

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center presents
**Coyote Ruin, Fitzmaurice Ruin,
and Museum of Indigenous People**

**A Two-Day Cultural Education Tour to the Prescott, Arizona Area
with archaeologist Andrew L. Christenson, PhD**

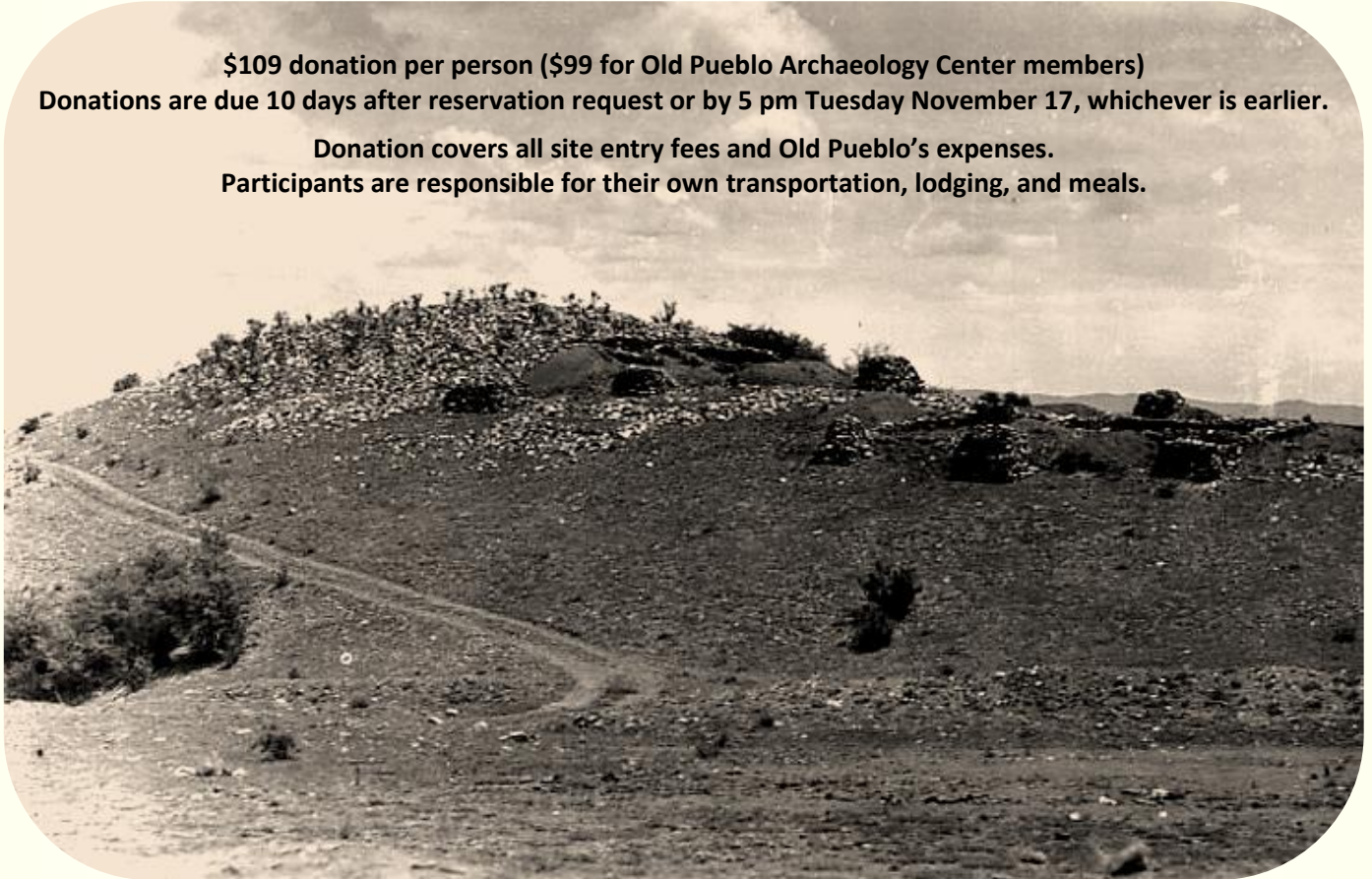
Starting at 11:30 am Saturday November 21, ending around noon Sunday November 22, 2026

\$109 donation per person (\$99 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center members)

Donations are due 10 days after reservation request or by 5 pm Tuesday November 17, whichever is earlier.

