

Tour groups are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the tour meeting place. Carpooling is encouraged. Each tour participant needs to bring along at least 1 pint of drinking water, and should wear a hat, comfortable walking shoes, and sun-block lotion. If inclement weather or another unforeseen event makes a tour site inaccessible the tour will be canceled or postponed, but if a tour to one site gets cancelled it may still be possible to take the scheduled group to visit one of the alternate sites on the scheduled tour day.

Parents, guardians, and elders of some American Indian youth are not comfortable having their children walk on ancient ruins or handle ancient artifacts. Therefore, teachers should inform Native American children's parents that the tour will visit a prehistoric archaeological site, and get their permission for the child to attend.

### Relating the Youth Tour to Curriculum Standards

The youth tours program relates to many of Arizona's Art, Science, Social Studies, and Math Standards for grades 4-8. For a comprehensive list and description of all of the related Arizona State Standards please contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center or download them from [www.oldpueblo.org](http://www.oldpueblo.org)

**Tour Fee.** The fee for each tour is \$75, to be paid in full two weeks prior to the tour date unless Old Pueblo has agreed to a different payment arrangement.

**Classroom Scholarships.** Old Pueblo Archaeology Center raises funds to help economically disadvantaged schools attend our classroom programs at reduced program rates. The degree of scholarship support is based on the amount of money that Old Pueblo has available and the percentage of students in the school who qualify for free or reduced cost meal support as reported by the Arizona Department of Education's most current on-line "Free and Reduced" report.

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**For scheduling and more information** about our programs please contact Old Pueblo in Tucson at 520-798-1201 or [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org).

## Overview of the Youth Tours Program

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**Subjects:** Science, mathematics, and social studies

**Skills:** Knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation

**Strategies:** Observing, discussing, explaining, identifying, recalling, knowing, inferring, concluding, utilizing, constructing, creating, interviewing, solving, showing, relating, discovering, listing, participating, predicting, presenting, measuring, reconstructing, and examining

**Duration:** Approximately one hour

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### OBJECTIVES:

In their study of archaeology and other cultures, students will participate in a guided tour to an ancient human heritage site to:

- **Identify** archaeological features and artifacts
- **Reconstruct** ancient lifeways
- **Interpret** aspects of southwestern U.S. cultural history
- **Make inferences and interpretations** using archaeological data
- **Test** research questions and hypotheses
- **Explain** basic archaeological spatial and temporal concepts
- **Explain** the importance of archaeological site preservation and ethics
- **Explain** cultural change
- **Identify and evaluate** different interpretations that are possible using archaeological methods versus oral tradition

# Archaeological Site Tours for Youth

## Experiencing Arizona's Cultural Heritage



School group field trip photo at the Picture Rocks petroglyphs site following their Old Pueblo Archaeology Center tour



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center

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## Youth Tours Program Description

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center offers guided tours to real archaeological sites for classrooms and other organized children's groups. Heritage sites that can be visited in this program include a choice of the Picture Rocks petroglyphs site, Los Morteros Hohokam Village, or Vista del Rio Hohokam Village.

### Picture Rocks Petroglyphs Site



One of these petroglyphs at the Picture Rocks site shows interesting sunlight interactions on the spring and fall equinoxes and on summer solstice days

Situated in the Tucson Mountains foothills along the northwestern edge of Tucson, Picture Rocks contains hundreds of ancient rock symbols created mostly by the Hohokam, although some of the rock designs may date before AD 500. The symbols at Picture Rocks include dancing human-like figures, whimsical animals, and abstract depictions. At least some of these petroglyphs evidently were ritually important, because at least one of them is a marker for the summer solstice and for the spring and fall equinoxes.

## Los Morteros Hohokam Village



Bedrock mortars that gave this archaeological site its name "Los Morteros" (Pima County Cultural Resources & Historic Preservation Office photo)

Los Morteros is an ancient village site in the northwestern Tucson metropolitan area where Hohokam Indians lived and farmed between AD 850 and 1300. This location has been studied by archaeologists and historians for more than a century. During its heyday it was the center of an extended community of related Hohokam sites along the Santa Cruz River.

The core of Los Morteros, which is now preserved in a Pima County natural and cultural resources conservation park, encompasses a large public architectural feature interpreted as a ball-court used for ritual and other purposes, hundreds of pithouses, visible refuse mounds, and thousands of artifacts. Also present are a few petroglyphs and the bedrock mortars that inspired the site's name. ("Los Morteros" is Spanish for "the mortars.")

## Vista del Rio Hohokam Village

The Vista del Rio archaeological site, which is partly preserved in an eastern-Tucson city park, once was a Hohokam village spread over nearly a quarter of a square mile. Limited archaeological excavations here identified well preserved Hohokam pithouse structures, outdoor pits, fire hearths, arranged-rock features, and artifacts dating between AD 1100 and 1150. Artifacts and traces of some of the archaeological features are still visible on the surface. Cultural education programs in the park have been supported by Old Pueblo in partnership with another nonprofit group, the Vista del Rio Residents' Association.



One of the interpretive signs about the archaeological site in the City of Tucson's Vista del Rio Cultural Resource Park

### The youth tour is a guided visit only.

It does not include archaeological excavation, and participants are not allowed to collect artifacts.

Each tour takes about one hour, not including travel time to and from the archaeological site.

Tours are subject to availability of a qualified tour leader and of the owner's permission to visit the property on the requested tour date.