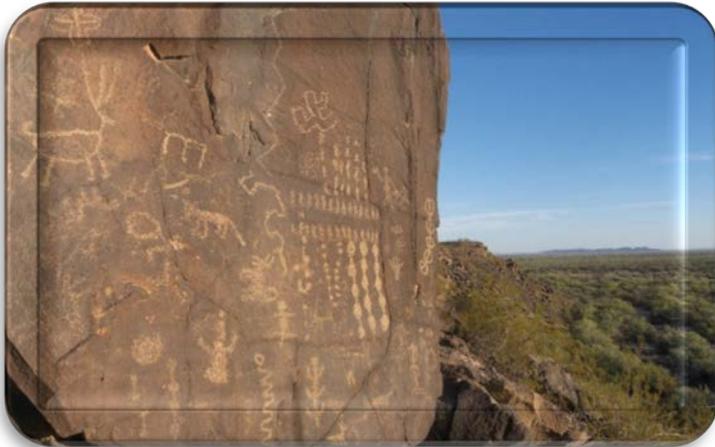




# Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Presents: Sears Point, Painted Rock, and Gatlin: Patayan and Hohokam Petroglyphs and Archaeology



Two of the many petroglyph panels at Sears Point (Photographs by Aaron M. Wright)

## Heritage Tour with Archaeologist Dr. Aaron M. Wright

**Saturday December 9, 2017, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (or later if you join us for dinner)**

**Reservations and prepayment required by Wednesday December 6 (see page 2)**

This tour will visit two of the prime petroglyph localities and one of the most prominent Hohokam village archaeological sites along the lower Gila River between Gila Bend and Yuma, Arizona. **Sears Point** is a remote landform marking the northwestern escarpment of the Sentinel Plain, a vast basaltic field dotted with low shield volcanoes, traversed by seemingly endless ancient trails, and adorned with countless petroglyphs and geoglyphs (intaglios; ground sculptures). Sears Point is renowned for its density of petroglyphs as well as their unique style. This rock art is attributed to the Patayan tradition, an archaeological culture believed to be ancestral to contemporary Yuman- and O'odham-speaking communities. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, the world-class **Sears Point Archaeological District** defines the western edge of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument. The main points of attraction that tour participants will get to see at Sears Point are thousands of petroglyphs and several geoglyphs.

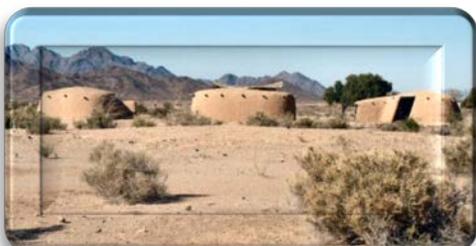
**Painted Rock** is a small hill encompassing about 800 petroglyphs on weathered boulders, also listed on the National Register. Though only about 19 miles east of Sears Point, most of its glyphs appear related more to the Hohokam tradition that is believed mostly ancestral to modern O'odham speakers, so some researchers have suggested this site is approximately on the Patayan-Hohokam culture boundary. Painted Rock also includes Archaic period (pre-Patayan and pre-Hohokam) glyphs and inscriptions of historical passers-by. A chronicler with the 1775-1776 Juan Bautista de Anza expedition that passed this way noted many of the petroglyphs were painted, but no traces of paint remain on them today.



Some petroglyph boulders at Painted Rock (Allen Dart photo)

### The Gatlin site,

a National Historic Landmark, is a Hohokam Sedentary period (AD 950-1150) village archaeological site covering about 300 acres, situated about 20 miles southeast of the Painted Rock petroglyphs. Gatlin was an agricultural community of several hundred 500 people overlooking the Gila River (which was a major Hohokam and Patayan travel route). It obviously was an important place because it has two ceremonial ballcourts and one of the earliest Hohokam



