

Useful Links:

www.playaq.com

www.burningman.com

www.burningman.com/preparation/event_survival/index.html

The Newbie Experience & Helpful Info:

If this is your first time attending Burning Man, we've got extra information just for you. The most important piece of advice for any newbie is to make sure before you get to the desert that you are attending this event because YOU want to, not because your friend, lover, or Mom are asking you to attend. Burning Man can be hot, cold, dusty, nasty, tough, and beautiful. Please know that you are going because YOU want to; that knowledge can help you survive the tough parts.

Most newbies experience something like this when they go to Burning Man:

Day 1

Look of awe on their faces, either run around desperately trying to take it all in, or retreat to a safe place (like their tent) because they are on complete sensory overload. Whatever your reaction it's okay.

Day 2

The newbie tries to work & drink at the pace of experienced Playa Vets, get exhausted and/or dehydrated and/or get their electrolytes out of balance but don't realize it's happening and push on anyhow. Crash hard late on day 2 or early on day 3. Realize that they are on sensory overload and begin to cope (hopefully). Realize they are not an experienced Playa Vet yet, get fed some Emergency-C or Gookinaid, finally eat something, and realize that there are experienced friends around to help them recover.

Day 3

Recover, finally begin to really take it all in. Or, if they truly hate the experience (dust, heat, wind, challenging emotions) decide they should probably give up and get really cranky and obnoxious to be around. Which one type of newbie do you want to be?

Day 4

Truly start to "get it", become very sad that they have to leave soon. Or, decide they really do hate this dusty, harsh, nasty place and leave for a hotel in Reno.

Day 5 – 6

Ecstatically happy and making plans for what they are going to do, make, bring next year! Or, sitting in a hot tub in Reno because they realized Burning Man just wasn't for them and they drove out to Reno on day 4.

Day 7

Done with the event, sad to leave, grinning like a crazy person for no apparent reason.

Post-playa

Experience the dreaded decompression; return to the default world can really suck. Laugh out loud in the middle of boring meetings when you notice playa dust on your shoes. Call fellow Playa Q folks to share memories. Attend a decompression event local to you. You can make this a year round experience not just a week in the desert.

Event Tickets

If you don't have your event ticket yet, go get it now! Tickets will be incredibly expensive at the gate, buy in advance.

www.burningman.com

Event Survival Guide

Please [read the event survival guide.](#)

www.burningman.com/preparation/event_survival/index.html

Flying, Car Rental

The closest airport is Reno (RNO). Burning Man is located about 2 hours drive north east of Reno in the middle of no where.

There are lots of ways to get to Burning Man. Pick the one that works best for you. A mini-van can make a comfortable home on the playa or you can car pool with fellow Qsters or you can somehow jam everything you need into someone's back seat that is nice enough to pick up your hitchhiking ass. I don't recommend coming on a motorcycle or a bicycle since it's dang hard to carry all of the water you need although it is technically possible.

If you rent a car, be prepared to spend 2 hours when you get back to Reno super cleaning whatever vehicle you take. Even with really good cleaning, we have occasionally been hit with \$50-\$300 in extra cleaning fees from the rental car places.

RV's

RV rentals are sold out for Reno at least one year in advance, you might check Sacramento or Las Vegas if you're still desperately seeking an RV rental. If you are bringing an RV we need to know for placement in camp, contact hmfc@playaq.com. If you are bringing an RV plan on at least \$75 cash payment on playa if you hope to get your potty or gray water emptied by Johnny on the Spot.

Camping

You'll want a place to sleep that is sheltered from the wind, dust, rain etc. That could be the floor of your rental car, the couch at your new friend's camp, or your very own tent. Please don't sleep in the kitchen – although if you pass out there you'll probably wake up with a new haircut and funky tattoo.

I recommend a tent that's good in the wind (dome style) and using 18" bent rebar instead of regular tent stakes. Bring a good tent, but don't bring something that will break your heart if it gets damaged by the wind.

Your tent will get extremely hot very quickly once the sun comes up in the morning, so start thinking now about how to shade your tent. You'll go to bed at night freezing wrapped up in blankets with your heavy coat on and wake up just a few hours later boiling. Lots of people like to keep an empty bottle in their tent to avoid the late night potty trip – just don't confuse your pee-pot with your Gatorade bottle! Your tent will become permanently filled with micro fine playa dust – not necessarily a problem, just something to know.

