

# HOMOLOVI MONTEZUMA DIABLO & ROUTE 66 SITES

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## Archaeology of Homol'ovi I

Excavations at Homol'ovi I were first conducted by Jesse Walter Fewkes of the Smithsonian Institution in 1896. It is Fewkes who named and numbered the four large villages in Homol'ovi Ruins State Park, Homol'ovi I, II, III, and IV. Fewkes focused on the cemetery areas, tested only a few rooms and produced a map showing only general site features. Those collections still reside at the Smithsonian Institution today.

***"The mounds of this ruin exhibited no evidences when we began to work, of rooms above ground, although I was told that in comparatively recent times it had walls rising to a considerable height, and that the Mormons, in building Sunset City, a mile away, utilized the stones from these ruins for their buildings."***

- Jesse Fewkes, July 1896, Smithsonian Institution Annual Report

More formal archaeological study and excavation was conducted from 1994-1999 by Arizona State Museum (ASM) archaeologists under the direction of Dr. E. Charles Adams. Work by ASM resulted in excavation in 70 rooms and a complete mapping of the village, which is now estimated to contain 1100 rooms plus numerous kivas.

The village can be divided into two sections. The larger one is made of stone masonry and sits on a small hill that forms the prominent mound of the village, visible from here. It is older, having been founded about 1285-1290 A.D.

The smaller section closer to this point is made primarily of form-molded adobe bricks and was constructed after 1350-1360 A.D. Southwest historians had previously believed that the Spanish introduced adobe construction to the Pueblo people they encountered in the 1500's. But there is evidence here that the Hisatsinom already invented and utilized this technology in construction of their ancient pueblo villages. This later section surrounds a large plaza containing numerous kivas and is built on top of an artificial platform built by the occupants to keep the village above the frequent floods of the Little Colorado River, or Palavayu as it is known to the Hopi people. By 1400 A.D., the last occupants of Homol'ovi I had moved on.

## Where Did They Go?

The Hopi believe that these Homol'ovi villagers moved into the current Hopi villages, approximately 60 miles north of here. According to Hopi oral tradition this is the reason the Homol'ovi villages were vacated. However the memory of all these ancient villages are still remembered through oral tradition and regarded as spiritual places. The Hopi know these ancient villages contain the graves of their ancestors and should be respected. Today with relationships based on mutual respect and understanding, they serve as a window for the modern world to understand the long, extensive and rich history of the Hopi people.

As the second largest village within Homol'ovi Ruins State Park and the least vandalized, it is essential to preserve and protect Homol'ovi I. This is the most important job of the Park and to you as the visitor. We ask you to respect and help us care for this sacred, ancestral Hopi village by staying on the designated trail and leaving all artifacts in their place.

***"In Hopi culture, we understand that ancestral places were marked with footprints (ruins, artifacts, and burials), monuments to our prehistoric occupation, that would be attributed to us one day... [T]he reconstruction of the Homol'ovi villages may help refresh Hopi memories of life in the past - some of which we can still 'dig' for in our oral, clan, and ceremonial traditions."***

- Micah Loma'omvaya, "Homol'ovi Revisited."

HOMOLOVI IS A STATE PARK NEAR THE PAINTED DESERT. I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS SITE TILL I STARTED RESEARCHING CAMPSITES FOR THE RV. HOMOLOVI CONTAINS MOSTLY UNRESTORED RUINS.. WITH FULL SERVICE CAMPGROUND AND AT A COST OF \$30 NIGHTLY. VERY CLEAN CAMPING AREA; A GREAT VISIT SITE.

LEAVING THERE WE DROVE PAST SEDONA BUT MUST HAVE MISSED THE MAIN ROAD. WE ENDED UP AT MONTEZUMAS CASTLE AND LEAVING THE SITE I HAD MY FIRST TASTE OF SONIC ONION RINGS. A VERY BIG DAY.

WE PASSED REGRETTABLY ON WALNUT CANYON AND VISITED CANYON DIABLO AND THE ROUTE 66 VANDALISM SIGHTS. IN THE MORNING WE LEFT EARLY AND HEADED FOR WUPTAKI.





















On the horizon are the highest mountains in Arizona, the San Francisco Peaks (12,670 feet). The Hopi call them Nuvatukya'o'vi and believe they are the home of the Katsina spirits. Katsina are supernatural beings with the power to bring the rain needed to make crops grow and produce a bountiful harvest. They played an important role in the religious beliefs of the people who lived here. Katsina ceremonies are still conducted in the village plazas on the Hopi Mesas.





These large holes, and others visible throughout the pueblo, are the result of illegal digging by treasure seekers and pot hunters. Such acts of careless vandalism not only destroy scientific information, but desecrate ancient and sacred burials. Vandalism also interferes with existing spiritual energy since many Hopi clans consider this, and other sites, to be ancestral and spiritual homes.























MONTEZUMA CASTLE



































