

# Tribal Background/History

## Ak-Chin Indian Community

The Ak-Chin Indian Community lies 30 miles south of Phoenix in the northwestern part of Pinal County at an elevation of approximately 1,186 feet. State Route 238 intersects the reservation at its northernmost and easternmost corners. State Route 347 runs through the reservation, connecting Interstate 8 and 1-10. In this extremely arid Sonoran Desert climate; no streams slice through the landscape and no mountains rise steeply from the desert floor. Four washes traverse within the reservation from north to south.

The Ak-Chin, who are comprised of both Papago (currently known as Tohono O'odham) and Pima people, own and operate a 109 acre industrial park which was constructed in 1971. Suitable for light industry and agricultural-related industries, the industrial park is located at the southeast corner of the reservation, adjacent to the Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and the Southern Pacific Railroad. As the landscape and terrain are ideal for growing crops, most of the land is primarily used for agriculture. The Ak-Chin Farms Enterprises manages these activities. 16,000 acres of Ak-Chin land are under irrigation.

A water rights settlement approved by Congress in 1984 entitles the Ak-Chin Indian Community to 75,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water. The community is actively exploring demonstration projects and long-term investments to find alternative ways of conserving the life-giving water supply. Ak-Chin is also working diligently to upgrade the quality of residential water supplied as well as the efficiency of its sewer facilities so that health standards and conditions may be improved for members.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort features video and electronic slot machines, live dealer blackjack, keno, bingo and poker. There are three restaurants featuring fine and casual dining, live entertainment and a lounge. The casino is open 24 hours a day. The hotel boasts 142 rooms and four luxury suites with private balconies. The hotel surrounds a lush garden courtyard with swimming pool, Jacuzzi and swim-up bar.

Although the population of the community is small, 7000 members have a median age of just 22.9 years. Major employers are the Ak-Chin Farms, the Ak-Chin Community government and Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino.

The Ak-Chin Indian Community was created in May 1912 by Executive Order of President Taft who initially signed for a 47,000-acre reservation. However, in September of the same year another Executive Order was issued which reduced the size of the reservation to its current 21,840 acres.

Source: Ak-Chin Indian Community

# Tribal Background/History

## Cocopah Indian Tribe

The Cocopah are descended from the Yuman-speaking people who arrived in what is now Arizona some 3000 years ago. Around 1000 B.C. ancestors of the Cocopah began to live along the Lower Colorado River region between present day Yuma and San Felipe, Mexico near the delta and the Gulf of California.

The River People developed a way of life adapted to the river's seasonal ebb and flow, and to the lush riparian habitats near the river's edge. Forests of tall cottonwoods and arrowweed, jungles of willows, and reed-lined banks supported a rich diversity of wildlife. The Cocopah people grew grains, corn, beans and melons in the floodplains of the river, netted fish and collected shellfish in the delta and hunted deer and small game in the mesquite forests.

When Don Juan de Onate and Father Escobar sailed up the Colorado, there were estimated to be about 6-7,000 Cocopah people living along the delta and lower Colorado. Later, diaries and journals kept by Hernando de Alarcon, Father Kino and Father Garces, James O'Patte, a fur-trapper, military men, ethnographers like Williams Kelly and photographers have left a colorful record of the Cocopah culture from 1540 – 1917, when Woodrow Wilson designated the first Cocopah Indian Reservation on the Arizona bank of the river. The Cocopah Indian Reservation was established by Executive Order No. 2711 in 1917.

As waves of immigrants poured into the Yuma-valley crossing on their way to California for gold, the strategic importance of the river crossing was recognized by the U.S. government. Significant changes to the Cocopah way of life were brought about by the steamboat business bringing supplies from ships in the Gulf up to Yuma and beyond. Cocopah men became valued steamboat pilots with their knowledge of the river's currents and shifting sandbars.

Without direct access to the means of the new economy, and separation of Tribal relatives by enforcement of the international boundary between the U.S. and Mexico, Cocopah (U.S.) and the Cucupá (Mexico) struggled to maintain Tribal integrity.

A different economy based on currency began to replace simple trade. And as towns and farms grew in the West, the construction of dams to control the wild fluctuations in the Colorado River's spring floods brought an end to a way of life for the Cocopah. As the flow of water was slowed and eventually stopped, dramatic changes in the landscape and its wildlife put the Cocopah people under great stress.

