

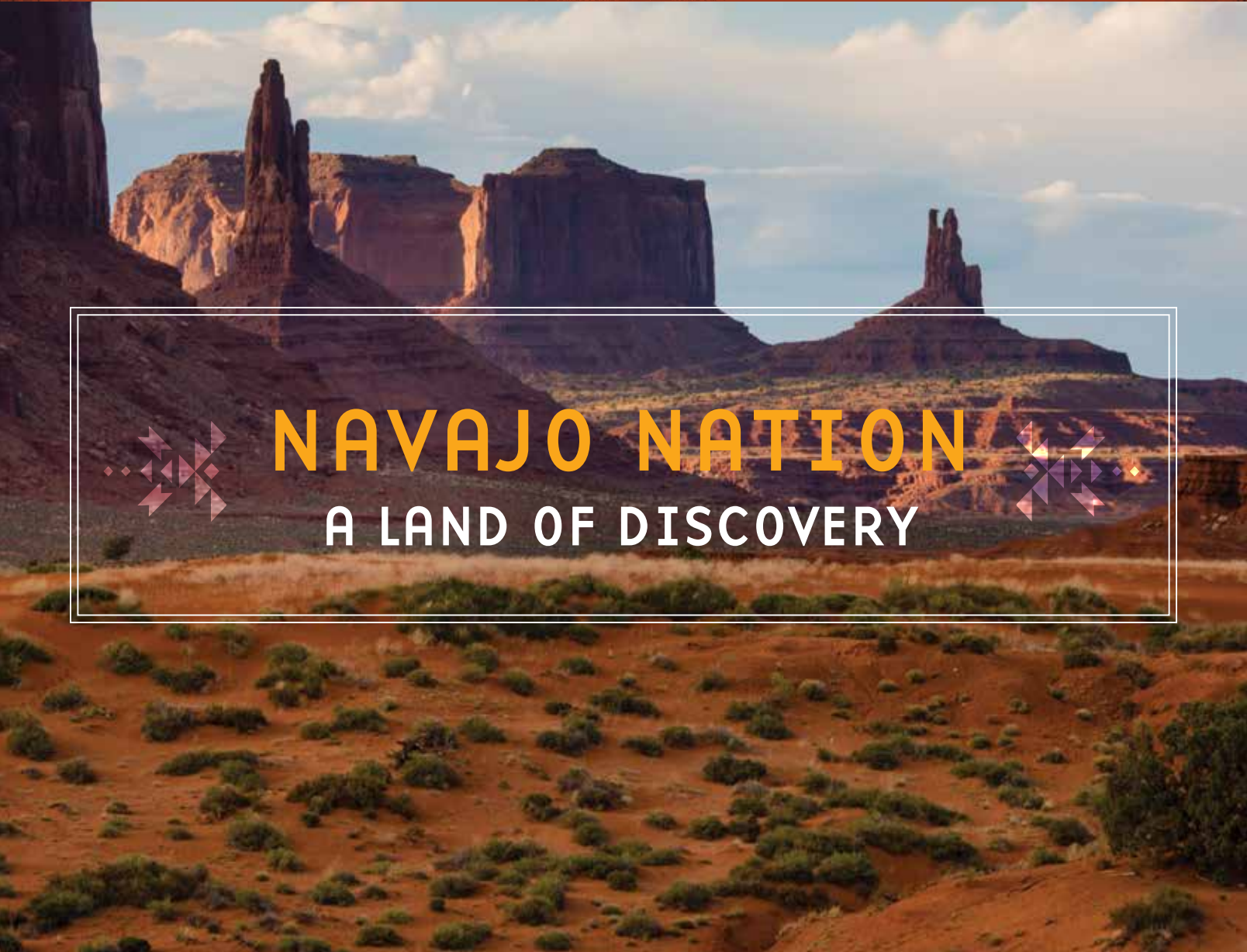


DiscoverNavajo.com

DISCOVER NAVAJO

OUR LAND ❖❖ OUR PEOPLE ❖❖ OUR STORIES





NAVAJO NATION

A LAND OF DISCOVERY



Spanning more than 27,000 square miles across southeastern Utah, northwestern New Mexico and northern Arizona, the Navajo Nation features breathtaking landscapes, action and adventure, a rich history, and the proud culture of North America's largest indigenous tribe.

Established by treaty in 1868, the Navajo Nation is managed as a sovereign country through agreements with the United States Congress. More than 250,000 people live within the Navajo Nation's borders, blending traditions with modern elements to create a vital society that continues to evolve in fascinating ways.

As a tourist destination, the Navajo Nation offers something for everyone. Ride through Monument Valley on horseback. Stay for a week in a houseboat on Lake Powell. Collect amazing artwork, from symbolic rugs and baskets and exquisite turquoise and silver jewelry to handmade pottery and contemporary paintings and sculptures. Get a revealing look at authentic Navajo culture at a tribal fair. Take in an all-Indian rodeo. Or stand in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah all at once at the Four Corners Monument Navajo Tribal Park.

Make plans today to embrace the spectacular history and stunning vistas of the Navajo Nation.

NAVAJO TOURISM DEPARTMENT

Physical Address:

Karigan Professional Building
Highway 264 & 100 Taylor Rd.
Suite 209
St. Michaels, AZ 86511

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 663
Window Rock, AZ 86515

INFO

DiscoverNavajo.com

928.357.6291

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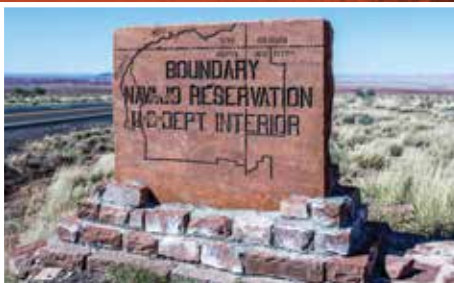
MILEAGE CHART

Welcome to Navajoland

YÁ'ÁT'ÉÉH HOW THE DINÉ CAME TO BE

The Navajo people, the Diné, passed through three different worlds before emerging in this one—the Fourth, or “Glittering World.”

