TRAILS

These mountain trails range in elevation from 2,800 feet at the bottom of Wild Burro Canyon to 4,300 feet along the Ridgeline Trail under construction above Ruelas Canyon. The Alamo Springs and Lower Javelina Trails accommodate pedestrian traffic only; the other five trails are multipurpose (equestrian, biking, and pedestrian), as are the nine miles of trail in the Tortolita Mountain Preserve. For more details on trails and trail ratings visit http://www.marana.com/index.asp?NID=785

TRAILHEAD LOCATION & ACCESS

The Wild Burro trailhead is at 14810 North Secret Springs Drive, off Dove Mountain Road, accessed from Tangerine Road.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

To ensure that all visitors enjoy their experience safely, trail users are urged to respect trail etiquette:

Be courteous: Trails are for the enjoyment of all visitors. Please be courteous and respectful when encountering fellow trail users.

Pack it in – Pack it out: Keep your impact to a minimum when on the trail; take your trash out with you. Leave no trace.

Stay on established trails: Well-built trails are deigned to protect the land from erosion and promote preservation. When users cut their own trails, they promote degradation of the fragile landscape and wildlife habitat.

Yield: All users must slow and stop for horses. Cyclists must also yield to horses.

Share the trail: Keep to the right of the trail and allow faster users enough room to pass.

Pass on the left and announce yourself: Let people know when you are approaching from behind and that you are passing on the left.

Keep dogs leashed: Promote wildlife preservation, enhance the wilderness experience for others and keep your pet safe.

Clean up after your dog: Not only does dog excrement stink, it also spreads disease to other dogs and pollutes water.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HIKING

For hiking, day temperatures are most favorable from October through March. Weather is unpredictable; both rainy seasons can bring flash floods.

For bird watching, the best windows are during spring and fall migrations, mid-April through mid-May and again in September.

Wildflowers are at their peak late February or early March through early April (depending on adequate winter rains). Late spring and summer is the time for cactus-flower lovers.

Hiking sticks are recommended for moderate and difficult trails.

Wear a hat, suitable hiking boots, gloves (in case you fall), and a long-sleeved shirt. Sunglasses and sun screen lotion are recommended.

Bring a large comb—a useful tool for removing cholla cactus from clothes or skin

Carry a minimum of two liters of water per person—there are NO water stations and little shade along the trails. No restroom facilities are available, so be prepared to "leave no trace."

Archeological sites are protected by law. Please leave them as you find them.

Geology buffs can go to the Arizona Geological Survey for a copy of "Geologic Map of the Tortolita Mountains, Pinal and Pima Counties, Arizona," Arizona Geological Survey Digital Geologic Map 26.

INFORMATION

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

Town of Marana
Parks & Recreation Department
11555 West Civic Center Drive
Marana, AZ 85653
(520) 382-1950
www.marana.com

HIKING THE MARANA TORTOLITA MOUNTAINS



© Joel Tormoe

Cochie, Wild Burro and Ruelas Canyons cut through the southwest end of the Tortolita Mountains, an unassuming but rugged range just a half-hour drive north of Tucson, Arizona. A trailhead at Dove Mountain, in the Town of Marana, leads northeast into Wild Burro Canyon, where it connects to trails that trace the crest above Cochie Canyon to the northwest or delve into neighboring terrain to the north and east.

These 29 miles of trails, which cross easements on a patchwork of private, town, county and state land, were constructed starting in 2004 in a cooperative venture by the Town of Marana, Pima County and the Arizona State Land Department. Expansion of the trail system continues today. The northern and eastern ends of this trail system enter Pima County's 3,100-acre Tortolita Mountain Park. To the south, Marana's 2,400-acre Tortolita Preserve harbors another nine miles of trails. The Dove Mountain Community Trail borders Dove Mountain Boulevard and adds another seven miles. Together, these trails and the ground they cross constitute a spectacular natural space open to southern Arizona residents and visitors. Here, trails suitable for hiking, biking and equestrian activities offer magnificent vistas, geological curiosities and the distinct life forms of the Sonoran Desert to all who wish to explore this unforgettable landscape.