The Cocopah today are important partners in the region's largest economy: tourism. The Cocopah Casino, Cocopah RV & Golf Resort, Cocopah Corner Store & Gas Station, demonstrates the resourcefulness and entrepreneurial spirit of the region's first people. About 1000 Cocopah live and work on or near three reservation sites in Somerton, Arizona today.

Source: Cocopah Indian Tribe

# Tribal Background/History

## Colorado River Indian Tribes

The Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) reservation is located in western Arizona, at Parker, 189 miles from Phoenix. The reservation spans the Colorado River and has land in two counties in California and La Paz County, Arizona. Tribal lands are in low arid desert and river bottom with abrupt mountain ranges. The Colorado River provides 90 miles of shoreline running north to south through the reservation.

The Colorado River Indian Reservation was established March 3, 1865 for the "Indians of said river and its tributaries." It is one of the oldest Indian reservations in Arizona. The indigenous people were the agricultural Mohave and the more nomadic Chemehuevi. In 1945, a portion of the reservation was reserved for colonization by Indians of other Tribes, specifically the Hopis and Navajos.

The CRIT economy is centered on agriculture, recreation, government and light industry. The fertile river bottomlands and available water allow irrigated agriculture that produces cotton, alfalfa, wheat, feed grains, lettuce and melons. Approximately 84,500 acres are now under cultivation and another 50,000 acres are available for development, CRIT has senior water rights to 717,000-acre feet of the Colorado River, which is almost 1/3 of the allotment for the state of Arizona.

Source: Colorado River Indian Tribes

# Tribal Background/History

## Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

Located in Maricopa County, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation lies approximately 23 miles northeast of Phoenix, at Milepost 192 on the Beeline Highway, or Arizona 87. The Community's economy is closely tied to the surrounding communities of Rio Verde, Fountain Hills, Mesa, Scottsdale and Phoenix. Large employers include the Fort McDowell Gaming Center, the Tribal farm, a Tribally owned gas station and the Tribal government.

At an elevation of 1,350 feet, the peaceful topography of this reservation belies its bloody history. The serene landscape ranges from tree-lined bottomlands to cactus studded rolling hills. The reservation was designated in 1903 when the Kewewkapaya, or Southeastern Yavapai, who lived in the Mazatzal-Four Peak and Superstition Mountain region, were granted 24,680 acres of the old Fort McDowell Military Reserve. This had been one of the most important outposts in the southwest during the Apache Wars that occurred from 1865-1891.

The current boundaries of the Fort McDowell reservation mark only a small portion of the ancestral territory of nomadic bands that once freely roamed the vast area called central Arizona and the Mogollon Rim country. These people hunted wild animals and gathered food. It is likely that they refreshed themselves at Montezuma's Well as history indicates that the Yavapai's early origin is Ahagaskiywa (Montezuma's Well).

On December 28, 1872, 100 Yavapai men, women & children were killed at the "Skeleton Cave Massacre" during a surprise attack. The Yavapai consider this the most horrible massacre in their history, and newspapers and Army reports of the day describe it as one of the most "terrible battles in Apache history." Reports indicated 75 "hostiles" were killed and 25 captured.

The 1,500 surviving Yavapai and Tonto Apaches were removed to the San Carlos Apache Reservation on February 27, 1875, on what is now known as the "Trail of Tears."

Fort McDowell is also the birthplace of one of the first known advocates of human rights, Dr. Carlos Montezuma (Wassaja). As a child, Wassaja was stolen by Pima Indians and sold to an Italian photographer who educated him, in Chicago, in the field of medicine. Later in life Wassaja fought for Native American rights, for United States citizenship, and other governmental policies. He also became a leading force to help the Yavapai regain their homeland and died from tuberculosis while on the reservation in a traditional wickiup after he waged his last human rights war.

Source: Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

# Tribal Background/History

## Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Originally named the Pipa Aha Macav, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe has inhabited this part of the Tri-State area since time immemorial. The Tribe changed its name when it adopted its Constitution and by-laws in 1956. The goals of the present day Tribal government is to ensure its heritage and culture to all members of the Tribes both present and future generations. Currently the Tribe covers about 42,000 acres in Arizona, California and Nevada.

Pipa Aha Macav, people along the river, lived along the banks of the Colorado River since time immemorial. Their teaching's say all things created come from the Great Spirit Mountain, located northwest of the reservation. Matavilya, the Mojave spirit, placed the plants, animals and Colorado River on earth and civilize the Pipa Aha Macav. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe is one of 500 distinct and recognized Tribal Governments in the United States with inherent Sovereign powers written in the U.S. Constitution. They, similar to States, are responsible for the health, education, and welfare of its constituents and operate just like State, city council, and other Government agencies to provide services to the reservations.

