DINE' BEKE'YAH (Land of the People)

WELCOME TO THE LAND OF THE PEOPLE. A solitary landscape of mountains, desert and canyons that extends from the east sacred mountain, Mount Blanca, to the south sacred mountain, Mount Taylor, and from the west sacred mountain, San Francisco Peak, to the north sacred mountain, Hesperus Peak. This land, rich with beauty and a living culture, offers you an opportunity to experience and enhance your knowledge of those who call themselves Dine' "The People".

To understand Dine' culture is to understand both the land and the people. It is a culture with a complex society that is unique to this generation and the past. The Dine' are adaptable people, picking up traits from their neighbors but also maintaining and preserving the values of their traditions. Here in Canyon de Chelly you will observe a variety of differences among groups and individuals. This information provides you with an understanding of these people.

The people believe they evolved through the underworlds and emerged into this fourth world under the direction of their Holy People. The archeologists date the arrival of the people into the southwest by the late 16th century after having journeyed through northwestern Canada. Their traditional homeland is Dine'tah, located in northwestern New Mexico along the San Juan River.

Today the Navajo Reservation covers approximately 16.5 million acres, primarily in northwestern Arizona and extending into New Mexico and Utah. There are approximately 180,000 members of the tribe who are governed by elected delegates representing various chapters. The chapters serve as local units of government. The delegates are headed by an elected Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. The capitol of the Navajo Nation is located in Window Rock, Arizona.

Throughout your tour of Canyon de Chelly National Monument and the surrounding area you will find clusters of homesites that may include a modern house, a mobile home and a hogan. Although presently under the influence of Anglo American architecture, the Navajo still use the "hogan" (hoo ghan). The hogan serves as a home and for ceremonies. The round crib log hogan is the most common type used today. It may vary in size, typically six or eight sided, and is built with material from available resources. The doorway faces east to greet the blessing rays of the morning sun, like the hogan located outside the Visitor Center. The hogan is usually blessed before it is used.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Mountain Daylight Time

Pour Visiteur Francois
On peut se procurer des renseignements en Francais au bureau de centre touristique.

Fuer Deutsche Besucher
Information auf Deutsch ist am Auskunftschalter des Besucherzentrums erhältlich.

TIME & DISTANCE

Both rim drives are approximately 35 miles round trip. Allow 1 1/2 to 2 hours for each drive.

LOCK YOUR CAR & SECURE YOUR VALUABLES. REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO A RANGER IMMEDIATELY.
HORSEBACK RIDING:

Twin Trails Tours offers day and overnight horseback riding trips in the canyon from May 15 through October 15. Twin Trail Tours is located 8 miles (12.9 km) north of the visitor center along the north rim drive. Call (602) 871-4663 for information and reservations. Fees:

- $6/hr Two or more vehicles - $6.50/hr (one guide per every 10 people is required)
- $5.00 on prepaid reservations
- $5.00 Senior Citizens (60+)
- $65.00 Per Person from $60.00
- $100.00 Additional in Family
- $20.00 Qads (4 Persons)
- $25.00 Triples (3 Persons)
- $36.00 Doubles (2 Persons)
- $56.00 Singles (1 Person)
- $40.00 on prepaid reservations
- $44.00 Qads (4 Persons)
- $48.00 Triples (3 Persons)
- $53.00 Doubles (2 Persons)
- $60.00 Singles (1 Person)
- $157.00 the above rooms are deluxe rooms with two double beds, color television, air conditioning and full bath.

Lodge is also available at the Canyon de Chelly Motel in Chinle. Call (606) 674-5288.

Lodging is available at the Thunderbird Lodge located ½ mile from the visitor center. The lodge is open year around and offers reduced rates from Nov. 15 through Feb. 28.

