

# Recommended Archeological Site Etiquette

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- 1) Follow all posted or verbal instructions, safety guidelines, and restrictions. The Qatar Museums Authority has recently appointed several Desert Rangers who patrol off-road, searching for new archaeological sites and warn-off anyone they suspect of causing damage to a site.
- 2) Ask permission before you enter an active archeological site.
- 3) Drive around suspected sites; keep to well-worn tracks or paths and park far enough away to keep the site safe.
- 4) If you know or think you may be on a site, walk around areas that appear to be under investigation, especially if the surface looks swept, cleaned or 'smooth'. If possible, wear flat-soled shoes when walking near a suspected site so you don't break anything.
- 5) Leave everything as you found it; do not take or move anything, even if it looks like trash. ***Do NOT pick up pottery or other artifacts from the site - these are part of the historical record and should be preserved in situ.***
- 6) **Never eat food or smoke when walking around a site**, even if not told. **Pets should also not be brought** onto these sites. The residue from these activities may interfere with radiocarbon dating or other chemical analyses.
- 7) Be careful! Don't stand near the edge of any holes, lean on or climb over any walls, etc. - they may collapse! Leave archeological labels, pins or strings alone and where you find them; someone has spent a great deal of time setting up such things.
- 8) Children need to be monitored at all times; an archeological site is not a playground!
- 9) Ask questions of the people supervising the excavation of a site. If they can, they'd love to answer your questions. Ask them to explain what they have found and why they think it is, or may be, important. (Note: They aren't looking for buried treasure or dinosaur bones!)
- 10) It's courteous to ask permission before filming or recording anything at an active archaeological site.