Not long ago the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe had only a minimal farming operation. Land was also leased to non-Indian farmers as a source of income to supplement Tribal needs. The potential of the water resources, land, and strategic location went untapped.

Today the story is very different. With a vision put forth by Tribal Leaders the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe is flourishing more then ever in the Tri-State area. The Tribes farming operations are highly profitable and expanding. Tribally-owned Telecommunications and Tribal Power Company provide services to Tribal-members and non-member customers on and off the Reservation.

The Tribe's Avi Resort and Casino, Spirit Mountain Casino, 18 hole championship golf course, and two RV parks are enjoyed by vacationers as well as locals year around. Construction of a 5,000 seat indoor arena is on going and will be completed by the year's end.

New housing developments on the reservation give the opportunity to choose a house design to capture beautiful mountain views or golf course homes in a desert setting.

Source: Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

# Tribal Background/History

## Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe

Home of the Quechan (pronounced Kw'tsan) Indians, Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation is located along both sides of the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. The reservation borders the states of Arizona, California, Baja California and Mexico. Encompassing 44,000 acres, the reservation is bisected on the south by Interstate 8 (I-8). Consequently, several million cars a year drive through the Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation on their way to and from Phoenix and California.

The Yuma, who today prefer to be called the Quechan, have long been known as fighters. For centuries they battled the Papago, Apache and other Tribes for control of the fertile flood plains of the Colorado River (created by Kumastamxo by tracing a course through the desert with the tip of his lance), which is the boundary between California and Arizona.

Largely an agriculture community, the Tribe leases its 700-acre farm to a non-Indian farmer. In addition to farming and the sand and gravel operation, the Fort Yuma Quechan Reservation counts on tourism and related business to augment its economy. The hot summers and relatively warm winter temperatures make the site a desirable winter vacation spot from November to March. To serve this audience the Tribe manages three trailer and RV parks, one grocery store, museum, bingo hall/casino, utility company and a fish and game department.

According to the most recent data from the Tribal Enrollment Office, the Quechan population totals 3,137 members.

Source: Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe

# Tribal Background/History

## Gila River Indian Community

The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) traces its roots to the Hohokam, prehistoric Indians who lived and farmed along the Gila River Basin centuries ago. Composed of two member Tribes, the Pima and Maricopa, GRIC is located in south central Arizona.

The 373,365-acre reservation, which lies south of Phoenix, Tempe and Chandler, was established by an act of Congress in 1859. It is the largest Indian Reservation in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Tribal administrative offices and departments are located in Sacaton.

The Gila River Indian Community is steadily increasing its industrial, retail and recreational economic base. The Community has opened three industrial parks housing 61 operations. One park, Lone Butte Industrial Park, is nationally acclaimed as one of the most successful Indian industrial parks in the U.S.

In addition to emphasizing industry, business and recreational opportunities, the community continues to depend upon agriculture to grow its economy. Fifteen thousand acres of community farms on the GRIC support a variety of crops such as cotton, wheat, millet, alfalfa, barley, melons, pistachios, olives, citrus, and vegetables. Independent farming operations cultivate an additional 22,000 acres of similar crops, bringing the total agricultural product value to an excess of \$25 million.

The Gila River Reservation enjoys a relatively young population with a median age of 22.7 years. The Community is home to 11,550 people.

Source: Gila River Indian Community

# Tribal Background/History

## Havasupai Tribe

Havsuw `Baaja," the people of the blue green waters," are the traditional guardians of the Grand Canyon. Related to the Yuman, the Havasupai have, from the beginning, inhabited the Grand Canyon and its environs.

By 1919 with the establishment of the Grand Canyon National Park, the Tribe was restricted to 518 acres, five miles wide and 12 miles long in a side canyon. The Tribe has since had returned to them 188,077 acres of their former homelands, which makes up their reservation today. All residents live in Supai Village, in 3,000-foot-deep Havasu Canyon, through which a perennial creek flows over three breathtakingly beautiful high waterfalls and several smaller ones.

The Havasupai Reservation consists of plateau country, dissected with deep, scenic canyons characteristic of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. Notable geographic features include "The Great Thumb," Long Mesa, and Tenderfoot Mesa, which converge on the Coconino Plateau at the south end of the reservation.

Havasu (Cataract) Canyon, now the permanent home of the Havasupai Indian Tribe, is internationally known for its blue water and spectacular waterfalls adorned with travertine columns, shelves and skirts. Topography of the plateau areas varies from rolling, gentle slopes, to escarpments of outcrops of the Kaibab Limestone.