The Diné believe that there are two classes of beings, the Earth People and the Holy People. The Holy People can aid or harm the Earth People, who are responsible for maintaining harmony on Mother Earth.



>> THE POWER OF 4

The number 4 permeates traditional Navajo philosophy. In the Navajo culture, there are four directions, four sacred mountains, four seasons, the first four clans and four colors.

4 Directions	4 Sacred Mountains	4 Colors
East	Mount Blanco (Tsisnaasjini')	White Shell
South	Mount Taylor (Tsoodzil)	Turquoise
West	San Francisco Peaks (Dook'o'oslííd)	Yellow Abalone
North	Mount Hesperus (Dibé Nitsaa)	Jet Black

*Navajo Canyon beach in Lake Powell.
Boat Rides available thru Antelope Point Marina.*



>> GREETING THE NAVAJO

While traveling among the Navajo people, keep these cultural differences in mind:

- Eye contact is considered impolite among Navajos. If you're speaking to a group of Navajos, some may look down or away, even though you may have their full attention.
- Touching is generally reserved for close friends and family. You may get a handshake, but avoid too firm a grip.
- Conversation with strangers is limited. Navajo people are taught to avoid talking too much, especially with people they don't know.



>> NAATSI'S'ÁÁN: NAVAJO MOUNTAIN

At an elevation of 10,416 feet, it is the highest point on the Navajo Nation. Navajo Mountain is said to be the “Head of the Earth Woman” and therefore considered sacred to the Diné. Permits are required to hike and camp in the region.

TRAVEL TIPS

>> GET YOUR PERMITS

Permits are required for hiking, camping, boating, fishing, hunting and commercial filming or photography. **Failure to have a permit is considered trespassing on a Federal Indian Reservation.**

Please contact the appropriate tribal department for your permits in advance of your trip:

Navajo Nation Parks & Recreation

928.871.6647

navajonationparks.org

Navajo Fish & Wildlife

928.871.6450

nndfw.org

Navajo Nation TV & Film Office

928.871.7826

navajonationtvandfilm.com

>> DON'T DESECRATE THE LAND

Cremation is a taboo among the Navajo people, and it's against the law to scatter human remains on Navajo lands. Similarly, tampering with or removing archaeological items are strictly prohibited.

>> BRAKE FOR LIVESTOCK

Much of the Navajo Nation is open range, and small herds of sheep, goats, cattle and horses roam freely along and across the roads. Please drive with extra caution in rural areas, especially at night.

>> CHECK YOUR WATCHES

The Navajo Nation observes daylight savings time. The state of Arizona does not. Be aware that Navajo time may be an hour later than such places as Phoenix, Flagstaff and Page.

>> KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING

Some areas of the Navajo Nation are very remote. For your safety, it is not recommended to rely on GPS services. When possible, please know your route in advance and use printed directions. Keep in mind that there are miles and miles of unpaved roads in the Navajo Nation. Please stay on paved roads, especially during winter, and remember that gas stations can be few and far between.

>> KEEP CASH ON HAND

Make sure you have cash available for tipping, and keep in mind that there are few places to get cash in the Navajo Nation. ATMs tend to get cleaned out around the end/beginning of each month.

>> PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

Always carry water, sunscreen and food/snacks. Dress appropriately for outdoor activities, and bring backup clothing with you, when possible. Emergency 911 Service is not available in all areas of the Navajo Nation, and even when you get through it's important to stay on the line and look for any landmarks to help first responders find you. **Please refer to phone numbers on page 27 for direct lines to local police departments, fire departments and hospitals.**



NAVAJO NATION FAST FACTS

- >> The Navajo Nation was established as a sovereign nation in **1868**.
- >> If the Navajo Nation were a state it would be the **11th-largest** in the U.S., covering more than **27,425** square miles and similar in size to West Virginia.
- >> The Navajo Nation has a **government** that includes a legislative house, an executive office and a judicial system.
- >> The Navajo people refer to themselves as the **Diné** (pronounced din-EH), that means "man" or "the people."
- >> The Navajo tribe is the largest federally recognized tribe in the U.S., with more than **400,000** tribal members enrolled.



WINDOW ROCK

A WINDOW TO OUR WORLD

Known to the Navajo as Tségháhoodzání. The Window Rock formation alone stands 200 feet high and features a spectacular opening through which you can see the sky beyond. The surrounding park has many symbolic structures: a circular path outlining the four cardinal directions, 16 angled steel pillars with the names of war veterans, and a healing sanctuary that is used for reflection and solitude, featuring a fountain made of sandstone.

DID YOU KNOW?

Window Rock formation is one of only four sacred places where the Hataalii or Navajo Medicine Men obtain water for sacred rain ceremonies.

FAST FACT

WINDOW ROCK POINTS OF INTEREST

>> NAVAJO VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Adjacent to the Window Rock formation is a park that honors the service of all Navajo military veterans, including the famous Code Talkers who helped the U.S. win World War II. **The park is open daily from sunrise to sunset.**

>> SAINT MICHAELS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Though only a subdivided stone building, the St. Michaels Historical Museum offers some of the best insight into the Navajo culture of the early 20th century. Established in 1898, the St. Michaels Mission of Franciscan Friars fashioned an influence on Navajos with their religious and school teachings. **The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon-Fri. from Memorial Day through Labor Day.** For more information, call 928.871.4171.

>> NAVAJO NATION'S CAPITAL

In 1936, Window Rock, Arizona became the governmental center of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Office of the President & Vice President is located here. At the Navajo Nation Council Chambers, 24 delegates enact legislation that determines the Navajo's future. Inside the Chambers, colorful murals depict the history of the Navajo way of life.

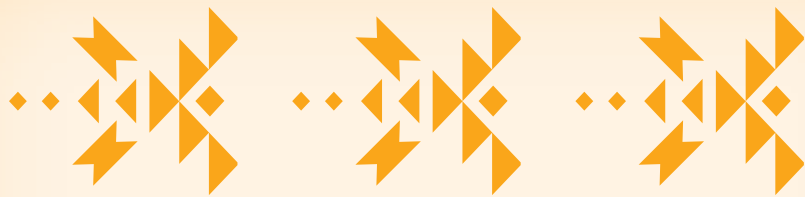


>> NAVAJO ARTS AND CRAFTS ENTERPRISE

The Navajo Arts & Crafts Enterprise in Window Rock, AZ offers a wide variety of arts and crafts, including handmade sterling silver jewelry from local silversmiths, pottery, moccasins, Navajo cradleboards, Navajo rugs, weaving tools, and various accessories made by local Navajo artisans.

