



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Presents: Rock Art and Archaeology of Ventana Cave Cultural Heritage Education Tour

Saturday January 31, 2015

6:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Reservation & payment deadline:
3 pm Wednesday January 28**

Archaeological studies recovered thousands of ancient Native American artifacts and documented human-made features up to 10,000 years old at Ventana Cave, a huge rockshelter on the Tohono O'odham Nation in Arizona. Among this National Historic Landmark site's most moving and visual aspects are its many pictographs dating to the Archaic, Hohokam, and historic Tohono O'odham periods. There are also petroglyphs outside the cave.



A View from Inside the Rockshelter



Ancient Paintings Inside Ventana Cave

Shortly after sunrise the colors of the cave's rock paintings start to fade and many of these pictographs become almost invisible. Therefore, the tour will depart from Tucson at 6:30 a.m. in an attempt to arrive at the cave early enough to experience the pictographs' fullest colors in the early morning light. On the way from Tucson to Ventana Cave there will be a stop in Sells, the Tohono O'odham Nation's capital. The return trip to Tucson will include an option to stop and shop at a reservation trading post where Tohono O'odham baskets and other Native American arts and crafts are offered for purchase at very reasonable prices.

The tour will be led by Allen Dart, a Registered Professional Archaeologist.

Tour fees will benefit the Tohono O'odham Nation's Hicikiwan District in its efforts to develop a caretaker-interpretive center at Ventana Cave, and will help Old Pueblo Archaeology Center continue its archaeology and culture education programs.

Bring your own lunch & water

\$35 per person

\$28 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center
and Pueblo Grande Museum Auxiliary members

No charge for Tohono O'odham Nation
members & employees



**Pictographs Inside Ventana Cave
Digitally Enhanced Photo by Anne Stoll**

For details and reservations contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at **520-798-1201** or **info@oldpueblo.org**

Check out this and other activities at Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's web site: **www.oldpueblo.org**

IMPORTANT TOUR INFORMATION

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 less than seven days prior to departure date are not refundable. Cancellation notice must be received in writing, or via email or fax, 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 for the dirt road to Ventana Cave, so registrants are advised to carpool and share fuel costs with fellow registrants who can take high-clearance passenger vehicles.

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. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the Tohono O'odham Reservation.

DEPARTURE: The tour caravan departs as soon as possible after 6:30 a.m. from the southeast corner of the Pima Community College "Community Campus" parking lot at 401 N. Bonita Avenue, Tucson, where those wishing to carpool with others can park vehicles at no charge. Bonita Avenue runs north-south between Congress St. and Saint Mary's Road just west of Interstate 10 and west of the Santa Cruz River. Community Campus is about midway between Congress and St. Mary's on the west side of Bonita. The return time is estimated to be around 3:30 p.m. 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: The only segment of the tour likely to cause walking difficulty for some people is the hike to Ventana Cave, which is accessible only by a fairly steep trail up a moderately steep hillside, rising about 200 feet in elevation above the cave parking area. Access to the parking area is along an unmaintained dirt road about 1/4-mile long that crosses fairly steep-sided washes. Low-clearance vehicles cannot cross these washes, therefore, riders in low-clearance vehicles will need to ride temporarily with drivers of high-clearance vehicles or walk in to the cave parking area from wherever the low-clearance vehicle has to stop. Tour leader will allow plenty of time for those who are able to make the trail or road walk but who cannot walk quickly. If you have difficulty walking over desert terrain or think you will not be able to hike up the trail to the cave you will only be able to view Ventana Cave from the parking area or from wherever the vehicle can no longer negotiate the dirt road. 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 azstateparks.com/SHPO/downloads/SHPO_Site_Etiquette.pdf and oldpueblo.org/collecting.html.

MEMBERSHIP: Becoming a member of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center opens a world of new discoveries. A \$25, 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 member with opportunities to participate in archaeological excavation and other 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.