The population for the Havasupai Tribe is 639 with a median age of 24.8 years. The largest employer of the Tribal members on the reservation is the Tribal government. The main occupation of individual members is packing and farming.

The Havsuw `Baaja, draw their strength from the land, which is sacred. Visitors are asked to preserve the magnificence of the Havasupai homeland and respect their natural resources, which contribute to their spiritual direction. All visitors are asked to leave their liquor, drugs, weapons and pets at home and to take their trash out of the canyon.

Source: Havasupai Tribe

# Tribal Background/History

## Hualapai Tribe

Hwal`bay Ba:j means "People of the Tall Pine." The Hualapai live on a reservation encompassing one million acres along 108 miles of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. The Hwal`bay Ba:j call this middle river corridor "Hakataya" or "the backbone of the river."

The Colorado River is a significant landmark for the Hualapai. Historically, all of the Yuman language family Tribes were located on, or nearer in close proximity to the Colorado River. There is a common bonding creation myth that took place at "Spirit Mountain," or "Wikahme," along the Colorado River near Bullhead City, Arizona.

The Hualapai are descendants from one people, a group known archaeologically as the Cerbat. The Hwal`bay Ba:j originally lived in-groups composed of fourteen bands. Culturally, the Hualapai consider themselves as part of the "Pai," meaning "the people." The earliest physical remains of the Pai was found along the Willow Beach bank near the Hoover Dam in the 1960's and dates back as early as 600 A.D.

The Grand Canyon always provided important food sources for eating, for medicinal uses and for utilitarian purposes. The major wild foods are derived from cactus fruit and from the seeds of various grasses and with the use of metates and mano stones.

An Executive Order created the reservation in 1883. Peach Springs, the Tribal capital, is 50 miles east of Kingman on Historic Route 66, and is named for the peach trees growing at springs nearby.

Occupying part of three northern Arizona counties, Coconino, Yavapai and Mohave, the reservation's topography varies from rolling grassland to forest and the rugged canyons of the Colorado River. Elevations range from 1,500 feet at the Colorado River, to over 7,300 feet at the highest point of the Aubrey Cliffs, which are located on the eastern portion of the reservation.

The total population of the Hualapai Tribe is 2,510 and the median age is 23.6 (1990 U.S. Census). Tribal, public school, state and federal governmental services provide the bulk of current full-time employment.

The principal economic activities are tourism, cattle ranching, timber sales and arts & crafts.

Source: Hualapai Tribe

# Tribal Background/History

## The Hopi Tribe

The Hopi people trace their history in Arizona back more than 2,000 years, but their history in this region, as a people, goes back many more thousands of years. The Hopi migrated north to Arizona from the south, up from what is now South America, Central America and Mexico. It is the only pueblo dwelling Tribe in Arizona.

The Hopi people are divided into clans and each clan has its own clan rituals and responsibilities. The Tribe's teachings relate stories of a great flood and other events dating to ancient times, marking the Hopi as one of the oldest living cultures in documented history. A deeply religious people, they live by the ethic of peace and goodwill.

The Hopi Reservation, in north central Arizona, occupies part of Navajo and Coconino counties and encompasses approximately 2,474.252 acres. It is approximately 92 miles northeast of Flagstaff. Having inhabited this high and dry area since the 12th century, the Hopi have developed a unique agriculture practice, "dry farming." Instead of plowing their fields, Hopi farmers place "wind breakers" in the fields at selected intervals to retain soil, snow and moisture. They also have perfected special techniques to plant seeds in arid fields. As a result, they succeed in raising corn, beans, squash, melons and other crops in a landscape that appears inhospitable to farming.

There are 12 villages throughout the Hopi reservation. Each operates as an autonomous government. However, the Hopi Tribal Council makes law for the Tribe and sets policy to oversee Tribal business.

Source: Hopi Tribe

# Tribal Background/History

## Kaibab-Paiute Tribe

The Kaibab Paiute Reservation, on the Arizona/Utah border, covers 120,431 acres of plateau and desert grassland. Situated along Kanab Creek in northern Arizona, the reservation is surrounded by small communities including Fredonia, fourteen miles to the east, and Kanab, twenty-one miles to the northeast. A vast majority of the reservation land is undeveloped. Arizona Highway 389 crosses the reservation and is the main route for tourist travel between Las Vegas, Nevada, and Lake Powell. It is approximately one hour's drive to Zion National Park, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Cedar Breaks National Monument, Bryce Canyon and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument from Fredonia.