This expansive store is located northeast of the junction of US Hwy 264 and Indian Route 12.

For more information and locations, visit gonavajo.com.



NAVAJO NATION MUSEUM & LIBRARY

The Navajo Nation Museum & Library is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich and unique culture of the Navajo people. The permanent collection includes a wide range of historical artifacts and fine art, housed in a modern facility designed to resemble a traditional hogan.

Admission is free, and the museum is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and closed on Sunday and Saturday. For more information, call **928.871.7941** or email **info@navajonationmuseum.org**

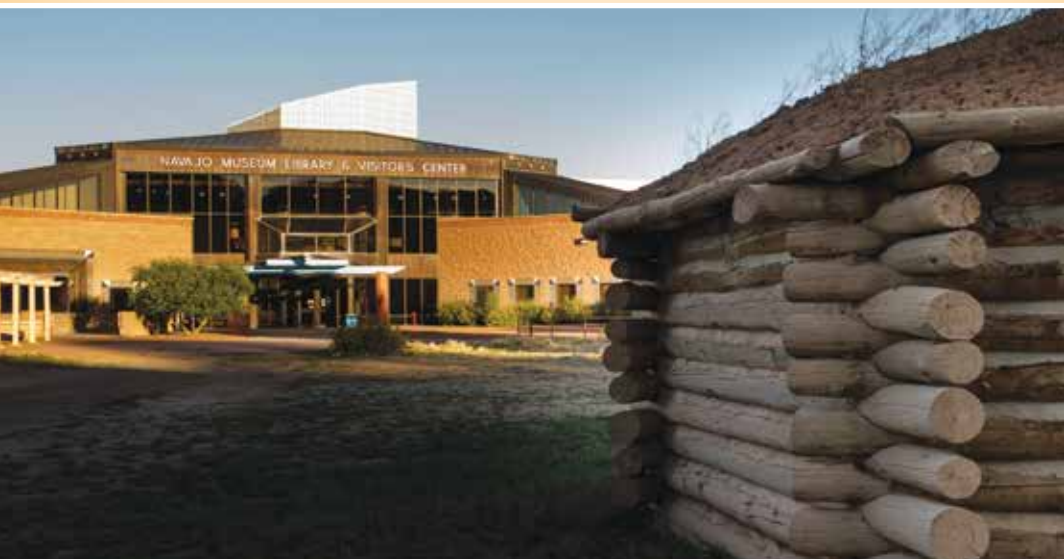
>> NAVAJO NATION MUSEUM TRAIL

Before or after your museum visit, walk the one-mile loop that connects the museum with the Window Rock formation. Besides being a pleasant walk, signage along the route provides information about native plants and animals.



"I'm in a unique position to help keep the Navajo culture alive. When I was in high school I didn't want to be Navajo. I left for a while but now I'm back, and I'm on a personal crusade to show young Navajos that their heritage is something to be cherished... The ability to adapt has always been an advantage for the Navajo people, but we must never lose sight of our early traditions."

— BENJAMIN SORRELL



NAVAJO NATION ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL PARK

Learn about reservation wildlife, such as bear, coyotes, bighorn sheep, elk, golden eagles and more, and gain an appreciation for the medicinal power of local plants.

The zoo shares a parking lot with the Navajo Nation Museum & Library and is open **Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Call **928.871.6574** or visit **navajozoo.org** for more information.



SIDE TRIP

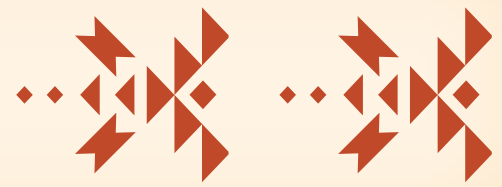
>> CHURCH ROCK, NM

This impressive sandstone tower, carved by the wind, is just a few miles from the Navajo border town of Gallup, New Mexico. For the best Church Rock photo ops, check out the views from the campgrounds at Red Rock Park, which also offers hiking trails and a full calendar of entertainment events.

For more information, call **505.722.3839** or visit **gallupnm.gov**.

GETTING THERE ///

Take I-40 or Rte. 66 east from Gallup about eight miles. Turn left on NM-566 N and continue about a half-mile to Red Rock Park Dr.



ARIZONA

MONUMENT VALLEY

SKYSCRAPERS OF SAND

One of the world's most widely-recognized landscapes, Monument Valley offers awe-inspiring vistas that will take your breath away. Strangely beautiful, red sandstone formations reach upward into spectacular open skies.

No visit to the Navajo Nation is complete without exploring this iconic expanse of land. Contact the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park for information about jeep tours, hiking tours, photography expeditions and overnight excursions.

navajonationparks.org
435.727.5870

FAST FACTS

- >> Hataalii, Navajo Medicine Men, still hold daily rituals in Monument Valley.
- >> Native plants are used year-round for food, medicine, dyes and more.
- >> 12 Hollywood movies have been filmed in Monument Valley, including *Easy Rider*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *National Lampoon's Vacation*, *Forrest Gump* and five classic John Ford westerns.

GETTING THERE ///

From Kayenta, take US-163 N about 22 miles to Monument Valley Road (S J C 421). Turn right and continue for about 4 miles.

THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

We take pride in the legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers from World War II. In 1942, the U.S. military chose our complex language for secure communication in the Pacific theater. About 29 Navajo men were recruited to create an unbreakable code, translating military messages into Navajo. Their swift and accurate communication was vital during battles like Iwo Jima and Okinawa, saving countless lives.

For years, our heroes remained unrecognized until Congress acknowledged their bravery in 1982. In 2001, President George W. Bush awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the original Code Talkers, celebrating our culture's vital role in American history.

