

Contacts:

- Sandeep (s2k4life_az) 480.329.4565 Organizer & Drive Leader
- Chris (Brutus) 480.390.8826 Drive Leader

Drive details:

- 4 hours 30 minutes drive time
- 230 miles

Things to bring:

- Sunscreen, hats, sunglasses
- Camping chairs
- Small coolers
- Hiking shoes
- Cameras

Starting Point: Starbucks, 1229 E McKellips Rd, Mesa, AZ 85203







Directions:

O Starbucks

1229 E McKellips Rd, Mesa, AZ 85203

1. Head east on E McKellips Rd toward N Doran

1 2. Turn left onto N Gilbert Rd

→ 3. Turn right onto AZ-87 N

▶ 4. Turn right onto AZ-260 E

→ 5. Turn right

◆ 6. Turn left

1 Destination will be on the right

213 ft 73.4 mi / 1 h 12 min

0.9 mi

3.7 mi

68.5 mi

0.3 mi

O Safeway

401 Arizona 260, Payson, AZ 85541







O Safeway

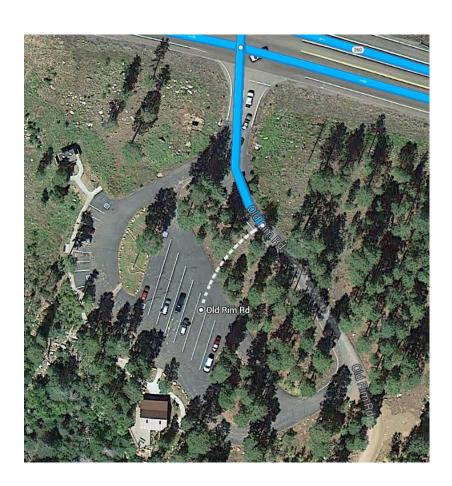
401 Arizona 260, Payson, AZ 85541

↑ 7. Head west	213 ft
₱ 8. Turn right toward AZ-260 E	21311
₱ 9. Turn right onto AZ-260 E	269 ft
r 10. Turn right onto Old Rim Rd	28.9 mi
	203 ft

29.0 mi / 32 min

O Old Rim Rd

Payson, AZ 85541







1.8 mi / 5 min

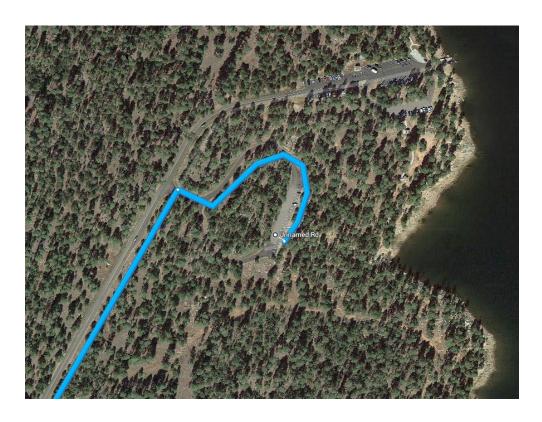
O Old Rim Rd

Payson, AZ 85541

11. Head northwest on Old Rim Rd toward AZ-260 W	203 ft
→ 12. Take the 1st right onto AZ-260 E	
◆¶ 13. Turn left	0.8 mi
↑ 14. Turn right① Destination will be on the right	0.9 mi
	0.2 mi

O Unnamed Rd

Forest Lakes Estates, AZ 85931







O Unnamed Rd

Forest Lakes Estates, AZ 85931

▼ Continue to AZ-260 W

1.0 mi / 3 min

→ Take the 1st right onto AZ-260 W

28.2 mi / 30 min

Take AZ-260 W/AZ-87 N to Nf-583A

13.7 mi / 21 min

42.9 mi / 54 min

O Tonto Natural Bridge State Park

Hwy 87 N of Payson, Payson, AZ 85547







Park Information:

Park Rules

- Littering is unlawful; tossing your cigarette butts on the ground is littering.
- High Fire Danger occurs every summer; during these times, smoking is restricted to the parking lots and charcoal fires are prohibited while propane stoves are okay.
- Pets are allowed in the park but we suggest leaving them at home. If you bring a pet, you are restricted to parking lot level and viewpoints and they must be kept on a 6-foot controlled leash at all times; Pets are not allowed on park trails. Pets cannot be left unattended during your visit.
- Rock throwing is not allowed in the park and take care while hiking down the trails as rock may fall naturally from the steep cliffs above.
- Swimming and wading is prohibited under the Natural Bridge; passive water play is available upstream and downstream from the Bridge.
- The Park possesses numerous natural hazards; please use caution while visiting the park.
- No glass containers on the trails.
- Good shoes, with ankle support are ideal. Flip-flops, sandals, and high heels are not good shoes to wear at Tonto Natural Bridge.
- 2 liters of water per person are highly recommended; 1 for the way down and 1 for the way back.
- There is no public telephone, cell phone signal, or internet access at the park.

