

**FIELD GUIDE**

**FEB. 27 - MAR. 1 , 2026**



**WITTE MUSEUM  
ROCK ART RENDEZVOUS**



Please read this field guide to prepare you for a safe weekend full of adventure and wonder.



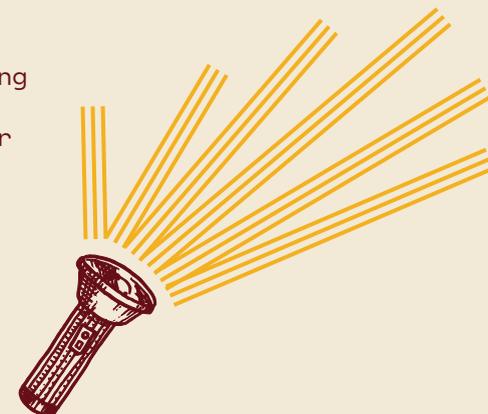
## PACKING LIST

- Headlamp or flashlight
- Layers / jacket / rain gear / gloves
- Water 3-4 liters a day minimum
- Sunscreen
- Hiking shoes or boots
- Lip balm with SPF
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses
- Bandana
- Refillable water bottle
- Walking stick or trekking poles with rubber tips
- Backpack or hip pack for gear, food and water
- Battery pack or solar phone charger
- Tent with extra stakes- it can get windy!
- Camp chair

- Bags to carry out trash
- Salty snacks & electrolytes
- Non-perishable foods
- Towel
- Telescope
- Binoculars
- Credit card / cash for raffle
- Legal ID for Border Patrol Checkpoint
- Insect repellent
- Guitar or musical instrument for evenings at the fire ring
- Your sense of wonder

## WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Generators
- Firearms
- Drones
- Pets



## ROCK ART RENDEZVOUS CAMP CODE

**ARRIVAL** Check in to sign the Release of Liability form and receive your Rock Art Rendezvous welcome packet and sign-up for tours.

**BE AWARE** The Lower Pecos Canyonlands landscape is full of desert plants, bugs, and critters that can bite, poke, or stick you. Weather can be very unpredictable.

**BE NEIGHBORLY** Respect fellow campers by allowing space between campsites. Observe quiet time at campsites from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. **Enjoy music and late-night conversations at the fire ring.**

**BE A GOOD STEWARD** 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. Remember to leave rocks where they are; do not disturb or use them to set up camp. Removal of any artifact, fossil, rock, or archaeological remains is prohibited.

**PRACTICE SELF-CARE** Stay hydrated and wear sunscreen and lip balm. Protect yourself from the heat, cold, sun, wind, and desert plants by wearing sunglasses, long sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats.

**PROTECT ROCK ART SITES** Refrain from touching rock art surfaces. Rock art is a visual record of the spiritual and cultural heritage of ancestral peoples. Its preservation is crucial. Oil, sweat, and dirt from our hands can be destructive. Do not share any locational information of rock art sites including GPS or geotagged information from photos on your phone.

**BE PREPARED** There are no restroom facilities on the tours, so be prepared to go outdoors and pack out all waste. Remember to wear the Rock Art Rendezvous lanyard provided in your packet for access to shower and restroom facilities at Seminole Canyon State Park. Fill your vehicle up with gas before arriving so you can travel to and from off-site tours during the weekend.

**RESPECT THE LAND** No ground fires or generators. The Preserve is a natural wildlife area with sensitive wildlife and plant ecosystems. Pets are not permitted on the property.

\* Entry to the Rock Art Rendezvous grants permission for the Witte Museum to take photos or videos for educational and marketing purposes.



# ROCK ART RENDEZVOUS CAMPGROUNDS



## MAP KEY

### B CARPORT B

- CHECK-IN
- TOUR SIGN-UP
- FIRST AID

### C KITCHEN

- COWBOY COFFEE + OATMEAL BREAKFAST

### D PICNIC AREA



FIRE RING

- BBQ DINNER + RAFFLE LOCATION
- TOUR MEETING LOCATION



WATER TRAILER

- POTABLE WATER
- HANDWASHING + DISHWASHING



BBQ GRILL

- FOR PARTICIPANT USE, CHARCOAL + FUEL PROVIDED
- BYO UTENSILS, TONGS, SPATULA, THERMOMETER

### A CARPORT A

- CURATOR CONVERSATIONS
- ACTIVITIES TABLE



PORTABLE TOILET



NIGHT SKY PROGRAM



PARKING



MAIN ROAD

# TOUR INFORMATION

ON-SITE

## WHITE SHAMAN MURAL

 2 HOURS

The White Shaman is one of thirty-five contributing sites in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands Archaeological District with National Historic Landmark status. The White Shaman mural, painted thousands of years ago, is considered to be a cosmologically complex narrative, illustrating the lifeways, beliefs, and spirituality of the first indigenous people of what we now call Texas.

The multilayered composition, one of the best preserved Pecos River style pictographs in the region, depicts the birth of the sun and the dawn of time, the changing of seasons and more. Before you reach the mural you will stop at VV123, a pictograph site that has been radiocarbon dated to be approximately 1,100 years old, painted after the arrival of the bow and arrow but prior to Spanish colonization. It is of an unknown style but has similarities to the Red Monochrome Style.

