

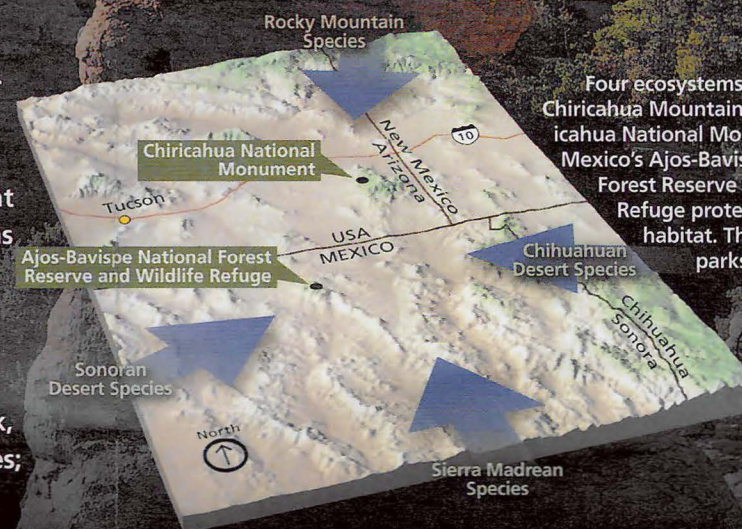


Land of Standing Up Rocks

As you enter Chiricahua National Monument you are climbing up a sky island—an isolated mountain range rising above the surrounding grassland sea. Meadows dotted with cactus and mesquite begin to fill with sycamore, juniper, and oak trees. Farther up are cypress, pine, and fir woodlands. So far the landscape is typical of the basin-and-range topography in this part of the Southwest. It's the rock pinnacles looming over the road like guardians of the forest that announce you're in Chiricahua country.

The Chiricahua Apache called these pinnacles "standing up rocks." Their origins began 27 million years ago when erup-

tions from the Turkey Creek Volcano spewed ash over 1,200 square miles (3,100 square km). These superheated ash particles melted together, forming layers of gray rock called rhyolite. Cooling and subsequent uplifting created joints and cracks in the rhyolite. Eons of weathering by ice wedging and erosion by water enlarged the cracks. Weaker material was washed away leaving behind an endless variety of spires, balanced rocks, and other shapes. This sculpting by the forces of nature continues today. The longer you look, the more alive the formations seem. Many have names; use your imagination to name your own.



Four ecosystems meet in the Chiricahua Mountains. Both Chiricahua National Monument and Mexico's Ajo-Bavispe National Forest Reserve and Wildlife Refuge protect sky island habitat. The two sister parks have had a working partnership since 1996.

Chiricahua National Monument was established in 1924 to preserve and protect the pinnacles. In 1934 the Civilian Conservation Corps took on the jobs of improving the road and constructing the trails and many of the structures. The park comprises 11,985 acres (4,794 hectares); 86 percent of this area is designated as wilderness. There are trails for everyone—from the short, wheelchair-accessible nature trail at Massai Point to all-day hikes winding through the formations. The eight-mile scenic drive rises from the grasslands to the summit at Massai Point, where you get a true sense of being atop a sky island.

Rhyolite formations with Dos Cabezas Mountains in background.
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The Chiricahua Apaches

From the early 1400s southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico have been home to the Chiricahua Apaches (*right*). Of the four main bands, the Chokonon band lived in and around the Chiricahua Mountains.

They were traditionally nomadic, hunting large animals and gathering edible plants. Superb warriors, feared and respected by neighboring tribes, the Apaches fought relentlessly against European colonization beginning with the Spanish in the 1500s. They quickly learned to handle

horses and weapons acquired from the newcomers. After Mexican independence in 1821 and encroachment by settlers and miners, a

state of war existed. Led by Cochise and Geronimo, they raided pioneer settlements but were never able to stem the tide. In 1886

the Chiricahua Apaches surrendered. Ultimately they were settled on reservations in Oklahoma and New Mexico.



