



ABOUT THE HOPI

The Hopi Indians, who live in the arid highlands of northern Arizona (located in the southwestern part of the United States), have inhabited the same place for a millennium, far longer than any other people in North America. They are not only the oldest dwellers in this land but are considered by most other Indians to have a wisdom, a knowledge of things, beyond average comprehension. Peaceful and knit tightly together by clan relationships, they are intensely spiritual and fiercely independent. Their all-pervading religion is a many stranded cord that unites them to their stark, and beautiful environment. (From Hopi by Jake & Susanne Page)

Hopi Villages

The Hopi live on top of and around three Mesas (a high plateau or tableland with steep sides) in the arid highlands of northern Arizona. The Mesas and the villages are:

First Mesa – The traditional villages on First Mesa are Walpi, Sichomovi, and Hano. The community below First Mesa is Pollacca. Keams Canyon is located a few miles east of First Mesa.

Second Mesa – The traditional villages located on Second Mesa are Sipaulovi, Mishongnovi, and Shongopavi. The Hopi Cultural Center and Hotel is located on this Mesa.

Third Mesa – As you approach Third Mesa, you will see Kykotsmovi, the seat of the Hopi Tribal Government. The traditional villages on Third Mesa are Old Oraibi, Hotevilla and Bacavi. Then, 45 miles to the west near Tuba City, is the Hopi village of Moencopi. The oldest continuously inhabited village in the United States is Old Oraibi. This village, located on top of Third Mesa, came into being around 1050 A.D. as the Hopi came to this area.

Religion

The Hopi have an extremely complex series of annual ceremonies. The kiva is the social and ceremonial chamber and the center of their religious life involving hundreds of Kachina (Katsina) spirits.

The Kachina are the spirits of the invisible life forces of the Hopi. In a variety of ceremonies, they dance, sing, bring gifts to the children, and sometimes administer



public scolding. The Kachina are greatly revered, and one of their main purposes is to bring rain for the spring crops.

Kachina dolls are made of cottonwood root and are exquisitely carved and dressed like the dancers. Intended to instruct the children about the hundreds of Kachina spirits, the finer carvings have become collector's items.

Many Hopis live by selling Kachina dolls, jewelry, baskets and pottery. Each Mesa is known especially for their particular craft. You can support the Hopi by buying only authentic Hopi crafts available throughout the villages and Hopi land.

VISITING HOPI LAND

The Hopi welcome you as visitors to their land. Here are few things to remember so that your visit will be an enjoyable one.

Visitor etiquette

Please remember common courtesy. Looking into windows or wandering into homes is as rude at Hopi as it would be if a stranger helped himself to a tour of your home.

When you visit Hopi land you are a guest on private land. Liberties taken by visitors in the past have led to strict enforcement of

regulations by the Hopi. It is a privilege to visit Hopi communities, especially during ceremonies, and visitors must respect regulations. With respect, the visitor to Hopi can enjoy a rewarding experience unlike any other in the world.

Recording and photography

No recording of any type is allowed while in and around Hopi villages. These include, but are not limited to: picture-taking, video recording, audio recording, sketching, and note-taking. These are strictly prohibited especially during ceremonies.

When viewing a ceremony

First of all, please note that not all ceremonies are open to the public. Often posted signs indicate who is welcome. If no signs are posted, seek information from local shops or the village community. At ceremonies open to the public, be aware that there are behavioral guidelines to follow. Well-meaning people, who would never think of going up to the altar during a wedding to ask questions, have nonetheless interrupted, distracted, or simply gotten in the way of Hopi ceremonies. Unless you are invited, the simplest rule is to stay out of the way of kivas (ceremonial rooms) and stay on the periphery of dances or processions. Remember that you are here to watch; there is no more rewarding or thoughtful way to

visit ceremonies than to be inconspicuous and quiet.

Wear appropriate clothing to a Hopi ceremony. Long pants or a skirt are favored over shorts or a short skirt. The desert Southwest is prone to extreme temperature swings, so if you are spending an evening be sure to bring warm clothes and many layers. Sunblock is a good idea year-round.

Please do not touch

Hopi spirituality is very intertwined with daily life, and objects that seem ordinary to you might have deeper significance to the person who placed them. Shrines are placed by sincere individuals and not meant to be disturbed.

What to bring when you visit Hopi land

If you are planning to visit the Hopi Reservation in the summer, please take certain precautions. Bring lots of water, a hat, and sunscreen. The sun can be very intense, and the air is very dry. Wear comfortable walking or hiking boots because vehicles are not generally allowed in all villages. In the winter months, dress warmly especially at night. It can get extremely cold and windy on the mesas. Bring extra layers, you can always leave them in your vehicle if you don't need them.

Lodging

The Hopi Cultural Center Motel, located on top of Second Mesa, has thirty units, a restaurant, museum, gift shops and a camping area. They are extremely busy in the summer; therefore, it is strongly recommended that reservations be made at least one month in advance. The telephone number for the Hopi Cultural Center Motel

is 928-734-2400. International visitors dial 011-928-734-2400.

The Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites, located near Tuba City, about 45 miles from Hopi, is the first motel to be built on Hopi tribal land in 50 years. Call 928-283-4500 for reservations or go to their website. Other accommodations can be found in Winslow (61 miles) and Flagstaff (91 miles).

Groceries

One of the main grocery stores is in Kykotsmovi on Third Mesa and stocks pretty much everything you may need during your visit. It also offers a great deli for lunches and snacks. There are other stores in Hotevilla, Polacca and Keams Canyon.

Dining

The Hopi Cultural Center serves American and traditional Hopi food. As well, there is a cafe in the Keams Canyon near First Mesa. Additionally, several families in each village serve traditional food from their home. For snacks, village stores and privately owned stores located in villages are options.

Gas stations

There are several gas stations on the Hopi Reservation. If you are traveling from the South, the first station is at Keams Canyon, located next to McGee's Store and Cafe. The second is at the convenience store in Polacca. The third is at the Kykotsmovi Village Store inside the village of Kykotsmovi and the fourth is at the Hotevilla Co-Op Store.