

Definitions of Catalina's Roads and Trails:

Primary Paved Road: The only paved road on the Catalina Island Conservancy's property stretches 9 miles between the city of Avalon and the Airport in the Sky. This is a minimally maintained paved road without center lines, shoulders, traffic lights or stop signs and is patched by hand every few months. This road facilitates the majority of the interior road traffic daily.



Photos: Airport Road

Secondary Road: An already existing dirt road, approximately 16-18 feet in width and maintained with the use of a grader approximately once monthly. These publicly accessible 2-wheel-drive dirt roads are used daily by Conservancy staff, local residents, utility stakeholders and tour companies for getting between the primary island hubs of Avalon, Middle Ranch, the Airport in the Sky, the village of Two Harbors, and several youth camps. Speed limit is 25 mph (maximum) on these roads and vehicle traffic varies depending on the season of year. An average may approach 50-150 vehicles per day driving in the interior. A total of 575-600 interior vehicle use permits are issued by the Conservancy annually to (a) commercial users (approx. 125) such as tour companies, Southern California Edison, US Postal Service, Catalina Island Resort Services, and includes the Conservancy's vehicle fleet, while residential vehicle permits (~450) are available to island residents' for their personal vehicles.



Secondary Road Photos: Left- Middle Ranch Road; right: Isthmus Road

Tertiary Road: An already existing dirt road, approximately 12 feet in width (wide enough for a single vehicle), that is closed to the general public for driving, but is driven by Catalina Island Conservancy rangers, biologists, Jeep Eco Tours, and maintenance staff intermittently throughout the year for work purposes. Los Angeles County Fire Department response vehicles may access these roads in the event of an emergency and Southern California Edison employees may drive various tertiary roads to access electrical and water infrastructure such as power poles and water valves for maintenance and repair. Overall traffic volume is low (approximately 10 vehicles or less per week). Existing tertiary dirt roads are maintained approximately one time per year using a grader.



Tertiary Road Photos: Top left- Divide Road/Trans Catalina Trail; top right- Silver Peak Road/Trail; bottom: Cottonwood Road/Trail.

Trans-Catalina Trail: Opened in 2009, the Trans-Catalina Trail stretches 37.2 miles from the Renton Mine Trailhead on the East End to Starlight Beach on the West End. It winds up hills and down valleys offering spectacular views across the Conservancy’s 43,000-acre “Interior.” The trail utilizes a variety of secondary dirt roads, tertiary dirt roads, and single-track hiking trails.



Trans-Cat Trail photos: top left-Haypress to KBRT; top right- Lower Jensen; bottom left- Middle Canyon Road to KBRT; bottom right- Emerald to Parsons.

Game/Social Trail: Game trails (created by bison, mule deer and formerly goats) and single-track social hiking trails used by people are often one in the same. Bison have been utilizing the same trails as they walk single-file from one location to another on Catalina for decades. Their well-worn paths are approximately 18 inches in width and the dirt has been pulverized and compacted into an ideal trail for humans to use. As part of the Catalina Trails Project, these well-established game trails will be slightly widened in areas to be a uniform 2 feet wide and will be improved by contouring the tread to have a gentle outsloping for drainage, by adding

rock steps where needed to prevent erosion, and adding wayfinding signage.



Game/Social trail photos: left- near KBRT, right- near Lower Jensen Reservoir.