

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



RIVER BOATING

LOWER VERDE RIVER Horseshoe Dam to Bartlett Reservoir

RANGER DISTRICT

Cave Creek Ranger Station
40202 N. Cave Creek Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
Phone (480) 595-3300 Fax (480) 595-3342

RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Fishing, water activities, camping and wildlife observation

RIVER ACCESS POINTS (RAP)

Fisherman's Point RAP: (Elevation 1900 feet)

From Carefree: Take Cave Creek Road for 7 miles to Bartlett Road/Forest Road (FR) 19 (paved). Turn right on FR19 and travel for 6 miles to the junction of FR 205. At this junction, FR 205 turns left, becomes a maintained unpaved road and continues 11 miles to Horseshoe Reservoir. Turn right on FR 205A, and travel for approximately one mile to the base of the dam.

Facilities: Vault toilets and primitive boat launch

Mesquite Flat RAP: (Elevation 1860 feet)

From Carefree: Take Cave Creek Road for 7 miles to Bartlett Road/Forest Road 19 (paved). Turn right on FR 19 (paved) and travel for 6 miles to the junction of FR 205. At this junction, FR 205 turns left, becomes a maintained unpaved road and continues 11 miles to Horseshoe Reservoir. Turn right on FR 205A and travel for approximately one mile to the base of the dam.

Facilities: Vault toilets

Devil's Hole RAP: (Elevation 1820 feet)

Accessible by four-wheel-drive **only**. **From Carefree:** Take Cave Creek Road for 7 miles to Bartlett Road/Forest Road (FR) 19 (paved). Turn right on FR 205 and travel for 9 miles to Indian Springs Wash. Turn left on FR 532 and continue about 6 miles to the Verde River.

Facilities: None

Bartlett Flat RAP: (Elevation 1798 feet) Take Cave Creek Road 7 miles to the junction with Bartlett Road/Forest Road (FR) 19 (paved) and turn right. Follow FR 19 for 13 miles to FR 459 and turn left. Continue on FR 459 for 3 miles to the site, (a paved low-speed road for 1 ½ miles and 12 ½ miles of unpaved road).

Facilities: Vault toilets and primitive boat launch

ATTRACTIONS

- The Verde River has many species of game fish, including: Small-mouth & Largemouth bass, Carp, Channel & Flathead Catfish.
- Wildlife along this riparian area is abundant
- Beautiful verdant shores with towering cliffs

NEAREST COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Carefree: All services

Cave Creek: All services

RELATED INFORMATION

- Verde River Recreation Guide*, Jim Slingluff
- River-flow information; contact Salt River Project's recorded message (602) 236-5929 or www.srpnet.com

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CONSIDERATIONS

- Approximately 800 c.f.s. is an adequate minimum flow. However, it is possible to run the river at lower levels.
- As discharge from the dams increases, so does the power of the water. Flows up to 5,000 c.f.s. can be run if properly prepared.
- It is difficult to generalize about this river, since much depends on the time of year, water level, boats involved and the skills of the river boater.
- During high-water periods, watch for rapids and strainers (vegetation and trees blocking the channel, allowing water to pass but nothing else). **IF IN DOUBT, SCOUT!!**
- Generally this river is suitable for all types of canoes and kayaks so long as the boater has experience with swift-flowing water.
- Caution: When approaching Bartlett Reservoir from the river, you may encounter mud/sand flats. If Bartlett is full, the last three miles to Bartlett Flat will require paddling on flat water.
- **No drinking water** available at any of the RAPs
- No trash service: **If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- Endangered species closure posted below Horseshoe Dam. It is in effect between December 1 and June 30 each year. No land access is allowed, no stopping, disembarking or noise if traveling by boat.