Visitor Centers

San Pedro House
Open every day
9:30 am - 4:30 pm
9800 E. Hwy. 90
(520) 508-4443
Focus on bird watching; lists, recent sightings and advice on viewing. Nature walks are offered in the adjacent area. A large selection of clothing, gifts and books are for sale. Shaded picnic area.

Fairbank Schoolhouse
Open Friday - Sunday
9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Hwy. 82 just east of the River
(520) 457-3062
Restored school that houses a small museum and store offering a collection of Old West literature and other items. The annual Fairbank Day event celebrates the town. Picnic area. The townsite itself is open every day.

Visit the San Pedro...

The San Pedro River is one of the last free flowing rivers in the Southwest. In 1995, the American Bird Conservancy recognized the San Pedro as its first “globally important bird area” in the United States, dubbing it the “largest and best example of riparian woodland remaining” in the Southwest. Visitors may see rare neotropical animals in this exceptional area:
- More than 350 species of birds, 80 species of mammals, 2 native fish, and 68 species of amphibians and reptiles.
- Special birds such as the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bell’s Vireo, Green Kingfisher, Lucy’s Warbler, Abert’s Towhee, and Gray Hawk.
- Forty miles of riparian corridor, shaded by one of the Southwest’s few remaining Fremont cottonwood - Gooding willow gallery forests.

...and learn about its cultural history

The San Pedro River has been a home to people for 13,000 years:
- The Clovis PaleoIndian culture, one of the first in the New World, lived and hunted here. Some of the first Clovis research was done in the San Pedro valley by archeologist Dr. Vance Haynes.
- Subsequent Native American cultures called the River home, including the Sobapuri, whom the Spanish missionary Eusebio Kino visited in the late 1600s. The Chirichahua Apache also lived nearby.
- The Spanish and Mexicans attempted to colonize the valley, notably at the Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate in the 1770s. The Apache were able to defeat this attempt at Spanish colonization.
- The end of the Chirichahua Apache Reservation in 1876 followed in 1877 by the Tombstone silver strike triggered a new era of use, including silver mills, railroads, ranches, farms and settlements that are now ghost towns, including Fairbank.

About the SPRNCA

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) was acquired by the Federal Government in 1988 to preserve outstanding wildlife habitat and historic sites. The Bureau of Land Management manages the area. It is free and open to the public for recreational use. Parking areas are open from dawn to dusk.

Visitor Rules and Regulations
- These activities are prohibited: metal detecting, trapping, target shooting, prospecting/mining, off-road vehicle use, digging or collecting any artifact or mineral specimen.
- Camping is allowed in the backcountry ONLY, at least 1 mile from roads and parking areas, subject to a $2 per person daily fee. Limited to 7 days. Registration required. No RV camping.
- Horses are allowed except near historic sites.
- Dogs must be on leashes at all times.
- Biking permitted on established roads and trails.
- Hunting with firearms is not permitted between Charleston Road and Highway 92. Bow hunting is permitted throughout the SPRNCA. All hunting must be 1/4 mile from any road or facility.
- Fishing is permitted. Contact the BLM for more information.
The San Pedro is a River of Life in the High Desert. Come Explore...

- **San Pedro House.** Trails lead through one of the best bird-watching areas in the United States. An FSFR-operated visitor center provides SPRNCA information and a book store.
- **Fairbank Historic Townsite.** An FSFR-operated museum and a self-guided tour help visitors explore this ghost town’s buildings and cemetery.
- **Birdwatching Areas.** The SPRNCA is a world class birdwatching area. Inquire at the San Pedro House for directions to birding locales.
- **Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate.** A three-mile round-trip trail leads to the ruins of this 18th-century Spanish military post.
- **Millville and Petroglyph Discovery Trail.** Visitors follow a trail to the ruins of the famous Gird Silver Mill and views of ancient Native American rock art.
- **Murray Springs Clovis Site.** One of the nation’s premier Paleo-Indian archeological sites, this 13,000 year old site was recently designated a National Historic Landmark.
- **Other Historic Sites.** Numerous historic and archeological sites dot the SPRNCA. All sites are protected by federal law. Check for directions to sites for which visitation is encouraged.

The FSFR offers regularly scheduled nature and history walks to these sites and others. See our website for more information at: [www.sanpedroriver.org](http://www.sanpedroriver.org)

Cover photo is the San Pedro River near Fairbank. All unattributed photos by Ron Stewart. All photos copyright protected.