Today, their legacy is honored with exhibits at the **Tuba City Trading Post, Tuba City, AZ** and **Burger King, Kayenta, AZ**. These displays provide a glimpse into their extraordinary contributions, ensuring that future generations remember their courage and dedication. Visiting these sites allows us to connect with our history and reflect on the sacrifices made by these brave individuals.

Moreover, the Code Talkers' story goes beyond military valor; it symbolizes resilience and the importance of preserving our language and culture. Their work not only helped win battles but also showcased the strength and ingenuity of the Navajo people. By sharing their story, we inspire pride in our heritage and empower future generations to embrace their identity and contributions to society. The legacy of the Code Talkers serves as a beacon of hope and strength for all Navajo, reminding us of our enduring spirit.



HOTELS

The View Hotel
435.727.5555
monumentvalleyview.com

Goulding's Lodge
866.313.9769
gouldings.com

*Additional accommodations
are available in Kayenta,
just 20 minutes to the south.*

TRAVEL TIP





Walk through spectacular grooved corridors, carved by wind and rain over the millennia and bathed each day in a wondrous light show.

The narrow sandstone passageways of Antelope Canyon are a favorite destination of amateur and professional photographers alike. But you don't have to be an artist to appreciate the canyon's unique and majestic beauty.

ANTELOPE CANYON

WATCH LIGHT DANCE

POINTS OF INTEREST

>> AERIAL TOURS

Did you know there is a Diné owned and operated aircraft tour that provides scenic tours over Page, AZ and onto Monument Valley, AZ? Book your next air tour with Antelope Air at antelopeair.com or call 928.362.5308.

>> RAINBOW BRIDGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

The world's highest natural arch bridge is 33 feet wide and spans across 275 feet. To the Navajo, this is a very sacred and religious place. For trails, hiking permits are required. Contact Navajo Parks & Recreation at 928.871.6647 or

navajonationparks.org for details.

>> VIA FERRATA & RAPPELLING

Are you an adventure seeker? There is the Antelope Ridge Adventure Park not too far from the Antelope Canyon. You get to experience walking along the steel rebars installed into the slot canyon 40-60 feet above the canyon floor mixed in with areas to rappel. All levels of experience are welcome, from the novice to the seasoned climber.

To learn more, visit antelop ridgeadventurepark.com or call 928.660.2217.

And coming Summer 2025 - a new Zipline!



ANTELOPE POINT MARINA

Houseboating, wakeboarding, fishing, boat tours, great meals and spectacular shopping are all available at Antelope Point Marina, a unique partnership between the Navajo Nation and the National Park Service. Located on the Navajo Nation near Page, AZ, the 600-acre property is changing the way families and adventure-seekers enjoy the many recreational opportunities offered by Lake Powell.

>> **GUIDED BOAT TOURS** offer an ideal introduction to Lake Powell's magnificent scenery, from Antelope Island to Navajo Canyon. Glide through secluded slot canyons and learn about the cultural and geographic heritage of this majestic locale.

>> **HOUSEBOATING** has become a favored way to explore the more than 1,800 miles of shoreline, which includes 96 remote side canyons. Rent a boat for a day, or even longer.

>> **FISHING & RV PARK** is a great way to relax and connect with nature. Lake Powell is filled with bass, walleye, bluegill and more, so you can tell some tales when you return home. And a newly built RV park with all the amenities you need!

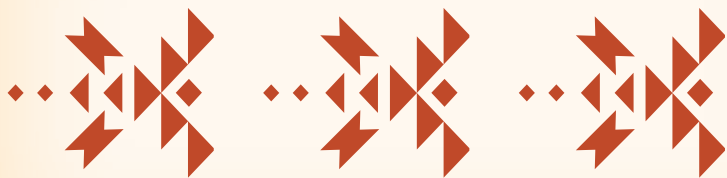
>> **WORLD'S LARGEST FLOATING RESTAURANT**
Craving a mouthwatering meal? Head to Jádí'Tooh Restaurant, where you can savor juicy shrimp, tender steak, flavorful Navajo Tacos, and hot, stone-oven baked pizza—freshly made just for you! For the perfect morning pick-me-up, stop by Gramma Beatty's for a cup of coffee that'll kickstart your day. And if you're looking for some fun, don't miss out on the seasonal entertainment at the Sandbar Lounge—your next great night out awaits!

For more information about all the activities at Antelope Point Marina, visit antelopepointlakepowell.com.

“Entering Antelope Canyon is like walking into a cathedral. You'll be in awe over what Mother Nature has to offer, and you'll experience a profound feeling of harmony with something greater than yourself.”

— ROMAN S. CANDELARIA
Antelope Canyon Guide





SHIPROCK

THE ROCK WITH WINGS



One of the most unique wonders of the Navajo Nation, the Shiprock Peak called Tsé Bit'a'í or the “The Rock with Wings.” This sacred formation, towering 1,583 feet above the desert plain, is said to be the agent that brought the Navajo to the southwest, and it features prominently in Navajo cultural creation stories.

Shiprock Pinnacle is located about 14 miles southwest of Shiprock, NM on Indian Route 13, west of Hwy 491. Because of the peak's religious significance, non-Natives are restricted to nearby paved roads when viewing and photographing the formation.





FOUR CORNERS

VISIT FOUR STATES — ALL AT ONCE

The famous Four Corners Monument Navajo Tribal Park is the only place in the U.S. where four states — Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah — come together in one place.

In addition to providing a one-of-a-kind photo opp, the park offers a market where you can purchase handmade jewelry, crafts, and traditional foods.

There is a fee per person, credit/debit card only. For more information, call 928.206.2540.

// Daily

Daily, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

// Vendors

Daily, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

// Closed Thanksgiving, NN Family Day, Christmas, and New Year's Day



GETTING THERE ///

An hour and 15 minutes east of Kayenta, AZ or 40 minutes west of Shiprock, NM turn north on US-160 at Teec Nos Pos. Continue north about 4 miles and turn left on NM 597.