NPS

Faraway Ranch

The peach and green house in Bonita Canyon (*right*) looks like the door may open any minute, welcoming you for a visit.

Swedish immigrants Neil and Emma Erickson settled here in 1888. By the 1920s their eldest daughter, Lillian, and her husband, Ed Riggs, had turned the homestead into a guest ranch. From 1917 until 1973 visitors came to relax, watch birds, and hike in the hills.

Lillian and Ed built trails and led guests on horseback through

the Wonderland of Rocks. Armed with photographs and colorful stories, they lobbied for the area's protection.



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After the death of the three Erickson children the ranch and its furnishings were incorporated into the national park as a historic district.

Faraway Ranch today tells the story of how one family lived on the land, shaped the land, and was in turn shaped by the land.

Civilian Conservation Corps

Launched March 31, 1933, as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enlisted 3.4 million young men hard hit by the Great Depression.

Nicknamed the Tree Army, its enrollees labored at conservation, construction, and rehabilitation projects in all U.S. states and territories. There were 118 CCC camps in National Park Service areas, including NM-2-A, Company 828 encamped at Chiricahua National Monument (*pictured at right*).

The CCC offered more than a job. If you could not read or write you received classroom instruction. You could learn carpentry, plumb-

ing, surveying, and other important skills. Monthly pay was \$30, \$25 of which was sent to their families.

The outbreak of World War II led many CCC workers into military service. The CCC camps were disbanded in 1942.



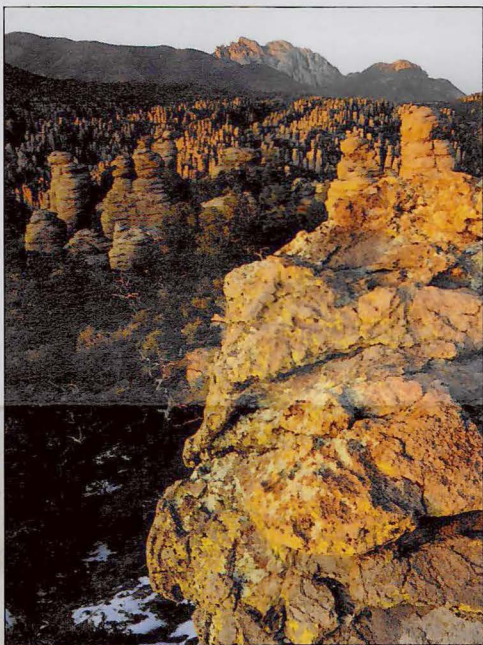
NPS



Wild Chiricahua

Rising to 9,763 feet (2,978 meters), the Chiricahua sky island is home to 1,200 species of plants. Species vary by elevation, exposure to sun, and precipitation. Plants and animals from four ecosystems meet in this range. On cooler northern slopes look for ponderosa pine and Douglas fir; both typify the Rocky Mountains. Sunny southern slopes have Apache pine and Mexican pinon pine from Mexico's Sierra Madre range. Yuccas and sotol from the Chihuahuan Desert coexist with agaves and prickly pear cactus from the Sonoran Desert. Lichens of many colors, including neon green, adorn the pinnacles while ferns thrive in shade.

Birders flock here for the diversity of birds, including many Mexican species at the northern limit of their range. Or you may spot an elusive coatimundi, Arizona white-tailed deer, or—found only in these mountains—Chiricahua fox squirrel. Mountain spiny lizards and black-tailed rattlesnakes are two of the many reptile species.



Heart of Rocks with Cochise Head in background.

Planning Your Visit

Getting to the Park
Chiricahua National Monument is 35 miles southeast of Willcox. From I-10, take Ariz. 186 south to Ariz. 181. There is an entrance fee and a separate camping fee. Nearest food service, lodging, and gasoline are in Willcox, Sunizona, and Douglas, Ariz.

Visitor Center
Open daily except Thanksgiving and December 25, the visitor center has exhibits, an orientation video, and a schedule of activities.

Books, maps, and other materials are available to help you plan your visit.

