



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Presents:  
**Winter Solstice Tour of Los Morteros and  
Picture Rocks Petroglyphs Archaeological Sites**  
with archaeologist Allen Dart, RPA

Saturday December 21, 2019  
8 a.m. to noon\*

\* **Deadline for reservations and donation prepayment is  
5 p.m. Thursday December 19.**

Contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at 520-798-1201 or  
[info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org) to register and for meeting place directions.

To celebrate the Winter Solstice, 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.

**Los Morteros**, an ancient village site of the Hohokam Indians from about AD 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 settlements along the Santa Cruz River. The core of Los Morteros, 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, probably hundreds of pithouses, many refuse mounds, and thousands of artifacts. Bedrock mortars that inspired the site's name (*Los Morteros* is Spanish for "the mortars") and petroglyphs also are present.



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



One of these petroglyphs at the Picture Rocks site shows interesting sunlight interactions on spring & fall equinox and summer solstice days

**Picture Rocks**, located in the foothills of the Tucson Mountains, is the site of hundreds of ancient rock symbols created mostly by the Hohokam, although some of the rock designs may predate AD 500. The symbols at Picture Rocks include dancing human-like figures, whimsical animals, and abstract depictions. At least some of these petroglyphs evidently were ritually important as evidenced by the observation that at least one of them is a marker for spring and fall equinoxes as well as for the summer solstice. Is it also a marker for the winter solstice? Join us, and if the day is sunny you can be the judge!

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

\$25 donation 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](http://www.oldpueblo.org).