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Canoeing and Kayaking the Lower Salt River



<http://www.arizonaoutdoorfun.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Canoe.jpg>>Canoes and kayaks are an excellent way to see wild Arizona. You will be able to access back country without disturbing the native wildlife. One of the great places to [canoe and kayak](#) right outside of the greater Phoenix area is the Lower Salt River. [Arizona Outdoor Fun](#) has created this guide to one of our favorite Phoenix outdoor recreation spots.

The Lower Salt River starts below Saguaro Lake's Stewart Mountain Dam and ends at Tempe Town Lake. Most people canoe or kayak from Stewart Mountain Dam to Granite Reef Dam, as the river below Granite Reef Dam is usually not navigable.

The best place to start canoeing and kayaking in the Lower Salt River is at Water Users, a popular river-access point (RAP). It is located 19 miles northeast of Mesa and can be reached by taking US 60 (Superstition Freeway) to Power Road. Take Power Road (it turns into Bush Highway) north for 11 miles. Turn right on Forest Road (FR) 169. Travel on FR 169 for five miles to the Water Users site. Water Users is located in the Tonto National Forest, so a Tonto Pass is

required for parking.

It is approximately 12.5 miles from Water Users to Granite Reef Dam. The current in this section of the Salt River is very gentle, making it perfect for paddlers and those looking for a relaxing trip. There are several recreation areas along the Lower Salt River where you can pull your canoe or kayak out of the river and stop for a peaceful picnic in beautiful, natural surroundings. These sites offer picnic tables and vault toilets. The recreation areas are Blue Point Beach, Goldfield, Coon Bluff, Phon D Sutton, Tuber's Landing and Granite Reef. Granite Reef is the last exit point for the Lower Salt River.

Taking this route, you will pass through the southern part of the Tonto National Forest and the Salt River Indian Reservation. It provides a fantastic opportunity to view the majestic Sonoran desert scenery, native plants and wildlife. People have spotted bald eagles, osprey, peregrine falcons, Harris's hawks, herons, egrets, waterfowls, bighorn sheep, wild horses, deer, javelinas, coyotes, foxes, mountain lions, raccoons, skunks, beavers, gopher snakes, coachwhips, western diamond-backed rattlesnakes, desert spiny lizards, zebra-tailed lizards and Woodhouse's toads.

Arizona Outdoor Fun has affordable canoe and kayak rentals available and we offer free protective apparel with each rental. Fill out our [online reservation form](#) today and experience the fun of Lower Salt River by canoe or kayak!

This entry was posted in [Canoes and Kayaks](#), [Outdoor Fun in Arizona](#) on [July 18, 2013](#) by [Joe Haldiman](#).

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