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## Etiquette on Tribal Lands / Travel Tips for Visitors

Each reservation operates under its own unique governmental structure and establishes its own rules for visitors. One should not assume that what applies in one native community is the general rule for all native communities. Please observe all Tribal laws and regulations. It is highly recommended that visitors contact the individual Tribe(s) prior to their visit to obtain information specific to the particular Tribe. Below are some basic guidelines for visiting Tribal Lands:

- The taking of photos, video and audio recordings, as well as sketching, is a particularly sensitive issue. Permits may be required, and fees and restrictions vary, particularly for professionals. Therefore, it is important to contact each individual Tribe regarding its policies. Do not attempt to engage in any of the above mentioned activities without prior authorization. Failure to comply with Tribal regulations could result in fines, confiscation of equipment and/or expulsion from Tribal Lands.
- Dances are sacred ceremonies. Observe them as you would any other religious function by dressing and acting appropriately. Actions such as pushing to the front of a group and blocking others' views are considered inappropriate. Be mindful of where you sit, stand and walk. For example, at certain Hopi dances men and women sit apart; during pow wows it may not be appropriate to stand beside a drum; and it is inappropriate to walk across the pow wow arena during a dance. Never pick up any object that is dropped during a ceremony. Please refrain from talking to the ceremonial dancers. Applause after ceremonial dances is considered inappropriate.
- Some of the Tribal buildings and structures may be several hundred years old and damage easily; do not climb on walls or other structures. Do not disturb or remove animals, plants, rocks or artifacts including pot shards, as Tribal and federal laws prohibits the removal of such items.
- Alcohol use is only permitted in designated locations, such as a casino. Drug use is not tolerated.
- Use caution when driving, especially at night. Much of the reservation land is open range, and small herds of sheep, goats, cattle and horses move freely along and across roads. Please obey all traffic, parking and speed limit signs. Watch for children and animals.
- Like any community, a reservation is home to those who live and work there and should be respected as such. Although most reservations are open to the public during daylight hours, the homes are private and should be entered only by invitation.

# Etiquette on Tribal Lands / Travel Tips for Visitors

## Indian Country Travel

*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.

*Service:* Keep your gas tank full, and be sure to check fluid levels. It can be a very long way between service stations.

*Weather:* Be prepared for anything. Winters, in recent memory, have had snows six and seven feet deep. Summer temperatures are often over 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, normally dry washes often become roaring streams from storms that are miles away. Never attempt to cross a running creek.

*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. Dust storms are usually brief.

*Animals:* Much of Indian Country is open range. Cattle, horses, sheep and goats often graze 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.

*Water:* Always carry extra drinking water (and food) in your vehicle in case of a breakdown.

*Speed Limits:* Obey them. Tribal police strictly enforce speed limits, stop signs and all other regulations.