

OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

How (and why) to enjoy the archaeology of North America without damaging it.

The early peoples of North America did not have a written language. The only records left behind by these people are archaeological records. These records include the following: structures, pottery, rock art (pictographs and petroglyphs), stone or bone tools and weapons, baskets, burials, corncocks, animal bones, seeds, wood, fire remains, - any remains of human life or activity.

RECORDS OF THE PAST MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN CONTEXT, NOT JUST INDIVIDUALLY:

If even one tiny clue is removed from a site or is damaged, archaeologists may fail to understand the complete story. It may seem innocent to take home a piece of pottery or an arrowhead, but you may have removed an important clue or destroyed an entire site. The notion that "one little piece missing won't hurt" is an attitude that has literally destroyed thousands of archaeological sites, because it has a cumulative effect.

THE PAST IS SACRED:

Records of the past often have religious significance to groups of people who are still with us. For example, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome is sacred to Roman Catholics, the LDS Temple in Salt Lake City is sacred to Mormons. Burial grounds, sites, artifacts, canyons, mountains, and some other natural features are sacred to native Americans. Those who lived at Natural Bridges in the past are ancestors of the modern Pueblo peoples of New Mexico and Arizona. The natural and cultural features of Natural Bridges National Monument are sacred to the Pueblos, and also to Navajos, Utes, and Paiutes. Accordingly, these places deserve our reverence and respect.

- The past is the key to what we are and what we will become.*
- The story of the past is contained in archaeological, geological, and historical resources.*
- These resources are irreplaceable.*
- The past is sacred.*
- Disturbing records of the past is selfish and illegal.*

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Do not touch rock art (pictographs and petroglyphs): Skin oils cause deterioration of pigments and rock surfaces.

Do not enter structures, and do not sit, stand, or climb on ruins: Ancient walls and mortar crumble easily. Disturbing deposits at the base of ruins can result in toppled walls.

Avoid middens: Middens (ancient trash deposits) next to ruins are very easily damaged by the slightest impact. These areas were (and still are) sacred ground to native Americans, and they contain much useful information for scientists.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY AT SITES TO A RANGER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 and the Antiquities Act of 1906 make it illegal to excavate, remove, damage, alter or deface the material remains of human life and activity over 100 years old. Stiff criminal and civil penalties are being upheld. Rewards of up to \$500 are provided for information leading to the arrest and conviction of offenders.

"The Past Belongs To The Future ... But Only The Present Can Preserve It."

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS:

One way distance from the parking area

Sipapu Bridge

.6mi/.97km
500' elevation change
Moderately strenuous
Two flights of stairs
Handrails and ladders

Kachina Bridge

.75mi/1.21km
400' elevation change
Moderately strenuous
Steep slickrock
Handrails

Owachomo Bridge

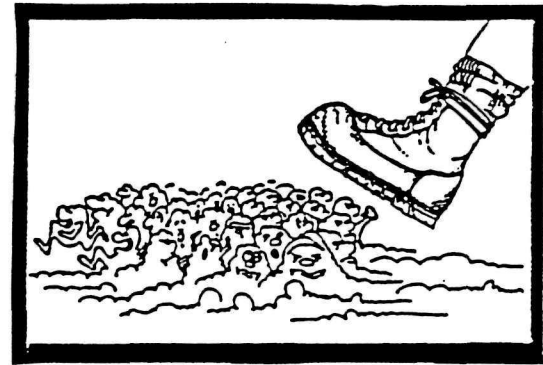
.2mi/.32km
180' elevation change
Moderate

Horsecollar Ruin

Overlook Trail
.3mi/.48km
Little elevation change
Easy, uneven terrain
Trail follows rim
Handrails

Loop Trails (distances from mesa top trail)

	Sipapu	Kachina	Owachomo
Sipapu	-0-	5.6mi/9.12km	8.6mi/12.8km
Kachina	5.6mi/9.1km	-0-	5.4mi/8.7km
Owachomo	8.6mi/13.8km	5.4mi/8.7km	-0-



WATCH OUT FOR CRYPTOBIOTIC SOIL CRUST !

It is critical that we take care of the soil crusts around us.
Stay on trails or try to walk only in washes or on rock when possible.
The benefits far outweigh the inconvenience: these crusts increase soil stability, preventing wind and water erosion.

PETS

Pets are not allowed in the backcountry or on designated trails. Pets are allowed in the campground but must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Please do not jeopardize the health of your pet by leaving it for prolonged periods inside a hot vehicle.

MOUNTAIN BIKE INFORMATION

Mountain bikes are welcome on all paved roads in the park. All bicycles are classified as vehicles and must abide by vehicle regulations. Bicycles are not allowed on any trails or off established roads.

VISITOR SAFETY TIPS

- *Do not hike alone. Carry a map.
- ***Always carry water.** One gallon per person per day is recommended.
- *Plan ahead. Expect a daytime hike to last until after dark.
- *Watch out for flash flooding while hiking in the canyons.
- *Overlooks can be dangerous during lightning storms.
- *Summer temperatures can exceed 100 degrees F. Wear protective clothing and carry water.
- ***Climbing on the natural bridges is illegal and dangerous!**

THANK YOU!//GRACIAS!//MERCII!//DANKE SCHÖN!