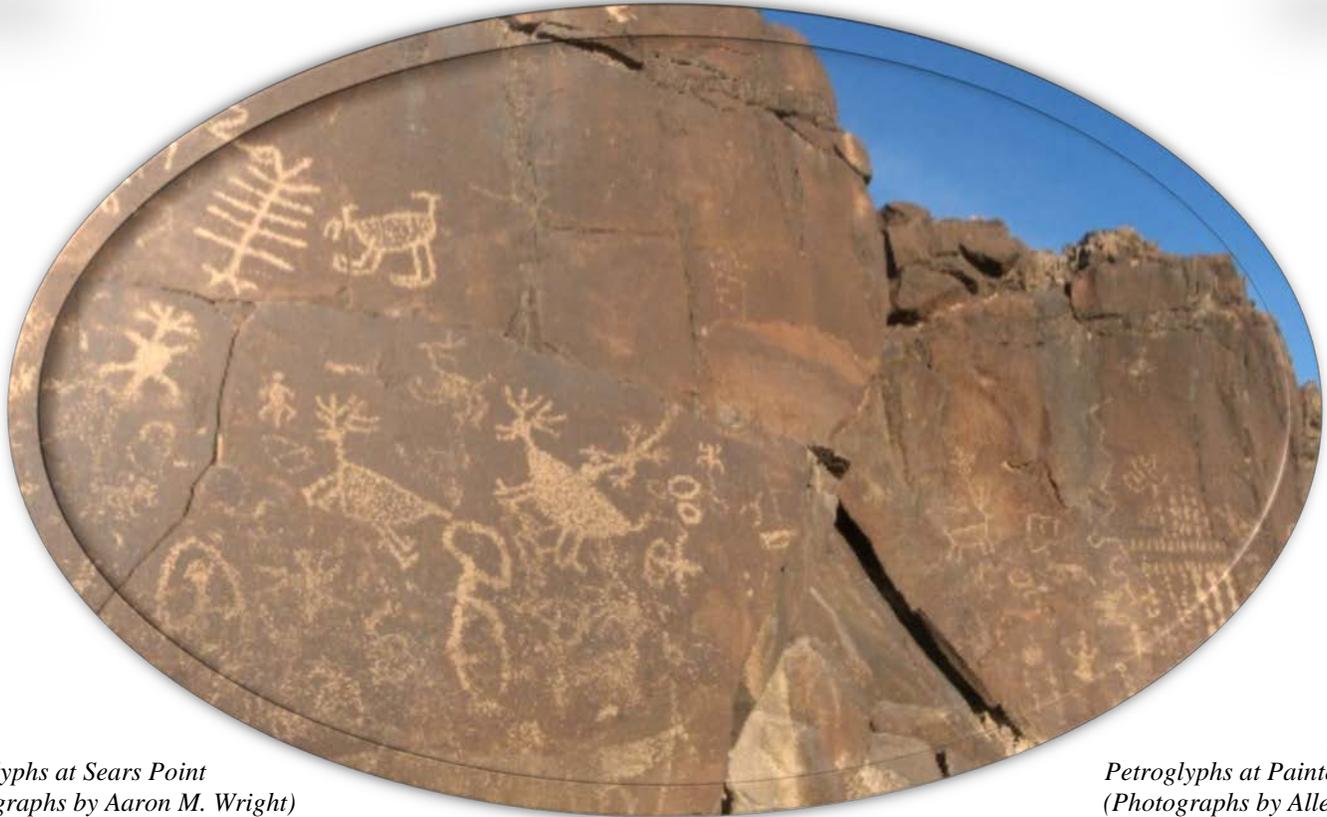
Pithouse replicas at the Gatlin site  
(Town of Gila Bend photo)

platform mounds. A Town of Gila Bend interpretive display at Gatlin includes full-size replicas of Hohokam pithouses.

**Aaron M. Wright** is a Preservation Archaeologist with Tucson's Archaeology Southwest organization.

He acquired his B.A. from The Ohio State University in 1999, and earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Washington State University in 2006 and 2011, respectively. Aaron's research interests include indigenous Southwest ritualism and religion, rock art, and paleoclimatology.

He authored the award-winning *Religion on the Rocks: Hohokam Rock Art, Ritual Practice, and Social Transformation*, and was coeditor of *Leaving Mesa Verde: Peril and Change in the Thirteenth-Century Southwest* with Timothy Kohler and Mark Varien.

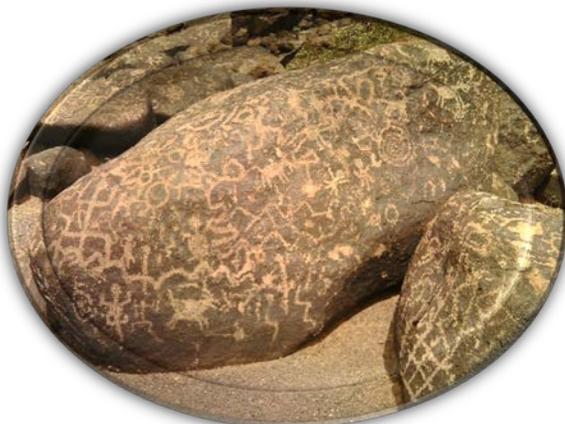


Above:  
*Petroglyphs at Sears Point*  
(Photographs by Aaron M. Wright)

Below :  
*Petroglyphs at Painted Rock*  
(Photographs by Allen Dart)

**The tour begins at 10 a.m. at Interstate 8's Spot Road exit** (Exit 78, approximately 39 miles west of Gila Bend). We'll drive from there to view petroglyphs, geoglyphs, and other archaeological features at Sears Point, taking ½ hour along the way for lunch. In early afternoon we'll drive back to I-8, head eastward to Exit 102, and take Painted Rock Dam Road northwestward to the Painted Rock petroglyphs. In midafternoon we'll return to I-8, head east and take exit 115 onto Pima Street and Stout Road to visit the Gatlin site. The tour ends at Gatlin around 4:30, after which participants may reassemble in Gila Bend for a group dinner at Sophia's Mexican Restaurant or depart for home. Note that all distances listed on page 1 are as the crow flies; driving distances between the sites are longer.

