

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



HIKING AND TRAIL RIDING

PALO VERDE TRAIL 512

RANGER DISTRICT

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

TRAILHEADS (TH)

Rattlesnake Cove TH
SB Cove TH

TERMINI INFORMATION

South end: (1840 feet elevation): at Rattlesnake Cove

North end: (1820 feet elevation): at SB Cove

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail use: Light

Trail difficulty: Easiest

Trail length: 3.8 - 4.7 miles

Season of Use: All year

USGS maps: Bartlett Dam, Maverick Mountain

Elevation: 100 feet

TRAIL NARRATIVE

The south end of the trail begins near the northern edge of the Rattlesnake Cove Recreation Site. The trail roughly parallels the shoreline of Bartlett Reservoir, providing access to the shore, crossing washes and small ridges, and running along hillslopes. From Rattlesnake Cove Trailhead to SB Cove is 3.8 mi. A 1.2 mi. loop-trail intersects the main trail at two locations: about 0.5 mi. south of SB Cove and again at 0.8 mi. south of SB Cove. The loop-trail provides access to other areas near the edge of the reservoir.

ATTRACTIONS

- Palo Verde Trail offers access to many coves and stretches of shoreline, providing opportunities for swimming and angling. The trail winds through rocky outcrops and crosses several ridges and hill slopes offering scenic views of Bartlett Reservoir.
- This trail passes through the Arizona Upland Phase of the Sonoran Desert, featuring saguaro cactus, mesquite, palo verde and ironwood trees.
- Bartlett Reservoir has been popular with anglers almost since the dam was constructed in 1939. Fish species include crappie, large-and smallmouth bass, channel and flathead catfish, carp, bluegill and green sunfish.
- Along with many partners, the USDA Forest Service is improving fish habitat by installing a variety of structures in strategic locations.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Closed to motor vehicles
- Carry an adequate supply of drinking water. One gallon/per person/per day is recommended during hot periods.
- If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- Portions of the trail are rough in places, and should be traveled with caution. Decomposed granite trail surface can be slippery.
- Water levels fluctuate seasonally based on precipitation and irrigation demand
- Do not drink untreated water. Giardia, a protozoan, is in many water impoundments and streams.

