



# Tucson and Marana Yoeme (Yaqui Indian) Communities

A Tour to Historic Cultural Sites with Yoeme Historian Felipe S. Molina Saturday January 28, 2023, 8 am to 1 pm



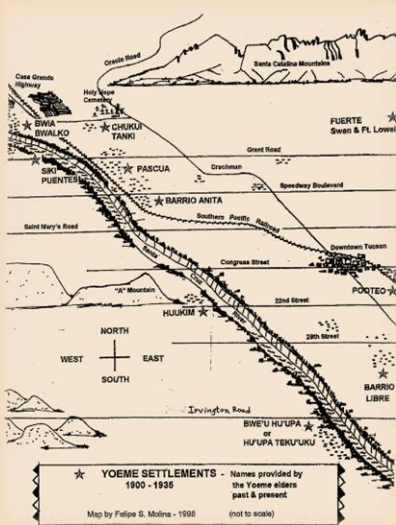
Typical home in Yoem Village, Marana, Arizona, 1936 Homes were built with railroad ties, saguaro cactus ribs, and mud, with sheet metal roofing. R. B. Spicer photo courtesy of Felipe Molina

**THE YOEME (YAQUI INDIANS)** have been present in southern Arizona at least since Father Kino began exploring in the 1690s, but they established several settlements in Arizona later to escape the Mexican government's 1890s-early 1900s war with the Yoeme in the state of Sonora. From 1880 through the early 1900s, Mexico began deporting Yoeme from their Sonora homeland to other Mexican states, prompting a steady stream of Yoeme to migrate north into Arizona. By 1908 hundreds of them had fled to the US to settle permanently, and in the 1920s more came to seek political asylum and join existing Arizona Yoeme settlements. By 1940 there were about 3,000 Yoeme in Arizona, mostly living in the well-established villages of Libre (Barrio Libre) and Pascua in Tucson, Yoem Pueblo and Wiilo Kampo in Marana, and others near Eloy, Somerton, Phoenix, and Scottsdale. In 1978 the US Government granted federal recognition to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and soon after established the Pascua Yaqui Indian Reservation at New Pascua.

**THIS TOUR WILL VISIT PLACES IN TUCSON AND MARANA** settled historically by Yoeme who fled Mexico. In Tucson we'll visit Bwe'u Hu'upa Village, San Martin Church and plaza in the 39th Community (Barrio Libre), Pascua, and possibly the San Ignacio Church and plaza. Then we will caravan to Marana to stop at Ili Hu'upa, Wiilo Kampo, and Yoem Pueblo's San Juan Church and plaza. Mr. Molina also will point out the Bwia Bwalko (Soft Earth) site east of the Santa Cruz River and Chukui Kawi west of Yoem Pueblo. Participants are responsible for their own transportation and are advised to wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

**TOUR LEADER FELIPE S. MOLINA**, a Yoem Pueblo resident, was taught the Indigenous language, culture, and history of the Yoemem (Yaquis) by his maternal grandfather and grandmother, his grandmother's cousin, and several elders from Tucson's original Pascua Village. After retiring from teaching he completed manuals on these topics for the Pascua Yaqui Social Service Department and has helped document Yoeme family stories of Guadalupe Village for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Enrollment Department.

Mr. Molina has co-authored the *Yoeme/English Dictionary* with Herminia Valenzuela and David Shaul; *The Old Man of the Fiesta* with James Griffith; *The Yaquis and Their Place* with Octaviana Salazar and Herminia Valenzuela; *Maso Bwikam: The Yaqui Deer Songs* and *The Coyote Songs* with Larry Evers; and *Yoeme Ethnobotany* with Richard Felger. He teaches traditional songs for the *maaso* (white-tailed deer) dance to Yoeme youth who will be the Arizona Yoeme communities' future Deer Dance singers.



Map courtesy of Felipe Molina

Tour meets at 1317 W. Irvington Rd., Tucson, at the Santa Cruz River Park ramada (on south side of Irvington just west of the Santa Cruz River).

The trip ends 28 miles away in Marana so carpools from the starting point should not be considered unless the driver plans to return to the meeting place after leaving Marana.

**\$35 donation (\$28 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center and Friends of Pueblo Grande Museum members)**

**Donation is due 10 days after reservation request or by 5 p.m. Wednesday January 25, 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 donation paid unless the cancelled space can be filled.

Cancellations 0 to 7 days prior to departure date are not refundable.

Flyer date  
December 30, 2022

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