THE NAVAJO NATION

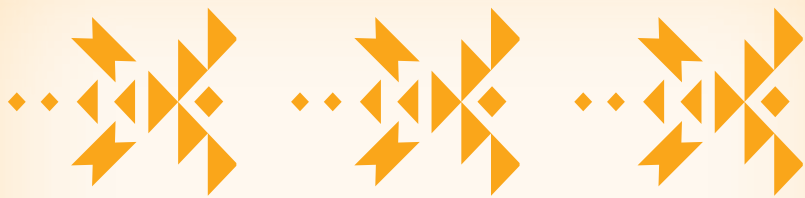
Diné Bikéyah

UTAH

ARIZONA







BISTI BADLANDS

EXPLORE A “LUNAR” LANDSCAPE

For a truly unique experience, take in the remote, moon-like vistas of the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area, also known as the Bisti Badlands. The surreal, barren landscape of weathered rock stretches more than 4,000 acres across the high desert of the San Juan Basin.

All around, you'll see wonderfully strange shapes made from eroded rock, including hoodoos, arches and slot canyons. Petrified wood abounds, and it's not uncommon to see entire tree stumps with visible bark and growth rings.

To avoid the many unstable areas, be sure to walk along the ravines and on the valley floor. Be mindful of your surroundings so you don't lose your bearings. Experienced hikers can use the occasional grouping of orange-colored mounds as landmarks to help find their way.

BE PREPARED

The Bisti Badlands are open to the public free of charge, but no facilities are available. Be sure to bring food, water, sunscreen and layered clothing. The best time of year to take in this one-of-a-kind experience is in late spring, summer or fall.

TRAVEL TIP

GETTING THERE ///

Head south on U.S. Highway 371 about 35 miles from Farmington to County Road 7297. Then follow the gravel road east for two miles to the parking lot.



CHACO CULTURE NAT'L HISTORICAL PARK

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, Chaco Culture National Historical Park reveals the unique architectural, scientific and social achievements of a civilization that flourished between the 9th and 13th centuries.

Guided tours, campfire talks and incredible night-sky programs are available through the National Park Service.

The park is open every day from sunrise to sunset. The visitor center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more info, contact the visitor center at 505.786.7014 or go to nps.gov/chcu.



GETTING THERE ///

Some roads leading into the park are unpaved. Accessibility is best from the north at the town of Nageezi, NM, via County Road 7900. At the junction of County Road 7950, head west into the park.

COAL MINE CANYON

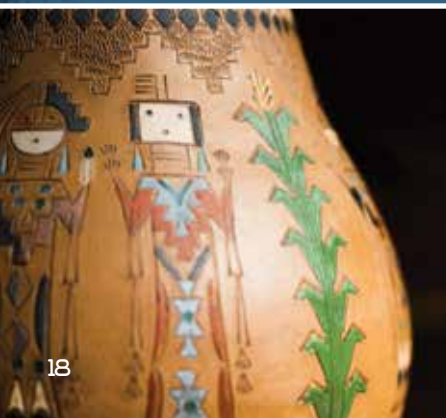
COLORFUL VISTAS OF THE PAINTED DESERT

EXPLORE NAVAJO MUSEUM

Experience the journey the Navajo people take through life in this exciting space that introduces you to the land, language, history, culture and ceremonial life of the Navajo people.

This unique museum is divided into four sections. The pattern of four is sacred to the Navajo people, who observe the four directions as an organizational force for life, and the four seasons as governing all personal and societal activity.

The Explore Navajo Museum has unique open hours according to the season. For the best up-to-date open hours, call [928.283.4545](tel:928.283.4545) or [928.640.684](tel:928.640.684). The museum is located at the corner of Main and Moenave streets in Tuba City, AZ.



At the edge of the Painted Desert, about 23 miles east of Tuba City via Highway 264, this remote hiking destination is known for the colorful bands of red, white, orange and black that line the upper end of the ravine.

The views are stunning, perfect for taking pictures or just contemplating the vastness of the universe. While there are no designated trails, you can see hints of paths running east and west along the rim, and also pointing toward some of the ridges that appear along the route.

Since the area is atmospheric and remote, bring food, water, sunscreen and layered clothing.



TUBA CITY SIDE TRIPS

>> ELEPHANT FEET

This surprising rock formation is right off U.S. Highway 160, about 25 miles east of Tuba City. Pull off the road and snap a few pics!

>> DINOSAUR TRACKS

This is a great open-land experience for families with kids, about 7 miles west of Tuba City, AZ on U.S. Highway 160. No fee is required, but guided tours are available and tips are encouraged.





ARIZONA

CANYON DE CHELLY

A CRADLE OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

For nearly 5,000 years, people have lived in the area dominated by Canyon De Chelly. From the Ancestral Puebloan society to today's Navajo farmers, Canyon De Chelly offers a rich cultural history as well as awe-inspiring vistas.

The visitor center, scenic overlook and self-guided hiking trails are all free. Paid tours, camping and ranger-led programs are also available year-round. For more information, contact the visitor center at **928.674.5500** or the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department at **928.674.2106**.

QUICK TRIPS

// 2 HOURS

Visit the seven overlooks on South Rim Drive or the three overlooks on North Rim Drive.

// 4 HOURS

Visit all 10 overlooks, or take a half-day tour into the canyon.

TRAVEL TIP



NED HATATHLI CULTURAL CENTER - DINÉ COLLEGE

Located on the Diné College campus, this Navajo cultural museum has a permanent collection of nearly 3,000 Native American artifacts and artworks.

Admission is free. For more information, including daily hours of operation, call [928.724.6982](tel:928.724.6982).

>> THE LONG WALK

The Ned Hatathli Cultural Center features a permanent exhibit about the forced deportation of the Navajo people by the U.S. Government in 1864.

Led by Christopher "Kit" Carson, thousands of Navajos were forced to walk 300 miles to Fort Sumner, NM and many died during the grueling, 18-day journey.

In 1868, through the Treaty of Bosque Redondo, the Navajo people were granted 3.5 million acres of land. As a more cohesive tribe, the Navajo successfully quadrupled the size of the Navajo Nation, which occupies more than 17.3 million acres today.



"In order to understand where we're going in the future, we need to know our history."

— **NONABAH SAM**, Museum Curator



CHUSKA MOUNTAINS

BEYOND BREATHTAKING

SCENIC ROUTE

The heavily forested Chuska Mountains offer awe-inspiring scenery along the 21-mile drive on Indian Route 13 between Lukachukai, and Red Valley, Arizona.

