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

Saturday February 15, 2020
6 a.m. (Tucson departure) or 7 a.m. (Eloy departure)
to approximately 4 p.m.

Reservation & donation payment deadline:
5 p.m. Wednesday February 12

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.

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 a.m. in an attempt to arrive at the cave early enough to experience the pictographs’ fullest colors in the early morning light.

The tour will be led by Allen Dart, a Registered Professional Archaeologist who volunteers as Old Pueblo’s executive director.

Registrants returning to Tucson after the tour have the option of taking scenic Highway 86 through the Tohono O’odham Nation community of Quijotoa (Lower Covered Wells) and Sells, the Nation’s capital.

Participants must provide their own transportation, lunch, and water.

$45 donation per person
($36 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center and Pueblo Grande Museum Auxiliary members) benefits the Tohono O’odham Nation Hickiwan District’s efforts to care for Ventana Cave and Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s archaeology and culture education programs.
No charge for Tohono O’odham Nation members & employees.

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.
COST AND PAYMENT POLICY: Reservations are accepted on a first-come basis. Full payment is due within 10 days of reservation request or by tour registration deadline, whichever is earlier. 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 may be required on 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. Low-clearance vehicles may be parked at the highway turnout to the cave at driver’s own risk.

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: Registrants have option of meeting the tour group at 6 a.m. in Tucson at the Park & Ride parking lot at I-10 and Ruthrauff Rd. (northeast corner of the I-10 westbound Frontage Road, accessible from I-10 Exit 252), or at 7 a.m. on the east (front) side of the McDonalds Restaurant at 3160 N. Toltec Rd. in Eloy (accessible from I-10 Exit 203) but prior to the tour must commit to meet at one or the other departure location. Those wishing to carpool with others can park vehicles at either departure location at no charge and at their own risk. The return time to Tucson is estimated to be around 4 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 ca. half-mile roundtrip 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 a half-mile long that crosses fairly steep-sided washes. Low-clearance vehicles cannot cross these washes unless the road has been graded recently, 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 see the State Historic Preservation Office’s azstateparks.com/archaeological-site-etiquette and Old Pueblo’s www.oldpueblo.org/artifact-collecting/websites regarding appropriate behavior for visiting archaeological sites.

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.