



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:

Adapted from Hopi Cultural Center, About the Hopi

On Third Mesa, stands the village of the Old Oraibi, designated as the oldest continuously inhabited settlement on the North American continent, said to have been established in 1100 A.D. On Third Mesa also stand subsidiaries of Old Oraibi; the villages of Kykotsmovi, Bacavi, Hotevilla, and Upper and Lower Moenkopi. Third Mesa is widely renowned for its fine weaving of traditional Hopi clothing and textiles, wicker plaques, and multicolored yucca baskets as well as its artistic paintings, and Hopi Over-lay Jewelry.

Second Mesa is home to the Hopi Cultural Center as well as the villages of Shungopavi, Sipaulvi and Mishongnovi. Second Mesa is widely renowned for its fine weaving of traditional Hopi clothing and textiles, wicker plaques, and multicolored yucca baskets as well as its artistic paintings, and Hopi Over-lay Jewelry

First Mesa, located on the eastern side of the Hopi reservation is comprised of the villages of Walpi, Sichomovi, and Tewa. Walpi is a historic village, noted for its high-rise dwellings panoramic view. First Mesa is renowned for its handmade Hopi pottery, artistic paintings and Hopi carvings. The First Mesa Consolidated Villages also offer organized tours of the surrounding Hopi landscape within jurisdiction.

Keams Canyon and the shopping center are a few miles further east.

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 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 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 — Remember common courtesy. A village is similar to a home with many families. What applies to strangers and your house applies on Hopi.

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 visiting — 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.

