

**The Witte Museum Rock Art Foundation
White Shaman Preserve Guided Tours
Every Saturday, September through May**

These tours are limited to 20 participants (ages 12 and up)

All minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Your own high-clearance vehicle is recommended for this tour.

Come join the Witte Museum Rock Art Foundation for a tour of one of the most remarkable and well-photographed rock art sites in the Lower Pecos. The White Shaman composition, its meaning and the techniques used to create it, have been the subject of intense scholarly research and many publications. It is one of the most spectacular surviving examples of the use of extraordinarily rare white paint. More information on this fascinating, truly one-of-a-kind archeological site can be found in the ground-breaking book, *Painters in Prehistory: Archeology and Art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands*, by Witte Museum Curator of Archeology Dr. Harry Shafer (Trinity University Press, 2013) and *The White Shaman Mural* by Dr. Carolyn Boyd (University of Texas Press, 2016).

Driving Directions/Where to Meet:

Meet your Guide at the entrance gate to the Witte Museum Rock Art Foundation White Shaman Preserve. The gate is approximately 42 miles west of Del Rio on Highway 90.

1. Leave Del Rio heading west on Hwy 90 to Comstock – about 32 miles.
2. Continue past Comstock heading west on Hwy 90 to Seminole Canyon State Park – about 9 miles.
3. Continue past the entrance to Seminole Canyon State Park approximately 1.5 miles to the gate to the Witte Museum Rock Art Foundation White Shaman Preserve.
4. If you go over the Pecos River high bridge, you have gone too far.

The physical address is 42535 West U.S. Highway 90; Comstock TX 78837

There are no facilities at the White Shaman Preserve, so a short stop to use the restrooms at the Seminole Canyon State Park prior to your visit is always a good idea.

Be prepared for a prompt departure from the gate at **12:30 p.m.** The tour should be complete by **2:00 p.m.** The tour is about two miles round trip. The hike requires climbing numerous stairs and steep grades with loose rocks. Participants must be in good physical condition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All participants on Witte Museum Rock Art Foundation tours and events must complete the attached Liability Release Form (below) before participating. Please read this carefully. You will be asked to sign this form by your Tour Guide while onsite.

By signing this form and participating, you also confirm that you have read and will abide by the attached Tour Guidelines and Expectations (See Below).

Additional Details

All Witte tours must be paid in advance to ensure your reservation. Please make your reservations no later than 7 days prior to tour date. Only those paid in advance are guaranteed a place on the tour. Cancellations must be made a minimum of 7 days prior to the trip to receive a full refund. If the tour must be cancelled because of inclement weather (e.g. rain), a full refund will be issued.

Tour Guidelines and Expectations for All Tour Participants

Participants must be aware of the remote and difficult environmental conditions and terrain into which our tours travel. Participants must be able to traverse rugged terrain. This involves hiking considerable distances, scrambling over rocks and boulders, steep ascents and steep descents, walking in or over loose rock, and through dense brush. At any time of the year desert heat can be extreme. In most cases medical help and trauma care are several hours away. For your safety and protection please consider the following guidelines for all tours:

- Tours are not suitable for small children under age 12. All minors must be accompanied by a parent of legal guardian.
- Read the description of each tour carefully. Consider the length and difficulty of the tour carefully. Realistically consider your ability.
- Your safety and well-being on tours is your responsibility.
- Many of our tours are on privately owned land. Please be respectful of the landowner's rights and property at all times.
- Alcohol, firearms, and pets are not allowed on any tour.
- A few tours require that you bring a 4-WD high clearance vehicle. Your vehicle will be subject to harsh desert conditions. The Witte Museum does not supply vehicles or arrange transportation if you do not have a suitable vehicle.
- Stay with the group and follow the instructions of your guide.
- For the safety of the group, tours may be canceled at any stage at the discretion of the guide.
- Few tours have restroom facilities. Be prepared to use the restroom outdoors.
- Please be alert when visiting the area near the Mexico/US Border. For the most current travel advisories and safety information, please visit the State Department Travel Alert web site at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/mexico-travel-warning.html>

What to bring and wear:

- Wear clothing appropriate to the weather and terrain. Long sleeve shirts and pants are helpful protection from the sun and desert plants.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat and use sunscreen.
- An umbrella is good sun protection.
- Closed toed footwear with good traction is required on all tours. Leather-soled cowboy boots don't work!
- A small backpack or fanny pack for your gear, water, and food.
- Bring plenty of water and drink frequently. Hydrate before the tour and bring full water bottles - 2 quarts per day minimum. You will not be allowed to participate without an adequate water supply.
- Bring lunch and snacks that do not require refrigeration.
- Walking sticks are helpful.
- Camera

If you have any questions, please contact us at the Witte Museum Reservations Desk: **210-357-1910.**

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

This form must be signed, prior to any entrance to any property owned, occupied or visited by the Witte Museum, by (i) all persons 18 years of age or older and (ii) the guardians of all persons younger than 18 years of age.

In consideration of the granting to the undersigned permission to enter this property, I hereby release the Witte Museum, their Boards of Directors, their parties, representatives, agents, property owners, volunteers and employees (the individuals) from any and all liability whatsoever arising by virtue of my entering on said properties and will protect and hold harmless the above parties and individuals from any damages sustained in the nature of personal injury or property loss to myself or any minor children under the age of 18 years under my supervision. The term "injury" as used herein also covers death and this agreement is binding upon the estate of the undersigned. The undersigned expressly confirms that it is the intent of the undersigned, by executing this agreement, to release or indemnify the Witte Museum and the individuals from and against the consequences of the Witte Museum and the individuals own negligence (whether such negligence is the sole proximate cause or a proximate cause jointly or concurrently with the negligence of undersigned or others) resulting in the damage or injury to the person and/or property of undersigned (and the minor children) covered by this agreement.

Date(s): _____

Property Visited: _____

Desert hikes require stamina, balance, a tolerance for heat and a higher level of physical conditioning. Tours are strenuous involving uneven trails, high places, loose rocks, heavy brush, steep descents and climbs (some rope assisted) and can be dangerous for those in poor physical condition. Medical help is not quickly available and serious injuries or allures due to poor physical conditioning can be catastrophic. You must carefully evaluate your ability before participation.

The Guide may cancel the tour at his/her discretion if, in the Guides opinion, the safety of the group or an individual is in jeopardy. Children must be under adult control at all times and must stay with the group.

The undersigned, by their signatures below, also give consent for the use of any photograph of any guests participating in the Witte Museum activities for use in the Witte Museum publications and otherwise.

AGREEMENT AND WARNING: I UNDERSTAND AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AN AGRITOURISM ENTITY IS NOT LIABLE FOR ANY INJURY TO OR DEATH OF AN AGRITOURISM PARTICIPANT RESULTING FROM AGRITOURISM ACTIVITIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE ACCEPTED ALL RISK OF INJURY, DEATH, PROPERTY DAMAGE, AND OTHER LOSS THAT MAY RESULT FROM AGRITOURISM ACTIVITIES.

This form must be signed, prior to any entrance to any property owned, occupied or visited by the Witte Museum, by (i) all persons 18 years of age or older and (ii) the guardians of all persons younger than 18 years of age.

**Print Name (Adult and Child)
Address**

Signature

Emergency Phone/E Mail

1. Guide

2. Guide

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