San Pedro House Area

The San Pedro House is the primary visitors center for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNC). The Friends of the San Pedro River operate the House to help visitors enjoy their outings. From here, there is access to the River and two ponds. A garden area around the house is a great place for picnics and outdoor gatherings.

History: The rich riparian area along the San Pedro River was home to Native Nations in prehistoric times. Later, after Spanish Colonial times, the Mexican Government issued the San Rafael del Valle Land Grant here in 1832 for a cattle ranch that lasted until its Mexican operators were driven from the area by the Apache. William C. Greene bought the Land Grant in 1901, and the Little Boquillas Ranch bought it from his heirs in 1912. In the mid 1930s, the Little Boquillas Ranch built a gypsum block house, the San Pedro House, for their section boss and his family. Ranching and farming operations continued here until the area was acquired to become part of the SPRNCA in 1988.

Today, the San Pedro House is a focal point for recreational and educational activities in the SPRNCA. There is a large parking lot for cars and horse trailers. A visitor center is housed in the House. There is a picnic area, a large multi-purpose ramada, and xeriscape demonstration gardens. You can access the San Pedro Trail and educational trails that lead through the riparian forest to the San Pedro River, and Green Kingfisher and Black Phoebe Ponds. The San Pedro River has been named an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society. Birdwatchers come to the San Pedro House to see the resident birds and migratory species that use the river as a flight-way. Birdwatching and nature walks, and hummingbird banding sessions are available at the House for free on a scheduled basis. Local residents of the area come here for family outings, to walk their dogs, and to picnic.

Plan Your Visit: Summertime heat can be a hazard - be prepared. Plan your hikes and bring adequate water. The trails around the San Pedro House are groomed, but paths along the river and ponds can be rough and muddy. Make sure you are physically able.

Trailhead and Parking: The trailhead access road and parking lot are graveled, with space for horse trailers. The parking lot is opened at sunrise and closed at sunset.

Pets must be leashed in all developed facilities and in other posted areas. All dogs must be kept under direct control at all times. Clean up after your dog and pack out the waste. There are dog waste stations provided.

The San Pedro Trail is open to hiking, equestrian riding, and bicycling. Trails for educational/interpretive purposes along the River and to the ponds are closed to bicycle riding and horses. Many different people use the trails - respect their rights.

Picnicking: Picnic tables and shelters are available at the site on a first come-first serve basis. Water is available. There is a waterless toilet.

Camping is not allowed at the trailhead, parking areas, or in the Recreation Management Zone around the House, River, and ponds. Backcountry camping is allowed 1/2 mile away from access points or public roads; you must carry all equipment and supplies by foot, bicycle or horse. Permits are required, available from a self-service dispenser, and there is a $2 per person per night fee.

Dispose of Waste Properly: Pack out all your trash.

Leave What You Find: Vegetation, archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites and artifacts are protected by federal law. It is illegal to damage, destroy or remove any artifacts or structures in the SPRNCA. Metal detecting is not allowed.

Potential hazards include thorny vegetation, falling tree branches, hidden sink holes, quicksand, steep drop offs, unstable ground, collapsing riverbanks, rattlesnakes, large predators, venomous insects, extreme temperatures, flash floods, and others.

Resident site hosts help maintain the San Pedro House.
Directions: From Sierra Vista go east towards Bisbee on Highway 90 about 7 miles to the San Pedro House access road.

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