The Kaibab Paiute are one of ten member tribes of the Southern Paiute Nation that live along the southern Great Basin and San Juan-Colorado River drainage. Members of the Kaibab Paiute Tribe speak a Uto-Aztecan language, in addition to English. The median age of tribal members is 25.7 years.

Most of the businesses on the Kaibab Paiute Reservation are owned and operated by the tribe, and include a visitor's center at Pipe Spring National Monument, a gas station with a convenience store, along with a trailer park and campground. The tribe is also involved in agriculture, equestrian sales and live stock.

Because of its location in scenic northern Arizona, the Kaibab Paiute economy centers largely on tourism and the livestock industry. The only labor-intensive industry on the reservation is the government, which also serves as the major employer.

The Kaibab people of today live in an ecologically diverse area which includes mountainous plateaus, high desert and pine forest. As they have done traditionally, they continue to tend to the preservation of the natural and cultural resources of their reservation lands.

Source: Kaibab-Paiute Tribe

# Tribal Background/History

## Navajo Nation

The vast Navajo Nation extends into the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Approximately the size of the state of West Virginia, it contains more than 29,817 square miles, making it the largest Native American reservation in the U.S.A. Located in a region sculpted by wind, water and volcanic activity, the Navajo Nation is replete with canyons and mesas, mountains and desert, plateaus and peaks. Part arid desert, part alpine forest, this landscape is rich with natural resources. The subsurface geology contains precious mineral deposits of coal, uranium, oil and gas, as well as helium, gypsum, clay, sand and gravel. Other sources of income include mineral and timber resources.

Spread over the reservation are over 15 national monuments, Tribal parks and historic sites. The Navajos are known for their weavings and turquoise and silver jewelry. Arts and crafts can be purchased from trading posts, reservation stores and galleries.

Traditionally the Navajo, or Diné, as the people call themselves, relate to the land as their mother, believing that they are an extension of Mother Earth. People, then, are part of the earth's beauty. As a result of this belief, the Diné treat the land with utmost respect.

Approximately 300,000 members are enrolled in the Navajo Nation, of which 174,467 reside on the entire reservation.

The precise date of Navajo settlement in Indian Country is unknown. The remains of a hogan found on Black Mesa date back to around 1400 A.D. and some pottery remains that may or may not be Navajo date back to an even earlier time. What we do know is that they were fairly well established by the time the Spaniards arrived in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The first real proof of Navajo presence in the Four Corners region comes from the remains of a hut found in New Mexico, dating to about 1541.

Source: Navajo Nation

# Tribal Background/History

## Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona

Descendants of the ancient Toltecs who once ranged from northwestern Mexico upwards to southern Colorado and California, the Pascua Yaqui migrated to the United States in the late 19th century. With the arrival of the Spanish in 1853 they began a period of intermittent warfare, first with the Spanish and later, with the Mexicans.

The first modern settlements in the United States were in Southern Arizona. There are eight main communities:

- 1) New Pascua Village, which is the Yaqui reservation, outside of Tucson
- 2) Guadalupe, outside of Phoenix
- 3) Old Pascua Village, located in Tucson
- 4) Barrio Libre, in the City of South Tucson
- 5) Yoemem Pueblo, in Marana
- 6) Penjamo, located in Scottsdale
- 7) Hightown, located in Chandler
- 8) Coolidge

In 1964, a bill was passed for the transfer of 202 acres of desert land southwest of Tucson to the Yaquis where they could maintain their identity. The Pascua Yaqui Association (PYA), a non-profit Arizona corporation, was formed to receive the deed for the land from the Federal Government.

The Yaqui waged a long and difficult battle to secure federal recognition for their Tribe and on September 18, 1978 succeeded in attaining the same status as all other federally recognized US Indian Tribes. In 1988, the Tribe's first constitution was approved. Total lands today are 1152 acres.

During the struggle for self-determination, cultural traditions thrived. Although based upon Christian teachings, the Yaqui culture remains rich in Native Indian elements. The Tribe is known for its Deer Dances and statuary and cultural paintings that are done by many talented Yaqui artists.

Today the Tribe numbers approximately 12,147 people.

Source: Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona

# Tribal Background/History

## Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is symbolized through its great seal the “Man in Maze.” The legend, which is taught to all Pima and Maricopa children, depicts the experiences that occur during the journey through the maze of life. While negative events happen, children are told that, ultimately, each person can discover a physical, mental, social and spiritual balance.