Donation covers all site entry fees and Old Pueblo's expenses.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation, lodging, and meals.



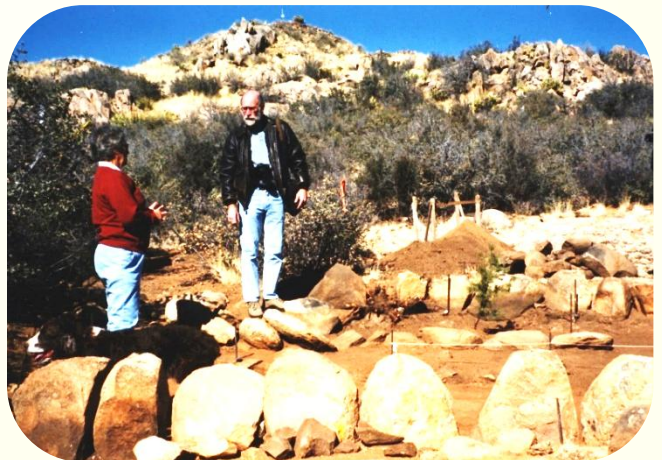
Above: A view of Fitzmaurice Ruin, a Prescott-area hilltop site, after excavations by the University of Arizona in 1933

Accompany archaeologist Dr. Andy Christenson on this tour to two of the most prominent Prescott culture archaeological sites, and one of Arizona's oldest anthropology museums.

See the following pages for more information.

Right: Archaeologist Peter Pilles, Jr., and Coyote Ruin monograph author Mary Spall in the terraced garden area of Coyote Ruin; main part of the site is on outcrops in background

All photos courtesy of Andy Christenson



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Aerial view of Coyote Ruin house mound and midlevel rooms, view to west with selected room numbers indicated (Photograph by Joe Vogel)

The Fitzmaurice Ruin includes a 27-room pueblo and outlying structures dating between 1140 and 1300, on and near a prominent hilltop overlooking Lynx Creek in Prescott Valley. Associated with it are stone-outlined areas interpreted as terraced garden plots used for flood irrigation on adjacent slopes, a possible diversion ditch for irrigating the gardens, and at least one petroglyph.

Analysis of pottery recovered from excavations recognized wares of the Tuzigoot, Verde, and Prescott traditions as well as locally made Hohokam-like types and ceramics from Ancestral Pueblo areas. These previous interpretations will be discussed during the tour.

Aerial view of Fitzmaurice Ruin after excavation, 1977

The Coyote Ruin divulged a record of human occupation from perhaps the 900s until after 1300 CE. Excavations there under the direction of archaeologist J. W. Simmons in the late 1920s are the earliest in the Prescott area for which we have documentation. For six years beginning in 1998 the Arizona Archaeological Society's Yavapai Chapter conducted excavations in 11 of Coyote's 26 rock-masonry rooms and two of its 10 pit structures, and documented several outlying agricultural and water-control features.

Ceramics included Prescott Gray, Verde Brown, and exotic wares mostly from the Kayenta and lower Colorado River areas. An abundance of projectile points and bones of deer, elk, pronghorn, and small mammals indicated the importance of hunting for the inhabitants, and archaeobotanical analysis documented consumption of maize, harvesting of a variety of seeds, and use of agave by its residents. We also will get to see some petroglyphs near the site.



Prescott's Museum of Indigenous People, originally the Smoki Museum, is a complex of stone buildings for which construction was completed in 1935 by a non-Native, community-minded social group, "the Smoki People," with assistance from Depression-era work program participants. In 2020 the museum was renamed to best reflect the cultural resources in its collections as well as the Native community it serves. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Museum curates and exhibits precontact, historical, and contemporary examples of Indian cultural and artistic material from the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.



