



WHITE SHAMAN PRESERVE TOUR GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

Driving Directions + Where to Meet

Meet your Guide at the entrance gate to the Witte Museum's White Shaman Preserve. The gate is approximately 2 miles west of Seminole Canyon State Park and 42 miles west of Del Rio on Highway 90. Plan to arrive at the gate no later than 12:15 p.m. and be prepared for a prompt departure from the gate by 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 2:30 p.m.

If you are traveling from San Antonio/Del Rio, 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 2 miles to the gate to the Witte Museum's White Shaman Preserve. The entrance will be on your right. 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.

Reservations + Cancellations

All Witte tours must be paid in advance to confirm your reservation. Only those with reservations 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.

Important Notice – Release of Liability

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.

Health + Safety

Participants must be aware of the remote and extreme environmental conditions and terrain into which our tours travel. This involves hiking considerable distances, scrambling over rocks and boulders, knee to chest climbs, steep ascents and 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 and expectations for all tours:

- The White Shaman tour requires a strenuous 1.5 mile hike descending 250 feet into a narrow brushy canyon with loose rocks and uneven footing. Getting to the mural requires climbing numerous stairs up a steep slope.
- Weather can be extremely hot and arid. Hydrate before the tour and bring full containers of water – 2 quarts of water minimum. You will not be allowed to participate without an adequate water supply.
- Due to the vigorous nature of the hike, tours are not suitable for children under age 12. All minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Evaluate 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.
- Always stay with the group and follow the instructions of your Guide.
- Alcohol and firearms are not allowed on the tour.
- Pets are not allowed on the White Shaman Preserve property and it is not safe for them to be left in vehicles.
- 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.
- There are no restroom facilities at the White Shaman Preserve, be prepared to go outdoors.
- Take trash with you, leave no trace.

What to Wear + Bring

- 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.
- A small backpack or fanny pack for your gear, water, and food.
- Bring lunch and snacks that do not require refrigeration.
- Bring plenty of water – 2 quarts minimum and drink frequently.
- Walking sticks or trekking poles can be helpful tools.
- Sunglasses
- Camera
- Binoculars

Respect for Archaeological Sites + Rock Art

The White Shaman Preserve is an archaeological site that contains irreplaceable information about the past. As stewards of this nationally recognized site, it is our responsibility to help protect and preserve it. Removal of any artifact, cultural or paleontological remains is prohibited. For your safety and the protection of archaeological sites, stay on designated trails at all times.

Refrain from touching rock art or wall surfaces. Rock art is a visual record of the spiritual and cultural heritage of ancestral peoples. It has great significance to its creators, their descendants and to humanity. Its preservation is crucial. Oil, sweat and dirt from our hands can be destructive and ruin dating potential for future researchers.

The White Shaman shelter 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. For the preservation of the rock art, the use of open flame or smudging or smoking of any kind in shelters is not allowed.

Photography, Video + 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. For protection of this special archaeological site, we request that participants minimize the use of electronics. Do not share any locational information of rock art sites including GPS or geotagged information from photos on your phone. The use of drones is not permitted.

If you have any questions, please contact the Witte Museum Group Experience 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.

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: _____

PRINT NAME SIGNATURE EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

Guide _____

Guide _____

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