At the center of the maze are one’s dreams and goals. When one reaches the center, the legend describes that each person is met by the Sun God who blesses and greets us and passes us on to the next world.

Consisting of 53,000 acres, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is located 15 miles northeast of Phoenix. It is adjacent to Scottsdale, Tempe, Fountain Hills and Mesa. The Community is home to over 8,000 enrolled members who represent two pre-American sovereign Indian Tribes: the Pima (“Akimel Au-Authm” -River People) and Maricopa (“Xalychidom Piipaash”- People who live towards the water). Although the two Tribes speak different languages, they share the same cultural values.

Historically, the Pima are descendants of the Hohokam (Hoo-hoogam), people who farmed the Salt River Valley and created an elaborate canal irrigation system centuries ago. These ancient canals have brought forth an engineering concept that is still being used today. In contrast, the Maricopa originally lived along the lower Gila and Colorado Rivers and migrated toward Pima villages in 1825.

Created by Executive Order June 14, 1879, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community has dedicated its resources to finding its way to success through the maze of urban pressures. Out of respect for their land, the Community maintains 19,000 of its acres as a natural preserve. Over 10,000-acres of farmland is leased to agrifarmers who grow a variety of crops including cotton, melons, potatoes, brown onions and carrots. Through the agrifarmers, the Community is now growing organic produce.

Commercial land use is largely restricted to the western corridor, a linear stretch along the Pima Freeway-Loop 101. Within this commercial corridor, the Community has leased its property for development of The Pavilions, a 140-acre retail center. The open-air mall, offers over 1.6 million square feet of retail, restaurants and entertainment facilities. Anchor tenants include Target, Home Depot, Mervyn’s and Best Buy. Also located within the corridor is a 200,000 sq. ft. Wal-Mart Retail Center and Chaparral Business Park a 25-acre Class A office development. Along the western corridor, over 605-acres have been approved for Class A office, retail, and restaurant developments.

Source: Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

# Tribal Background/History

## San Carlos Apache Tribe

The San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation encompasses 1.8 million acres of pristine land spanning across three regions of mountain country, desert and plateau landscapes. First established by President Grant's Executive Order in 1871, the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation is located 20 miles east of Globe and approximately 90 miles east of Phoenix.

The Apaches are descendants of the Athabascan family, which migrated to the Southwest in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Later, as reservations were being established, the bands of Apache, who were placed at San Carlos, became one Tribe recognized as the San Carlos Apaches.

San Carlos is also known as the base for the well-known Geronimo Hot Shots and Southwest Forest Fire Fighters, a large group of professional Indian fire fighters who serve the entire Southwest area during the summer "forest fire" months.

Today, the San Carlos Apache Reservation is home to approximately 12,000 Apaches with an abundance of natural resources and rich cultural heritage. The Tribal administration, Tribal enterprises, the San Carlos Unified School District and local government agencies also provide employment. The Apache Gold Casino Resort provides approximately 300 jobs for Tribal members as well as non-members. Tribal members reside with the four main districts in San Carlos which are small communities with modern homes, subdivisions, churches, schools and municipal buildings.

Source: San Carlos Apache Tribe

Web site: [www.apachetimes.com](http://www.apachetimes.com)

## Tribal Background/History

### San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe

The San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe is a small newly recognized tribe of approximately 300 members.

The San Juan Southern Paiutes have lived for the last several hundred years in the territory east of the Grand Canyon, bounded by the San Juan and Colorado Rivers, with the Navajo and Hopi Tribes as their neighbors. They share a common heritage with the Southern Paiutes of northern Arizona, Utah, Nevada and California. They retain and maintain their native language that is distinctly separate from their neighbors.

Many San Juan Paiute tribal members reside in several distinct communities located on the Navajo Reservation, primarily in northern Arizona and southeastern Utah. The largest of these communities are located at Willow Springs, near Tuba City, Arizona, and at Paiute Canyon/Navajo Mountain on the Arizona and Utah border.

The Tribe is currently in litigation to establish and secure their land base.

The Tribe is governed by a spokesperson and a tribal assembly (Shuupara`api) which meets regularly to decide issues of importance to tribal members. The San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe is currently in the process of drafting a constitution.

Tribal members depend on raising livestock and subsistence farming of a small number of crops. The Tribe is also known for its hand-woven traditional baskets that utilize age-old weaving techniques. The basket designs and materials have been passed down from generation to generation. Using the age-old techniques, the younger generation are weaving more contemporary designs.

