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# Navajo Nation

Security Overview and Travel Assessment



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INVESTIGATIONS • INTELLIGENCE • SECURITY

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## **Executive Summary**

The Navajo Nation is a semi-autonomous territory spread across the United States' Four Corners region in New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. It is the ancestral homeland of the Navajo people, or Diné. Law enforcement and investigative responsibilities on the tribal reservation fall primarily on the Navajo Nation Police and, in some instances, federal officers from the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The Navajo Nation experiences significantly higher rates of violent crime when compared to the surrounding areas. While violent crime is prevalent, it is contained mostly within the local population and visitors to the Navajo Nation are unlikely to become victims. Petty theft is likely the biggest risk of crime faced by visitors.

Most of the Navajo Nation's violent crimes are related to alcohol consumption and poverty. High unemployment, low incomes, and limited access to education and other resources drive high rates of alcohol and drug abuse and, consequently, high rates of violent crime. Due to the Navajo Nation's ban on alcohol, most alcohol consumption and related crime occur in private homes. While crime in public spaces is minimal, visitors should maintain alertness when in public at nighttime as public incidents of violent crime occur primarily after sunset. Additionally, burglary is a concern for visitors staying at private residences in the Navajo Nation; therefore, Armada's primary recommendation is that visitors stay in hotels. If staying in a private home is necessary, visitors should only stay in residences with security systems, which may deter burglars.

Other concerns for visitors to the Navajo Nation stem from natural hazards. The desert climate of the area presents visitors with a variety of safety and health issues. Extreme heat and sun exposure from May through September can lead to sunburns, dehydration, and heat stroke. Visitors are advised to drink plenty of fluids throughout the day and limit time spent outside to a minimum. Also, the area faces considerable risks of brush fires and flash flooding. Visitors are advised to monitor weather conditions and advisories before travelling into remote regions. Additionally, while unlikely to pose a significant risk to visitors, the area experiences considerable seismic activity and earthquakes can sometimes be felt. Visitors are advised to review earthquake safety and emergency procedures included in this assessment.

Pollution is another health concern that visitors to the Navajo Nation are likely to face. Years of military testing and uranium mining have left the Navajo Nation and surrounding areas heavily contaminated; pollutants from large public garbage dumpsites have compounded this problem. Many natural springs and wells contain dangerous levels of contaminants; however, it should be noted that town water systems are treated and are considered safe. Consequently, visitors are advised to drink only bottled water when travelling outside of government-operated water sources.

Lastly, emergency response is under-resourced in the Navajo Nation. Despite operating its own police force, the vast size of the territory and small force size makes it difficult for emergency

responders to quickly reach victims. Additionally, while medical facilities are available in the Navajo Nation, they are quite small and may not be able to treat serious medical emergencies, requiring transport to larger facilities.

## Arrival



*Map 1: Navajo Nation and surrounding territories*

Travellers going to the portion of the Navajo Nation located in Arizona should fly into either Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) in Phoenix, Arizona or into Flagstaff Pulliam Airport (FLG) in Flagstaff, Arizona. While Flagstaff is closer to the Navajo Nation than Phoenix (flights into Flagstaff Pulliam Airport are sparse. Therefore, it is recommended that visitors travel through PHX due to greater flight reliability. Travel from PHX to the Navajo Nation by car takes approximately 4.5 hours. This route passes through populated areas until north of Flagstaff when the region becomes more remote. It is recommended that drivers stop in Flagstaff to fill up their gas tanks as there are fewer gas stations near the Navajo Nation and gas prices are usually higher on the reservation. No security concerns exist along this route; however, drivers should pay close attention to dangerous driving behaviors because the area's isolation makes speeding a common occurrence. Lastly, while the Navajo Nation does observe Daylight Savings Time (DST), Arizona does not; therefore, travellers should account for this time difference when making travel plans.

Those travelling to the portion of the Navajo Nation in New Mexico will arrive via the Albuquerque International Sunport (ABQ). Travel from ABQ to the Navajo Nation takes an estimated two hours by car. Since gasoline is more expensive and fuel stations are sparse once inside the Navajo Nation, it is recommended to stop and fill up vehicles.

