



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Guided Hikes

December 2019 through March 2020

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge

Guided hikes explore the beauty of the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge (INWR) and the southwest Arizona desert. Hikes vary in length from about 1.25 to about 4.5 miles, and degrees of difficulty from easy to moderate. Sign up for hikes that fit your interest, desired level of challenge, and sense of adventure.

The **Wildlife Boot Cruise** hikes take place in the morning, and include B Wash, Christmas Overlook, Bobcat Scat and Thumbs Up. You'll learn about some of the wildlife that inhabit the refuge and its unique environment, with an emphasis on larger mammals, such as coyotes, foxes, cats, bighorn sheep, and badgers. If you would like to schedule a hike just for your group of 8-16 people, on a date other than those listed, please con-tact INWR Visitor Center to discuss the possibility.

The **Moonlight Hike** includes an easy, 1.25 mile hike on the Painted Desert Trail by moonlight. The pace is leisurely, with stops along the way to enjoy the moonlight, take photos, and learn about nocturnal wildlife activity.

Free event

Group size is 8 to 16 people

Sign up

Imperial NWR Visitor Center, 928/783-3371

Location

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 12812 Wildlife Way, Yuma, AZ 85365

2019/2020 Dates

December 19, 2019	Christmas Overlook Loop
January 7, 2020	B Wash Loop
January 10, 2020	Painted Desert Trail (Moonlight hike)
January 16, 2020	Bobcat Scat Loop
January 28, 2020	Thumbs Up Loop
February 6, 2020	Christmas Overlook
February 8, 2020	Painted Desert Trail (Moonlight hike)
February 18, 2020	B Wash Loop
February 27, 2020	Bobcat Scat Loop
March 10, 2020	Thumbs Up Loop

Time

Wildlife Boot Cruise hikes 9:00 am MST

Moonlight hikes

January 10, 4:45 pm MST

February 8, 5:30 P.M. MST

Promptness is essential as the rising moon waits for no one!

After a brief orientation at the Visitor Center, hikers will caravan 3-5 miles, in their vehicles, to the trail heads.

Duration

~1-2.5 hours

- Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Tennis type shoes designed for trail walking are fine.
- Trekking poles are recommended.
- Bring water, snacks, hat, and sunblock.
- No pets please.

Trail Descriptions

The December 2019 and January—March 2020 Wildlife Boot Cruise Hikes and Moonlight Hikes will use the following trails on scheduled dates. Hikes vary in length from 1.25 to 4.5 miles and last from about 1 to 2.5 hours of hiking time depending on distance hiked and interest of hikers. Hikes occur in washes with loose sand, gravel, and rocks of various size and on hillside wildlife trails, with elevation changes up to approximately 250'. Note: only Painted Desert Trail is improved. Sturdy footwear is essential. Trekking poles or walking sticks are encouraged. Bring your own water, snacks, hat, sun block and other sun protection. For moonlight hikes, be prepared for cold weather and the possibility of mosquitoes. No pets. Desert hiking conditions can change, impacting trail and hiker safety. To provide for safety, comfort and enjoyment hike routes may change at the guides discretion. Hikes may be canceled for severe weather, in which case you will be notified as much in advance as possible. Every effort will be made to hike the route scheduled on a specific date.

Painted Desert Trail

Easy. 1.25 mile loop on an improved trail, used for the moonlight hikes. Mostly flat with some stairs and minimal elevation change. It has a nice place to watch and photograph the moon rise.

B Wash

Easy. 2.0 miles in varying size washes along hillside wildlife trails. Last half of hike involves elevation change of approximately 175'.

Christmas Overlook

Moderate. 2.2 miles in washes that vary in size, coloration and character. Some hillside wildlife trails and hill crest hiking, resulting in approximately 200' of elevation change, providing an overlook of Christmas Wash.

Bobcat Scat

Moderate. 4.3 miles in various washes and on hillside wildlife trails with several elevation variations of approximately 250'. A few places of more challenging footing. Most varied terrain and scenery. This is a slightly more difficult hike by length, with more frequent elevation variation and a one longer uphill section. Bring your lunch!

Thumbs Up

Easy. 2.8 miles beginning and ending at the Painted Desert Trail head, using very little of the Painted Desert Trail. In washes and on hillside wildlife trails with about 200' of elevation variation. Middle 3rd of this hike is very scenic. This is a fairly easy hike, except for a few slightly more challenging areas.