University of Arizona archaeologists Dr. Paul Fish and Dr. Suzanne Fish lead this tour to selected archaeological sites in one of southern Arizona’s largest ancient Hohokam communities. Our visit will include the Marana Platform Mound (which was surrounded by 40+ residential compounds), a sampling of agricultural field locations (including specialized ones for agave cultivation), and a secondary compound center on the upper-basin slope of the Tortolita Mountains.

The Marana Mound site is one of the very few Hohokam Early Classic period (AD 1150-1300) villages that has wholly escaped the destruction resulting from modern agriculture and urbanization and where adobe-wall remnants still can be clearly identified on the surface. The mound itself was a large, platform-type ceremonial structure built inside a massive, walled compound that itself was surrounded by additional compounds, other Hohokam living areas, and outlying agricultural fields, some of which were irrigated from a nearly seven-mile-long canal and others on the mountain slopes that specialized in growing agave plants for food and textile-making materials and that were watered by direct rainfall. We also will visit the location where a segment of the nearly seven-mile-long Marana Mound site canal was identified from surface and excavated remains before the area was included in a modern housing development. These site visits will provide a basis for understanding the social and economic processes during the Early Classic period, when processes of Hohokam centralization and population aggregation greatly accelerated.

Some background information on the Arizona State Museum’s archaeological investigations of the Marana Mound Hohokam Community sites can be found in Old Pueblo Archaeology Bulletin No. 34: www.oldpueblo.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/200309opa34-Marana-Mound.pdf

TOUR GUIDES Dr. Paul Fish, Ph.D. & Dr. Suzanne K. Fish codirected excavations at Marana Mound Hohokam Community archaeological sites for several years when they were curators of archaeology at the Arizona State Museum and professors of anthropology at the University of Arizona. They co-edited The Hohokam Millennium (School for Advanced Research Press) and The Marana Community in the Hohokam World (with John H. Madsen; University of Arizona Press), and have authored many other southwestern archaeology publications.

The Fishes’ research focuses on differences in regional social and political organization and the configuration of agricultural production systems that supported this variability. Suzanne’s archaeological and ethnobotanical research focuses on the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands and early complex fishermen on the southern coast of Brazil. Paul has studied the Hohokam tradition over four decades and has authored numerous publications on the Prehispanic archaeology of the American Southwest-Mexican Northwest borderlands.

Your tour donation of $30 per person ($24 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center members and Pueblo Grande Museum Auxiliary members) benefits Old Pueblo’s education and research programs.
IMPORTANT TOUR INFORMATION

COST AND PAYMENT POLICY: Reservations are accepted on a first-come basis. Full payment of the donation is due with tour registration. A portion of the tour donation 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 less than seven 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 vehicles are not required. Carpooling is encouraged – See below.

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

DEPARTURE: The tour starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Circle K convenience store located at 13961 N. Sandario Rd. in Marana, Arizona, just off of Interstate 10 Exit 236 (Marana). Those wishing to carpool with others can park vehicles at the departure location at their own risk. The return time to the Circle K is estimated to be around noon but may be later considering how fast people can walk and regroup at the various stops and the possibility that vehicle problems can occur.

ACCESSIBILITY: All sites to be visited are near paved, graded, or unimproved ranch roads that are accessible to regular passenger vehicles. Participants must walk up to 1/4-mile over relatively flat desert terrain to get to some of the sites. Tour leaders will allow plenty of time for participants who cannot walk quickly. If you have difficulty walking over desert terrain you will only be able to view some sites from the vehicle parking areas. 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 at least one tour leader has 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 during Old Pueblo Archaeology Center tours. 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 and http://www.oldpueblo.org/artifact-collecting/.

MEMBERSHIP: Becoming a member of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center opens a world of new discoveries. A $25, one-year "Friend" membership provides the Old Pueblo Archaeology bulletin and discounts on some of Old Pueblo’s tour and course fees, and publications. Higher levels of membership may provide the member with opportunities to participate in archaeological research projects if desired.

For membership details contact Old Pueblo at 520-798-1201 or info@oldpueblo.org or visit our web site: www.oldpueblo.org.