



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Presents:

Autumn Equinox Tour of Los Morteros and Picture Rocks Petroglyphs Archaeological Sites

Monday September 23, 2019*
8 a.m. to noon

* **Deadline for reservations and donation prepayment is 5 p.m. Saturday September 21.**

Contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at
520-798-1201 or info@oldpueblo.org
to register and obtain meeting place directions.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's executive director, archaeologist Allen Dart, leads this tour to two of the Tucson area's premier archaeological sites. The tour will meet at Los Morteros and caravan from there to Picture Rocks.



Bedrock mortars for which "Los Morteros" is named
(Pima County Cultural Resources & Historic Preservation Office photo)

Los Morteros, an ancient village site of the Hohokam Indians from about A.D. 850 to 1300, 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 park, encompasses a large public architectural feature interpreted as a ballcourt used for ritual and other purposes, plus many refuse mounds, room blocks, hundreds of pithouses, and thousands of artifacts. Bedrock mortars (which inspired the site's name – *Los Morteros* is Spanish for "The Mortars") and petroglyphs also are present.



One of these petroglyphs
at the Picture Rocks site shows an
interesting sunlight interaction on equinox days

The Picture Rocks site in the Tucson Mountains foothills

contains hundreds of ancient rock symbols, made mostly by the Hohokam, although some of the rock designs may predate A.D. 500. The symbols at Picture Rocks include dancing human-like figures and whimsical animals as well as abstract designs. At least some of the petroglyphs evidently were ritually important, as evidenced by the observation that at least one of them is a marker for both equinoxes and the summer solstice of each year. An equinox calendar petroglyph at the site exhibits a specific interaction with a ray of sunlight on the morning of each equinox regardless of the hour and minute of the actual celestial equinox, so participants in this tour will see the sunlight interact with the calendar glyph if clouds do not block the sunlight on the tour day.

The Picture Rocks site is on a religious retreat property where silence and meditation are important. The tour is therefore limited to 32 people.

\$25 per person (\$20 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center and Pueblo Grande Museum Auxiliary members)
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.

Participants provide their own transportation and are advised to wear sturdy shoes & bring drinking water.

Please visit Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's web site at www.oldpueblo.org.