



RULES AND REGULATIONS

On the Navajo Nation, you'll find many vibrant, working communities. Respect the privacy and customs of the residents and the integrity of the structures at all times.

- » Please don't enter a home uninvited.
- » Please don't knock on a door and ask to be shown around.
- » Please don't yell or throw objects, especially in or near Navajo sacred sites.
- » Please observe quiet hours from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. in all public areas.
- » The use of teepees is strictly for religious purposes. Please show respect and do not intrude.



While traveling on the Navajo Nation, remember that you are on a sovereign, self-governing nation and just as you would abroad, please obey all tribal laws and regulations.

- » Please do not enter any areas marked off-limits or areas you have been told are off-limits. If in doubt, please ask.
- » Please stay on the designated trails and established routes unless accompanied by a tour guide.
- » Rock climbing and off-trail hiking are prohibited. Off-road travel by all-terrain vehicles, dune buggies, jeeps, and motorcycles is prohibited on back country roads.
- » Please do not disturb or remove animals, plants, rocks, or artifacts.
- » Please keep the land clean. Do not litter, burn debris, or bury trash. Please place refuse in trash containers or hold onto trash until you reach a trash container.
- » The use of alcoholic beverages and firearms are both strictly prohibited on the Navajo Nation.



As any tourist should, please be respectful when it comes to photography. Cameras are not always welcome, and you should secure permission before photographing, videotaping, sketching, or audiotape recording any event.

- » When you do take photos, keep in mind that a gratuity is always appreciated.
- » Special permits are required when photographing for commercial use.
- » Although pow-wows and dances are sometimes exhibited for the benefit of the tourists and in public forums, please keep in mind that such occasions are mostly held for Navajos by Navajos. Many of these events are of a religious nature and should be accorded the same deference as a church or prayer service, even if tribal members behave informally.
- » Before attending an event or dance, please confirm that visitors are welcome.

Visitors are welcomed with open arms in Navajoland, but don't forget that residents here — just like people in your hometown or any community — like to be treated with respect.



- » Try to be unobtrusive when visiting a Navajo performance or event. Be patient and considerate — don't push to the front of a crowd or block anyone's view.
- » Unless absolutely apparent that it is okay, do not applaud.
- » Remember that religious matters are very private and personal; probing questions are not appropriate.
- » Some traditional ceremonies are not open to the public, so if you are asked to leave, please do so quickly and quietly.

When you are on Navajoland, you'll quickly notice how many people speak Navajo. English is also spoken by the vast majority of Navajos, so do not hesitate to communicate.

- » If you encounter a Navajo who does not speak English, you should have no problem finding someone eager to interpret.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Road Conditions

- » All U.S. highways, state roads, and main tribal roads are paved. Secondary roads are usually graded and graveled. However, travel off recognized and numbered roads is strongly discouraged. Inquire locally about road conditions.
- » Keep your gas tank full, and be sure to check fluid levels. It can be a long way between service stations.
- » Please obey speed limits. Tribal police strictly enforce speed limits, stop signs, and all other traffic laws.

Weather

- » Be prepared for anything. Winters, in recent memory, have had severe snow storms. Summer temperatures sometimes reach 100 degrees. Winds may blow with gale force any time of the year. High-profile vehicles may have to find a place out of the wind and stop. Tune in to radio weather information.

Flash Flooding

- » After hard rains, many dry washes become roaring streams from storms that are miles away. Never attempt to cross a running creek. It may look shallow to the eye, but could easily wash your car off the road.

Dust Storms

- » Some areas (usually marked with warning signs) are prone to dust storms. If caught in a dust storm, try to find a place to get off the road. Turn off your headlights. Someone following you might think you're on the road and run into the back of your vehicle. Be patient and wait for the dust to clear. Dust storms are usually brief.

Animals

- » Much of Indian Country is open range. Cattle, horses, sheep, and goats often graze along the roadside. Flocks of sheep accompanied by shepherds and dogs are commonly seen crossing roads. Night driving requires special attention. Dark colored cows and horses are very hard to see. If all you see is two shining dots, it is probably the animal's eyes. Animals always have the right-of-way. Wait until animals cross the road to proceed.

Water and Food

- » Always carry extra drinking water and food in your vehicle in case of a breakdown.

Cell Phone Coverage

- » Please be aware that cell phone service is not available in some areas.

Emergency Response Time

- » 911 response time may be longer in some areas due to the rural location. It's recommended that travelers carry a first aid kit in their vehicle. Remember, cell phone service is not available in some areas.

