

Organ Pipe 3-day Naturalist Journey



Amidst the incredible array of natural places strewn across Arizona, several stand out for their biological and cultural value. UNESCO and the U.S., recognizing such inherent value in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, designated it a World Biosphere Preserve. Such a rare and prestigious designation is well warranted, as Organ Pipe contains, essentially, a slice of Mexico in the U.S. Strange Sonoran Desert plants populate all elevations, which contain a surprising biodiversity given the austere look of the region. Organ Pipe is vast, containing over 800,000 acres of prime desert habitat in excellent condition.

Led by Naturalist, Ethnobotanist, and Wildlife Biologist Vincent Pinto you'll discover the magic of Organ Pipe over 3 memorable days of slow-paced explorations in a variety of highly unique habitats. Towering columnar Cacti of 3 species, classic Sonoran Desert, Lowland Sonoran Desert, rich bajadas, a lush Desert Oasis, towering Mountains, and other-worldly crimson Canyons all have distinct flora and fauna well worth getting to know. Wildlife may include **Gila Monsters**, a wide range of **Desert Birds** - including wintering species typical of Mexico, **Desert Bighorn Sheep** and the westernmost **Whitetail Deer** in the region. Day one will focus on the lowlands, day two investigates the towering mountains, while day 3 wraps up at a special oasis. Don't forget to bring your camera and binoculars, as many unforgettable sights await you! **Distance: total roundtrip walking distance for the 3 days is about 5 miles. Terrain: walking will include desert flats to rocky canyons with moderate elevation change. Level: Easy - Moderate.**



WHEN: JANUARY 19, 20, & 21, 2018

TUITION: \$330/person
Excludes lodging, meals, and park entry fee

WHERE: Meet at Chevron station in Green Valley

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LODGING: **Sonoran Desert Inn & Conference Center - 55 Orilla Avenue Ajo, AZ.**

CONTACT: **www.sonoracc.com**

(520) 775-2565