What do I need to take?

If you want a super complete overly prepared persons packing list contact Cooky, michiganburn@yahoo.com. Or read the survival guide and take what it says and you'll be just fine. The minimum you need to bring are tickets, clothes, shade hat, 1.5 gallons of water/person/day, food, sunscreen, medicine, something to sleep in, something to keep you warm, something to keep you dry, and some kind of light.

Camp Guidelines:

We expect all Playa Q campers follow a few simple guidelines while living as part of Playa Q:

1. **Ask First** – respect other people and their property. Ask before you touch. Ask before you borrow a tool. Ask before doing. If you make a mistake, you're expected to immediately apologize. If a boundary of yours was crossed, you're expected to find a way to make it clear that it was. Permission is required for anything personal, which includes touching and taking photos/video. We are very open with each other, that freedom is maintained by Asking First.
2. **Respect the Community** – do nothing that endangers Playa Q. We condone no activities outside of the law and expect that everyone, regardless of their personal choices, will avoid any public acts regarding their choices. What you do in private is up to you and we respect your privacy. Please remember the Kitchen, Rock Star Dinner tent, and Ubercarney Bar could be considered open public spaces by law enforcement at Burning Man. Your tent or RV is your private space.
3. **Leave No Trace** – pick up all of your stuff, pick up anything that blows in to camp, do not let crap hit the ground, and take home a minimum of 1 bag of shared camp trash or recyclables plus all of your personal trash and dispose of it properly. Learn the trash sorting system and follow it. Don't know how? Ask!
4. **Participate** – our collective efforts allow us to create experiences and gifts larger than any one of us could create on our own. Please work your shifts to keep camp running. Sharing the load helps us all give and helps ensure that no single person is overwhelmed. If you see someone who needs help and you have a minute to help them please do. Please join in camp activities and art projects – they are tons of fun! By participating and giving you become part of this amazing community.
5. **Work & Play** – if this feels like work then something is wrong. We come to Burning Man to give. We come to Burning Man to play. We come to Burning Man to celebrate. Yes we “work” incredibly hard together to pull off our amazing projects. But, if participating in Playa Q feels like everyday work then something somewhere is wrong. Perhaps you need a cool drink, a 20 minute nap, a snack or a great hug if you're not feeling 100%. Some Qsters rejoice in working 20 hours a day, some happily work their minimum shifts then spend the rest of their week out on the playa exploring and bringing great stories back to lunch. Know your needs and limits and work to fulfill them so that our “work” can be play.

Surviving in Style: Tips from Veteran Burners:

- Always have your water bottle with you and use it! Sleep with it next to your bed and drink in the middle of the night.
- Lip balm is your friend – Carmex and Burt's Bees are both good – Don't leave it on your dashboard, it melts!
- Heavy duty sunscreen.
- You really don't need drugs out there, it's already whacked out! If you do take drugs let your friends know what you're taking so they can watch out for you and remember that you are still responsible for yourself. There are cops on the playa – don't do something stupid and end up in jail in the middle of nowhere Nevada. It's expensive and time consuming to wait to get bailed out.
- Ziplocks and clear plastic tubs are good for shipping and storing your stuff.
- Comfortable shoes and a good pair of boots make your life better when you walk for miles a day.
- Eye drops and saline nasal spray to combat playa boogers and playa eyes. Tissues too.
- Dust masks and goggles aren't just fashion accessories; they are indispensable survival gear for most Burners.
- Funky fun-fur jacket and gloves for night time. It gets cold!
- Bring at least one really great funky formal outfit. Think pimps & ho's, fetishwear, cross dressing, the wildest outfit you might ever wear, '70's prom etc.
- A big ass sun hat!
- 2 pairs of sunglasses.
- Silicone lube works better in the desert than water based lube.
- Baby wipes – lots!
- Chilled cucumbers, salty snacks, pudding cups and really good jerky all taste great in the desert.
- Pockets help contain your litter.
- Work gloves.
- Cards with your email address to give to all your new friends.
- Q-tips and a nail file are nice to have along.
- Peppermint foot lotion and Dr. Bronner's peppermint soap help keep you clean and smelling nice.