Welcome to the Thumb Butte Recreation Area

The Thumb Butte area is one of the most popular destinations on the Prescott National Forest. Mild weather, cool ponderosa pines, a picnic area, and a variety of trails offer many recreation opportunities to hikers, equestrian users, mountain bikers, and picnickers.

Use Fees

The day-use fee charged in the Thumb Butte Recreational Area is authorized under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Fees are used to maintain and improve facilities and services in the area.

Day-use sites require a daily use fee, valid for the date of purchase. Payment can be made with cash, check, or card at the information board. Payment at one site allows use at all other day-use sites on the forest. Both passes are available for purchase at the Bradshaw/Chino and Verde Ranger District offices.

Wednesdays are always fee-free.

Group Picnic Site

The Thumb Butte Group Picnic Site is open April 1 - October 31. It is only available by reservation, which requires an additional fee. Reservations may be made by calling 877-444-6777 or visiting www.recreation.gov.

Trails

Several miles of trails are open to hikers, horses, and bicyclists. No motorized trails are in the Thumb Butte area. E-bikes are only allowed on designated trails.

THUMB BUTTE TRAIL #33

This trail is open to hikers only. It is almost 2 miles long and is moderately difficult. Allow yourself about 1.5 hours to complete the trail. A 0.2-mile spur trail near the crest offers a good view of the Prescott area. The trail is paved in some areas to prevent erosion.

Need a Few Good Reasons to Leash Your Dog?

• Leashes protect dogs from becoming lost and from wildland hazards, such as porcupines, mountain lions, snakes, and sick, injured, or rabid animals.
• Unleashed dogs harass, injure, and sometimes kill wildlife.
• Unleashed dogs intimidate other hikers and their dogs, depriving them of the peace wildlands provide.
• Failure to leash your dog could result in a fine.

Day-use area and facilities

Day-use areas have tables and grills.
• Pets must be on a leash 6 feet or shorter and under physical control at all times. Please clean up after your pet.
• Day-use hours vary by season and are approximately dawn to dusk. See posted hours at each site.
• Dumping refuse from private property is not allowed.
• Horses are not allowed in the day-use area. Consider using the White Rock Trailhead, just west of the recreation area.
• Water and toilets are available throughout the recreation area.

Share the Trail

Trail etiquette is an important part of keeping trails safe and fun for everyone. Please remember to:
• Respect other users.
• Be friendly and courteous.
• Bicyclists yield to horses and hikers. Hikers yield to horses. Stop to allow horses to pass safely.
• Downhill traffic yields to uphill. When in doubt, yield.
• Warn people when you are planning to pass.
• Using trails with headphones is dangerous; avoid their use.
• Bicyclists: Anticipate other users around corners and control your speed.
• E-bikes are only allowed on designated trails.

Target Shooting and Hunting

Discharging any weapon within 150 yards of a recreation site or occupied area is prohibited.

To protect nesting peregrine falcons, the Thumb Butte cliff face and surrounding area are closed to rock climbing each winter and spring to allow for undisturbed nesting. Trail 22 is open all year. Please check the forest’s web page and posted notices in the area for specific dates and locations of the closure area.

Get in touch

www.fs.usda.gov/prescott
Phone: 928-443-8000
Prescott AZ 86303
Exterior and Interior Design by Laura Oates

Your reception fees produced this brochure. Thank you very much for your support!

Forest Service
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October 2023
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL NUMBER</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33 - Thumb Butte</td>
<td>1.75 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Popular, well-maintained trail. Great views from top. HIKING ONLY!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>314 - Thumb Butte Spur</td>
<td>0.5 miles</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Create a loop trail when used with Trails 33 and 326.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>315 - Watertower</td>
<td>0.7 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate trail. Connects to Trail 317. Southern end closed to horses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>316 - Pine Lakes</td>
<td>1.4 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>After a short climb, descends into Willow Creek riparian area. Southern end closed to horses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>317 - Ridgetop</td>
<td>0.6 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Climbs to a ridge with good views. East end goes into subdivision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>318 - West</td>
<td>1.4 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>At the western trailhead, horses may access this trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>321 - Butte Creek</td>
<td>1.5 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Can be accessed from a city trail in Strickland Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>322 - Circle Connection</td>
<td>0.5 miles</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Part of a 54-mile trail that encircles the city of Prescott.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>323 - Butte Connection</td>
<td>0.6 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Views and connects Trails 326 and 321.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>326 - Thumb Butte Connector</td>
<td>2.0 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Creates a hiking loop trail when using Trails 33 and 314. Accessible to horses from Trail 367.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>327 - Pott's Creek</td>
<td>0.5 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Part of a 54-mile trail that encircles the city of Prescott.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>332 - Javelina</td>
<td>3.6 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Part of a 54-mile trail that encircles the city of Prescott.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>367 - Miller Creek</td>
<td>0.7 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Parallels Thumb Butte Road along Miller Creek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>386 - Pine Lake Connectors</td>
<td>0.3 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>An easy, short trail. Provides a loop when used with Trails 315 and 316.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>387 - Rio Vista</td>
<td>0.7 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Can be accessed from a city trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>392 - Garden Grove</td>
<td>1.5 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Part of a 54-mile trail that encircles the city of Prescott.</td>
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</tbody>
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