

Sex & Burning Man

Burning Man is an environment of self expression, openness and acceptance. This includes all aspects of human sexuality. This is however only a small part of it. If you are going to Burning Man to see naked people or to get laid you are missing about 90% of what the event is about. Nudity is common. There are long term nudists, people comfortable nude, people experimenting with nudity and a general lack of privacy for those bathing or changing clothes. Nudity is not a sexual act. A person being nude in any situation does not mean they are looking for a sexual encounter. Touching someone inappropriately without permission is assault.

Due to the openness of the culture and the freedom felt at the event, people are often very flirty, free with sexual concepts and engage in sexual innuendos as a sport. Some people will also be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. People may be more "touchy" than you are used to; hugging for example is an often used form of greeting someone. Even for strangers. None of these mean someone is looking for a sexual encounter. **No means NO!**

You may occasionally see people engaged in sexual acts. Typically this will be from afar unless you seek it out. If you hang out in "chill spaces" you may be involved in more than you expect. For the most part you won't see much sexual activity without looking for it. But it is there if you look for it. If you see someone engaged in a sexual act it does not mean it's ok to get involved with them. The law is the same at Burning Man as anywhere else. Burning Man does not condone acts of public sex. Your first amendment rights are supported and sexuality is self expression. However you should behave as you would in any other city. The only major difference is that the average Burning Man participant doesn't care what you do as long as it is not adversely affecting them.

Due to there being a lot of nudity, sexual expression and sexual acts. Burning Man occasionally draws a predator. It also draws a few people looking for sex and only sex. It is very easy to get swept up in things when everyone is friendly, easy going and uninhibited. Just be aware that who you are interacting with may not have your best interests in mind. You don't want to have any regrets. However with that said, the majority of the bad types don't make it to Burning Man due to the effort it takes to get there. This is also a community that takes care of its own. YELL for help if you ever need it. Don't be shy.

With all the above negative stuff said, Burning Man is a very open minded community. It doesn't judge your tastes, sexual preferences or your desire to experiment. It is in fact a wonderful place to test your limits and grow. Many things are more common on the playa than they may be in your normal life.

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If you are going to engage in sexual acts outside your tent or RV, Be aware of these facts.

- If it's on the playa, visible from a street or on/in a "public" building/art piece. Then it's probably not legal. Be respectful of the space you are in and you generally will not have an issue.
- If you are doing it in view of others you are telling them it's ok to watch.
- If you are near others, they may ask to join. Be prepared to deal with this.
- Some people may even attempt to help without your consent. Be ready with a strong NO.
- Playa dust is a drying agent. It's not advisable to get it on "bits"

Go ahead and Play, just play safe.

Suggested reading for [Relationship Survival](#).