

# TONTO National Forest



Recreation  
Opportunity  
Guide

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



HIKING AND TRAIL RIDING

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## BUTCHER JONES TRAIL 463

### RANGER DISTRICTS

Mesa Ranger Station  
5140 E. Ingram Street  
Mesa, AZ 85205  
Phone (480) 610-3300 Fax (480) 610-3346

### RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Water activities, fishing, picnicking, and hiking

### NAME OF LAKE

Saguaro Lake

### FACILITIES

32 picnic units with tables and grills, vault toilets.  
No drinking water available

### TRAILHEAD

Butcher Jones Recreation Site

### FEES

\$4.00 per vehicle per day

### TERMINI

**West end:** 1535 feet elevation at Butcher Jones Recreation Site.

**East end:** 1545 feet elevation at the north side of Burro Cove

### TRAIL INFORMATION

**Trail use:** Moderate to heavy

**Trail difficulty:** 1st ¼ mi. Easiest, then More difficult

**Trail length:** 2½ miles

**Season of Use:** All year

**USGS maps:** Stewart Mountain, Mormon Flat Dam

**Elevation change:** 115 feet

### LOCATION AND ACCESS

This site is 31 miles northeast of Mesa. From Mesa, travel 27 miles north on State Highway 87 to Bush Highway/Forest Road 204 and turn right. Follow Bush Highway two miles to FR 166 and turn left. Follow FR 166 for two miles to the site. The entire route is a paved road.

### TRAIL NARRATIVE

This trail was constructed for easier access to lakeshore locations where fishing habitats has been installed. The trail starts at the east side of Butcher Jones Beach and follows the contours of Saguaro Lake. The first ¼ mile has handrails and is paved to provide wheelchair access to fish at the Peregrine Point Fishing Dock. After Peregrine Point, the trail surface is natural and becomes more difficult. Continue through a pedestrian gate and follow the trail around Peregrine Cove. As the trail sweeps back to the southwest, there are several spur trails that lead to shoreline fishing opportunities. Camper Cove is the next fish habitat area that the trail passes. Heading east of Camper Cove the trail user comes next to Burro Cove. The return to Butcher Jones Recreation Site is along the same route.

### BARRIER FREE ACCESSIBILITY

- The first ¼ mile from Butcher Jones is paved with handrails to allow for a wide range of barrier-free accessible recreation opportunities.
- Perrigine Point Fishing Dock angle may exceed 7 percent at times due to water-level fluctuations.
- The trail from Butcher Jones to Peregrine Point is paved and has hand railing. The trail has an average slope of 8 percent but has short stretches of eleven percent slope).
- Vault toilets (at Butcher Jones) are equipped with grab bars and may require some assistance.

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### CONSIDERATIONS

- Please use trash receptacles: **PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!**
- Carry an adequate supply of drinking water. One gallon per person/per day is recommended during hot periods.
- Not recommended for any type of livestock
- Day-use ONLY
- The picnic and beach area fills rapidly in spring and summer months, so come early in the day to get a spot.
- No motorized boats in the swimming area
- Glass containers are prohibited in the Saguaro Lake Recreation Area.
- Pets must be on leash at all times, and are not allowed on the beach or wherever it is posted that animals are not allowed.
- Alcohol, sun and water are a deadly combination
- To avoid injury, wear shoes when wading in the lake.
- No campfires on the beach
- Pay attention to all signs and obey all the laws
- No ATVs within the recreation site

### NEAREST COMMERCIAL SERVICES

- Saguaro Lake Marina:** Full-service marina, fishing supplies, ice water and phones
- Saguaro Lake Ranch Resort:** Lodging, food and horse stables
- Mesa:** All services

### ATTRACTIONS

- The shoreline areas of Butcher Jones, Peregrine Cove, Camper Cove and Burro Cove have fish habitat installed to enhance fishing opportunities.
- This trail was designed to provide access to shoreline and fishing dock opportunities.
- This trail passes through parts of the spectacular Sonoran Desert.
- Beautiful Mesquite Bosque provides a welcome shade.
- Butcher Jones features a pleasant nature trail that is paved and has a handrail.
- Adjacent to the picnic area is a gently sloping beach.
- Nearby is a fully-accessible Peregrine Point fishing dock.
- Access to four-wheel-drive trail. (Please keep gate closed to keep livestock out of recreation area).

### RELATED INFORMATION SOURCES

- Boating and Recreation Guide to Saguaro Lake Desert Charts.*
- For lake-level information, contact Salt River Project's recorded message line: (602) 236-5929 or [www.srpnet.com](http://www.srpnet.com)

