



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ETIQUETTE POLICY  
For Colorado River Commercial Operators

This etiquette policy was developed as a preservation tool to protect archaeological sites along the Colorado River. This policy classifies all known archaeological sites into one of four classes and helps direct visitors to sites that can withstand visitation and to minimize impacts to those that cannot. Commercially guided groups may visit Class I and Class II sites; however, inappropriate behaviors and activities on any archaeological site is a violation of federal law and Commercial Operating Requirements. Class III sites are not appropriate for visitation. National Park Service employees and Commercial Operators are prohibited from disclosing the location and nature of Class III archaeological sites. If clients encounter archaeological sites in the backcountry, guides should take the opportunity to talk about ancestral use of the Canyon, discuss the challenges faced in protecting archaeological resources in remote places, and reaffirm Leave No Trace practices. These include observing from afar, discouraging clients from collecting site coordinates and posting photographs and maps with location descriptions on social media. Class IV archaeological sites are closed to visitation; they are listed on Page 2 of this document. Commercial guides may share the list of Class I, Class II and Class IV sites with clients.

It is the responsibility of individual Commercial Operators to disseminate site etiquette information to all company employees and to ensure that their guides are teaching this information to all clients prior to visiting archaeological sites.

**Class I Archaeological Sites:** Class I sites have been managed specifically to withstand greater volumes of visitors and to provide opportunities for interpretation.

Rim and Inner Canyon

- Bass' Camp, South Bass Trailhead (B:15:0099)
- Mallery's Grotto, Bright Angel Trail (B:16:0064)
- Bright Angel Ruin, Phantom Ranch (B:16:0001)
- Cliff Spring Ruin, Cape Royal Rd, North Rim (C:13:0077)
- Walhalla Ruin, Cape Royal Rd, North Rim (C:13:0081)
- Transept Trail Ruin, North Rim developed area (B:16:0071)
- Horseshoe Mesa Hist. Dist., Grandview Trail (C:13:0008)
- Cave of the Domes, Horseshoe Mesa (C:13:0082)
- Tusayan Ruin, East Rim Drive (C:13:0124)

Colorado River

- FM Brown Inscription, RM 12 L (C:06:0002)
- USGS rock hammer, RM 15.9 R (C:06:0004)
- South Canyon Ruins, RM 31.5 R (C:05:0001)
- Bert Loper's boat, RM 41.5 R (C:09:0034)
- Graves at President Harding rapid, RM 43.6 L (C:09:0030)
- Willie Taylor's Grave, RM 44.8 L (C:09:0031)
- Nankoweap Granaries, RM52.3 R (C:09:0001)
- Nankoweap Ridgetop Site (C:09:0184)
- Beamer's Cabin, RM 60.5 L (C:13:0004)
- Hilltop Ruin (Cardenas), RM 71 L (C:13:0002)
- Unkar Delta Ruins (interpretive trail only), RM 72.5 R
- Ross Wheeler, RM 107.6 L (B:15:0096)
- George Parkins Inscription, RM 107.8 R (B:15:0124)
- Plaque at Separation Canyon, RM 239.6 R (G:02:0103)

**Class II Archaeological Sites:** Class II sites are more vulnerable to visitor impacts than Class I sites. Extra care must be taken to protect fragile site features.

Rim and Inner Canyon

- Uncle Jim's Cave (Harvey Meadow, North Rim)(B:16:0072)
- Boucher's Cabin, Boucher Trail (B:16:0049)
- Historic Hermit Camp, Hermit Trail (B:16:0138)
- Clear Creek Ruin, Clear Creek Drainage (B:16:0004)
- Bass' Shinumo Camp, North Bass Trail (B:15:0049)
- Garden Creek site, west side of creek (B:16:1221)
- Two-Mile Rock Art Boulder (B:16:0092)
- Old Bright Angel Trail Granaries (B:16:0030, B:16:0031)

Colorado River

- Harry McDonald Inscription, RM 23.3 L (C:05:0007)
- Marble Canyon Dam Adits, RM 39.6 Left only (C:09:0088)
- Tanner-McCormick Mine, RM 65.5 L (C:13:0098)
- First Pueblo ruin above Tanner petroglyph boulders, RM 68.3 R (C:13:0034)
- Tanner Rock Art Boulders, RM 68.3 R (C:13:0132)
- Hance Scout, RM 76.6 L (C:13:0005)
- Stanton's Switchyard, RM 108.3 R (B:15:0001)
- Rockshelter opposite Deer Creek, RM 136.3 L (B:10:0004)
- Deer Creek pictographs, RM 136.3 R (B:10:0005)
- Backeddy, RM 137.4 L (B:10:0001)
- Whitmore Rock Art Panel, RM 187.6 R (A:16:0001)
- 202-Mile Pictographs, RM 202 R (A:15:0005)
- Indian Canyon, RM 206.6 R (G:03:0004)

NOTE: RM = River Mile based on Belknap Grand Canyon River Guide.

