



Trek in Cacti Country

From
2670 \$US / pers.



Description

Come and explore the vastest desert expanse of North America. The Sonora desert is home to the emblematic Saguaro Cacti. With their elongated shape and arms stretching to the sky these cacti can reach upwards of 15m in height. A symbol, amongst many, of the whole south western United states. While the November departure offers a more personal experience in the calm and solitude of the shoulder season the march departure offers a unique opportunity to see the incredible spectacle of colors of this nature in bloom. The rocky landscape of buttes and mesas will be our playground for the next 3 days. As vibrant as cacti flowers may be, nothing matches the spectacle of the desert's high sky. With 3 nights backcountry camping in Saguaro NP we are sure to get our fill amazement and awe. Our adventure continues and we make our way to a small guest ranch adjacent to the nearly 120,000 acres of the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge. From here we hop on our bikes to discover the vast desert landscape at the feet of the Baboquivari hills. Enjoy late afternoons poolside with a drink and new friends talking about the adventures you've had and the ones to come.

Highlights

- 3 days of trekking in Saguaro National Park
- 2 nights in a historical ranch on the Mexican border
- Trading horses for e-bikes to discover the desert plains
- Hiking the Superstition Mountains, stronghold of the famous legend of Lost Dutchman
- March is when the cacti bloom in Arizona
- Experience the thrill of the Hunter Trail in Picacho State Park
- The starlit desert sky
- 10 days to discover the incredible life that thrives in the desert

Itinerary

Day 01 : Lost Dutchman State Park

After meeting your guide and the rest of the group we head to the Superstition Mountains for our first hike in Lost Dutchman State Park. These jagged rocky peaks are the supposed location of the lost Dutchman's gold mine. A legend as wild as the west itself and that keeps a number of adventurous souls coming back every year to find the mine and the German's gold.

Hike

Flatiron trail via Siphon draw

8,9 km, 805m, 5 h round trip



Standard hotel 3*



60 km, 40 min



L

Day 02 : Organ Pipe National Monument

10 km from the Mexican border, the Organ Pipe cacti hug the flanks of the Ajo mountains. The park protects over 25 different types of cacti and some of the most incredible sights of the Sonora desert. Discover this amazing ecosystem on the scenic drive that takes you along desert marshes and large colonies of organ pipe, saguaro and cholla cacti. Hike to double arch via arch canyon and return to camp for dinner and sunset on the the desert view trail.

Hike

Double Arch via arch canyon

4km , 365m, 2 to 4 h round-trip

Desert view trail

2km, 30min



Camping



282 km – 4 h includes scenic drive



B, L, D

Day 03 : Picacho Peak State Park

Both our arms and legs will be put to good use as we use the chains and wires of the Hunter trail to make our way to the Picacho Summit. Staring at the mountain from its base it's hard to imagine that a trail can take you to the top. Starting on the desert floor the trail rapidly climbs to give us a 360 degree view of the many mountains and valleys surrounding the park. We transfer to Tucson to enjoy a relaxing afternoon poolside in our hotel.

Hike

Picacho Summit via Hunter trail

6.5 km, 408 m, 3 h



hotel with pool



275 km, 3 h



B, L

Day 04 : Saguaro National park – Tucson Mountains

Saguaro National park is divided in two sections: the western part dominated by the Tucson mountains and the eastern part home to the Rincon mountains. This piping hot and arid desert may seem inhospitable to some but a multitude of animals and plants call this place home. On top of the name sake cactus you can see many species of birds, mammals, reptiles, grasses, flowers and trees. We'll enjoy the first half of the day to discover the western part of the park by bus and on foot. In the lower altitudes the park offers dense forest of Saguaro cacti. In the afternoon we'll head to the eastern part of the park for a 4 day trek through the copper colored mountains that cut against the bright blue skies. We pack our bags to set up camp for the next 3 nights to explore these incredible surroundings.

