



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ETIQUETTE POLICY For Front and Backcountry Commercial Operators and CUA holders

This etiquette policy was developed as a preservation tool to protect archaeological sites in the front and backcountry. 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. These sites are excavated and often stabilized and can handle a certain amount of regular visitation. 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 because they have not been excavated or stabilized and cannot withstand recurring visitation. National Park Service employees, Commercial Operators, or CUA holders are prohibited from disclosing the location and nature of any Class III archaeological site. If clients encounter Class III archaeological sites during trips, 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 sites 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. Refer to the Superintendent's Compendium for more information. Commercial guides may share the list of Class I and Class II sites with clients so that clients are aware of what sites they can visit. Only Class I and Class II sites may be visited and/or their locations disclosed to clients.

It is the responsibility of individual Commercial Operators and CUA holders to disseminate site etiquette information to all company employees and to ensure that their guides follow this policy and follow "Leave No Trace" practices.

**Class I Archaeological Sites:** These 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 Pueblo, Phantom Ranch (B:16:0001)  
Cliff Spring Site, Cape Royal Rd, North Rim (C:13:0077)  
Walhalla Pueblo, Cape Royal Rd, North Rim (C:13:0081)  
Transept Trail Site, North Rim developed area (B:16:0071)  
Horseshoe Mesa Hist. Dist., Grandview Trail (C:13:0082)  
Tusayan Pueblo, Desert View 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 Site, 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 Site (Cardenas), RM 71 L (C:13:0002)  
Unkar Delta Site (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 Site, 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 Site 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 Site, 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)

Historically, a limited number of campsites were designated by the NPS in archaeological sites. Designation occurred prior to the writing of current federal laws that protect archaeological sites. It is not a violation of this etiquette policy to camp at sites designated on your current backcountry permit such as South Bass

Trailhead, Hermit Creek, Monument Creek (group site only), Cedar Springs, Salt Creek, and Horn Creek. Camping in non-designated camps that contain archaeological sites is strictly prohibited, even if those camps have been used historically. As the park works to mitigate damages from historic use of campsites, your efforts to avoid camping related damage will greatly benefit the public.

## 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 no facilities are available for human waste disposal when in the backcountry or on a river trip, please, select a location that is at least 200 feet from any water source, archaeological site, dry wash, camp areas, and trails. Dig a cathole that is 6-8 inches deep and 4-6 inches in diameter. If you encounter anything that looks like artifacts (pottery pieces, stone tools, etc.), stop digging, fill in the hole and select another spot. Cover the hole completely after use. Carry out, and never burn, your toilet paper.
- 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.

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.