



# Desert Safety

- Carry and drink plenty of water; at least one gallon per person per day is recommended.
- Hike with a partner. Let someone else know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Protect your skin from damaging ultraviolet light. Always wear a hat and remember to use plenty of sun-screen. Recommended clothing is light colored, with long sleeves and long pants.
- Avoid coming too close to thorny or spiny desert plants. Spines may be removed with a pocket comb or tweezers.
- Avoid placing hands and feet in places you cannot see. Many creatures like to hide in tight or dark places. Snakes, scorpions, spiders and all other wildlife will bite or sting if they feel threatened by your presence. Enjoy them from a respectful distance.
- Most desert creatures are nocturnal. Carry and use a flashlight at night.
- All wildlife is protected, including the poisonous ones. Do not tease, disturb or feed any animals, including the birds.
- Stay away from arroyos or dry washes when rain is threatening. Never camp in these places. Flash floods occur instantly and all are dangerous.
- Never enter a flooded roadway. Wait patiently until the water has subsided and it is safe to cross.

Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but pictures and kill nothing but time.