



Excavation scenes and some artifacts encountered at the Yuma Wash site (above) and Bojórquez-Aguirre Ranch site

Yuma Wash Hohokam Village and Bojórquez-Aguirre Ranch Archaeological Sites Tour

with archaeologist Allen Dart, RPA
3 to 5 pm Saturday November 22, 2025

The Yuma Wash archaeological site in Marana, Arizona, was a settlement founded sometime after 750 CE by Indians of the ancient Hohokam culture, whose descendants continued to live and farm there until their culture collapsed, perhaps as late as 1450.

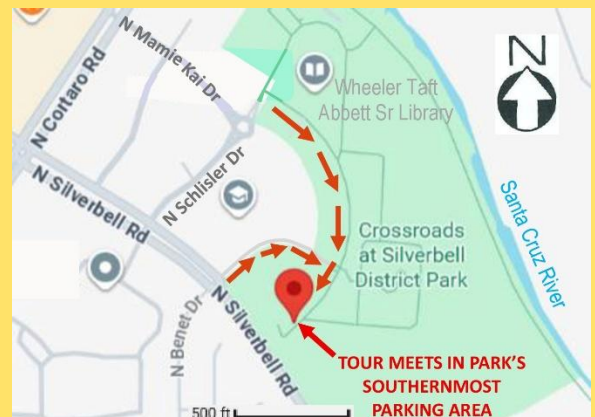
The historic Bojórquez-Aguirre Ranch archaeological site covered much the same area as the Yuma Wash site in the decades before and after the turn of the twentieth century. Juan and María Bojórquez, who operated a grocery store in Tucson, founded the ranch in 1878. After they left, Tucson entrepreneur Feliberto Aguirre filed a homestead petition on the property in 1896 and acquired title to it in 1900 after proving up on the homestead.

These two sites covered a large area west of the Santa Cruz River south of Cortaro Road, along Silverbell Road and on private properties to the southwest and in the Crossroads at Silverbell District Park northeast of Silverbell. Old Pueblo Archaeology Center and Desert Archaeology, Inc. conducted archaeological excavations to recover information and artifacts from both sites before Silverbell Road was widened and the area became developed.

The Yuma Wash site excavations identified over 100 Hohokam house ruins, most of which were the partly underground pithouse type but some were above-ground, pueblo-like homes. Many Hohokam outdoor features also were encountered including human burials, irrigation canals, middens, hearths, pits, and thousands of artifacts. Archaeologists also investigated the original Bojórquez Ranch house and outlying structures, and the Aguirre Ranch residence, bunkhouse, a substantial rock-masonry tank used for watering cattle, and other built features.

Traces of the Yuma Wash Hohokam site occupation are still present in the district park, as are some visible vestiges of the Bojórquez and Aguirre families' buildings and other structures. Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's Executive Director Allen Dart leads this tour to portions of the sites that are still preserved in the park.

The tour begins in the southernmost paved parking area of the Crossroads at Silverbell District Park, near Silverbell and Cortaro roads in Marana. Participants provide their own transportation and are advised to wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.



Reservations are required. A \$20 donation per person (\$15 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center members) supports Old Pueblo's education programs about archaeology and traditional cultures. Donations are due 10 days after reservation request or by 5 pm Wednesday November 19, whichever is earlier. Attendance is limited to 24 people.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OLD PUEBLO ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201.

Cancellations made 30 days or more before the tour date will not be charged. Cancellations 8 to 30 days before the tour date will be refundable at 50% of the fee paid unless the canceled space can be filled. Cancellations zero to 7 days prior to the tour date are not refundable.