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Ancestral Homelands

Indigenous Peoples have been on this landscape since time immemorial. Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument is part of the ancestral homelands for many tribes who were the original inhabitants of the region and who were forcibly removed from the landscape. Though currently living beyond the Grand Staircase-Escalante region, Hopi, A:shiwi/Zuni, Acoma, and Hemes/Jemez Pueblo people trace their history to these lands, where multiple cultural groups lived and interacted for centuries. Nuwuvi/Southern Paiute oral traditions say that Paiute people have always been here, and Paiute bands were residing here when various colonizing settlers entered the area. As part of a connected cultural landscape, Diné/Navajo and Noochev/Ute people, too, claim ties to areas within the Grand Staircase-Escalante region. And so it is that these Indigenous nations have sustained connections to these ancestral lands in myriad ways and will continue to carry those bonds into the future.



Visiting With Respect

The monument contains several cultural sites with rock imagery such as petroglyphs (pecked into the rock) and pictographs (painted onto the rock), cliff dwellings and other habitation sites, cultivation sites, and hunting camps. Cultural objects such as pottery, tools, and baskets are also present on the monument, many of which are between 800 and 12,000 years old. Archaeological sites are fragile. These lands are important to Native tribes that have spiritual and cultural connections to these areas. Ancestral lands are living landscapes for Native communities. Showing respect for archeological sites honors these connections.

Don't Climb

NEVER CLIMB ON OR IN STRUCTURES LIKE CLIFF DWELLINGS

Don't Vandalize

"ILLEGAL"
UNCOOP
"DISRESPECTFUL"

OILS FROM YOUR HAND CAN CAUSE DAMAGE

Don't Touch



Don't Take

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND. THIS INCLUDES BONES, PROJECTILE POINTS, POTTERY, FLAKES, & EVEN OLD TRASH LIKE RUSTY CANS AND TOOLS

Don't Share

SHARING SITE LOCATIONS ONLINE CAN PUT THEM AT RISK. NEVER SHARE GPS POINTS, PHOTOS WITH LOCATION DATA, OR IMAGES THAT CONTAIN CONTEXT CLUES THAT COULD GIVE AWAY THEIR LOCATION

Protecting Native communities' ability to carry their knowledge and stories into the future and to access these landscapes is as vital as protecting the land itself. Modern Native people understand the healing power of the land. Indigenous farmers and ceremonial leaders hold knowledge about the desert that may prove crucial as we cope with the severe climate change predicted for the Colorado Plateau.