- **SUITE (1 or 2 Persons)** $100.00
- **ADOBE ROOMS**
  - **Singles (1 Person)** $56.00
  - **Doubles (2 Persons)** $60.00
  - **Triples (3 Persons)** $64.00
  - **Quads (4 Persons)** $68.00
- **DE CHELLY ROOMS**
  - **Singles (1 Person)** $45.00
  - **Doubles (2 Persons)** $49.00
  - **Triples (3 Persons)** $53.00
  - **Quads (4 Persons)** $57.00

A suite is available for $100 per night. Reservations are suggested. Call (606) 674-5443.

LODGE ROOMS

- **Singles (1 Person)** $36.00
- **Doubles (2 Persons)** $40.00
- **Triples (3 Persons)** $44.00
- **Quads (4 Persons)** $48.00

A suite is available for $100 per night. Reservations are suggested. Call (606) 674-5443.

Lodging is also available at the Canyon de Chelly Motel in Chinle. Call (606) 674-5288.

Camping is located ½ mile from the visitor center. The campground is open year around with no camping fee. From April through October, facilities include restrooms, picnic tables, dump station and water. From November through March, facilities include portable toilets and picnic tables. Water is not available during the winter months.

Reservations for campsites are taken only for large groups. Reservations for group sites can be made in advance for camping between April 1 and October 31. Call (602) 674-5436 for group reservations.

Stray dogs are a problem in the campground during the summer months. For your safety, do not feed or approach stray dogs as they may bite or transmit disease. Panhandlers are also a problem. Do not encourage panhandlers by giving them money. Please report campground problems to a ranger immediately. Camping outside of the designated area is not permitted.

DINE' BEKE' YAH

"I was wondering where all the pickup trucks were being shipped!" This statement was made by a visitor who worked for a car manufacturer in Detroit. Today the pickup truck has replaced the horse and wagon of the early to mid 1900's. Unpaved roads in remote areas and hauling wood or water make the pickup truck a necessity. Many homes don't have the convenience of running water and other utilities.

The Navajo as a people are quite reserved by non-Indian standards and are often misunderstood as being cold and unfriendly. When talking to strangers most Navajos will seem shy and withdrawn. Eye contact with others is considered brazen and impolite. The handshake is a very light touch rather than a firm grasp. They will also seem shy and withdrawn. Eye contact with others is considered brazen and impolite. They will also be quite soft spoken and conservative with language. These actions are all part of their best behavior and are their ways of showing respect. Most photographers will be tempted to photograph colorful dress of some of the older, more traditional people. Some men and women prefer this style which dates back to the 1800's. However, most young people dress in the styles of their non-reservation counterparts. When a Navajo consents to being photographed, they generally expect to be paid a nominal fee.

- Most young people of Canyon de Chelly attend public, government and private schools in the Chinle area. Most classes are conducted in English. However, there are some bi-lingual and strictly Navajo classes as well.
- The Navajo language is not the only traditional value still held by the Dine'. Although many Navajos are members of Christian religion sects, most still value ceremonies practiced for generations. During the spring, summer and fall months, traditional healing ceremonies called Squaw Dances are held all over the reservation. These are private religious observances and should not be attended without an invitation. Often people dress traditionally, riding horses or in a pickup truck with colored yarn tied to the parts of the vehicle and to the horses and riders. They are taking part in a Squaw Dance which will be held nearby.
**VISITOR ACTIVITIES:** (May 24 thru Sept. 30)

### VISITOR CENTER:
- **Open Daily**
  - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Oct. thru April)
  - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. (May thru Sept.)

Information desk, Exhibits, Book Sales, Hiking Permits.

**DAILY PROGRAM: 2PM - JOIN A RANGER FOR A ½ HOUR TO HOUR PROGRAM.**
Meet at the Visitor Center Flagpole. Self-guided Plant Walk - take the short trail behind the visitor center and learn about local plants. A guide book is available at the information desk. A WILDLIFE CHECKLIST and OBSERVATION CARDS are available at the information desk.

### CANYON HIKE:
- **Daily**
  - 8 a.m. to noon
  - Meet at Visitor Center flagpole

Put on your hiking shoes and join a ranger for this guided hike into the canyon. This is a special opportunity to experience first hand the canyon - its geology, plants and animals, ancient ruins and rock art, and the present day lifestyle of the resident Navajos. Bring water, a snack, binoculars and camera, and insect repellent. Be prepared to walk through ankle deep water. Moderate to easy hike.

