

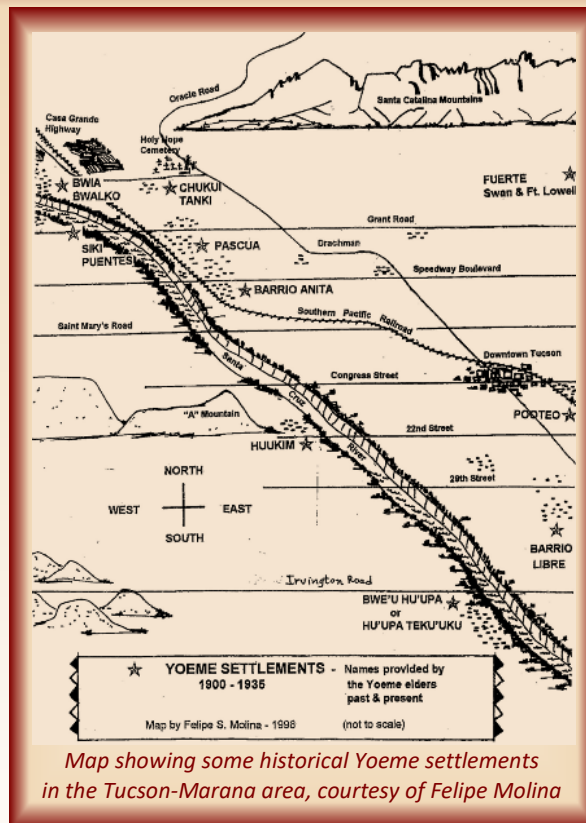
Tucson and Marana Yoeme (Yaqui Indian) Communities

A Tour to Historic Cultural Sites
with Yoeme Historian Felipe S. Molina
Saturday February 8, 2025, 8 am to 1 pm

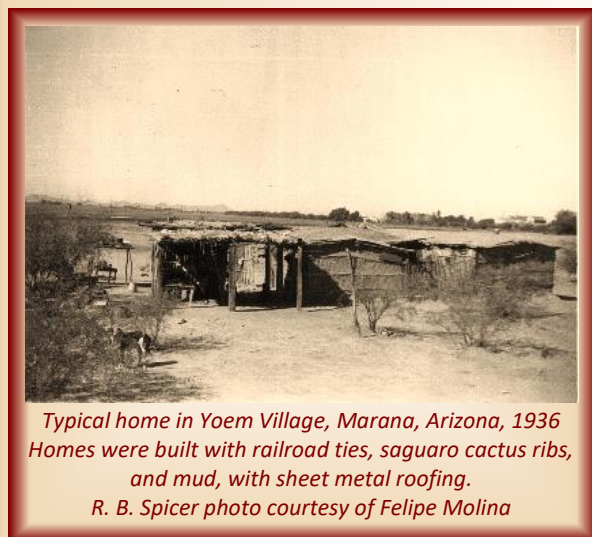
THE YOEME (YAQUI INDIANS) have been present in southern Arizona at least since Father Kino began exploring in the 1690s, but they established several settlements in our state later to escape the Mexican government's 1890s-early 1900s war with the Yoeme in the state of Sonora.

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 Yoeme 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.



Map showing some historical Yoeme settlements in the Tucson-Marana area, courtesy of Felipe Molina



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

THIS TOUR WILL VISIT TUCSON AND MARANA PLACES 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.

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

\$35 donation per person (\$28 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center and S'edav Va'aki Museum Foundation members) supports Old Pueblo's and Mr. Molina's education programs about archaeology and traditional cultures.

Donations are due 10 days after reservation request or by 5 pm Wednesday February 5, 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.

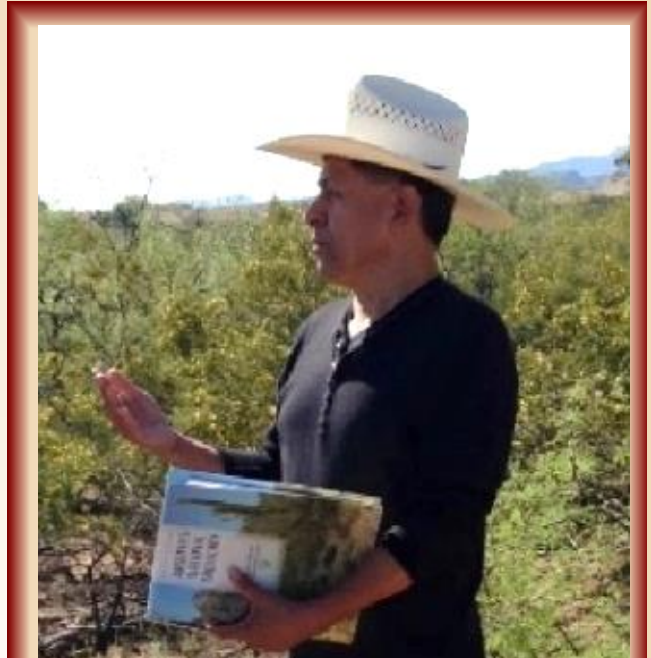
See more information on next page.

Tucson and Marana Yoeme (Yaqui Indian) Communities . . .

TOUR LEADER FELIPE S. MOLINA is a resident of Yoem Pueblo in Marana. He 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 Yaquis and Their Place* with Octaviana Salazar and Herminia Valenzuela; *Maso Bwikam: The Yaqui Deer Songs* and *The Coyote Songs* with Larry Evers; *The Old Man of the Fiesta* with James Griffith; *Yoeme Ethnobotany* with Richard Felger; and the *Yoeme/English Dictionary* with Herminia Valenzuela and David Shaul.



Felipe Molina
Photograph by Allen Dart

Mr. Molina still teaches traditional songs for the *maaso* (white-tailed deer) dance to Yoeme youth who will be the Arizona Yoeme communities' future Deer Dance singers.

The tour starts in Tucson
along Irvington Road
west of the Santa Cruz River.

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



Church at the entry to Yoem Pueblo Plaza
Photograph courtesy of Anabel Galindo

**Participants are responsible for
their own transportation and
are advised to wear sturdy shoes
and bring drinking water and a snack.**

