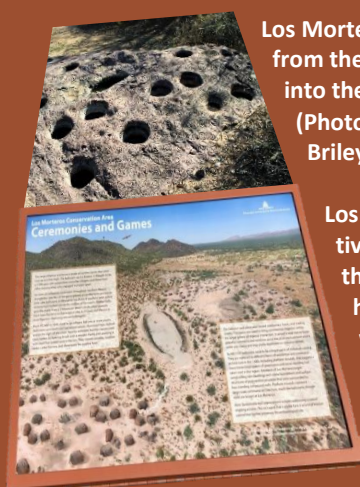




Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Presents: Winter Solstice Tour to Los Morteros Hohokam Village & Signal Hill Petroglyph Sites

with archaeologist Allen Dart, RPA
Sunday December 21, 2025, 8:30 am to noon*

Celebrating the Winter Solstice, this tour led by Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's executive director, archaeologist Allen Dart, will visit Los Morteros and Signal Hill, two exemplary Tucson-area archaeological sites of the precontact and historic periods.



Los Morteros got its name from these mortars worn into the bedrock there
(Photo by Karen Briley-Balkan)

Los Morteros interpretive sign showing how the ballcourt might have looked when it was in use by the Hohokam between 850 and 1100 CE
(Painting by Robert Ciaccio)

Los Morteros, an ancient village site of the Hohokam archaeological culture, has been studied by geographers, historians, and archaeologists for more than a century. During its heyday, ca. 850 to 1300 CE, 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 conservation park, encompasses the bedrock mortars that inspired the site's name (*Los Morteros* is Spanish for "the mortars"), probably hundreds of pithouses, a few petroglyphs, thousands of artifacts, and a large public architectural feature interpreted as a ballcourt used for games, ceremonies, and other public functions.

After leaving Los Morteros we will drive in a caravan 14.5 miles to the Signal Hill archaeological site located in Saguaro National Park's Tucson Mountains Unit. Signal Hill features over 200 ancient Hohokam petroglyphs, including ones depicting human-like figures, whimsical animals, and possibly flowers, as well as abstract images. There are also many spiral glyphs there, several of which exhibit "sun daggers" on summer solstice days, suggesting ritual use. The Signal Hill Picnic Area itself is an outstanding example of historic public-use structures designed and built by the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930s Great Depression.

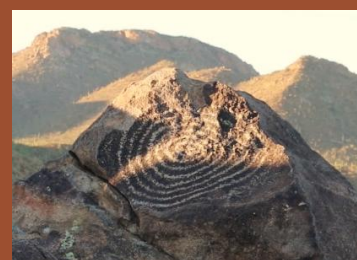
\$45 donation per person (\$36 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center members)

Donations are due 10 days after reservation request
or by 5 pm Wednesday December 18, whichever is earlier.

Participants are responsible for paying their own Saguaro National Park entry fees (www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/fees.htm) or bringing their own federal parks passes and for providing their own transportation and drinking water, and are advised to wear sturdy shoes and sunscreen.

Tour meeting place is near Silverbell Rd and Linda Vista Blvd in Marana, Arizona. Parking is limited. Attendance is limited to 24 people.

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.



Petroglyphs at the Signal Hill site include this spiral on which a "sun dagger" forms every summer solstice morning
(National Park Service photo by Jordan Camp)



Some outstanding examples of CCC architecture in the historic Signal Hill Picnic Area

Contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at info@oldpueblo.org
or 520-798-1201 to register or for more information.

Flyer date
August 24, 2025