Plan a picnic at Buffalo Pass, elevation 8,482 feet. Hike to the top of Roof Butte — the Navajo Nation's highest point at 9,823 feet — and look out across three states. And refresh your body and spirit at Waterfall Spring.

If you're in the Chuskas during the summer through early October, you may even spot the sheep and cattle that Navajo ranchers keep in the cooler climate.

The Chuska Mountains were formed by ancient volcanic eruptions that covered the surrounding sandstone. Because the hard, volcanic basalts are more erosion resistant, the Chuskas stand majestically above the desert like giant sentinels.



BOWL (ASAAYI') CANYON REC. AREA

Known as the gateway to the Chuska Mountains, the Bowl Canyon Recreation Area offers picnicking, camping, fishing and more family fun.

Large groups will enjoy Camp Asaayi', pronounced (Ah-saa-yeh), which features a large dining hall with a fully-equipped kitchen, 16 cabins with bunk beds, and equipment for canoeing, basketball and volleyball. Two hiking trails are available, both with beautiful panoramas, rippling streams and towering pine trees. Depending on weather conditions, Camp Asaayi' is open daily in April through October, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Families and smaller groups can take advantage of the lake area, which is perfect for camping, canoeing, trout fishing and picnicking. Camping, fishing and boating permits are required. No motorboats are allowed.

GETTING THERE ///

Off Indian Route 32 near Crystal, NM. Info: **928.871.6647**



WHEATFIELDS LAKE

For a tranquil fishing, camping or picnicking experience, make a stop at the beautiful Wheatfields Lake, about 10 miles south of Tsile on Indian Route 12.

The lake is stocked with trout each spring, and you're allowed to catch up to eight fish each day. You can fish from the shore or launch a boat. Keep in mind that weekends in the summer can be quite crowded.

Camping is free at Wheatfields Lake, which offers basic facilities. Fishing and boating permits are required. For details, call Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife at **928.871.6450** or visit nndfw.org

GETTING THERE ///

From Tsile, AZ, take Indian Route 12 about 11 miles south.

Navajo Culture



NAVAJO POTTERY

Since the 16th century, Navajo people have been making functional pottery with a glossy, piñon-pitch glaze. Traditional Navajo pottery usually has little or no design, except for random, gray and black markings called fire clouds that occur during firing.

SILVER JEWELRY

Navajos are unsurpassed in their ability to create exquisite and multifaceted jewelry from semi-precious turquoise and sand casting silver from handmade molds.

While the Navajo people molded “sky stone” into beads for centuries, they began combining turquoise with silver in the mid 19th century.

Turquoise is a symbol of heavenly purity in the Navajo culture. Navajo Medicine Men use the stones as offerings and for protection.

TURQUOISE IN NAVAJO CREATION STORIES

- >> The Navajo female head deity, known as Turquoise Woman, appeared before the first people as a drop of pure turquoise. She lives in a turquoise house, wears turquoise and white-shell jewelry, and walks with a turquoise cane.
- >> Mount Taylor, one of the four sacred Navajo mountains, is called Tsoodzil or Turquoise Mountain. It is said to be the home of Turquoise Girl and Turquoise Boy.

BASKET WEAVING

Navajos believe that the Holy People, who originated with the First Man and First Woman, made woven reed baskets for ceremonial purposes.

- >> The lighter edge of a basket represents brightening skies as dawn approaches.
- >> Lacing around the edge symbolizes the roots of human life.
- >> The center design features four points, representing the four sacred mountains.
- >> The center opening, which should never be pointed downward, is an outlet for thought. It also represents the emergence of the Diné from the Holy People.
- >> The bright red weave is the hallmark of sunshine, a blessing for Navajo health and spirituality.
- >> Black is for darkness, a time to restore our bodies and minds.





THE HOGAN

The traditional Navajo dwelling, the hogan, is an 8-sided, female structure built in harmony with the universe and all living creatures on Earth. The roof is in the likeness of the sky. The walls represent mountains and trees. And the floor is ever in touch with Mother Earth.

The Four Colors that represent the Four Directions are found inside the hogan, with a fire in the center that symbolizes the sun.

When a hogan is constructed, a medicine man blesses the home for beauty (hózhó) and happiness, protecting the family from illness and all bad and harmful things.

Unlike the female hogan that surrounds a family with love, peace and kindness, the male hogan is an aggressive, conical structure where ceremonies were held and war plans were made.

NAADÁÁ', A STAPLE OF NAVAJO LIFE

Corn is one of the main staples of Navajo life, and every spring many families plant large fields of corn. But its use goes far beyond nutrition. Corn is featured in many Navajo traditional ceremonies, and corn pollen is often used as a prayer offering.

Also, when a Navajo girl comes of age, the traditional ritual includes a large corn cake, baked in an underground pit lined with corn husks.



NAVAJO NATION FLAG

Designed by Jay R. DeGroat of Mariano Lake, NM, the Navajo Nation flag was officially adopted by the Navajo Nation Council on May 21, 1968. In 1995,



Bernard Harris carried the Navajo Nation flag aboard the space shuttle Discovery, making it the first Native American tribal flag in space.

Recalling the Navajo art of sand painting, the flag features a variety of symbols on a tan background. The outline of the present Navajo Nation is shown in copper, with the original 1868 treaty reservation in dark brown.

A white disk depicts the Navajo Nation economy, showing the sun above two corn stalks, which surround three animals, a hogan, a modern home, an oil derrick and a sawmill. The four sacred mountains also appear on the flag, in their associated colors and directions. And a rainbow, symbolizing Navajo sovereignty, arches over the entire design.

NAVAJO NATION SEAL

The Great Seal of the Navajo Nation was designed by Mr. John C. Claw Jr. of Many Farms, AZ and Amos F. Singer of Kaibeto, AZ. This was officially adopted by the Navajo Tribal Council on January 18, 1952.



