

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ETIQUETTE



ARTIFACTS

Leave artifacts where you find them. If they are picked up and displaced, the scientific value of artifacts is compromised. If you do pick up an artifact, please put it back where you found it when you are done looking at it.

ROCK PILES

Do not rearrange existing rock piles or collect rocks to form a new rock pile. Changes to the landscape can affect how sites are interpreted.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL DEPOSITS

Soils and plants within archaeological sites have scientific and associated cultural values to Arizona's tribes. Stay on the trails, do not bring pets to archaeological sites. Do not smoke or set campfires near sites.

ROCK ART

Do not touch the rock art or carvings. Oils from our hands can cause deterioration and graffiti of any kind is considered a highly destructive form of vandalism. Do not touch, peck, carve, etch, paint, spray, etc. any cultural features, especially surfaces that possess rock art.

WALLS AND ROCK ALIGNMENTS

Rock and adobe walls are fragile and in a constant state of deterioration. Do not climb, sit, step, lean, or stand on walls. Do not remove any rocks or rebuild fallen rock walls. Altering the formation of a rock alignment can affect what can be learned about their placement and possible their use or function.

PHOTOS

If you must post photos on social media, remove any geotags and location information. Don't show trailheads or identifying information. If possible, crop the photo to remove landscape features that could lead to the site. If someone finds the location on their own, they may appreciate the significance more.

METAL-DETECTING

Metal-detecting, rock-hounding, and geocaching should avoid culturally and ecologically-sensitive areas. Metal-detecting is not permitted in Arizona State Parks and cannot be used to search for relics on public lands.

RECREATE RESPONSIBLY

Don't leave anything behind. Please take your trash with you and preserve the experience for others. Please be courteous by keeping your pets on leash and cleanup after them.

SITE CLEAN-UP

Please refrain from picking up trash that's not yours at any archaeological site. This trash could be historic in nature and add context to the site to help establish dates of occupation or the habits of the people that utilized it. Do not clear vegetation from the sites, these plants may provide insight to why the site was chosen by past cultures and may provide cover to protect the site from the elements.

If you observe evidence of looting, vandalism, or trafficking call 1-833-363-5668.
For your safety, do not talk to or approach anyone causing damage to a site.

For damage caused by natural occurrences (fire, flood, wind, etc.) Please send us email with the location, description, photos to azshpo@azstateparks.gov.

