

SONORAN PRESERVE

MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN RANCH AREA

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve is a protected natural area located in North Scottsdale, Arizona. The preserve covers over 30,000 acres and is the largest urban preserve in the United States. It is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species, including cactus, desert tortoises, and coyotes.

The preserve offers over 225 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, making it a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts. The trails range from easy to difficult, with options for hikers of all levels. Some of the most popular hiking trails in the preserve include the Gateway Loop Trail, the Tom's Thumb Trail, and the Sunrise Trail.

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve is also home to the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, a non-profit organization that works to protect and preserve the natural resources of the preserve. The conservancy offers a variety of educational programs and volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups interested in learning more about the preserve and its unique ecosystem.

One of the unique features of the preserve is the McDowell Mountains, which are a series of rugged peaks and ridges that rise up from the desert floor. The mountains are a popular destination for hikers, offering stunning views of the surrounding landscape.

The preserve also features a variety of ecosystems, including desert scrub, chaparral, and Sonoran Desert. Visitors can explore the different habitats and see the unique plants and animals that call them home.

In addition to hiking, the preserve offers a variety of other outdoor activities, such as mountain biking and horseback riding. The trails in the preserve are well-maintained and marked, making it easy for visitors to explore the area on their own.

Here are some of the most popular trails in the preserve:

Gateway Loop Trail: This 4.5-mile loop trail is one of the most popular in the preserve. It offers stunning views of the surrounding mountains and valleys, and is considered moderately difficult, with some steep inclines and rocky terrain.

Tom's Thumb Trail: This 4-mile out-and-back trail takes hikers up to the iconic Tom's Thumb rock formation, which offers breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. The trail is moderately difficult, with some steep inclines and rocky terrain.

Sunrise Trail: This 4.2-mile out-and-back trail offers stunning views of the sunrise over the McDowell Mountains. The trail is relatively easy, with mostly flat terrain.

Lost Dog Wash Trail: This 4.1-mile out-and-back trail takes hikers through a scenic desert landscape and offers stunning views of the surrounding mountains. The trail is relatively easy, with mostly flat terrain.

Browns Ranch Trailhead: The Browns Ranch Trailhead offers a variety of hiking trails, ranging from easy to difficult. Some of the most popular trails in this area include the Upper Ranch Trail, the Vaquero Trail, and the Maverick Trail.

These are just a few of the many hiking trails that can be found in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The preserve offers over 225 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced hiker, there's a trail nearby that will suit your needs and offer you a chance to experience the beauty and ruggedness of the Sonoran Desert.



Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code
for more information