Source: San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe

# Tribal Background/History

## Tohono O'odham Nation

The Tohono O'odham are related linguistically and culturally to the Pima Indians (Akimel O'odham). Their traditional homelands lie in the flatlands of the Sonoran Desert, where semi-nomadic people traveled between summer camps and winter villages located near water springs. Village women are noted for their basketry of yucca and Devil's Claw.

The Tohono O'odham Nation is comparable in size to the state of Connecticut. Its four non-contiguous segments total more than 2.8 million acres. Boundaries begin south of Casa Grande and encompass parts of Pinal, Maricopa and Pima Counties. Within the reservation the Nation has established an Industrial/Business Park that is located south of Tucson at Old Nogales Highway and Los Reales in the San Xavier Business Park. Current tenants of the Business Park are Desert Diamond Casino, Advanced Ceramics Manufacturing, Empire Machinery a Caterpillar heavy equipment demonstration center, Planning and Economic Development for the Nation, El Gorrion Mobile Restaurant and MFC Burial Service.

Situated at an elevation of 2,674 feet above sea level, the Tohono O'odham Nation incorporates the 71,095 acre San Xavier Reservation (San Xavier District), located south of Tucson along Interstate 19; the 10,409 acre Gila Bend Reservation (San Lucy District); and the 20 acre Florence Village, which is located near the City of Florence. There are 11 individually governed Districts with an enrollment of approximately 28,000 people.

The landscape is consistently compelling; a wide desert valley interspersed with plains and marked by mountains that rise abruptly to nearly 8,000 feet.

Source: The Tohono O'odham Nation

# Tribal Background/History

## Tonto Apache Tribe

The Tonto Apache Tribe is located adjacent to the town of Payson (originally named Te-go-suk, Place of the Yellow Water), in northwestern Gila County approximately 90 miles northeast of Phoenix and 100 miles southeast of Flagstaff, Arizona. The Tonto Apache reservation is surrounded by a variety of geological and mountainous formations. The Mazatzal Mountains are located to the west, the Sierra Ancha Mountains are to the south, and the Mogollon Rim to the north. Tonto Natural Bridge State Park is also near the reservation as well as the historic towns of Pine and Strawberry. Elevations range from 4,975 feet to 5,115 feet. The Mogollon Rim, just minutes from the reservation, offers beautiful Ponderosa pine trees, lakes, streams, camping and hunting. The winter snow provides unlimited skiing, snowmobiling and even cross-country snowshoe racing in the surrounding area.

Consisting of 85 acres, it is one of the smallest land based reservation in the state of Arizona.

The total population of the Tonto Apache Reservation is 107 members of which 95 live on the reservation. One-third of the Tribal members are under the age of 16.

The Tonto Apache are the direct descendants of the Tontos who lived in the Payson vicinity before the arrival of the Spanish Conquistadors and the Confederate Soldiers during the Civil War. The large Rio Verde Reserve, near Camp Verde, was established in 1871 for the Tonto and Yavapai Indians. The Reserve was dissolved in 1875 when they were forcibly moved to the San Carlos Apache Reservation after the capture of Geronimo. Some Tontos gradually returned to Payson after 20 years of exile to find white settlers had taken much of their land. In 1972 they were given their own land on the southern outskirts of Payson. In 1990 they obtained title trust to their land and are presently negotiating to acquire 278 additional acres through a land trade. The Mazatzal Casino is the largest non-government employer in the area, which is known as Rim Country.

Preserving the heritage of the Tribe is important, especially to the elders of the Tribe. They have been very instrumental in developing programs to sustain both the language and customs of the Tribe by passing down this information to the younger members of the Tribe.

Source: Tonto Apache Nation/Rim Country Chamber of Commerce

# Tribal Background/History

## White Mountain Apache Tribe

White Mountain Apache Tribe is located in the east central region of Arizona, 194 miles northeast of Phoenix. The Fort Apache Reservation, home of the White Mountain Apache, is comprised of almost 1.7 million acres spreading across Apache, Gila, and Navajo Counties. Elevations on the reservation range from less than 3,000 feet in the rugged Salt River Canyon to over 11,000 feet atop majestic and sacred Mt. Baldy.

The Fort Apache Reservation, established by executive order on November 9, 1871, originally included lands to the South, now designated as the San Carlos Apache Reservation as well as east to the New Mexico state line. These reservations situated within the homelands of the White Mountain Apache, represent a fraction of their ancestral range which they exploited through hunting, raiding and small-scale agriculture. Villages centered on the best agricultural districts, were composed of extended families living in wickiups (gowah) made from branches and bear grass.

