

TOWN OF GILA BEND SCENIC DRIVE

Hwy 238 to Maricopa

OVERVIEW

Highway 238 is a 42 mile stretch of road that runs right through the beautiful Sonoran Desert National Monument. This route is also marked as an Auto Tour route because of its scenic and historic value. This scenic drive begins about 5 miles outside of Gila Bend and gives you amazing views on either side. One has to feel sorry for the driver for everything they won't see while driving!

Around mile marker 17, the North side of the road reveals huge Saguaro forests nestled among the ridges of the Maricopa Mountains. We recommend pulling over here and taking some photos. Along the South side of the road follows the Southern Pacific Railway, so don't be surprised if you see trains along the way. From one end to the other, this drive is packed with Sonoran scenery including small buttes, sage brush desert floors, cacti, and purple mountains.

Best time to do the drive:

November through early April. Wildflower season begins in late March.

Average Time:

About 50 minutes one way.

How to get there:

From Gila Bend, stay on Pima Road heading East. Stay to the right as Pima becomes Hwy 238/Maricopa Rd.

