

Reptiles found in Maricopa County, AZ

Maricopa County is located within the Sonoran Desert, an arid region covering 120,000 square miles in southwestern Arizona, southeastern and most of Baja California, as well as the western half of the state of Sonora, Mexico.

Frog/Toad

Bull Frog
Canyon Tree Frog
Couches Spadefoot Toad
Lowland Leopard Frog (Exotic)
Red Spotted Toad
Rio Grande Leopard Frog (Exotic)
Sonoran Green Toad
Sonoran/Colorado River Toad
Western Spadefoot Toad
Woodhouse Toad

Lizard

Banded Gecko
Checkered Whiptail
Chuckwalla
Clark's Spiny
Collared
Desert Iguana
Desert Spiny
Earless
Fringe-toed
Gila Monster
Leopard
Night
Regale Horned
Side-blotched
Tree
Zebra-Tailed

Salamandar

Tiger (Exotic)

Snake

Black-headed
Black-tailed Rattle
California King
Checkered Garter
Coachwhip
Gopher
Ground
Long-nosed
Mojave Rattle
Night
Patch-nosed
Regal Ringneck
Sidewinder
Shovel-nosed
Sonoran Coral
Sonoran Gopher
Sonoran Whip
Speckled Rattle
Striped Whip
Tiger Rattle
Western Blind
Western Diamondback Rattle

Turtle

Desert Tortoise
Red-eared Slider
Snapping

Reptiles



Collared Lizard

Photo by William Leonard

Wildlife of Maricopa County Parks

Notes:

National Poison Control Hotline 800.222.1222

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department
602.506.2930 www.maricopa.gov/parks

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Maricopa County
Parks & Recreation Department



Banded Gecko *Coleonyx variegates* Banded lizard with alternating yellow and brown bands, this 4” lizard is sometimes mistaken for a Gila Monster because of its banded coloring and thick tail.



Chuckwalla *Sauramalus obesus* 14” lizard of the rocks. Males display a red on black dorsal and straw-colored tails; or black with white flecking. Females are banded earth tones.



Gila Monster *Heloderma suspectum* Protected species; proprietary black and orange pattern, having a girth that can measure more than 2” around. Blunt body may reach more than 20”. Only venomous lizard in United States.



Lizard, Collared *Crotaphytus bicinctores* 12” double collar neck markings.



Lizard, Desert Spiny *Scoloporus magister* Collared neck markings; scales are as rough as a wood rasp. Often makes a soda machine its summer home.



Lizard, Regale Horned *Phrynosoma solare* Frisbee-shaped body; short tail and legs. Thorn-like crown of head scales.



Lizard, Zebra-Tailed *Callisaurus draconoides* Dubbed scorpion lizard; tendency to raise and wave vividly barred, black/white tail.



Coachwhip *Masticophis flagellum* Fast snake called Red Racer. Various shades of tan, red, pink and occasionally black. Scale pattern similar to a braided leather whip.



Snake, Black-neck Garter *Thamnophis cyrtopsis* Brown on the body, a yellow strip down its back and dark brown marking behind the head. Lives near water.



Snake, Common King *Lampropeltis getula* Alternating black and white bands. Reaches about 4’ long. Eats other snakes, and is immune to the venom.



Snake, Coral *Micruroides euryxanthus* “Red on yellow, kill a fellow,” goes the rhyme. 20”, pencil-thin relative of the cobra, is marked with alternating pattern of rings, yellow-black-yellow-red.

Snake, Gopher *Pituophis melanoleucus*

A tan colored body blotched with darker saddles and its defensive tail rattling; mistaken for a rattlesnake. 5’ long.



Rattlesnake, Mojave *Crotalus scutulatus*

Similar to diamondback, but with white tail bands about twice as long as the dull black bands. Set of enlarged scales near the snout. Venom very lethal.



Rattlesnake, Speckled *Crotalus mitcheli*

Many colors. Exhibit pattern of faded saddles that change to bands about a third of the way down the body; appears in variations of red/gray. Prefers rocky hills.



Rattlesnake, Tiger *Crotalus tigris*

Similar to speckled rattler, but marked with indistinct bands on the full length of its body. The colors are usually reddish brown or gray.



Rattlesnake, Western Diamondback

Crotalus atrox Arizona’s largest, usually less than 5’ long, and the most defensively aggressive rattlesnake; frequently seen on the trails. Step around it carefully to continue hike. Diamondbacks avoid biting unless closely pressed. Gray, with faded pattern of diamonds. The tail is ringed with contrasting white and black rings. Frequent the flats but sometimes hillsides.



Toad, Couch’s Spadefoot *Scaphiopus couchi*

Mottled with yellow, the vertical, cat-eye pupils distinguish it from other toads.



Toad, Sonoran Desert *Bufo alvarius*

Wet skinned; 7” long. Largest in U.S.



Tortoise, Desert *Gopherus agassizii*

Rocky hillsides and wash banks are habitat for the dome-shaped tortoise.



Turtle, Sonoran Mud *Kinosternon sonoriense*

Small, brown-color; near perennial water.

