

DESERT PARKS and PRESERVES

Phoenix is home to more than 41,000 acres of desert parks and preserve land with more than 200 miles of trails along with 187 parks, 33 community and recreation centers, eight golf courses, and 29 pools.

Our desert parks are one of the top three most popular filming destinations in Phoenix and we accommodate filming requests for everything from student projects to commercials to fashion shoots to major movies. These desert parks include (but not limited to):

- [Papago Park](#)
- [South Mountain Park](#)
- [Phoenix Mountain Preserve](#)
 - Includes Piestewa Peak & Dreamy Draw Recreation Area
- [Sonoran Preserve](#)
- [Lookout & Shadow Mountain](#)

Please [click here](#) for a full list.

However, there are some important things to consider prior to planning your shoot!

- 1) These are **NATURAL PRESERVES** which means you may not go “off-trail” for any reason. All filming activity is limited to marked trails meaning you cannot have any talent or crew wander off into the desert for any reason.
- 2) **BLACKOUT DAYS: WEDNESDAYS & WEEKENDS.** As you will require an off-duty Park Ranger to be with you, we do not have staff available on Wednesdays and Weekends as both shifts of Rangers are working simultaneously. Please plan your shoot schedule accordingly as we cannot make exceptions. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday are always available unless another project has already booked the location.
- 3) **NO FILMING AT CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN or ECHO CANYON TRAILHEAD.** We will not accommodate any requests for commercial filming or still photo shoots at these locations. The location is overly crowded, you cannot go off trail, and the hike is rated as a double black diamond. Please contact the Phoenix Film Office for several alternative locations that can cheat Camelback Mountain or Echo Canyon Trailhead.
- 4) **PUBLIC WILL BE PRESENT.** As these are public parks, there is no way to completely “own” a location. Park guests will be present in the area and, depending on the location, Park Rangers can attempt to hold them for brief intervals while you are filming, but then will need to be granted access through your filming location.
- 5) **NO DRONES** in City of Phoenix Parks (except those listed [here](#)), however we can make special arrangements for their use at Papago Park on the West Buttes side or along San Juan Road inside of South Mountain (our “road to nowhere” used frequently for driving shots). Drones will require additional staff, and the production company will be asked for a park



COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT

donation. We are happy discuss specific locations within our desert parks and mountain preserves, but as a general rule the request will not be accommodated.

While our City of Phoenix desert parks and natural preserves are very film friendly, it is important to consider these items when planning your shoot. Should you have any questions before you submit an application, feel free to call the Phoenix Film Office at (602) 262-4850 and we are more than happy to discuss your project.