



# Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Presents: Winter Solstice Tour to Los Morteros and Picture Rocks Petroglyphs Archaeological Sites

with archaeologist Allen Dart, RPA

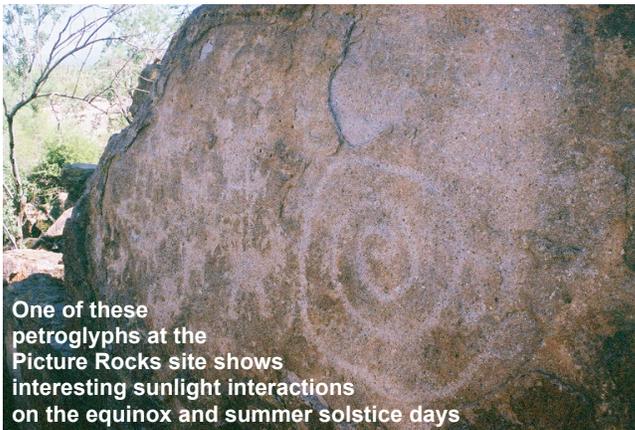
**Tuesday December 21, 2021, 8 a.m. to noon\***

Celebrating Winter Solstice, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's executive director archaeologist Allen Dart leads this tour to Los Morteros and Picture Rocks, two of the Tucson area's premier pre-Contact period archaeological sites.

**Los Morteros**, an ancient village site of the Hohokam Indians from about 850 to 1300 CE, 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 Division photo)



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

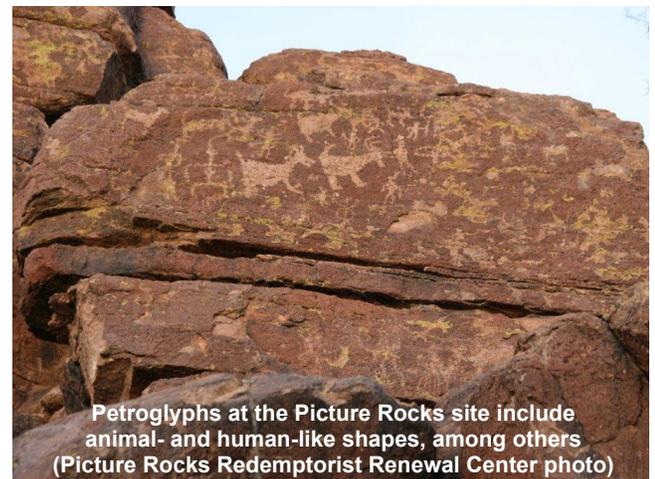
**Picture Rocks**, located in the foothills of the Tucson Mountains, is the site of hundreds of ancient rock symbols created mostly by the Hohokam, although some of the rock designs may predate 500 CE. The symbols at Picture Rocks include dancing human-like figures, whimsical animals, and abstract depictions. At least some of these petroglyphs evidently were ritually important as evidenced by the observation that 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!

**Parking is limited at the Picture Rocks – tour is limited to 32 people.**

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

\$30 donation per person  
(\$24 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center  
and Friends of Pueblo Grande Museum members)\*

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



Petroglyphs at the Picture Rocks site include animal- and human-like shapes, among others (Picture Rocks Redemptorist Renewal Center photo)

\* Donations are due 10 days after reservation request or by 5 p.m. Sunday December 19, whichever is earlier. 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.