### ARCHEOLOGY WALK:
- **Daily**
  - 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
  - Meet at the Visitor Center flagpole for carpooling

Join a ranger for this opportunity to get a close up view of the Sleeping Duck Ruin. Discover the ancient ruins of the Anasazi Indians and what the National Park Service is doing today to preserve these remnants of the past.

### JR. RANGER PROGRAM:
- **Sat & Sun - 10 a.m.**
  - Meet at the campground amphitheater

Hey, kids! Do you want to be a Junior Ranger? Earn your Junior Ranger certificate by joining a ranger for fun filled activities such as Navajo games, songs and crafts. For children ages 6 to 12.

### THUNDERBIRD LODGE TALK:
- **Sat., Sun, Tues., & Thurs. 7:30 p.m.**
  - Meet at the Thunderbird Lodge Gift Shop

Join a ranger for this one hour evening program. Topics include the history of the Thunderbird Lodge as an early trading post and other topics related to Navajo culture. Program topics are posted at the Visitor Center, Thunderbird Lodge lobby and on the campground bulletin board.

### SUNSET GEOLOGY TALK:
- **Mon-Wed-Fri 7:30 p.m.**
  - Meet at Tsegi Overlook parking area (South Rim)

Join a ranger for this one hour talk about Canyon de Chelly's geologic history. Spectacular scenery and sunsets highlight this evening activity.

### CAMPFIRE PROGRAM:
- **Nightly - 9 p.m.**
  - Meet at the campground amphitheater

Gather around the campfire for this traditional National Park Service program. Park Rangers present a different program nightly. Topics are posted at the visitor center, Thunderbird Lodge lobby and the campground bulletin board.

### MOONLIGHT HIKE:
- **Full Moon Nights (weather permitting) 9 p.m.**
  - Meet at campground amphitheater

Take a short hike with a ranger and enjoy the beauty of the full moon. Listen to Navajo and Anasazi stories, myths and legends as they pertain to the natural world.

### SELF-GUIDED YEAR AROUND ACTIVITIES

#### RIM DRIVES
Enjoy the sights of Canyon de Chelly and Canyon del Muerto by driving the north and south rim drives. Allow approximately 2 hours for each drive. Guide books are available at the visitor center.

#### WHITE HOUSE RUINS TRAIL
An excellent way to experience Canyon de Chelly is to hike the White House Ruins trail. This scenic trail descends 600 feet to the canyon floor on a well maintained, moderately easy trail. Be prepared to wade across the Chinle Wash and carry drinking water with you. Do not wander off the trail and respect the privacy of canyon residents. A trail guide is available at the visitor center. Approximately 2 hours - 2½ miles round trip.
Many historic trading posts have long since disappeared, but the Thunderbird Lodge still retains some of its heritage while continuing to accommodate guests. In 1902, during the heyday of the trading posts, trooper Sam Day built a log cabin (now a part of the cafeteria) and began trading with the local Navajo. The trading post not only provided staples of coffee, flour, sugar and tobacco, but acted as a bank, post office, general store, community meeting place, and even provided medical and mortician services! Navajos would make long journeys from surrounding areas on foot, in wagons and on horseback to trade their sheep, wool, rugs and jewelry for goods, cash or credit. Trader Cozy McSparron encouraged Chinle area weavers to return to simple classic rug patterns using only vegetal dyes from local plants. Today this "Chinile" pattern is still typical of many rugs woven in the area.

As news of exciting cliff dwellings found in the southwest began to spread back east, scores of visitors, archeologists, and dignitaries began to travel the tortuous dirt roads to see the spectacular canyon and its treasures. At first, visitors were put up at the trading post on cots or on the floor, but eventually the need to build more guest rooms to accommodate them became apparent. The first canyon tours were done in horse-drawn wagons, then in Model T Fords.

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