Hike

Douglas Spring Trail to reach campground

13 km, 656 m, 3 h 15



Backcountry camping



95 km, 2 h



B, L, D

Day 05-06 : Hiking the backcountry of east Saguaro National Park

Enjoy two full days to explore the wild beauty of the Rincon mountains that culminate at a height of 1920m. The Rincon's is the only important mountain range in Arizona that hasn't been plowed to make way for new roads which leaves them in a relatively unperturbed state. This sector of the park offers more scenic diversity than the western part of the park. The lower altitudes are typical of the Sonora desert, with dry prairies and plenty of desert plants but as you gain altitude you enter coniferous forests and canyons and rivers. The winter climate is

dry and the skies are almost always clear which gives us amazing stargazing opportunities and occasional snow fall.

Hike

Cow head saddle trail

18,5 km, 1100 m, 5 h

Tanque Verde Peak

15,5 km, 785 m, 4 h

 Backcountry camping

 B, L, D


Day 07 : End of trek and afternoon at the pool


After breaking camp we'll travel back on the Douglas spring trail to return to our vehicle and head towards the Mexican border. Our accommodation for the next two days is sportsman's paradise situated on 590 acres and surrounded by an additional 120,000 acres of Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge. The ranch offers the perfect blend of luxury and authenticity in its hospitality, its decor, its gastronomy and its wine selection. It's no wonder that the ranch has hosted so many celebrities coming to draw inspiration from this magical place. After 4 days of roughing it in the backcountry now is the time to relax by the pool before enjoying a gourmet meal served by our hosts. We end the night with our eyes riveted on the milky way sprawling against the pitch black skies.

Hike

Douglas Spring Trail back to vehicle

10,7 km, 622 m, 2 h 10

 Luxurious historic ranch

 150 km, 1h 50

 B, L, D

Day 08 : Ranch Life on the Mexican border

With such an expansive playground at our finger tips we trade horses for e-bikes with fat tires to go further on all types of terrain. This allows us to explore remote corners of this wilderness on bike and on foot. In the afternoon we discover the Arivaca Cienega trail in the Buenos Aires wildlife reserve. A great place to observe birds, butterflies and other colorful avian life. We also hit the Arivaca river trail the perfect place to spot vultures under the Sycamore canopy. Return to the ranch to relax by the pool at the end of the day

Bike and walks

Fat bike

at leisure

Arivaca Cienega Trail

2,1 km, 35 min

Arivaca River Trail

1,8 km, 30 min



Luxurious historic ranch



B, L, D

Day 9 : Phoenix – End of trip

We enjoy a last morning in Sasabe to try our hand at Archery, walk on the same trails as Pancho Villa or add the last few lines to your journal to make sure you'll keep all of those memories you've made. Return to Phoenix in the early afternoon to take your return flight home or pursue your trip on your own.



265 km, 2 h 45



B

Note:

B = breakfast

L = lunch

D = diner

Itinerary note:

The guide reserves the right to modify the itinerary for the group's safety depending on the weather and general operating conditions.

Dates & prices

- 11 February – 22 February 2022
2839 \$US

Guided in french

- 25 March – 3 April 2022
2670 \$US

Guided in french

All our prices are on double occupancy basis. Please contact us regarding the single, triple or quadruple rates.

Inclusive

- Accomodation: 2 nights standard hotel 3*, 1 night serviced campground, 3 nights backcountry camping, 2 nights in a ranch
- Camping and cooking equipment
- Meals: 8 breakfast, 8 picnic lunch, 6 diners
- National and provincial park entrance fees

Fiche de programme imprimée de windigo.travel

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- Activities: electric Fat bike, clay pigeon shooting, Archery
- Transportation in a minivan with cargo trailer from 8 travelers
- First aid kit and emergency communication device
- Group from 6 to 11 travelers
- FICAV contribution (compensation fund for customers of travel agents - 0 \$ / 1000 \$)
- Taxes

Non inclusive

- Personal insurance (medical and repatriation)
- Air transportation
- Meet & greet and airport transfer
- Pre & post night
- Meals not mentioned in the included section
- Optional activities
- Tips

1. Name

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