The Great Seal has fifty projectile points or arrowheads symbolizing the Navajo Nation's protection within the fifty states. The opening at the top of the three concentric lines is considered the East. The lines represent the rainbow and sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. The rainbow never closes on the Nation's sovereignty. The outside line is red, the middle line is yellow and the inside line is blue. The yellow sun shines from the east on the four sacred mountains; Mount Blanca (Sis Naajini' – Dawn or White Shell Mountain), Mount Taylor (Tsoodzil – Blue Bead or Turquoise Mountain), San Francisco Peak (Dook'ooosííid – Abalone Shell Mountain), and Mount Hesperus (Dibé Nitsaa – Big Mountain Sheep or Obsidian Mountain). Two cornstalk with pollen symbolizes the sustainer of Navajo life. A horse, cow and sheep, located in the center, symbolizes the Navajo livestock.

Navajo Culture

NAVAJO FAIRS

If you travel to the Navajo Nation in early summer to early fall, you will more than likely be able to attend one of the Navajo agency fairs held annually.

Originally set up by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, these colorful, lively events celebrate cultural pride and indigenous food. Key elements of Navajo fairs include a parade, the pageantry of Miss Navajo and other local queen competitions, an all-Indian rodeo, art and agricultural exhibits, traditional song and dance competitions, wild horse races and Native performances, but keep in mind that some of the smaller fairs may not have all these activities.

Fairs are usually held from Thursday through Sunday. Saturday is parade day, if the fair has one. For more information about upcoming fairs and other events, check out the Navajo Nation calendar at discovernavajo.com



ANNUAL FAIR CALENDAR

JULY

Eastern Navajo Fair & Rodeo
Crownpoint, NM
easternnavajofair.com

AUGUST

Central Agency Fair & Rodeo
Chinle, AZ
centralagencyfair.org

Ramah Navajo Fair & Rodeo
Ramah, NM
Facebook: Ramah Navajo Fair and Rodeo

SEPTEMBER

Navajo Nation Fair
Window Rock, AZ
Largest Native fair in North America.
nnfair.org

OCTOBER

Northern Navajo Fair
Shiprock, NM
Oldest and most traditional Native fair.
505.368.4305
northernnavajofair.org

Western Navajo Fair – Tuba City, AZ
928.283.3284 (or 3288)
westernnavajofair.org





NAVAJO RUGS WEAVE A PATH TO BEAUTY

Weaving has become an enduring tradition among the Navajo people. And since the end of the 19th century, it's been an important economic engine for the Navajo Nation.

Originally used for cloaks, dresses, saddle blankets, etc., today Navajo textiles are primarily valued for their artistry.



>> TOADLENA TRADING POST AND WEAVING MUSEUM

The weavers of Toadlena shear their own sheep, clean and card the wool, and spin it into fine yarn to produce high quality textiles with lasting value. Toadlena Trading Post operates in the same way trading posts have since the 1870s — directly with the weaver and her family. While visiting, you'll learn about master Navajo weaver, Clara Sherman, who received the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 2006.

For more information, call **505.789.3267** or go to **toadlenatradingpost.com**.

GETTING THERE ///

Less than 1.5 hours north of Window Rock. Take US Highway 491 north, turn left onto Indian Route 19 and it will be at the end of the route.

OTHER TRADING POSTS

Gap Trading Post

Bodaway Gap, AZ
928.283.8932

Teec Nos Pos Trading Post

Intersection of Hwy. 160 & Hwy. 64
Teec Nos Pos, AZ
928.656.3224

Totsoh Trading Post

101 Main Street, Lukachukai, AZ
928.787.2281

Tuba City Trading Post

10 North Main Street, Tuba City, AZ
928.283.5441

TIDBIT ///

Most of the original trading posts have succumbed to their age and deteriorated or have gone out of business.

EMERGENCY INFO >> LAW ENFORCEMENT

Chinle Police Dept.
928.674.2111/2112

Crownpoint Police Dept.
505.786.2050/2051

Dilkon Police Dept.
928.657.8075

Kayenta Police Dept.
928.697.5600

Shiprock Police Dept.
505.368.1350/1351

Tuba City Police Dept.
928.283.3111/3112

Window Rock Police Dept.
928.871.6111/6112

>> FIRE & RESCUE

Chinle Fire Station #50
928.674.2105

Shiprock Fire Station #20
505.368.5719

Tuba City Fire Station #40
928.283.3007

Window Rock Fire Station #10
928.871.6909

Ft. Defiance Fire Station #12
928.729.4062

Newcomb Fire Station #21
505.696.3359

Ojo Amarillo Fire Station #22
505.556.2652

Twin Arrows Fire Station #81
928.856.7299

>> HEALTH CARE

AZ Poison Control
800.222.1222 / azpoison.com
Chinle Health Care, Chinle, AZ
928.674.7001

Crownpoint Health Care,
Crownpoint, NM **505.786.5291**

Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Health Center
Bloomfield, NM **505.368.8100**

Four Corners Regional Health Center
Teec Nos Pos, AZ **928.656.5000**

Gallup Indian Medical Center, Gallup,
NM **505.722.1000**

Inscription House Clinic, Shonto, AZ
928.672.3000

Kayenta Health Center, Kayenta, AZ
928.697.4000

Piñon Health Center, Pinon, AZ
928.725.9500

Northern Navajo Medical Center
Shiprock, NM
505.368.6001

Tohatchi Health Care Center
Tohatchi, NM
505.733.8100

Tsaile Health Center, Tsaile, AZ
928.724.3600

Casinos

FIRE ROCK CASINO

Church Rock, NM

Just two miles east of Gallup on Historic Route 66, the casino offers more than 750 slot machines, roulette, blackjack, craps, bingo, live entertainment, and a food court, gift shop and restaurant.

505.905.7100

866.941.2444

firerockcasino.com

FLOWING WATER CASINO

Shiprock, NM

Located 30 minutes west of Farmington and 5 minutes east of Shiprock, this cozy local spot produces big winners. Try your luck at 120 different games, and be a sure winner at the food court with our daily specials to satisfy your tastebuds!

505.368.2300

flowingwatercasino.com

NORTHERN EDGE CASINO

Farmington, NM

Only two miles west of Farmington, this lively casino features live entertainment, a food court and restaurant, and more than 750 slot machines, roulette, blackjack, craps and bingo.

