years. Unbeatable views of the desert and mountains and a challenging-but-fun playing experience await when you play a round in Marana.

**DINE & DISCOVER**  
Wind down after a day of exploring with a delicious meal and refreshing beverage right here in Marana! From fine dining, to relaxing patios, to delicious Sonoran-style Mexican classics, to Neapolitan-style pizza, to burgers, and everything else in between, you can find it in Marana.

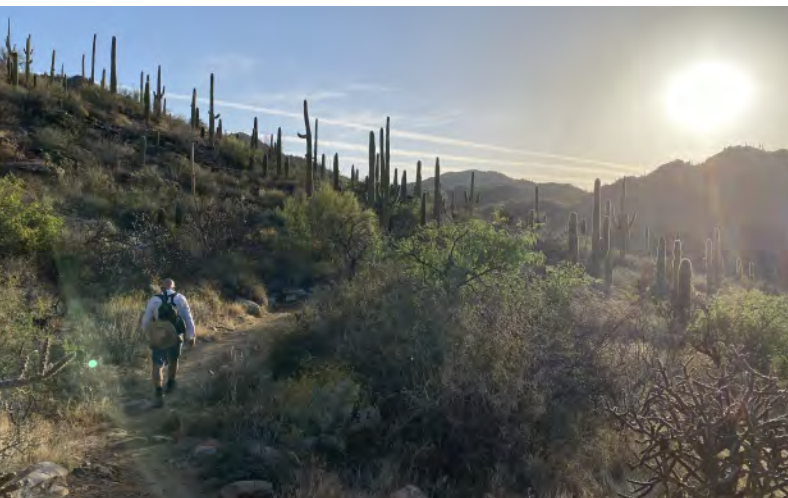


### HIKING, BIKING, & HORSEBACK RIDING IN THE TORTOLITA MOUNTAINS

The secluded Tortolita Mountains offer hikers, bikers, and equestrians the chance to experience one of the most picturesque landscapes in all of Southern Arizona. An explosion of life awaits – the Sonoran Desert is one of the most lush, lively, and diverse deserts on the planet.

See a rare density of crested saguaro cacti, a wide array of migratory and resident birds, and desert plants of all kinds including mesquites, palo verdes, ironwoods, cacti, and in the spring, a brilliant display of wildflowers that'll give your adventure colorful red, yellow, orange, pink, and purple accents.

Take in panoramic vistas in all directions, from the secluded canyons and high ridgelines of the Tortolitas, to the vast expanses of suburb, desert, and mountains to the west.



### TRAILHEAD LOCATION & ACCESS

**WILD BURRO TRAILHEAD**  
14810 N. Secret Springs Dr., Marana, AZ 85658.  
Tell the guard at the gate that you're going to the trails.

The Wild Burro Trailhead is the gateway to most of the trail system throughout the Tortolita Mountains. The Town of Marana maintains a network of 10 trails with a combined length of 29 miles.

The trailhead has ample parking, flush toilets, and a shaded picnic ramada. Be sure to check out the "Hiked It and I Liked It" mural, painted by local artist Joshua Woodhall. The trailhead connects to the Wild Burro Trail, which leads down the main canyon and where 8 of the 10 trails in the system stem from.

**TORTOLITA PRESERVE TRAILHEAD**  
6250 W. Moore Rd., Marana, AZ 85658

To the south of the Wild Burro Trailhead and in the gently rolling foothills of the Tortolita Mountains is the 2,400-acre Tortolita Preserve, which offers an additional 9 miles of trails suitable for horseback riding, mountain biking, trail running, and hiking.

The Preserve is also a popular spot for birding. It's a great place to enjoy the desert landscape and environment, without the steep hills and rocks.

The full loop around the Preserve is around 9 miles, passing by saguaro cacti and other Sonoran Desert vegetation, with the backdrop of the Tortolita Mountains. You can also do a short loop, which can be accessed by going counterclockwise on the main loop, and turning south after approximately 4 miles. The short loop is 5.4 miles long. A new parking area was recently constructed at the trailhead, with space for 20 passenger vehicles and 2 horse trailers.



Hiked It  
AND REALLY LIKED IT!



MaranaAZ.gov/recreation  
(520) 382-1950



DiscoverMarana.org  
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**SUGGESTED HIKING ITINERARIES**

Here are some recommendations for hikes of varying lengths and difficulty levels that let you explore the natural beauty of the Tortolita Mountains! All routes start at the Wild Burro Trailhead.

**Wild Burro to Ridgeline Loop**  
 13.3 miles/1,670 ft. elevation gain  
 Wild Burro Trail to Loop Trail - 5.5 Miles  
 Loop Trail to Ridgeline Trail - 1.7 Miles  
 Ridgeline Trail to Alamo Springs Trail - 3.1 Miles  
 Alamo Springs Trail to Alamo Springs Spur Trail - 0.7 Miles  
 Alamo Springs Spur Trail to Wild Burro Trail - 0.5 Miles  
 Wild Burro Trail back to the Trailhead - 1.8 miles

