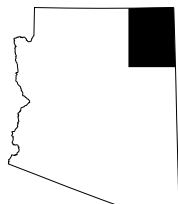


Navajo & Hopi Lands



John Wayne galloping into the sunset amid fiery red buttes. The Marlboro Man gazing toward a horizon of towering cliffs. Forrest Gump running along a lonely highway. Even if we've never been there, images from this region have been deeply etched into our collective memory. Few places so instantly evoke the mystique of the American West.

The northeastern corner of Arizona is something of its own country – or really three countries: the United States and the Navajo and Hopi Nations. The high desert scenery here is raw and otherworldly yet surprisingly familiar, thanks to its frequent use as a backdrop in movies and TV. The rugged grace of the terrain rarely leaves travelers untouched.

Navajo and Hopi cultural traditions – some of which are visible to visitors, many of which are not – make this a particularly unique American destination. Luxurious amenities in these parts might be few, but you'll find some of the finest craftspeople in the world working in silver, clay and wool.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Best Historic Dreamscape**
Visit beautiful and mysterious **Canyon de Chelly National Monument** (p209), a sacred footprint of a vanished people – the Ancestral Puebloans – and a living monument to the trials and survival of the Navajo Nation.
- **Best Photo Excursion**
Gaze at the golden light that pierces the sandstone slot at **Antelope Canyon Navajo Tribal Park** (p206), one of the Holy Grails of landscape photography.
- **Best Hollywood Fantasyland**
Get your John Wayne on at **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park** (p207) where staggering crimson buttes stir the soul no matter how many times you've seen them on screen.
- **Best Party**
Join the thousands who descend upon Window Rock in early September to eat, dance and watch bronco riders at the **Navajo Nation Fair** (p203).
- **Best Crafts Shopping**
Pick up a one-of-a-kind souvenir at one of the small shops scattered throughout the **Hopi Reservation** (p213), featuring locally carved kachina dolls.