## **Travel**

Due to the vast size of the Navajo Nation and its relative isolation, most travel will have to be done via private vehicle. Many of the roads in the towns of the Navajo Nation are paved; however, once outside of the towns, many roads are unpaved. Drivers should practice caution while on unpaved roads as requests for roadside assistance may take a long time in the remote areas. Also, unsafe driving behaviors are common among the local population, likely because of the area's isolation. Drivers, as well as passengers, should be attentive to others' driving and avoid local drivers who do not follow safe driving protocols. Additionally, many roads, including those in the towns, are poorly lit and stray animals are difficult to see while driving at night. Drivers should practice extra caution if driving at night and use high beams whenever appropriate. Also, while there are fuel stations on the reservation, long driving distances and running out of gasoline are not uncommon; therefore, it is important for drivers to monitor their fuel tanks and fill up whenever possible.

A public transit system does exist on the reservation; however, it has limited routes and operating hours. It is not recommended that visitors use the public transportation because of its unreliability and because it is generally meant to serve local residents, not tourists. If visitors must use this option, information on routes and service times can be found [here](#).

In some instances, visitors may walk short distances on foot. It is recommended that visitors to the Navajo Nation wear lightweight hiking boots. Visitors should avoid wearing tennis shoes with mesh, as sand and dirt can easily get into the shoe and lead to blisters and discomfort. Rattlesnakes are found throughout the Navajo Nation and are not uncommon in populated areas; therefore, visitors should walk cautiously through brushy or rocky areas where snakes are often found. If a visitor comes across a rattlesnake, do not attempt to kill it; it is considered offensive in Navajo culture to kill a rattlesnake. Also, you are more likely to get bitten if you approach the snake. Further information on rattlesnakes can be found in the **Health** section of this assessment.

## **Excursions**

There are many museums, parks, and monuments that visitors can explore while in the Navajo Nation. Many of these sites are maintained solely by the Navajo Nation, while some are operated through a partnership between the Navajo Nation and the U.S. National Park Service. A list of tourist sites operated by the Navajo Nation and visitor information can be found [here](#); those sites associated with the National Park Service can be found [here](#). Visitors are advised to use these websites to plan their excursions and pay attention to park hours or special announcements, as some parks are only open during the summer season.

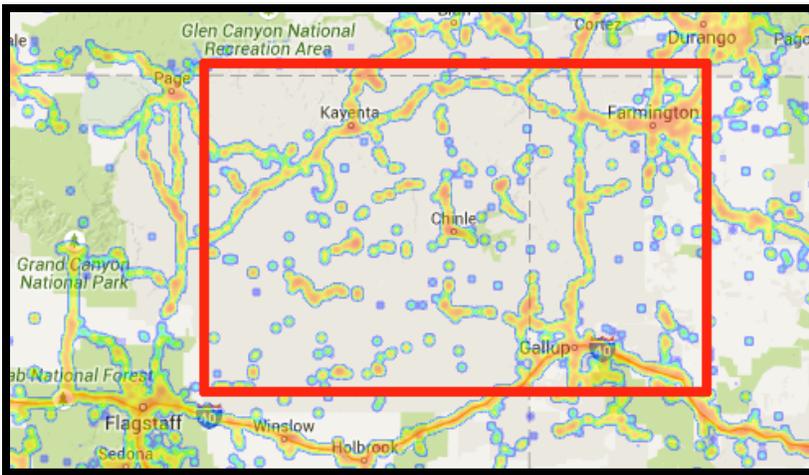
Crime in these sites has been minimal and has mostly been limited to campsites being burglarized. It is recommended that those camping in these areas always leave at least two people at the campsite to deter possible thieves. The biggest concerns for visitors while at these locations are natural hazards and wildlife. These parks are often risk areas for flash floods, lightning strikes, and wildfires; visitors are advised to monitor local media and official alerts for these hazards before embarking on excursions. More information on these risks is included in the **Weather & Natural Hazards** section of this assessment. These parks are also home to several species of dangerous wildlife. Venomous snakes, spiders, and scorpions can often be found throughout the area; therefore, visitors are advised to avoid picking up large rocks where these animals can often be found and to always check shoes and tents. Additionally, mountain lions, coyotes, and even wolves have been spotted throughout the area. While visitors' encounters with these animals are rare, there have been attacks on humans in the past. Visitors are advised to avoid approaching wildlife and to never leave food out in the open while camping. More information on these animals can be found in the **Health** section of this assessment.

Those visitors who plan on hiking should be mindful of their physical health conditions and plan trips appropriate to their abilities. Emergency evacuation out of these parks is often lengthy and expensive. Visitors should remember the following tips while hiking:

- Wear well-fitting, broken-in hiking boots, sunglasses and hats.
- Always bring a map, compass, whistle, and first aid kit.
- Pack as lightly as possible.
- Walk at a pace that allows you to still maintain a conversation.
- Take at least a ten-minute break every hour to rest.
- Drink plenty of water and salty foods to maintain energy.
- Find additional tips on safe hiking [here](#).

### **Cellular Service**

Visitors should also be aware that cell service in the Navajo Nation is very poor and is almost non-existent outside of the towns and off the highways, especially in the parks. While satellite phone service is more reliable, it is not guaranteed to work in the more remote areas, particularly in the valley/canyon floors. Some parks, such as the Grand Canyon, have emergency telephones along the trails; however, these are often few and far between. Therefore, it is advised that visitors hire a vetted guide who knows the area and knows the quickest way to contact emergency services when cellular service does not work.



**Map 2: Cellular reception in the Navajo Nation (blue=weak, red=strong)**

## **Weather & Natural Hazards**

### *Climate*

The Navajo Nation territory is classified as part of a desert climate. The average temperature between May and September is 86.8° Fahrenheit, but temperatures often exceed 100° Fahrenheit in the summer months. Due to its location in the rain shadow of the Mogollon Rim (an escarpment that runs diagonally from northwest Arizona to the southeast), the Navajo Nation mostly experiences hot, dry summers and cold, dry winters. While it averages very little precipitation, severe thunderstorms are not uncommon, and there is a considerable risk of flash flooding. The southwestern United States, including the Navajo Nation, experiences its monsoonal flow season usually from mid-June through August. This can bring significant precipitation to the Navajo Nation and may lead some of the parks and monuments to temporarily close. Visitors have been killed by these storms in the past while hiking in the area; a young woman from Florida was killed by a lightning strike while seeking shelter during a thunderstorm near the Mogollon Rim. Visitors are advised to monitor weather conditions and remain indoors during thunderstorms.

Heat and sun exposure is a significant concern for those visiting the Navajo Nation. High temperatures and UV levels can lead to dehydration, severe sunburns, and even heat stroke. This is a particular concern for children under 12, the elderly, and those with heart, lung, or skin conditions. Visitors should monitor their location's UV index level by checking local weather

sources or, if travelling with a smartphone, download a weather app that provides this information (the iPhone Weather app displays this at the bottom of the page). According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), any UV index above three requires the consistent application of sunscreen. If you are unable to access UV index information, follow the “Shadow Rule:” if your shadow is taller than you are, the UV index is likely to be lower; if your shadow is shorter than you are, the UV index is likely to be at harmful level. Travellers are advised to apply sunscreen every two hours while outdoors. Additionally, high temperatures can cause body fluid depletion and lead to dehydration; therefore, visitors should always carry a bottle of water with them and ensure they drink enough water to stay hydrated.

### *Flash Flooding*

The Navajo Nation is particularly vulnerable to flash flooding because heavy rainfall is not quickly absorbed by the dry ground. These risks are highest during the monsoonal flow season from mid-June through August, which brings large amounts of precipitation in short periods of time. These floods can easily reach the populated areas of the Navajo Nation and have flooded homes in the past. Many homes have been destroyed by floodwaters and many more are lost to large amounts of mud and mold after the water has receded. Armada recommends that visitors monitor weather forecasts and alerts daily. Visitors are advised to stay away from the flood risk areas during rain showers and maintain alertness even when outside of risk areas. If caught in flash flooding situation, get to the highest point possible and immediately contact emergency services. Do not attempt to get in a vehicle and outrun floodwaters, as strong currents can easily sweep a large vehicle off of the road. If in doubt, locals will likely know the safest locations to go to during flooding.

### *Fire*

Due to the dry, arid climate of the Navajo Nation, it is susceptible to wildfires. While these events are relatively uncommon, they have threatened Navajo Nation lands in the past. These risks are elevated during the summer months before the monsoonal flow season when there is extreme heat and low moisture. While much of the Navajo Nation has little brush, many population centers are focused on grazing lands for sheep herding. These areas are particularly vulnerable to wildfires, which can be sparked by natural events, such as lightning and extreme heat, or human causes, such as cigarettes and fireworks. Visitors are advised to monitor the Navajo Nation’s Environmental Protection Agency website for wildfire alerts, found [here](#). If trapped in a wildfire, follow these procedures:

- **In a vehicle:**
  - ✓ Roll up windows and close air vents. Drive slowly with headlights on. DO NOT drive through heavy smoke.
  - ✓ If forced to stop, park away from areas of heavy trees and brush. Turn your ignition off but leave headlights on.
  - ✓ Get on the floor of the vehicle and cover self with a blanket or coat. Call “911.”

- ✓ DO NOT leave the vehicle.
- **In a building:**
  - ✓ Stay inside and away from walls. Close all windows and doors but do not lock them. Call “911.”
  - ✓ Fill sinks and bathtubs with cold water. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
- **On foot:**
  - ✓ Seek an area with little fire fuel material, preferably a depression in the ground. Call “911.” Clear the area of any potential fuel material and lie face down. Cover yourself with anything to protect against the heat; this may include dirt.
  - ✓ If there is a road nearby, lie face down on the uphill side of the ditch.
  - ✓ If on a mountainside, get to the highest point possible but avoid canyons, valleys, or saddles (dips between highpoints) that can act as natural “chimneys” and can funnel fire and smoke toward you.

### *Earthquakes*

While damage from earthquakes is very uncommon in the Navajo Nation, the area is seismically active and earthquakes can sometimes be felt and occasionally result in minor damage. Nonetheless, some structures in the Navajo Nation are not constructed to withstand intense shaking, and persons inside during an earthquake may get injured. As earthquakes cannot be predicted, visitors are encouraged to review earthquake emergency response recommendations. Information on earthquake preparedness can be found by visiting the CDC Earthquake Preparedness website, found [here](#).

### **Security Assessment: Navajo Nation**

#### *Crime*

The Navajo Nation has experienced extremely high rates of crime and has seen a spike in violent crime in the past few years. In 2013, the Navajo Nations murder rate was 23.3 per 100,000 residents, an increase from 18.8 per 100,000 residents in 2012. For comparison, Pittsburgh, PA had a 2013 murder rate of 14.6 per 100,000 residents; in fact, the Navajo Nation’s crime rates, especially murder rates, far exceed those of many U.S. cities. It should be noted that the majority of homicides in the Navajo Nation are not the result of gun violence; rather, weapons are often normal household items, such as chords or bottles. Sexual assault is also a significant problem in the Navajo Nation. In 2013, the Navajo Nation reported a sexual assault rate of 177.8 per 100,000 residents; comparatively, the 2013 sexual assault rate in Pittsburgh, PA was 25.4 per 100,000 residents. The majority of these crimes are connected to alcohol and domestic violence. Additionally, the ratio of police officers to residents is very low and, when combined with the high rates of crime, forces policing efforts to focus on responding to crime instead of preventing crime. This impedes police from devoting resources to community programs focused on alcohol and drug abuse.

Despite these high rates, most crimes occur in homes and among the local population; consequently, visitors to the Navajo Nation are very unlikely to experience violent crime. Visitors should be sensitive to these issues, as many residents have been affected by these crimes. Petty theft has been reported in the past and visitors displaying valuables or extravagant attire are usually the victims; therefore, despite the low frequency of these crimes, visitors should leave valuables in their rooms and dress modestly. Pickpocketing is uncommon in the Navajo Nation; however, it is recommended that visitors maintain heightened alertness when approached by an unknown individual. Also, if in public at night, visitors should maintain a heightened sense of awareness, as public incidents of violent crime are more likely to occur at night. Lastly, burglary and other property crimes are common, and visitors staying in private residences are at greater risk; therefore, Armada's primary recommendation is that visitors, even a small group, should stay in a hotel where security measures are more robust. If staying in a private residence is necessary, only residences with private security systems should be considered.

### *Poverty*

Much of the crime in the Navajo Nation is attributed to alcohol abuse and much of the alcohol abuse is attributed to high rates of poverty. As of 2013, the poverty rate in the Navajo Nation stood at 38 percent; whereas, Pittsburgh, PA had a 2013 poverty rate of 22.6 percent. The per capita income for those living in the Navajo Nation in 2013 was \$10,695, less than half of the 2013 per capita income for all of Arizona, \$25,680. Comparatively, Pittsburgh, PA had a 2013 per capita income of \$26,892. The isolation of population centers and the focus on traditional sources of income, such as sheep herding, has kept further economic development of the Navajo Nation at minimal levels. This has resulted in few available jobs and has made access to basic necessities and educational opportunities very difficult for much of the population. Consequently, this poor economic outlook has caused many to turn to drugs and alcohol, which has fueled high rates of suicide and high rates of violent crime. Therefore, visitors should avoid any individual in possession of drugs or alcohol, as these individuals are more likely to be involved in a violent crime. It should be noted, however, that not all of those living below the poverty line partake in these illicit activities and the majority are not threats to visitors.

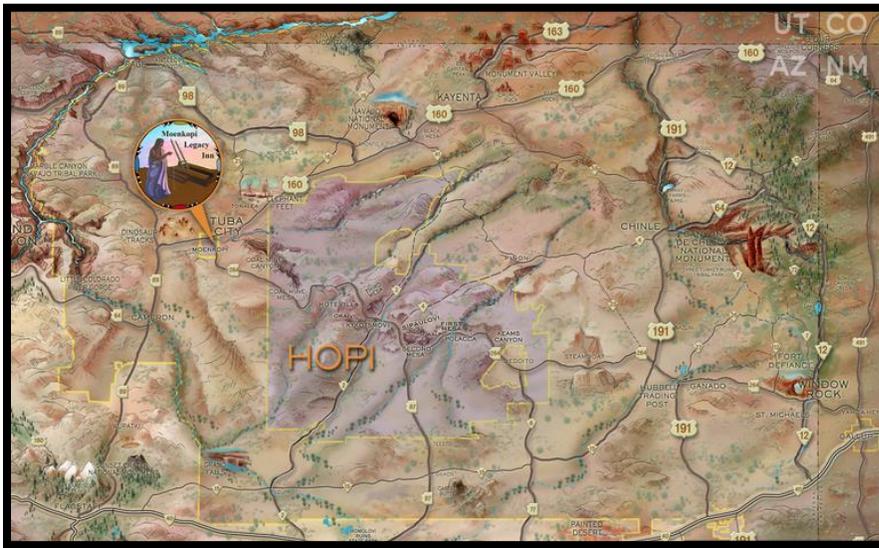
### *Cultural Differences*

As in other cultural enclaves in the United States, the Navajo Nation culture has some unique characteristics. While it is extremely unlikely that visitors would be threatened for ignorance of this culture, visitors should be aware of and respect Navajo cultural traditions. To begin with, there has been a resurgence in the use of the Navajo language, and some families only teach their children English as a second language. While the majority of the population speaks English, visitors may encounter locals with only basic knowledge of English. It is recommended that those visiting the Navajo Nation learn basic Navajo phrases out of both respect and necessity. A useful list of phrases with audio pronunciation can be found [here](#). Also, visitors may find that when asking for directions, locals often do not point with their fingers; instead, they may point

using their entire hand or by pursing their lips in that direction. Additionally, while many of the local landmarks and monuments are open for photo opportunities, visitors should ask for permission before taking photos of other private locations and should always obey posted signs prohibiting photography.

Also, gender/sex norms differ throughout households in the Navajo Nation and female visitors have reported instances of offensive remarks or actions directed toward them in the past. While this is not necessarily indicative of Navajo culture, some familial structures remain under strong influences of patriarchal dominance. Visitors who find themselves in uncomfortable situations such as these should state their feelings clearly to the offending party; however, while many will respect this constructively, some may respond violently, verbally or physically. Visitors should use their best personal judgment and understand that, in some instances, it may be best to remove themselves from the situation. If verbal or physical harassment continues, visitors should contact the Navajo Police Department for mediation and, if necessary, to file a report.

### *Hopi-Navajo Land Conflicts*



**Map 3: Hopi reservation located within the Navajo Nation**

An independent Hopi reservation is located within the territory of the Navajo Nation and, since the nineteenth century, the two tribes have disputed over the land. Many of the recent disputes stem from local coal deposits and mining interests that overlap the two tribes' territories.

While these disputes are often settled in

court, conflicts still arise between individuals living on the disputed land and the tribal government that claims it. Recently, the Hopi government confiscated several herds of sheep belonging to Navajo ranchers for grazing on Hopi land. While it is unlikely that these conflicts will become violent, visitors should be aware that this issue is a source of tension and should stay away from lands involved in an ongoing dispute.

### *Kidnapping*

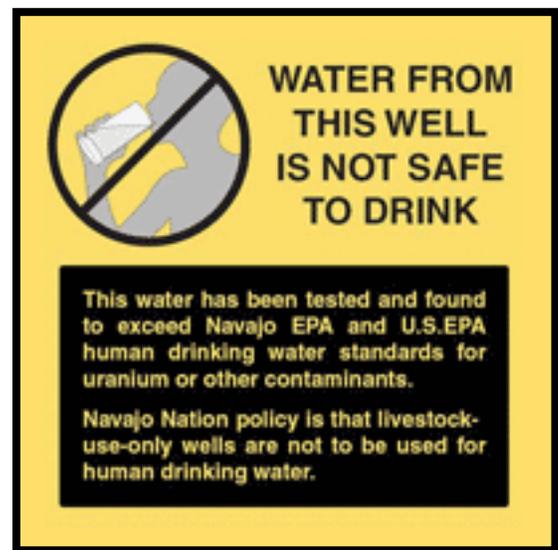
While kidnapping in the Navajo Nation is rare, it has happened in the past; however, only local residents of the Navajo Nation were victims. Nonetheless, visitors to the Navajo Nation are not

immune to this type of crime and should maintain vigilance, especially when alone or in small groups. One concern that exists is the Navajo Nation's proximity to Phoenix, Arizona, the kidnapping capital of the United States; in 2013, there were 370 reported cases of kidnapping in Phoenix. The Navajo Nation is only a 3.5-hour drive north of Phoenix and could serve as a potential transit area for criminals transporting kidnapping victims. While statistics suggest that encountering these criminals or becoming a victim of kidnapping while in the Navajo Nation is very unlikely, visitors should remain aware and report any suspicious individuals to the police.

## **Health**

### *Water Contamination*

The geology of the Navajo Nation and surrounding area makes it rich in uranium, a radioactive ore used in the development of atomic power and weapons. From 1944 to 1986, nearly four million tons of uranium ore were extracted from Navajo Nation lands. While the majority of these mines are closed today, a legacy of uranium contamination remains, including more than five hundred mines as well as homes and drinking water sources with elevated levels of radiation. Health effects from this contamination include lung cancer from inhalation of radioactive particles, as well as bone cancer and impaired kidney function from exposure to contaminated drinking water. As a result, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency have begun closing water wells or limiting their use to drinking water for livestock only. This has forced the 30 percent of the Navajo Nation population not serviced by public water systems to haul water from government water trucks or use unregulated water sources with potential contamination.



*Figure 1: Signs designating contaminated water sources*

Due to the ongoing work of the U.S. EPA and Navajo Nation, visitors are advised to only drink bottled water when outside of towns, which are serviced by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) water systems. Many residents outside of towns continue to use unregulated water sources (wells, springs, streams, etc) even though the potential for contamination remains significant. Even if a host offers drinking water, visitors should politely refuse and ensure they bring their own bottled water. If a visitor believes they have been exposed to contaminated water, they should receive a medical evaluation from a physician within two to three weeks. It is unlikely that visitors will need emergency treatment for exposure, but long-term effects may result.

### *Heat-related Illness*

Due to the extreme temperatures and high UV levels found in the Navajo Nation, visitors should take precautions to prevent heat-related illnesses. To prevent sunburns, visitors should apply sunscreen every two hours when exposed to the sun and should wear sunglasses and hats. Heat rash can be prevented by bathing at least once a day, especially if experiencing excessive sweating. Visitors should review the following information to understand the progression of heat strokes and first-aid procedures:

<b>Illness</b>	<b>Symptoms</b>	<b>First-Aid</b>
<i>Heat Cramp</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle spasms</li> <li>• Mild to intense pain</li> <li>• Usually in abdomen, legs, and arms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rest in shady area</li> <li>• Drink cool water</li> <li>• Avoid physical labor for at least two hours</li> <li>• Seek medical attention if cramps do not stop</li> </ul>
<i>Heat Exhaustion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cool, moist skin</li> <li>• Heavy sweating</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Intense thirst</li> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• Fast heart beat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lie down in cool, shady area</li> <li>• Drink cool water</li> <li>• Apply cold packs or compresses to armpits</li> <li>• Do not perform physical labor for rest of the day</li> <li>• If symptoms do not stop within 60 minutes, seek medical attention</li> </ul>
<p><i>Heat Stroke</i></p> <p><i>May result in death, call “911” and treat immediately</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Fainting</li> <li>• Seizures</li> <li>• Excessive Sweating</li> <li>• Hot, dry skin</li> <li>• Very high body temperature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call “911” immediately</li> <li>• Lie down in cool, shady area</li> <li>• Loosen clothing, remove outer clothing</li> <li>• Apply cold packs or compresses to armpits and fan air over body</li> <li>• Drink cool water</li> </ul>

*Venomous Animals & Wildlife*



*Figure 2: Grand Canyon Rattlesnake*

approached. If a visitor is bit, they should seek medical attention immediately. Local hospitals will normally have an antivenin available, but depending on how long it takes to receive medical attention, transport to an advanced facility may be required.

The Navajo Nation is home to several species of animals and insects that visitors should avoid. One such animal that visitors commonly encounter is the Grand Canyon Rattlesnake. These snakes are found all over the Navajo Nation and can be found under rocks or bushes and even under vehicles or houses. Its pinkish color allows it to blend in to the rocky terrain and can be hard to spot; however, it will normally rattle its tail as a defense mechanism when you get to close.

While snakebites are rare, these snakes are extremely poisonous and should not be



*Figure 3: Grand Canyon Scorpion*

Also, the Navajo Nation is home to a variety of scorpions. Some of these species may be poisonous; therefore, visitors are advised against picking them up. Their colors can range from light tan to dark brown, and their sizes can range from two to five inches long. They will normally be found in small spaces, such as rocky outcrops; however, they have been found in homes and vehicles in the past. Therefore, visitors should always check shoes, vehicles, tents, and even under beds for these creatures. Scorpions are also active at night; therefore, visitors should be cautious when walking outside at night. If bitten, visitors should seek emergency medical attention for treatment.

Another insect that visitors should be aware of while in the Navajo Nation is the Black Widow Spider.



*Figure 4: Black Widow Spider*

This spider is often found low to the ground in dark spaces, such as woodpiles, garages, or sheds. This spider is the most venomous in the United States; however, Black Widow bites are rare. Visitors are recommended to wear gloves if working in sheds or garages and should always check shoes before putting them on. Although people rarely die from Black Widow bites, those bitten by this spider should seek medical attention immediately as symptoms can be extremely painful.

More information on animals and insects found in the Navajo Nation can be found [here](#).

### *Hospitals*

Hospitals can be found throughout the Navajo Nation and can provide acceptable emergency medical attention. The hospitals in the Navajo Nation, however, are limited in size and resources; therefore, those requiring extensive medical attention may require transport to advanced facilities nearby.

### **Security Recommendations**

The biggest concerns for travellers in the Navajo Nation are natural hazards and heat-related illnesses; this concern is elevated during excursions to remote parks where cellular service is unreliable. Therefore, Armada recommends that visitors use vetted guides who can steer travellers away from danger areas; Armada Global would be able to arrange this service if necessary.

In the event of a deteriorating security situation, Armada recommends travelling to a nearby safe site to seek support. Depending on the nature of the incident, local police stations or hospitals may be the preferred locations. In the event of a large-scale security concern, Armada recommends relocating to the nearest city outside of the Navajo Nation. Once there, visitors can wait for the security situation to be resolved or arrange safe travel home.

Armada advises all travelers to practice the following security awareness techniques:

- Be cognizant of your surroundings
- Avoid predictable patterns
- Do not dress extravagantly or wear expensive jewelry
- Travel in groups
- Do not give money to homeless individuals.
- Ensure you have proper vaccinations and have registered for travel insurance.
- Ensure you have necessary medical insurance documents.

### **Media & Emergency Contact Information**

#### *Local Media Sources*

[Navajo Times](#)

[KOB4](#)

[AZ Central](#)

#### *Emergency Contact Information*

**Navajo Police-** “911”

**Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management-** “505-371-8415”

**Hopi Police-** “928-738-2233”

**AZ State Police-** “928-773-3601”

**NM State Police-** “505-863-9353”

**UT State Police-** “801-965-4518”

**BIA Navajo District-** “505-863-8314”

**FBI (Albuquerque, NM)-** “505-889-1300”