Scenic Drive
Making a gradual climb through oak, cypress, and pine forests, Bonita Canyon Drive winds eight miles to Massai Point.

The overlook has a 360-degree view of Rhyolite Canyon, adjacent valleys, and surrounding mountain peaks. Your return trip is the best time to stop at roadside pullouts.

Wilderness and Trails
Most of the park area is designated wilderness, accessible by foot and horseback, but not mechanized vehicles. Some 17 miles of day-use trails wind through meadows, forest, and rock pinnacles. Check the map (*below*) for trail lengths, elevation changes, and degrees of difficulty. Pets are prohibited on trails, except where designated. Ask at the visitor center about the hikers' shuttle.

Picnic Areas
The Bonita Creek and Faraway areas have tables, grills, trashcans, and restrooms. Massai Point, Echo Canyon, and Sugarloaf areas have tables and restrooms. Water is available at Faraway Ranch and the visitor center.

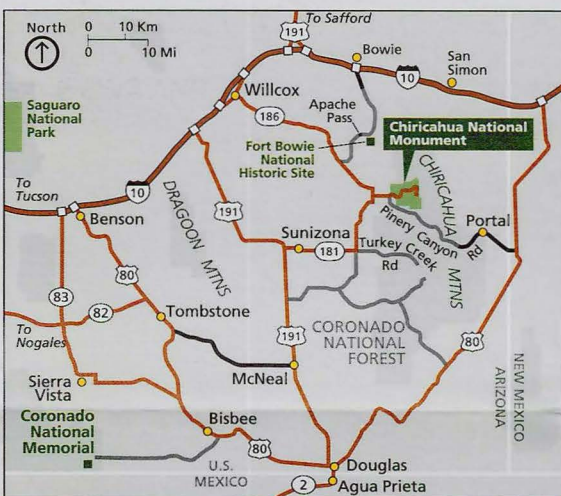
Camping
Open year-round on a first-come, first-served basis, the Bonita Canyon Campground has 24 sites for tents, trailers up to 26 feet long, or RVs up to 29 feet

long. Tables, grills, restrooms with flush toilets. No hookups or showers. A fee is charged.

Faraway Ranch and Stafford Cabin
Grounds of the ranch and cabin homestead are open year-round; a trail guide is available. Tours of the Faraway Ranch house are conducted as staffing permits. Check at the visitor center for tour information.

More information
Chiricahua National Monument is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about parks and National Park Service program in America's communities visit www.nps.gov.

Chiricahua National Monument
12856 East Rhyolite Creek Road
Willcox, AZ 85643
520-824-3560
www.nps.gov/chir



