Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Presents:

Winter Solstice Tour to Los Morteros and Picture Rocks Petroglyphs Archaeological Sites

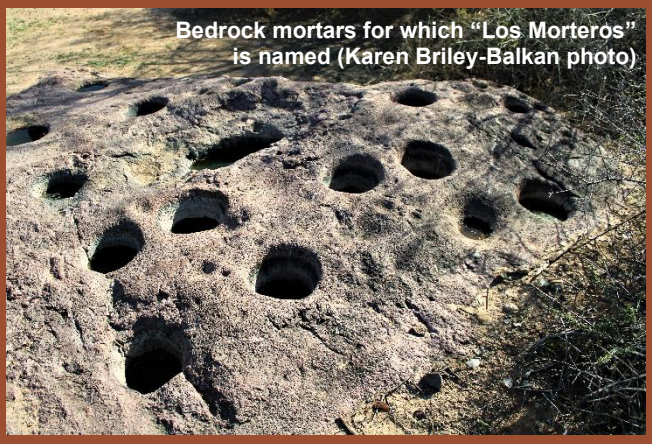
with archaeologist Allen Dart, RPA

Monday December 21, 2026, 8 am to noon*

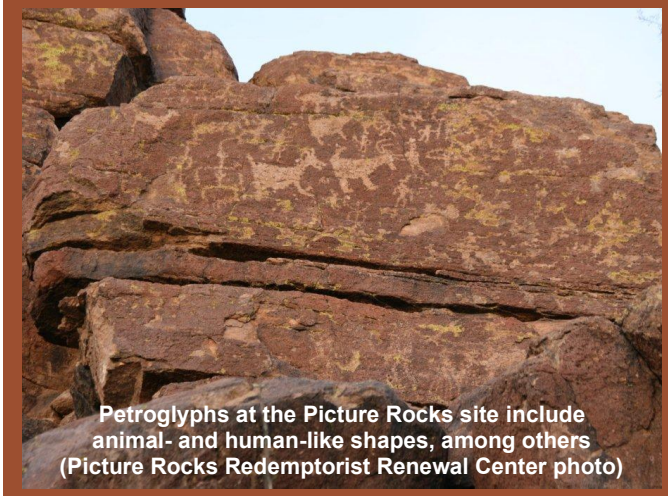
Flyer date
May 18, 2026

Celebrating Winter Solstice, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's executive director, archaeologist Allen Dart, leads this tour to Los Morteros and Picture Rocks, two of the Tucson area's premier precontact period archaeological sites.

Los Morteros, an ancient village site of the Hohokam culture, has been studied by archaeologists and historians for more than a century. During its heyday from 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"), a large public architectural feature interpreted as a ballcourt used for ritual and other purposes, probably hundreds of pithouses, some petroglyphs, and thousands of artifacts.



Bedrock mortars for which "Los Morteros" is named (Karen Briley-Balkan photo)



Petroglyphs at the Picture Rocks site include animal- and human-like shapes, among others (Picture Rocks Redemptorist Renewal Center photo)

The Picture Rocks archaeological site located in the foothills of the Tucson Mountains includes over 400 ancient petroglyphs created mostly by the Hohokam, although some of the rock images may predate 500 CE. The symbols at Picture Rocks include many whimsical animals, dancing and other human-like figures, and abstract depictions. At least some of these glyphs evidently were ritually important considering that one of them is a marker for the spring and fall equinoxes as well as for the summer solstice. Does it also mark the winter solstice? Join us, and if the day is sunny you can be the judge!

Participants provide their own transportation and are advised to wear sturdy shoes & bring drinking water.

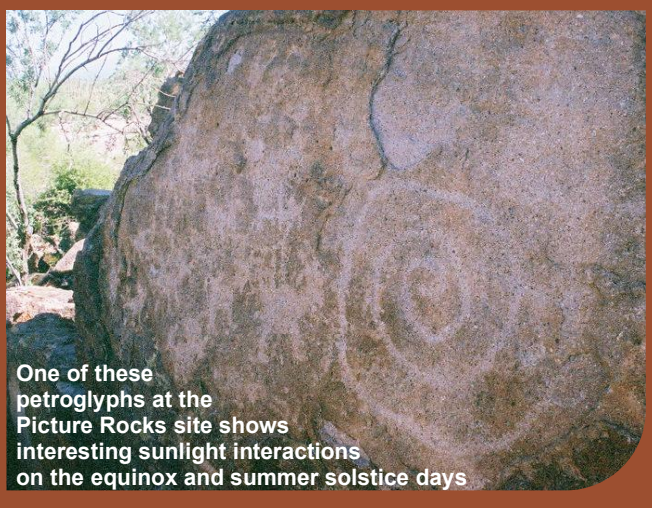
$45 donation per person ($36 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center members)*

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

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

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

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



One of these petroglyphs at the Picture Rocks site shows interesting sunlight interactions on the equinox and summer solstice days