505.960.7000

877.241.7777

northernedgecasino.com

TWIN ARROWS CASINO RESORT

Flagstaff, AZ

Located just east of Flagstaff off I-40 within a picturesque view of the majestic San Francisco Peaks, it was named "Best Casino Resort Destination of 2013" by the readers of *Experience Arizona Magazine*.

928.856.7200

855.946.8946

twinarrows.com

Accommodations

WINDOW ROCK

Quality Inn

Navajo Nation Capital

48 W. Hwy. 264

Window Rock, AZ 86515

928.871.4108

choicehotels.com

NavajoLand Inn

392 W. Hwy. 264

St. Michaels, AZ 86511

928.871.5690

navajolandinn.com

CHINLE

(CANYON DE CHELLY)

Best Western

Canyon De Chelly Inn

100 Main St.

Chinle, AZ 86503

928.674.5874

bestwestern.com

Holiday Inn Canyon De Chelly

BIA Route 7

Chinle, AZ 86503

928.674.5000

holidayinnchinle.com

Thunderbird Lodge

Rural Route 7

Chinle, AZ 86503

928.674.5842

800.679.2473

thunderbirdlodge.com

KAYENTA

(MONUMENT VALLEY)

Gouldings Lodge

1000 Main Street

Oljato-Monument Valley,

UT 84536

435.727.3231

gouldings.com

Hampton Inn

U.S. Hwy. 160

Kayenta, AZ 86033

928.697.3170

kayenta.hamptoninn.com

Kayenta Monument Valley Inn

US-160 & US-163

Kayenta, AZ 86033

928.697.3221

kayentamonumentvalleyinn.com

The View (at Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park)

Indian Route 42

Oljato - Monument Valley,

UT 84536

435.727.5555

monumentvalleyview.com

Wetherill Inn

1000 Main St.

Kayenta, AZ 86033

928.697.3231

wetherill-inn.com

FLAGSTAFF

Twin Arrows Casino Resort

22191 Resort Blvd.

Flagstaff, Arizona 86004

928.856.7200

twinarrows.com

TUBA CITY

Diné Inn Motel

322 US-160

Tuba City, AZ 86045

928.283.6107

NavajoLand Hotel

10 North Main Street

Tuba City, AZ 86045

928.283.4545

navajolandtubacity.com

SHONTO

LaQuinta - OPENING SOON!

Junction of Hwy 160 & State

Route 98

Shonto, AZ 86054

wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta



Goulding's Lodge, Oljato, Utah

Mileage

	Albuquerque, NM	Chambers, AZ	Chinle, AZ	Cortez, CO	Crownpoint, NM	Denver, CO	Farmington, NM	Flagstaff, AZ	Gallup, NM	Ganado, AZ	Grand Canyon, AZ	Kayenta, AZ	Many Farms, AZ	Mexican Hat, UT	Monument Valley, UT	Page, AZ	Phoenix, AZ	Salt Lake City, UT	Shiprock, NM	Shonto, AZ	Tuba City, AZ	Window Rock, AZ	Winslow, AZ
Albuquerque, NM		185	229	256	131	447	182	322	137	191	403	309	242	332	358	451	418	623	232	373	318	165	269
Chambers, AZ	185		76	181	104	630	187	137	48	38	224	142	88	186	202	263	234	504	140	184	164	51	79
Chinle, AZ	229	76		141	131	552	150	213	91	37	233	70	16	114	146	204	310	436	122	111	153	67	155
Cortez, CO	256	181	141		155	381	72	268	137	176	269	118	127	121	142	215	409	353	42	160	190	145	261
Crownpoint, NM	131	104	131	155		461	83	241	56	110	320	211	160	213	250	308	338	500	111	253	237	83	187
Denver, CO	447	630	552	381	461		378	677	582	635	682	522	536	480	504	627	822	536	406	571	602	611	712
Farmington, NM	182	187	150	72	83	378		275	121	158	279	127	134	130	167	225	419	425	27	169	199	130	246
Flagstaff, AZ	322	137	213	268	241	677	275		185	175	78	150	202	193	190	134	146	514	247	129	78	209	57
Gallup, NM	137	48	91	137	56	582	121	185		54	260	191	104	194	213	310	283	483	93	233	180	27	133
Ganado, AZ	191	38	37	176	110	635	158	175	54		206	104	50	148	144	202	272	467	130	146	127	32	121
Grand Canyon, AZ	403	224	233	269	320	682	279	78	260	206		155	205	197	180	139	223	518	252	132	82	266	139
Kayenta, AZ	309	142	70	118	211	522	127	150	191	104	155		54	43	26	99	294	410	100	44	75	139	199
Many Farms, AZ	242	88	16	127	160	536	134	202	104	50	205	54		98	93	150	321	416	107	96	126	80	167
Mexican Hat, UT	332	186	114	121	213	480	130	193	194	148	197	43	98		25	143	337	359	102	87	117	178	242
Monument Valley, UT	358	202	146	142	250	504	167	190	213	144	180	26	93	25		126	333	396	139	83	113	173	238
Page, AZ	451	263	204	215	308	627	225	134	310	202	139	99	150	143	126		277	387	197	65	78	232	182
Phoenix, AZ	418	234	310	409	338	822	419	146	283	272	223	294	321	337	333	277		654	392	272	222	284	200
Salt Lake City, UT	623	504	436	353	500	536	425	514	483	467	518	410	416	359	396	387	654		389	453	464	492	559
Shiprock, NM	232	140	122	42	111	406	27	247	93	130	252	100	107	102	139	197	392	389		142	172	103	219
Shonto, AZ	373	184	111	160	253	571	169	129	233	146	132	44	96	87	83	65	272	453	142		52	175	176
Tuba City, AZ	318	164	153	190	237	602	199	78	180	127	82	75	126	117	113	78	222	464	172	52		156	127
Window Rock, AZ	165	51	67	145	83	611	130	209	27	32	266	139	80	178	173	232	284	492	103	175	156		130
Winslow, AZ	269	79	155	261	187	712	246	57	133	121	139	199	167	242	238	182	200	559	219	176	127	130	

1 mile = 1.61 kilometers





DISCOVER NAVAJO

INFO

DiscoverNavajo.com

928.357.6291

