



## WHITE SHAMAN PRESERVE TOURS

### *Guidelines and Expectations*

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#### **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. Leave Del Rio heading west on Hwy 90 to Comstock – about 32 miles. Continue past Comstock heading west on Hwy 90 to Seminole Canyon State Park – about 9 miles. 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. If you go over the Pecos River high bridge, you have gone too far.

The GPS coordinates for the White Shaman Preserve front gate are 29.70326 N, 101.34238 W.

There are no facilities at the White Shaman Preserve.

Plan to arrive at the gate no later than 12:20 p.m. and be prepared for a prompt departure from the gate at 12:30 p.m. Please be mindful of the time, we are unable to wait for anyone running late. The tour should be complete by 3:00 p.m. The tour is about one mile round trip. The hike requires climbing numerous stairs and steep slopes 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 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.
- Some private ranch 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.
- 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 of the White Shaman Preserve of the Witte Museum 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). For protection of this special archaeological site, we request that participants minimize the use of electronics. Do not share locational information for sites on private land and the use of drones is not permitted.

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

The Witte Museum is proud to be a conservation steward of the White Shaman Preserve, a nationally recognized historic site. 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.

The White Shaman Preserve is a sacred site. Requests for ceremonial use of the White Shaman Preserve must be submitted in writing to the Witte Museum. Approval of requests will be weighed against the risk to the site, human safety and museum resources. Availability to White Shaman Preserve is limited, so any request must be scheduled in advance. The White Shaman Preserve is an archaeological 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 of the White Shaman Preserve of the Witte Museum 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 and Phone Number</b>
Guide _____		
Guide _____		
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