Today the Tribe is composed of more than 12,000 members living in nine major reservation communities. Whiteriver, the capital, is the largest community with over 2,500 residents. These modern communities are composed of churches, commercial and municipal buildings and housing subdivisions. Tribal members depend on livestock, agriculture, tourism and various government jobs and Tribal enterprises for their livelihood. Major sources of Tribal employment are the Fort Apache Timber Company and re-manufacturing plant, as well as the growing tourist industry, which includes Hon-Dah Resort Casino, and Conference Center and the Sunrise Park Ski Resort. Tribal and Federal governments are the largest employers on the Reservation.

The Apache still actively pursue the maintenance of their distinct culture through ceremonies such as the Sunrise (Na ii es) Ceremony and the creation of Apache arts and crafts, such as moccasins, basketry, cradleboards and the woman's camp dress.

Source: White Mountain Apache Tribe

# Tribal Background/History

## Yavapai-Apache Nation

The Yavapai-Apache Nation is situated on five separate parcels in the beautiful high desert country of the Verde Valley in Central Arizona. The Tribal Administrative complex is located just west of I-17, exit 289; 90 miles north of Phoenix and 55 miles south of Flagstaff.

The Nation is comprised of descendents of two distinct cultures which inhabited the region prior to European contact. The upper Verde Valley was the Northeastern frontier of the Yavapai, also known as the Wipukyipai and the northwestern frontier of the Tonto Apache, who call themselves Dil Zhéé. Each Tribe had formal relationships to the landscape and were tied by heritage to the Red Rock country around Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon, the mountains to the south and west, the White Chalk Hills of Camp Verde and eastward to Clear and Fossil Creeks.

Following the brutal wars of the 1860's, the U.S. Army established a military reserve for the survivors in 1871. The reserve consisted of eight hundred square miles in the Verde River corridor set aside for farming and settlement. However, just as they began to prosper the reserve was abolished by Presidential Executive order in 1875. On February 25<sup>th</sup> of that year, both groups were removed from the valley and forced to march to the concentration camp at San Carlos. Each February this Removal-Return is commemorated by a Tribal observance and public ceremonies.

Around the 1900's, families began filtering back to the Verde Valley country to find their homelands occupied by ranchers, settlers and merchants. In 1910, Mr. Gabreau, a Camp Verde teacher, was instrumental in obtaining funds to purchase 55 acres of land for these landless people. Over the course of the Twentieth century, incremental acquisitions in Clarkdale, Camp Verde, and Rimrock have brought the total number of lands owned by the Yavapai-Apache Nation to just over six hundred and fifty acres. One-hundred and eighty of these acres are farmed by the Nation and the remainder is used as residential and commercial.

Today, revenue generated from the Tribally owned and operated, Cliff Castle Casino has enabled the Nation to raise the standard of living in the community, supply additional services to the elderly, provide educational opportunities for all ages and serve as the foundation for growing the Nation's land base and foster long-term economic development. In addition, Tribal programs have been funded to nurture and support traditional customs and values. This revenue also provided the opportunity for the Nation to purchase 1200 acres of land adjacent to the reservation, which is now awaiting BIA approval to become part of the reservation. For more information, visit the Nation's website at [www.yavapai-apache.org](http://www.yavapai-apache.org) .

Source: Yavapai-Apache Nation

## Tribal Background/History

### Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

The Yavapai-Prescott Indian Reservation consists of 1,395 acres that are adjacent to the city of Prescott, Arizona in central Yavapai County. Positioned at a crossroads for commerce, this reservation is intersected by U.S. Highway 89, and State Highway 69.

To meet their long-range goal of financial independence, the Board of Directors has focused on using portions of the reservation for economic development. The Sundog Business Park on Highway 89 offers tenants light industrial pads with all utilities just minutes from downtown Prescott. The Frontier Village Shopping Center is located on the reservation along Highway 69. In addition, the Tribe also operates two Casinos, Bucky's and Yavapai.

Approximately 150 members belong to the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe. The "Baskets Keep Talking" at the Sharlot Hall Museum tells the story of the Yavapai-Prescott People.

Source: Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

## Tribal Background/History

### Pueblo of Zuni

Located southeast of Holbrook, the Pueblo of Zuni lands are in both New Mexico and Arizona; however, the Arizona portion currently does not offer tourism attractions.

For more information, contact the Pueblo of Zuni Tourism Office, PO Box 339, Zuni, NM 87327, 505-782-7238 or visit [www.experiencezuni.com](http://www.experiencezuni.com) .