

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



WATER-ACTIVITIES

BUTCHER JONES BEACH

RANGER DISTRICT

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

NAME OF WATERWAY

Saguaro Lake

RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Picnicking, fishing and hiking

SEASON OF USE

All year
Day-use only

ELEVATION

1529 feet

FEES

\$4.00 per vehicle (day-use)

FACILITIES

Vault toilets
Picnic tables and grills
No drinking water available

LOCATION AND ACCESS

This site is 31 miles northeast of Mesa. From Mesa, take State Hwy.87 for 27 miles. Turn south (right) on Bush Highway/Forest Road (FR) 204, and travel 2 miles to FR 166. Turn left and follow FR 166 for 2 miles to the site.

ATTRACTIONS

- This popular beach/picnic area is one of the most-visited site on the Tonto National Forest
- The gently-sloping beach makes safe, gradual changes in depths
- This lake is set in the magnificent Sonoran Desert
- Butcher Jones features a pleasant nature trail that is paved and has a handrail
- A fully-accessible fishing dock is nearby

CONSIDERATIONS

- It has been suggested that the origin of Butcher Jones comes from physician-rancher Dr. Walter William Jones (also known as Wilson Walker Jones), circa 1890. Dr. Jones ran cattle from the Lower Salt River to the foothills of Four Peaks. "Butcher" was an affectionate nickname often given to that century's physicians.
- A spring and summer weekend brings throngs of valley dwellers to the lake to beat the summer heat, so it's a good idea to come early in the day.
- Please use trash receptacles
- No glass containers allowed
- No pets on the beach

NEAREST COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Saguaro del Norte: Public phones are at site entrance

Saguaro Lake Marina: Restaurant, beverages, ice, full-service marina, boat storage, rental, repairs, slips, fuel dock, bait & tackle, boat supplies, excursion boat and boat-sewage tank dump

Mesa: All services