**SEE NEXT PAGE  
FOR  
IMPORTANT  
TOUR  
INFORMATION.**



## IMPORTANT TOUR INFORMATION

**CONTRIBUTION:** A \$45 donation per participant (\$36 for members of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center or Pueblo Grande Museum Auxiliary) helps cover tour expenses and supports Old Pueblo's archaeology and traditional culture education programs.

**RESERVATIONS AND PREPAYMENT OF DONATIONS ARE REQUIRED.** To register contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at 520-798-1201 or [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org).

**PROVIDE YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION, LUNCH, AND AT LEAST 2 LITERS OF DRINKING WATER PER PERSON.**

Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes. At Sears Point and Painted Rock we'll be scrambling up and down rocks to see the petroglyphs so wear adequate clothing. Long sleeves, long pants, and hats are highly recommended.

**COST AND PAYMENT POLICY:** Reservations are accepted on a first-come basis. Full payment is due with tour registration. A portion of the tour fee will be a tax-deductible contribution to Old Pueblo Archaeology Center in an amount to be determined based on tour expenses compared to revenues after all expenses have been paid. Any entrance fee savings from passes, permits, memberships, etc., become part of the donation to Old Pueblo Archaeology Center. We welcome singles, couples, and groups.

**CANCELLATIONS** made 30 days or more before departure will not be charged. Cancellations 8 to 30 days before departure will be refundable at 50% of the fee paid unless the cancelled space can be filled. Cancellations 0 to 7 days prior to departure date are not refundable. Cancellation notice must be received in writing or via email and will be effective as of the date received. Cancellations after final payment date/time will result in forfeiture of all money paid. No refund will be made for leaving a program in progress. Trip insurance is highly recommended. Old Pueblo reserves the right to cancel programs while in progress and to take action as needed on an individual or group basis, when in Old Pueblo's sole opinion the health, safety, or well-being of participants requires such action. The tour itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, but participants will be notified of significant changes in advance if the change is under the control of Old Pueblo.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Registrants are responsible for their own transportation. High-clearance vehicle is required (and 4-wheel-drive is recommended) on the dirt road to Sears Point, so registrants are advised to carpool and share fuel costs with fellow registrants who can take high-clearance/4WD vehicles. Low-clearance vehicles may be parked at the I-8 Spot Road exit or at the junction with Avenue 76E at drivers' own risks; terrain is wide open in these places but valuables should not be left in the cars.

**ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS:** No lodging or meals are included in tour fee. Each participant needs to bring a lunch, at least two liters of water, and other beverages as desired. Snack foods are recommended. Please do not consume alcoholic beverages during tour.

**DEPARTURE:** The tour will meet at 10 a.m. at the Spot Road exit (Exit 78) off of Interstate 8, approximately 39 miles west of Gila Bend. Those wishing to carpool with others can park vehicles at either departure location at no charge and at their own risk. The times after 10:00 a.m. described on page 1 are estimates; tour travel and end times may be later than estimated considering how fast people can walk and regroup at the various stops and the possibility that vehicle problems can occur.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Quite a bit of rock-scrambling is required to see many of the petroglyphs at Sears Point. Low-clearance vehicles cannot traverse some of the washes that must be driven in along the dirt road to the site, therefore, riders in low-clearance vehicles will need to ride temporarily with drivers of high-clearance vehicles to access the site. Tour leaders will allow plenty of time for those who cannot walk quickly. Participants can walk/hike as much or as little as they wish.

**HEALTH ADVISORIES:** Bring and wear a hat that protects the back of your neck and your ears. Bring and wear sunscreen lotion. You must be in good physical and mental health to do this tour. We are concerned about your health and safety, and our tour leaders have had first-aid and CPR training, but medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible during all or part of the tour. You are responsible for selecting events appropriate to your abilities and limitations. If you have any doubts about your ability to participate, please contact us prior to registering. Any physical condition requiring special attention, diet, or treatment must be reported when the reservation is made, and a follow-up explanatory letter may be required.

**PARTICIPANTS MUST ABIDE** by all federal, state, and tribal regulations pertaining to visitation to historic sites, antiquities, and artifact sites. Collecting of artifacts, plants, animals, and mineral specimens is prohibited. Please read about archaeological site etiquette at [http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/downloads/SHPO\\_Site\\_Etiquette.pdf](http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/downloads/SHPO_Site_Etiquette.pdf) and <http://www.oldpueblo.org/artifact-collecting/>.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Becoming a member of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center opens a world of new discoveries. A \$25.00, 1-year "Friend" membership provides the *Old Pueblo Archaeology* bulletin and discounts on some of our tour and course fees, and publications. Higher levels of membership may provide a member with opportunities to participate in archaeological excavation and other research projects if desired. For more information visit Old Pueblo's [www.oldpueblo.org](http://www.oldpueblo.org) web site or contact Old Pueblo at 520-798-1201 or [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org).