Trekking Catalina
27 Miles of New & Expanded Trails

IMAGE: JES STACKHAUSEN

CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY
Part of 165 Total Miles of Recreational Trails and Roads

The following hikes can be accessed from 17 trailheads across the island.

Map: Laura Roll, Catalina Island Conservancy
#1

Trans-Catalina Trail

38.5 mi 17,230 ft
Strenuous Several Days

Image: Laura Roll
Traverse the backbone of the Island on rugged single track trails and 4x4 jeep roads. Be prepared for spectacular views but minimal shade. This hike is most enjoyable during fall and spring seasons. Shorter hikes possible on sections of this long trail.
#2 East End Loop Trail

11.4 mi  4,954 ft

Strenuous    4-5 hrs

Image: Laura Roll
Hike the Avalon Canyon watershed divide along jeep roads, finishing down the paved historic Banning Stagecoach Route (Stage Rd). Restroom and shade available at Hermit Gulch Summit. This hike has minimal shade and can be very hot.
#3 Hermit Gulch Trail
1.7 mi  1,240 ft
Moderate  1 hr
#3

Ascend the canyon bottom to canyon rim via this steep, rugged single track trail. Restroom and shade structure are available at the summit. Descend the same way you came.

*Images: Jes Stackhausen*
#4 Garden to Sky Hikes
#4

**Garden to Sky Hike**  
1.2 mi 679 ft Moderate 1 hr  
This hike is an easier alternative along a dirt road to reach the summit/watershed divide of Avalon Canyon. Requires admission to the Wrigley Memorial and Botanic Garden.

**Garden to Sky Loop**  
3.8 mi 2,326ft Moderate 1-2 hrs  
Enter the gardens and hike the Memorial Rd. Turn right at the Divide Rd, then descend Hermit Gulch Trail.

**Add Lone Tree Spur**  
6.0 mi 3,854 ft Moderate 2-3 hrs  
Add the Lone Tree Trail spur to view the rugged cliffs on the backside of the Island called the Palisades.
#5 Patrick Reservoir Trail
0.7 mi  270 ft  Easy    0.5 hrs

Image: Laura Roll
Enjoy an easy hike past several ranching reservoirs to a bench with stunning views of Grand Canyon at Inspiration Point. Return via Patrick Dam Rd to complete a 1.4 mi loop.
Renton Pass to Quail Valley
8.5 mi  3,270 ft
Strenuous  3-5 hrs

Image: Laura Roll
#6
Hike Renton Pass Road to Bulrush Canyon Road. Pass Middle Ranch Reservoir on Thompson Dam Rd, turn left at the access road to the stables, and finish out on Middle Ranch Rd. This trail has minimal shade and can be very hot.
#7 China Wall Area Hikes
Herman’s Loop
3.9 mi  2362 ft  Moderate    1-2 hrs
Hike up the access ridge to the Trans-Catalina Trail. Turn left at the TCT and take your first right on the Skull Ridge Trail. At the road head down the hill to Middle Ranch Rd. Hike up canyon until you reach the TCT crossing. Head west up the canyon to link back to the start.
Black Jack Area Hikes
#8
Ironwood Groves
0.4 mi  262 ft  Easy  0.5 hrs
Explore one of Catalina's native and endemic trees in the Ironwood Groves above Whites Landing.

Echo Lake
0.7 mi  120 ft  Easy  0.5 hrs
Visit the Islands only natural lake. Clay from the area was also used to make Wrigley's famous Catalina tiles, which can be found throughout Avalon and the Island and are now considered collectors items.

Black Jack Campground
1.8 mi  663 ft  Easy  1 hr
Hike or bike an access road to Black Jack Campground. Access Trans-Catalina Trail (hiking only) or Cape Canyon Road (hike or bike), or return to Airport Rd for an out and back.
#9 Airport Loop Trail

2.2 mi  969 ft

Moderate    1 hr
Enjoy cultural history and summit views along this gently sloping trail surrounding the Airport in the Sky. Interpretive signage explains an extensive soapstone quarry utilized by native peoples.
#10 Skull Ridge Trail
3.6 mi  2,110 ft
Moderate  1-2 hrs
#10
Climb a prominent ridge with stunning views of the largest watershed on the Island. Start from trailhead 7 to reverse the route and traverse mostly downhill instead.

Image: Laura Roll
#11 Bull Rush Area Hikes
Hack Tower Loop
3.8 mi  1,619 ft
Moderate    1-2 hrs

Image: Laura Roll
Start at Quail Valley and hike down Middle Ranch Rd. to Camp Cactus Rd. Pass through a locked gate, after 0.5 miles turn left onto Hack Tower Ridge Rd. At the end of the road turn left and descend to the Islands largest body of water, Middle Ranch Reservoir. Follow the road over the dam and turn left at the stable, at the main road head back down the canyon to the trailhead.
#12 Ben Weston
Canyon Trail
1.3 mi  337 ft
Easy   1 hr

IMAGE: JES STACKHAUSEN
Navigate along lower Middle Creek to one of Catalina's remote backside beaches.
#13 Eagles Nest Loop Trail

3.5 mi  1,847 ft  
Moderate  1-2 hrs

Hike down Cottonwood Dam Rd and link Old Eagles Nest Rd to Eagles Nest Loop Trail. Briefly hike on Middle Ranch Road to link back up with Old Eagles Nest Rd and return up Cottonwood Dam Rd back to trailhead.
#14 Little Harbor Area Hikes
Big Springs Ridge to Airport
6.1 mi  2,862 ft  Moderate  2-3 hrs
Hike from Little Harbor to the Airport via Big Springs Ridge Trail to Empire Landing Road finishing on the Trans-Catalina Trail. This hike has sweeping ocean views on both sides of the Island. This trail has minimal shade and can be very hot.

Harbor to Harbor
5.4 mi  3,525  Moderate  2-3 hrs
Hike from Little Harbor to Two Harbors via the Trans-Catalina Trail. This trail has challenging singletrack with gorgeous views, a shade structure mid-way and often times an ocean breeze.
Images: Laura Roll
Big Springs Area Hike

Big Springs to Empire Quarry

7.2 mi  3,725 ft
Strenuous  3-4 hrs
Start up the hill past the buffalo corrals. Continue on Big Springs Connector to Big Springs Ridge. Turn left on Empire Quarry Trail. At the four way junction head southwest on Big Springs Rd. Take the connector back to the buffalo corrals to complete the loop. This hike has sweeping ocean views on both sides of the Island but has minimal shade and can be very hot.
#16
Cat Harbor Overlook Trail  
2.1 mi  1,279 ft  Moderate  1 hr  
The steep incline to this ridgetop rewards hikers with gorgeous views of the backside of Catalina Island.

Ballast Point Road  
1.1 mi  185 ft  Easy  0.5 hrs  
Explore Catalina Harbor along this flat access road.
#17

West End Hikes
Parsons Landing Trail
1.6 mi  909 ft  Easy  0.5 hrs
Explore a spring near Parsons Landing Campground along this short loop.

Starlight Trail
4.3 mi  2,279 ft  Moderate  2-3 hrs
From Parsons Landing Campground hike to the original Trans-Catalina Trail terminus. Opt for the Old West End Rd section to avoid steep rolling hills.

Silver Peak Loop
8.1 Miles  5,447 ft  Strenuous  3-4 hrs
From Parsons Landing Campground hike the West End Rd to Old West End Rd to Silver Peak Road to Fenceline Rd back to camp. Great views of the west end.

*Images: Laura Roll*