Historically, some river campsites have been designated and used in close proximity to archaeological sites. Designation occurred prior to the writing of current federal laws that protect archaeological sites. With good etiquette, it is not a violation of this etiquette policy to stay at river camps approved by the NPS if the camps are in close proximity to archaeological sites. As the park works to mitigate damages from historic use of campsites, your efforts to avoid camping related damage will greatly benefit the public.

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## ETIQUETTE FOR VISITING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

In Grand Canyon National Park, 12,000 years of human history have resulted in an astounding number and diversity of well-preserved archaeological sites. Following good site etiquette will help preserve fragile archaeological resources. Grand Canyon commercial operators are the cornerstone to cultivating a special awareness of these sites by teaching site etiquette to thousands of visitors every year. For the sake of future preservation and compliance with federal laws, please teach and practice Leave No Trace principles.

- Plan Ahead
  - Review this site etiquette policy before each trip and ensure that you bring a copy with you.
  - Create your own checklist of Leave No Trace principles and site etiquette prior to your trip and review these with your clients prior to visiting archaeological sites.
  - Be prepared to be the first into the site in order to point out sensitive features (artifacts, walls) to be avoided and remember to be the last out.
- Travel and Camp On Durable Surfaces
  - Away from NPS-designated campsites, do not camp in an archaeological site.
  - Guide small groups. Seek out durable surfaces off-site to assemble and talk to your group before heading onto an archaeological site rather than assembling “in” the actual site.
  - Demonstrate leadership by being in control of your group at all times.
  - Flat camp sites free of vegetation and near water have typically been used repeatedly for many centuries and often contain documented archaeological sites.
  - Due to their age and exposure to erosion, archaeological sites are very fragile and most have never been stabilized. Walk carefully and avoid stepping on walls, artifacts and easily eroded slopes.
- Dispose Of Waste Properly
  - Avoid eating meals while in an archaeological site. Crumbs may attract animals which in turn may disturb a site.
  - When needed away from your river camp, choose a suitable bathroom location and remember to dispose of waste at least 200 feet from archaeological sites, dry washes, camps, trails and water.
- Leave What You Find
  - Discourage unnecessary handling of artifacts.
  - After visiting a known archaeological site, everything should be in its original location. Once picked up and moved, artifacts lose their context and scientific value.
  - Do not create artifact collection piles.
  - Do not remove artifacts – each one contributes to the overall integrity of the site. It is illegal to be in possession of artifacts and natural objects in a national park.
  - Enjoy petroglyphs and pictographs from a distance to avoid the natural temptation to touch, which can crumble the rock surface. Oils from human skin can degrade pigments and rock surfaces. Never deface rock imagery by adding your own or enhancing pictograph or petroglyph elements for photography. Do not trample artifacts located below rock imagery. They are often the only means of dating the site.
- Be Considerate Of Other Visitors
  - Think about the next person to visit the site. If they see evidence of your passing like crushed plants, tramped ground, stacked rocks, litter or social trails, their experience will be greatly diminished.
  - Did you know that 11 modern-day American Indian tribes maintain connections to Grand Canyon’s archaeological sites as a direct link to their history and ancestors? By respecting those beliefs you will help preserve and protect archaeological sites and the cultural values they hold for associated tribes.

Class IV Sites are closed to visitation. These include Furnace Flats (RM 71.0 – 72.0, right bank to 2800 ft elevation contour), Hopi Salt Mine (RM 63.0 -64.5, left bank), Anasazi Bridge (RM 43, right bank), Bass Asbestos Mine (Hakatai Canyon, 500 feet around mine) and all caves except Cave of the Domes. Special use restrictions prohibit entering Deer Creek narrows from the Patio to the base of the main falls.

Each year, Grand Canyon National Park archeologists and law enforcement rangers actively monitor hundreds of archaeological sites, some of which have been inadvertently impacted or intentionally damaged. Archaeological sites in national parks are protected by federal laws. The National Historic Preservation Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act prohibit the excavation, removal, damage, alteration or defacing of archaeological remains. Camping and all related activities (pitching tent, cooking, etc...) in an archaeological site are prohibited.