

Amphibians

Despite the arid climate and lack of permanent water in the preserve, amphibians are surprisingly common here, though not particularly diverse. In all cases, the best time to spot an amphibian in Vistoso Trails is after sunset on a warm, humid evening, especially after rain.

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Common name: Red-spotted Toad

Scientific name: *Anaxyrus punctatus*

Sightings: Abundant (seasonal - warm months at night)

Notes: This small toad is easily the most common amphibian in the area. They can be seen primarily in the northern half of the preserve. Look for them on the paths on warmer nights (even dry ones).

Common name: Sonoran Desert Toad

Scientific name: *Incilius alvarius*

Sightings: Common (seasonal - monsoon nights)

Notes: These large toads (the largest native to the U.S.) can be seen all over the preserve, particularly on warm, humid nights during the monsoon. Various glands on these toads produce toxins. They should not be handled.



Common name: Couch's Spadefoot Toad

Scientific name: *Scaphiopus couchii*

Sightings: Occasional (seasonal - monsoon nights)

Notes: These toads are relatively common in certain areas of the preserve, especially after summer rainfall. They are typically found in or near puddles on the paths. They have spade-like growths on their hind limbs that they use to burrow.





Common name: Great Plains Toad

Scientific name: *Anaxyrus cognatus*

Sightings: Uncommon (seasonal - monsoon nights)

Notes: There have only been a few sightings of these in the preserve, typically on warm, rainy nights during the monsoon. They are similar to red-spotted toads but a bit larger, rounder, and without any red spots.