

# Guide for Visiting Archaeological Sites in Agua Fria National Monument

Prepared by Friends of Agua Fria National Monument (<http://aguafriafriends.org/>)

Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites are fragile, non-renewable cultural resources that are protected by law. Federal and state laws prohibit digging, removing artifacts, damaging or defacing archaeological resources. All archaeological sites on public land in Arizona are protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Arizona state laws also protect human burial sites and all associated artifacts on both public and private land. If you observe a violation of these laws, report it by calling 1-800-VANDALS. Below are guidelines for visiting archaeological sites in Agua Fria National Monument.

1. **Sitting, standing, leaning on, or climbing on walls will damage** fragile archaeological features. Do not move rocks or attempt to "fix" or "repair" archaeological features.
2. **Do not camp or build a fire within 200 feet of an archaeological site.**
3. **Leave artifacts where you find them.** An artifact can be a piece of pottery, a rusty nail, a worked stone-- anything over 50 years old that was made for a purpose. If you pick up an artifact, put it back where you found it. Taking or moving artifacts changes their original location and context which removes any story they can tell. **Take photographs, make drawings, leave no trace.** You can learn about a site and protect it, too.
4. **It is against the law to dig, damage, or deface an archaeological site.**
5. **Stay on numbered roads and existing trails** to prevent erosion, protect fragile vegetation, and lessen disturbance of archaeological sites. Off road motor travel is illegal on the monument.
6. **Avoid touching rock art.** Oils on your skin, "rubblings", and "contact prints" can cause irreparable damage. Damaging prehistoric rock art is a federal crime that carries up to \$100,000 fine and a year behind bars.
7. **Chalking or marking rock art is vandalism.**
8. **Help keep site locations out of websites, blogs, articles, books, and other sources of public information.** This can help prevent damage and looting of archaeological sites.
9. **Minimize the number of people and vehicles visiting archaeological sites.** This lessens the impact of the visit. A permit is needed for groups that exceed 25 people.
10. **Keep pets away from sites.**