

# Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Ajo Mountains

## Welcome to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

As we welcome our park visitors to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, we also welcome Brent Range, our 14th Superintendent.

Range, who started here in February 2014, said, "I am very excited for the opportunity to work with the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service and honored to have been selected as the superintendent of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument."



This is his first assignment in the National Park Service, but he has worked for the federal government since 1990. Most of his federal service was at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a sister agency in the Department of Interior. Most recently Range served in law enforcement as assistant special agent in charge, duty stationed at the BLM California State Office in Sacramento from 2009 until he came here.

Range started his federal career in 1990 as a seasonal firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in Idaho. In 1991 to 1992, he was a hotshot firefighter with BLM and USFS in Nevada; 1993 to 1998 he was a BLM smokejumper in Idaho. From 1998 to 2004, Range served as a law enforcement ranger with BLM in Idaho. After that, he was a special agent for the BLM at the Utah State Office in Salt Lake City From 2004 to 2009.

Range is a graduate of the University of Idaho, with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice and a minor in sociology.

When I became superintendent, my highest priority was to make the changes necessary to allow you access to the entire monument. This is public land and should be available for you to experience and enjoy. Working with the management team and US Customs and Border Patrol, we have created a plan to make this possible.

The focus for your safety at the monument has changed. Instead of keeping areas closed for your protection, our goal now is to inform you about hazards or potentially dangerous situations. We feel this will give you the necessary tools to make informed decisions based on your experience and comfort level. No park can guarantee the safety of every visitor and risks exist in backcountry settings.

Cross-border activity in southern Arizona remains a reality. The Department of the Interior, National Park Service, along with U.S. Customs and Border Protection have worked together to provide more security to border areas. What used to be a barbed wire fence between Mexico and the United States is now a 30-mile vehicle barrier. There is also a 5.2-mile pedestrian fence.

### Inside

Camping .....	3
Scenic Drives .....	4
Hiking information .....	5
Scientific Research .....	8
Bird & flower guides .....	10, 11
Map of the monument .....	12

The barrier has reduced the illegal entry of vehicles and nearly eliminated high-speed pursuits on Hwy 85. Radio and watch towers aid in the tracking and apprehension of illegal smugglers.

Whether you are new or returning visitors, I wish you a welcome to your monument...all of it. We hope that you have an enjoyable stay and we will do what we can to make it great.

—Brent Range

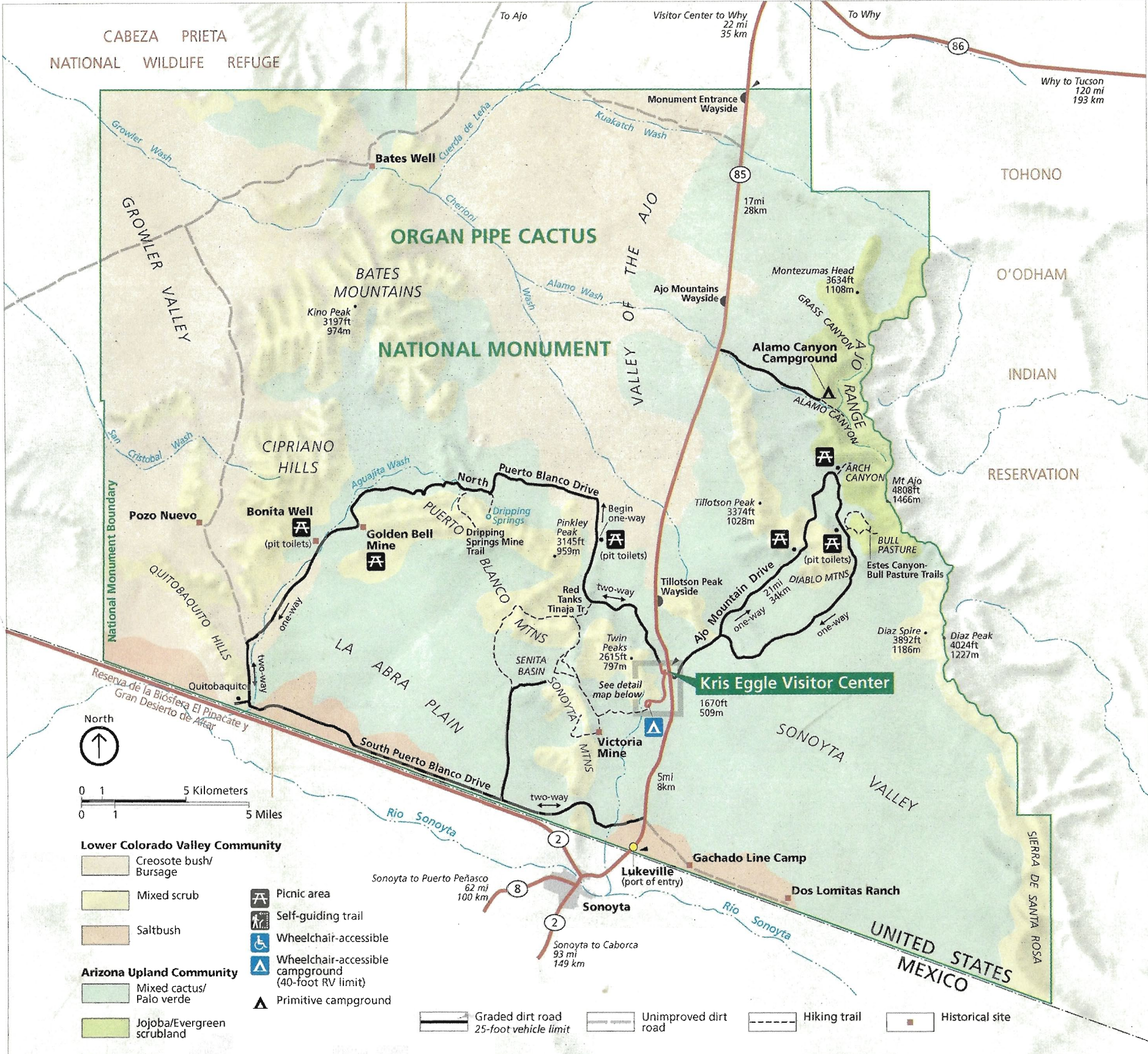
*As the sun sets, taking  
with it the heat of the  
day*

*A stillness comes over  
the desert like a pause*

*Finally they exhale that  
breath held through the  
heat of the day*

*Plants give their aroma  
to the desert night for all  
to enjoy*





- Lower Colorado Valley Community**
- Creosote bush/Bursage
  - Mixed scrub
  - Saltbush
- Arizona Upland Community**
- Mixed cactus/Palo verde
  - Jojoba/Evergreen scrubland

- Picnic area
- Self-guiding trail
- Wheelchair-accessible
- Wheelchair-accessible campground (40-foot RV limit)
- Primitive campground

- Graded dirt road 25-foot vehicle limit
- Unimproved dirt road
- Hiking trail
- Historical site

### Visitor Center

The Kris Eggle Visitor Center is open 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Stop by for an informative slide presentation, a 1/10 mile stroll on the handicapped-accessible nature trail, nature and museum exhibit room, bookstore, and answers from a park ranger or volunteer at the information counter.

Ranger led talks, walks and guided tours are offered from January through March.

### Mailing Address

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument  
10 Organ Pipe Drive  
Ajo, Arizona 85321-9626

**E-mail**  
orpi\_information@nps.gov

**Phone**  
520-387-6849 ext 7302

**Website**  
www.nps.gov/orpi

### Visitor Center and Campground Area