The Museum of Indigenous People was constructed from field stones to resemble ancient archaeological sites of the Prescott area..

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Tour guide Andy Christenson has been a professional archaeologist of Arizona for over 50 years, with breaks in southern California and Illinois.

In school at UCLA he was fortunate to get a heavy dose of the “new archaeology,” which has served him well, with modifications, since then. He was fortunate again to get his first full-time job on the Black Mesa Project in northern Arizona, which led to working in Tsegi Canyon for a number of seasons and being a visiting scholar at the Arizona State Museum in Tucson.

Andy met his future wife Dana Oswald in Carbondale and says “fortunately” he got “dragged” to Prescott over 35 years ago. Since then he has been a private consultant doing archaeological surveys and analyses of ceramic and stone artifacts. The presence of a chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society in Prescott drew him into various issues with the local archaeology, which have taken up an increasing amount of his research time since then.

Currently Andy is Curator of the Museum of Indigenous People.



*Andy Christenson and
the Museum of Indigenous People's
Paleoindian/megafauna exhibit*

Tentative Itinerary

All tour times are Mountain Standard Time. Tour registrants will be provided with maps to the places we will visit.

DAY ONE: 11:30 am, participants meet for the Coyote Ruin visit at the entrance of the gated community in which the archaeological site is located. From the access gate some carpooling may be necessary. Upon arrival at the site we will break for lunch, so everyone needs to be sure to bring their own bag lunches.

After lunch it's an easy hike to the main part of the site but a bit more difficult to climb to its highest rooms and look at some of the rock art. There are no facilities but bushes are plentiful.

2 pm, leave Coyote Ruin parking area and caravan to the Museum of Indigenous People.

2:30 pm, Andy hosts us at the Museum and discusses the exhibits. Participants can browse the gift shop. We may also get to see some of the Museum's storage rooms offered if there's sufficient time.

4 pm or later, leave the Museum.

6 pm, optional group dinner on participants' own dime at Murphy's Restaurant, 201 N Cortez St in downtown Prescott: <https://murphysprescott.com/>. To join our tour group for dinner please make your reservation with Old Pueblo, not with the restaurant.

DAY TWO: Bring snacks and drinking water, drive on AZ-69 to meet at 9 am in the Town of Prescott Valley's Fain Park to visit Fitzmaurice Ruin. It's about a 30-minute hike to Fitzmaurice with one steepish part of trail to negotiate. (A walking stick may be useful here.) We will tour the site as long as the group wants, probably 2 to 2½ hours depending on walking speed and interest. There are restroom facilities where we park but not at the site.

Between 11 am and 12 pm, tour officially ends at the Fitzmaurice parking area, after which everyone can leave for home, their next destination, or the Museum of Indigenous People for a revisit.

Carry and drink water on the walk/hike to each archaeological site!

More information on next page

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For more information & reservations contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201.

IMPORTANT TOUR INFORMATION

COST AND PAYMENT POLICY: Reservations are accepted on a first-come basis. Full payment is due 10 days after reservation request or by 5 pm Tuesday November 17, whichever is earlier. A portion of the tour donation will be a tax-deductible contribution to be shared by Old Pueblo Archaeology Center (Old Pueblo) and the Museum of Indigenous People. To tax-deductible portion will be calculated based on tour expenses compared to revenues after all expenses have been paid. Any entrance fee savings from passes, permits, memberships, etc., become part of the donation to Old Pueblo. We welcome singles, couples, and groups.

CANCELATIONS less than seven days prior to departure date are not refundable. Cancellation notice must be received in writing or via email and will be effective as of the date received. Cancellations after final payment date/time will result in forfeiture of all money paid. No refund will be made for leaving a program in progress. Trip insurance is highly recommended. Old Pueblo reserves the right to cancel programs while in progress and to take action as needed on an individual or group basis, when in Old Pueblo's sole opinion the health, safety, or well-being of participants requires such action. The tour itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Old Pueblo but participants will be notified of significant changes in advance if the change is under the control of Old Pueblo.