**Wild Mustang to Wild Burro Loop**  
 9.0 miles/1,620 ft. elevation gain

Wild Burro Trail to Upper Javelina Trail - 0.6 Miles  
 Upper Javelina Trail to Wild Mustang Trail - 0.9 Miles  
 Wild Mustang Trail to Wild Burro Trail - 3.9 Miles  
 Wild Burro Trail to Alamo Springs Trail - 0.4 Miles  
 Alamo Springs Trail to Alamo Springs Spur Trail - 0.9 Miles  
 Alamo Springs Spur Trail to Wild Burro Trail - 0.5 Miles  
 Wild Burro Trail back to the Trailhead - 1.8 miles

**Alamo Springs to Wild Burro Loop**  
 6.9 miles/1,050 ft. elevation gain

Wild Burro Trail to Alamo Springs Trail - 0.6 Miles  
 Alamo Springs Trail to Wild Burro Trail - 3.6 Miles  
 Wild Burro Trail back to the Trailhead - 2.7 Miles

**Wild Burro to Lower Javelina Loop**  
 3.2 Miles/400 ft. elevation gain

Wild Burro Trail to Lower Javelina Trail - 0.7 Miles  
 Lower Javelina Trail to Alamo Springs Trail - 1.7 Miles  
 Alamo Springs Trail to Wild Burro Trail - 0.2 Miles  
 Wild Burro Trail back to the Trailhead - 0.6 Miles



**TORTOLITA MOUNTAIN TRAILS**

- MAJOR TRAIL HEAD
- Bench
- TRAIL JUNCTION
- THE RITZ-CARLTON, DOVE MOUNTAIN

- WILD BURRO TRAIL - 6.5 MILES  
 950' ELEVATION CHANGE / Equestrian recommended in wash from Dove Mountain Blvd. to Alamo Springs Spur Trail
- ALAMO SPRINGS TRAIL - 4.1 MILES  
 1250' ELEVATION CHANGE / Bikes permitted north of Alamo Springs Spur Trail / Intermediate bike trail
- ALAMO SPRINGS SPUR TRAIL - 0.5 MILES  
 380' ELEVATION CHANGE / Advanced bike trail
- COCHIE SPRINGS TRAIL - 7.2 MILES  
 380' ELEVATION CHANGE / Out-and-Back Hike
- HOTEL SPUR TRAIL - 0.3 MILES  
 285' ELEVATION CHANGE
- LOOP TRAIL - 1.7 MILES  
 1330' ELEVATION CHANGE / Intermediate bike trail
- LOWER JAVELINA TRAIL - 1.7 MILES  
 360' ELEVATION CHANGE
- RIDGELINE TRAIL - 3.1 MILES  
 1330' ELEVATION CHANGE / Intermediate bike trail
- TORTOLITA PRESERVE TRAIL - 9.7 MILES  
 305' ELEVATION CHANGE / Beginner bike trail
- UPPER JAVELINA TRAIL - 2.8 MILES  
 450' ELEVATION CHANGE / Bikes recommended only west of Wild Mustang Junction / Advanced bike trail
- WILD MUSTANG TRAIL - 3.8 MILES  
 870' ELEVATION CHANGE / Advanced biking trail
- DOVE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY TRAIL  
 Not maintained by the Town of Marana

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**TRAIL ETIQUETTE AND SAFETY**

**Be courteous and share the trail:** Everyone yields to horses, downhill hikers yield to uphill hikers, uphill hikers yield only to horses, and cyclists yield to everyone. Be respectful of other trail users.

**Pack It In, Pack It Out:** Keep your impact to a minimum on the trail. Take all trash with you (including food waste) and properly discard it in a trash can.

**Stick to Existing Trails:** Trails are designed to protect the land from erosion and promote preservation. Avoid cutting switchbacks or taking "shortcuts", as this can cause damage to the landscape, worsen trail conditions, and put yourself at risk of injury.

**Keep Dogs Leashed:** It not only keeps your pet safe, but it also preserves wildlife and enhances the experience for others.

**Clean Up After Your Dog:** Not only does dog excrement stink; it also spreads disease to other dogs and pollutes the environment.

**Leave What You Find:** Do not remove anything from the trail, including wildflowers, rocks, or archaeological artifacts. Artifacts are protected by law. Instead, take pictures of them, so they can be enjoyed by others!

**Bring Plenty of Food and Water:** Make sure to bring at least 2 liters of water per person (3 liters for longer hikes or in the summer), and salty snacks. Turn around when half of your water is gone. There are NO water stations along the trails.

**Dress Appropriately:** Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes or hiking boots, loose-fitting, breathable clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. There is little to no shade on the trails.

**For emergencies, call 911.** You can contact the Marana Police Department at (520) 382-2000, or Northwest Fire & Rescue at (520) 887-1010.



**Weather can be unpredictable and change very quickly.** Check the forecast before you go, pay attention to the weather while on the trail, and be prepared to change your plans to stay safe. Extreme heat is common in the summer months (May-October), and violent thunderstorms occur during Monsoon Season (July-September). During these months, start early in the morning, pack extra water, and wear sunscreen and other protective clothing. Know your limits.

**For your safety, DO NOT enter washes when flooded.**

**All of the trails in the Tortolitas involve elevation changes, with some steep, rocky sections.** Trail elevations range from 2,800 to 4,300 feet. Generally, trails are moderately challenging, with some easier trails and some more difficult ones.

**Many of the trails interconnect with each other, so there is a lot of flexibility as far as distance and challenge level go.** Some of the trails even offer scenic vista points earlier on, so it's possible to get a shorter hike in while still seeing some amazing scenery.

