

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



WATER-ACTIVITIES

SHEEP BRIDGE

RANGER DISTRICT

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

NAME OF WATER WAY

Verde River

RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Camping, picnicking, fishing, adventure sports,
history, hiking and trail riding

SEASON OF USE

All year
Use may be limited by road conditions

ELEVATION

2100 feet

FACILITIES

Interpretive signs at bridge
No drinking water available

LOCATION AND ACCESS

The site is 45 miles north of Carefree. From Carefree, take Cave Creek Road/Forest Road (FR) 24 for approximately 33 miles to the Bloody Basin-Tangle Creek area. At the junction of FR 24 and FR 269, turn right. Follow FR 269 for approximately 12 miles to the Sheep Bridge at the Verde River. Both FR 24 and FR 269 are narrow unpaved roads with blind curves. A portion of FR 24 is maintained; FR 269 is rarely maintained. High clearance vehicles are recommended. When muddy or rainy, four-wheel-drive is often required.

ATTRACTIONS

- On the banks high above the river stands a replica of the original Verde River Sheep Bridge.
- The Flagstaff Sheep Company and the Howard Sheep Company constructed the original bridge to minimize the loss of sheep when crossing the river. Construction began in 1943 and finished in 1944.
- Sheep Bridge is the gateway to the west side of the Mazatzal Wilderness.
- This site is remote and appreciated for the solitude of its cliffs and cattails.

CONSIDERATIONS

- CAUTION:** Water levels fluctuate seasonally and the river can run very swiftly.
- Do not cross-flooded roadways
- No trash services: **PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- No toilets. Practice minimum impact by bringing a portable toilet and disposing of the wastes properly.
- Trailers are not recommended.
- The desert offers little fuel for grilling and campfires, so bring your own.

NEAREST COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Carefree: All services
Cave Creek: All services