TRANSPORTATION: Registrants are responsible for their own transportation, navigation, and determination of how long it will take to drive to the tour meeting places in Prescott Valley and Prescott, Arizona.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS: No lodging, meals, or beverages are included in tour donation. Each participant needs to bring at least two liters of water each day, plus snacks and other beverages as desired. Please do not consume alcohol during the tour. There are several restaurant options in Prescott and Prescott Valley for Saturday lunch (if you don't bring your own) and dinner, and for Sunday breakfast.

RESTROOMS: On the Day One visit to Coyote Ruin there are no restroom facilities except bushes so bring your own tissue. On Day Two there are facilities where we will park for the hike to Fitzmaurice Ruin but not at the site itself. There are restrooms at the Museum of Indigenous People.

DEPARTURE AND DURATION: Meeting place maps will be provided to tour registrants via email prior to departure. On Day One (Saturday November 21, 2026) the tour will begin at 11:30 am at the Coyote Ruin parking area in Prescott Valley. The second meeting place on Day One will be at the Museum of Indigenous People, 147 N Arizona Ave, Prescott, probably around 2:30 pm depending on how long the Coyote Ruin visit and the drive from there to the Museum lasts. On Day Two (Sunday November 22) the meet-up will be at 9 am in the paved parking lot of Fain Park, 2200 N 5th St, Prescott Valley, for the hike to Fitzmaurice Ruin. Estimated end time for on Day Two is between 11 am and noon. Start and end times for the visits may be earlier or later than suggested here considering how fast people can walk and regroup at the various stops and the possibility that traffic delays, vehicle problems, or injuries can occur.

ACCESSIBILITY: Some segments of the hikes to Coyote and Fitzmaurice ruins are off-trail on fairly steep terrain (see page 1 and 2 photos), and some rock- and boulder-hopping may be required to see some of the petroglyphs and other archaeological features up close. The Museum of Indigenous People is accessed from Arizona Avenue (front of museum) via about 16 stone stairs (see page 2 photo), or from Gurley Street by driving north into the paved driveway that is immediately west of the Grace M. Sparks Activity Center (824 E Gurley St, Prescott). A parking map will be provided to registrants. Tour leaders will allow plenty of time for those who cannot walk quickly. Participants can walk/hike as much or as little as they wish.

HEALTH ADVISORIES: Be sure to bring along plenty of water each day. Wear sturdy walking/hiking shoes (boots are not necessary). Bring and wear sunscreen lotion, and a hat that protects the back of your neck and your ears. You must be in good physical and mental health to do this tour. We are concerned about your health and safety. Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's tour coordinator has had first-aid and CPR training but medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible during parts of the tour. You are responsible for selecting events appropriate to your abilities and limitations. If you have any doubts about your ability to participate, please contact us prior to registering. Any physical condition requiring special attention, diet, or treatment must be reported when the reservation is made, and a follow-up explanatory letter may be required.

PARTICIPANTS MUST ABIDE by all federal, state, and tribal regulations pertaining to visitation to historic sites, antiquities, and artifact sites during Old Pueblo Archaeology Center tours. Collecting of artifacts, plants, animals, and mineral specimens is prohibited. See www.oldpueblo.org/artifact-collecting/ and azstateparks.com/archaeological-site-etiquette for information about archaeological legalities and site etiquette.

MEMBERSHIP: Becoming a member of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center opens a world of new discoveries. A \$25, 1-year "Friend" membership provides a subscription to the *Old Pueblo Archaeology* bulletin and discounts on some of Old Pueblo's prices for tour and course fees, and publications. Higher levels of membership may provide the member with opportunities to participate in archaeological excavation and other research projects that may be scheduled by Old Pueblo. For membership details contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201, or visit our web site: www.oldpueblo.org.