Group: Day Use Areas

Cypress Ramada: 20x30' ramada with picnic tables & BBQ grills available on a firstcome, first-served basis. No reservations.

10x10 Ramadas: 3 ramadas with a picnic table and BBQ grill are available on a firstcome, first-served basis. No reservations.

Group Ramada: 20x40' ramada with tables and grills. Please contact park for ramada reservation information (fees apply).

Parking Lot Viewpoints

You can see the Natural Bridge from four different parking lot level viewpoints without hiking down to the bottom. See Map.

Hiking Trails

Pack out what you pack in; there are no trash cans on trails. Please carry drinking water while hiking these trails. All trails are steep and strenuous. No pets or glass containers on any trails!

Pine Creek Trail is about ½ mile long (400 feet developed – undeveloped in the creek bottom), and leads to the Pine Creek natural area. Hiking shoes are recommended. Follow the arrows. Allow one hour.

Waterfall Trail is about 300 feet long, and ends at waterfall cave. Uneven steps. Allow 15–20 minutes.

Anna Mae Trail is about 500 feet long and leads to Pine Creek Trail and the Natural Bridge. Allow one hour.

Gowan Trail is about 2200 feet long, down and back leading to an observation deck in the creek bottom. The trail is steep and rough. Hiking shoes are recommended. Allow one hour.

Visit AZStateParks.com/Parks/TONA to read detailed geologic information about the bridge. Click on Science & Feature Story.

Arizona State Parks

1300 W. Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Reservations (520) 586-2283 Info & TTY (602) 542-4174 Fax (602) 542-4180

Equal Employment Opportunity Agency. This document is available in alternative formats. Contact the ADA Coordinator at (602) 542-4174.



Tonto Natural Bridge State Park



P.O. Box 1245 Payson, AZ 85547 (928) 476-4202

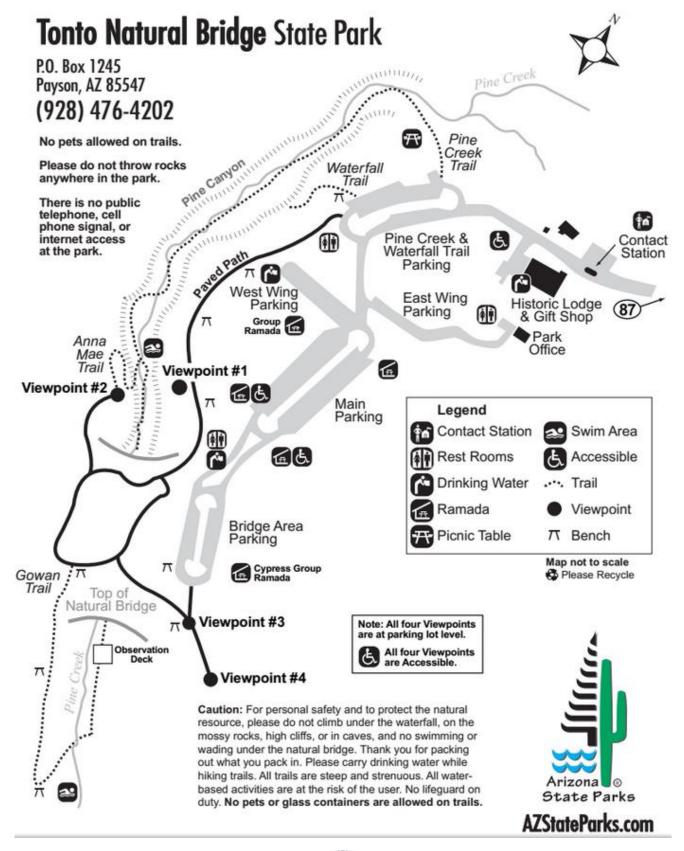
Tucked away in a tiny valley surrounded by a forest of pine trees, **Tonto Natural Bridge State Park** has been in the making for thousands of years. It is believed to be the largest natural travertine bridge in the world. The bridge stands 183 feet high over a 400-foot long tunnel that measures 150 feet at its widest point.

The discovery of the small valley between Pine and Payson was documented in 1877 by David Gowan, a prospector who stumbled across the bridge as he was chased by Apaches. Gowan hid for two nights in a cave inside the bridge. On the third day, he left to explore the tunnel and green valley surrounding it. Gowan then claimed squatter's rights. In 1898 he persuaded his nephew, David Gowan Goodfellow, to bring his family over from Scotland and settle the land permanently. After a week of difficult travel from Flagstaff, the Goodfellows arrived at the edge of the mountain and lowered their possessions down the 500 foot slopes into the valley by ropes and burros.

Today, visitors can stand on top of the bridge or hike down below to capture the true size and beauty of this geologic wonder.











Route Home:

- 1. Option 1 From Tonto Natural Bridge head south on 87 back through Payson and continue south back into Fountain Hills/Scotts dale/Mesa.
- 2. Option 2- From Tonto Natural Bridge head north on 87/260N. Take a left onto 260 West and continue west until Camp Verde. Head south on I17 back to Phoenix.

Gas Stations in Payson:

