

Etiquette on the Wind River Indian Reservation

On the Wind River Indian Reservation, you will find many vibrant, working communities. Respect the privacy and customs of the residents and the integrity of the structures at all times.

- Please don't enter a home uninvited.
- Please don't knock on a door and ask to be shown around.
- Please don't yell, throw objects, especially in or near the Eastern Shoshone or other designated tribal sacred sites on the Reservation.
- Some of the teepees seen on the Wind River Indian Reservation at native homes are strictly for religious purposes. Please show respect and do not intrude.

While traveling on the Reservation, remember that you are in sovereign, self-governed areas and just as you do abroad, please obey all tribal laws and regulations. Also observe that there are also State highways that also have State laws to abide by although they run through the Reservation. They are still maintained by the State of Wyoming and all their laws pertain to them as well.

- Please do not enter any areas that are marked off-limits. If in doubt, ask.
- Please stay on the designated trails and established route unless accompanied by a tour guide. Rock climbing and off-trail hiking are prohibited. Off-road travel by all-terrain vehicles, dune buggies, jeeps and motorcycles is prohibited on backcountry roads.
- Please do not disturb or remove wildlife, plants, rocks or artifacts. They are protected by law in most areas.

- Please help keep the Wind River Indian Reservation clean. Do not litter, burn debris or bury trash. Please place refuse in trash containers.
- Keep in mind that the use of alcoholic beverages and firearms are both strictly prohibited on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

As any tourist should, please be respectful when it comes to photography. Cameras are not always welcome, and you should secure permission before photographing, videotaping, sketching or audiotape recording any event.

- When you do take photos, keep in mind that a gratuity is always appreciated.
- Special permits are required when photographing for commercial use.
- Although powwows and dances are sometimes exhibited for the benefit of the tourist and in public forums, keep in mind that such occasions are mostly held by Eastern Shoshones for Eastern Shoshones. Many of these events are of religious nature, and should be accorded the same deference as a church or prayer service, even if tribal members behave informally.
- Before attending an event or dance, confirm that visitors are welcome and adhere to any rules that may be put forth. This is for your safety as well as for the safety of the people and their beliefs.

Visitors are welcome on the Wind River Indian Reservation, but don't forget that residents here-just like people in your hometown or any community-like to be treated with respect.

- Try to be unobtrusive when visiting a Eastern Shoshone performance or event. Be patient and considerate-don't push to the front of a crowd or block anyone's view.
- Unless absolutely apparent that it is okay, do not applaud.

- Remember that religious matters are very private and personal, probing questions are not appropriate.
- Some traditional ceremonies are not open to the public, so if you are asked to leave, please do so quickly and quietly.

When you are in the Wind River Indian Reservation, you will quickly notice that some people will speak their native language. But English is also spoken by the vast majority, so do not hesitate to communicate and if you do find someone that does not speak your language, you should have no problem finding someone eager to interpret.