



# HALO SHELTER GUIDED TOUR

## *Guidelines and Expectations*

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Join the Witte Museum for a tour of this remarkable site. Halo Shelter harbors stunning Pecos River style rock art that is unique both in theme and color. A line of deer emerges from a single shadowy deer figure to run across the limestone wall. Beautiful golden yellow colors rarely seen in rock art form fill the bodies of several figures. Many of the unique icons of Pecos River rock art are found at Halo Shelter.

The road to this site is dusty and rough. The tour requires stamina, agility, and balance on the part of all participants. Complete physical mobility is essential. You will be in a remote location where response to serious injuries and medical emergencies will be difficult and lengthy. Please be physically prepared for this hike. Wear sturdy shoes, layer your clothing according to the weather, and bring drinking water/lunch/snacks. The descent into the canyon is very steep, with a rope provided to help steady hikers along the rocky trail.

### **Driving Directions/Where To Meet:**

**A high clearance 4WD vehicle is required for this tour.** Meet your guide at 9:00am along Highway 90 W in front of the RV Park (there is a large sign) about 1 mile west of Comstock. We will consolidate vehicles and any vehicles left at this location should be secure. Be prepared for a prompt 9:30 AM departure. It will take approximately 1 hour to travel to the site. The tour should complete by 4 or 5 PM. There will be a restroom available at the ranch that we can use immediately prior and following the tour. Please do not bring any pets.

### **Important Notice:**

All participants on Witte Museum tours and events must complete and sign the Liability Release Form before participating. Please read carefully. You will be asked to sign this form while on site by your Tour Guide.

By signing this form and participating, you also confirm that you have read and will abide by the Tour Guidelines and Expectations below.

### **Reservations and Cancellations:**

All Witte tours must be paid in advance to ensure your reservation. Only those paid in advance are guaranteed a place on the tour. Cancellations must be made a minimum of 10 days prior to the tour to receive a full refund. Cancellations made after the 10 day minimum are non-refundable. Tours may be cancelled due to weather conditions,

extreme heat/cold, limited participation, road conditions, lake/river levels, etc. If a tour is cancelled by the Witte Museum, a full refund will be issued. If a tour participant does not arrive at the gate on time, and therefore misses the tour, their ticket cost will not be refunded. For the safety of the group and at the discretion of the Guide, tours may be cancelled at any stage during the tour. Requests for private tours must be submitted in writing to [reservations@wittemuseum.org](mailto:reservations@wittemuseum.org).

### **Health and Safety:**

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, knee to chest climbs, 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 children under age 12. All minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Read the description of each tour carefully. Consider the length and difficulty of the tour carefully. Realistically consider your ability to safely participate.
- Your safety and well-being on tours is your responsibility.
- 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.
- This private ranch tour requires 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.
- Always stay with the group and follow the instructions of your 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.

### **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.
- Closed toed footwear with good traction is required on all tours.
- 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/snacks that do not require refrigeration.
- Walking sticks are helpful.
- Camera

**Photography, Video and Electronic Devices:**

Photographs or video taken on the property are for personal use only. All requests to reproduce images for research, exhibition, publication or distribution must be approved by the landowner. For protection of this special archaeological site, we request that participants minimize the use of electronics and do not share locational information including GPS or geotagged information. The use of drones is not permitted.

**Respect for Archaeological Sites and Rock Art:**

The Witte Museum is proud to be a conservation steward. As an elite accredited museum with the American Alliance of Museums, we have the highest standards to uphold. For the preservation of the rock art, the use of open flame or smudging or smoking of any kind in the shelter is not allowed under any circumstances. Halo Shelter is considered a sacred site and removal of any artifact, cultural or paleontological remains is prohibited.

If you have any questions, please contact the Witte Museum Reservations Team at **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.

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. Photographs or video taken on the property are for personal use only. All requests to reproduce images for research, exhibition, publication or distribution must be submitted to the Registrar's office at [collections@wittemuseum.org](mailto:collections@wittemuseum.org).

**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.**

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Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Property Visited: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Emergency Contact Name &amp; Phone Number</b>
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Guide	_____	_____
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