

# TONTO National Forest



Recreation  
Opportunity  
Guide

[www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto)



HIKING AND TRAIL RIDING

## SKUNK TANK TRAIL 246

### RANGER DISTRICT

Cave Creek Ranger Station  
40202 N. Cave Creek Rd.  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85262  
Phone (480) 595-3300 Fax (480) 595-3346

### TRAILHEADS (TH)

Spur Cross TH  
Cave Creek TH (Fee required)  
Bronco TH

### TERMINI INFORMATION

**West end:** (2980 feet elevation): Branches off Cave Creek Trail 4, approximately 2.5 mi. west of Ashdale Administrative site

**East end:** (3480 feet elevation): Branches off Cottonwood Trail 247, approximately 0.5 miles east of Ashdale Administrative Site

### TRAIL INFORMATION

**Trail use:** Light

**Trail difficulty:** More difficult

**Trail length:** 5.2 miles

**Season of Use:** All year

**USGS maps:** New River Mesa

**Elevation:** 1060 feet

### TRAIL NARRATIVE

From Cave Creek Trail 4, Skunk Tank Trail climbs over 1000 feet in the first 2½ miles up Skunk Tank Canyon. The trail then slowly drops off to 3480 feet at Cottonwood trail.

### ATTRACTIONS

- This trail passes through grasslands and riparian areas, with saguaro, mesquite, juniper, palo verde, acacia, cottonwood and sycamore.
- Dramatic views of Skunk Tank Canyon and Cramm Mountain

### CONSIDERATIONS

- Closed to motor vehicles.
- Be sure to allow plenty of time if you are not familiar with the routes.
- Carry an adequate supply of drinking water. One gallon/per person/per day is recommended during hot periods.
- Caution should also be taken when using this trail in the summer heat.
- Help keep your trails clean: **If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- Portions of the trail are rough in places and should be traveled with caution.
- Do not drink untreated water. Giardia, a protozoan, is in many water impoundments and streams.

