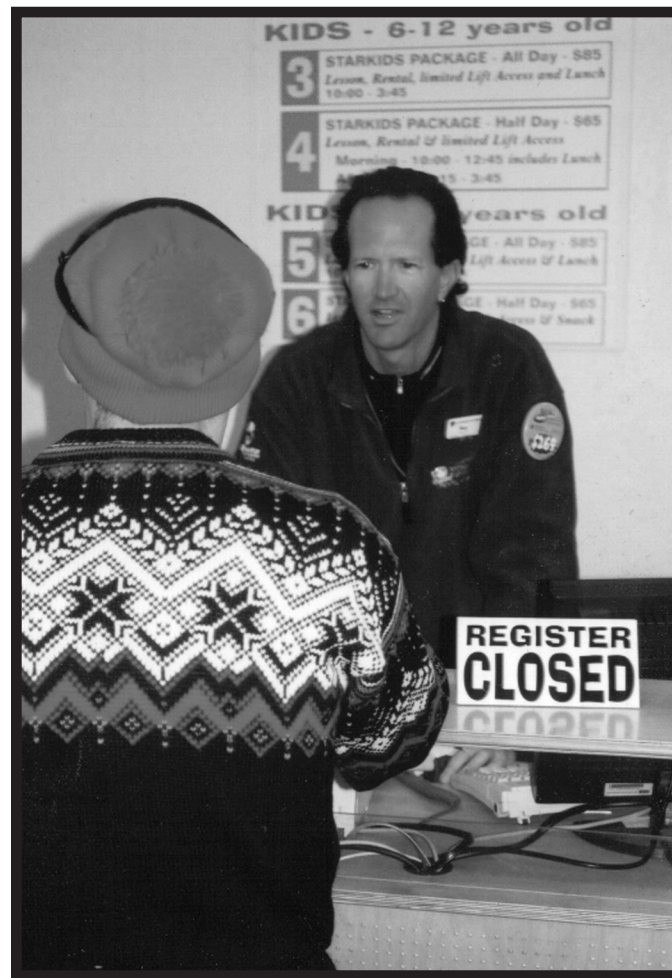


# How to BE THE PERFECT TOURIST

By Daniel Savickas

Everyone in Tahoe knows how important tourists are to our economy. Without them and their foolish ski outfits, clueless driving ability, and giant wallets, our life as we know it would be drastically different.

With that out of the way, let me just point out that there are several different types of tourists. There are the straight-up tourists, the always-entertaining gapers, and the complete morons. This column is dedicated to those morons who believe once they are on vacation they can simply shut off their brains. With a little help from The LowDown Tourism Department, we are sure we can turn these clueless morons into tourists we can all know and love.



“Are you open?”

- 1. Sentence Structure:** In the English language it's frowned upon to end a sentence in a preposition. Well here in Tahoe people frown upon beginning a sentence with where you live. Ex: “Hi, I'm from the Bay Area and I was just wondering what time the 10 o'clock lesson begins.”
- 2. Traffic:** Do not; I repeat, do not complain to anyone living in the area about how long you had to sit in traffic on your way to Tahoe. No one wants to hear you complain about something you are directly responsible for; you are a tourist, and along with the other tourist you create traffic. You complaining about it is like saying, “I went out and bought this gun and I shot myself in the foot. Now my foot really hurts.”
- 3. Lines:** Lines are pretty much the same as traffic. Don't complain about waiting in lines to the person waiting on you behind the counter. Most likely the person helping you makes minimum wage, which is not nearly enough to justify them having to listen to you bitch about waiting around. Besides the more you complain the longer you're making the line.
- 4. Money:** Tahoe is expensive there's no doubt about that; but there's nothing worse than someone who owns a “vacation” home in Tahoe complaining about money. Again, the person you're complaining to probably makes minimum wage and struggles just to pay rent and eat



- (trust me, I'm speaking from experience). If you own a house in the area and you don't live here, don't even dream of complaining about the prices. Sell your house up here to make some extra cash. And let me clear one thing up while we're on the subject; if you own a house up here and you don't live here YOU ARE STILL A TOURIST- end of story. I don't care how long you've owned the house or how much money you've spent in the area, unless you work here and complain about your friends (fellow tourists) creating lines everywhere, then you are a tourist.
- 5. Driving:** Do not slow down to 10 mph to take pictures or video tape out of your car window- PULL OVER. If you are going under 20 MPH and you have over 20 cars behind you (this just happened to me and honked my ass off. Colin would've been so proud, I tried to give them the finger but my window was frozen shut. Some might call that road rage, I call it keepin' it real) PULL OVER! If you can't drive in the snow don't go on vacation where it snows; that's like going to the beach for vacation when you can't swim.
  - 6. Brains:** They are there for a reason, so use them. Before you ask the question you are about to ask, look around, observe your surroundings, and take a few seconds to think. Most likely the prices you are looking for are hanging on the wall right behind the person you are about to ask. Don't ask, “How big is your 12” pizza.” THINK.

JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS: THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK, LOOK, LISTEN, AND DRIVE!