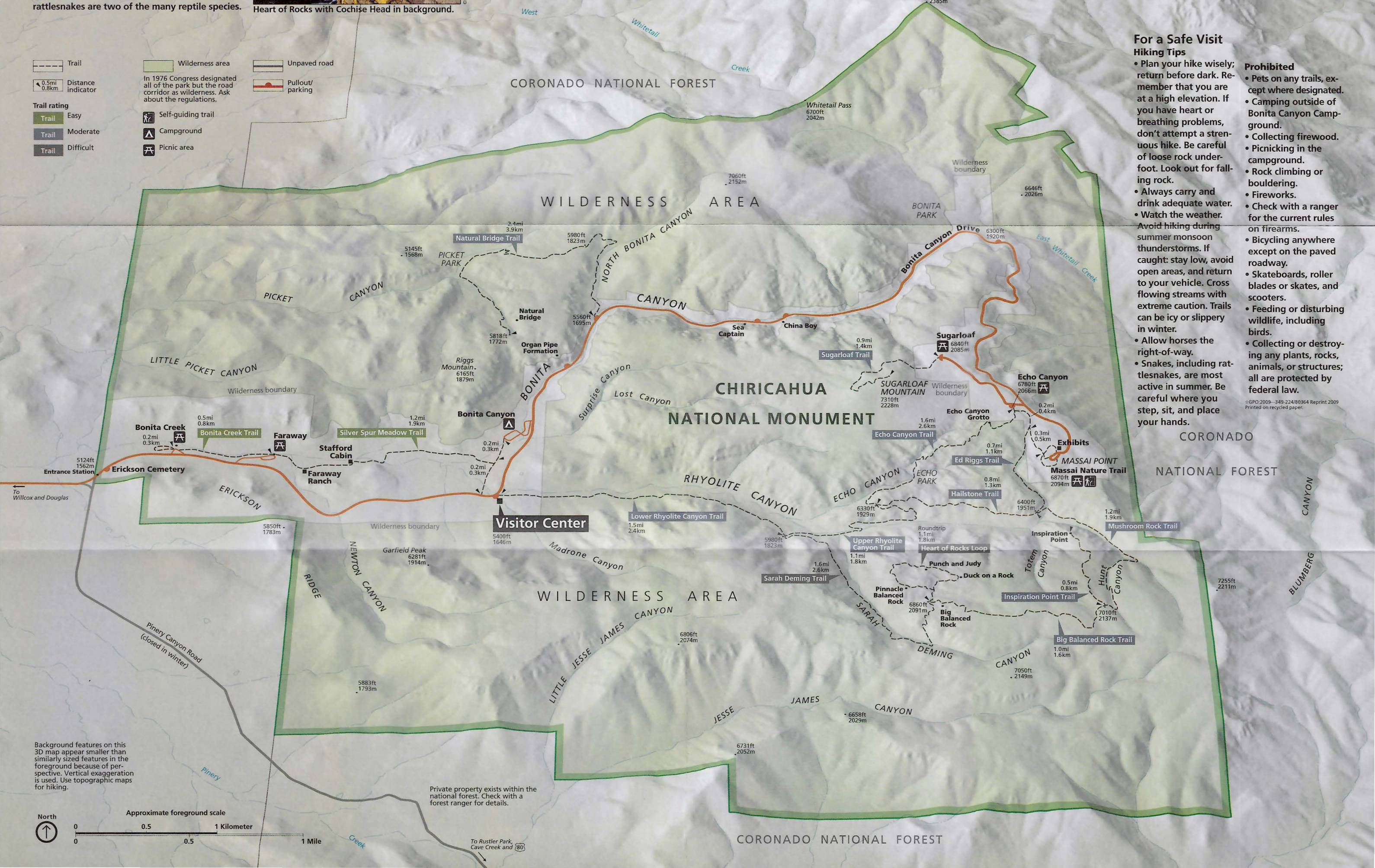
COCHISE HEAD
5113ft
2473m

For a Safe Visit

- Hiking Tips**
- Plan your hike wisely; return before dark. Remember that you are at a high elevation. If you have heart or breathing problems, don't attempt a strenuous hike. Be careful of loose rock underfoot. Look out for falling rock.
 - Always carry and drink adequate water.
 - Watch the weather. Avoid hiking during summer monsoon thunderstorms. If caught: stay low, avoid open areas, and return to your vehicle. Cross flowing streams with extreme caution. Trails can be icy or slippery in winter.
 - Allow horses the right-of-way.
 - Snakes, including rattlesnakes, are most active in summer. Be careful where you step, sit, and place your hands.

- Prohibited**
- Pets on any trails, except where designated.
 - Camping outside of Bonita Canyon Campground.
 - Collecting firewood.
 - Picnicking in the campground.
 - Rock climbing or bouldering.
 - Fireworks.
 - Check with a ranger for the current rules on firearms.
 - Bicycling anywhere except on the paved roadway.
 - Skateboards, roller blades or skates, and scooters.
 - Feeding or disturbing wildlife, including birds.
 - Collecting or destroying any plants, rocks, animals, or structures; all are protected by federal law.

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Background features on this 3D map appear smaller than similarly sized features in the foreground because of perspective. Vertical exaggeration is used. Use topographic maps for hiking.

Private property exists within the national forest. Check with a forest ranger for details.