**VERY STRENUOUS**    

Requires a strenuous 1.5 mile hike descending 250 feet, equivalent to climbing 50 flights of stairs into a narrow brushy canyon with loose rocks and uneven footing. Getting to the mural requires climbing numerous stairs up a steep slope.

 **ON-SITE, WHITE SHAMAN PRESERVE,**  
MEET AT FIRE RING



## TINAJA CANYON TOUR

 2 HOURS

Discover how the canyons of the Lower Pecos were formed millions of years ago and see a spectacular example of a Tinaja. On this guided tour you will see exquisite examples of marine fossils from the Early Cretaceous and see VV238, a rock art site documented by Forrest Kirkland in the 1930s. Images at the site include a large collection of positive handprints. Eleven right handprints and ten left handprints surrounding a small canine figure. Kirkland also captured six negative arm and handprints, another canine and two geometric designs painted above this “clay jar” natural rock basin.

**VERY STRENUOUS**    

The hike into the canyon is on a steep trail with loose rock and spiky plants. To get to this site, you must be able to descend/ascend a very steep slope of 14 ft using a rope. Requires scrambling over boulders through a narrow canyon.

 **ON-SITE, WHITE SHAMAN PRESERVE,**  
MEET AT FIRE RING

ON-SITE

## MEYERS SPRING

 7.5 HOURS

Meyers Spring, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located on the northwestern edge of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands. The Meyers Spring pictograph site and spring have been a center for human activity from prehistoric to modern times, first by Indigenous people and later by western settlers. The rock art panel spans over 300 feet and consists of Pecos River style pictographs, historic post-contact Indigenous pictographs, historic non-native graffiti and modern graffiti. Camp Meyers, a historic military outpost is closely tied to the history of westward expansion and Indian removal and is well known for its association with the Black Seminole Indian Scouts.

**EASY** 

Easy walk is along the canyon rim through brush and spiny cactus.

 **OFFSITE, PRIVATE RANCH NEAR DRYDEN**

**DRIVING TIME:** 1 HOUR

**MEETING PLACE:** MEET IN DRYDEN, AT THE INTERSECTION OF HWY 90 & HWY 349

**DRIVING REQUIREMENT:** HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLE IS RECOMMENDED, YOU WILL BE TRAVELING DOWN AN 11-MILE DIRT RANCH ROAD

OFF-SITE

## EAGLE NEST CANYON



5 HOURS

Experience the amazing rock shelters in Eagle Nest Canyon. On this tour, you will visit Eagle Cave, Skiles Shelter and Kelley Cave. Rock art in Eagle Cave has been radiocarbon dated between 3,350-3,210 years old and was recorded in 1931 by Mary Virginia Carson with the Witte Museum. Eagle Cave is renowned for the spectacular amount of fire-cracked rock fragments showcasing the immense amount of plant baking that took place in the shelter over several hundred generations. You will see huge piles of fire-cracked rock and numerous bedrock features for food processing. Some of the earliest evidence of Indigenous occupation has been identified in Eagle Cave.

**VERY STRENUOUS**

The hike is through a very steep and rough canyon. Stamina, agility and good balance are a must and climbing (knees to chest) over large boulders is required. This tour involves a 100 foot descent into a canyon with no trail. Deep loose rocks make walking challenging. You will be in a remote location where response to serious injuries and medical emergencies will be difficult and lengthy.

**OFF-SITE, LANGTRY VISITOR CENTER**

**DRIVING TIME:** 30 MINUTES

**MEETING PLACE:** JUDGE ROY BEAN VISITOR CENTER, 20 MILES WEST ON HWY 90

## SHUMLA LAB OPEN HOUSE



2 HOURS

Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center was founded by artist-turned-archaeologist Dr. Carolyn Boyd in 1998. Shumla is a global leader in rock art research and education and uses advanced science and technology to preserve the information held in the oldest "books" in North America. Meet Shumla's Science Director Dr. Karen Steelman and Shumla Preservation Archaeologist David Keim. You will hear about their latest findings, tour their 14C plasma oxidation laboratory and take a virtual 3D tour of Panther Cave.

**EASY, INDOOR**

**OFF-SITE, COMSTOCK**

**DRIVING TIME:** 15 MINUTES

**MEETING PLACE:** 28 LANGTRY STREET IN COMSTOCK JUST WEST OF THE POST OFFICE ON WEST HWY 90

## PAINTED SHELTER



4 HOURS

Painted Shelter is located in an unnamed tributary of the Rio Grande and is the largest and best-preserved Red Monochrome site in the Lower Pecos. Life-sized images of humans and animals are painted in varying shades of red. Animals portrayed include mountain lion, deer, turkey, rabbits, catfish, canine and turtles. This massive rock art panel extends 150 yards and can be dated by the depiction of the bow and arrow which was not introduced to the area until roughly 1,300 years ago.

Remnants of the older Pecos River style paintings can be seen high on the ceiling of the shelter. Flash floods have washed out most of the archaeological deposits, but there is a remnant burned rock midden and lithic scatter in front of the shelter. There is a spring-fed stream that runs in front of the mural creating several long pools of water which reflect sunlight onto the mural and animate the figures.

**MODERATE**

1 mile hike. Participants must be in good physical conditioning to hike over uneven terrain. In case of an emergency, medical response time in this remote area can take several hours.

**OFFSITE, COMSTOCK, PRIVATE RANCH**

**DRIVING TIME:** 30 MINUTES

**MEETING PLACE:** WHITE SHAMAN PRESERVE PARKING LOT TO CONSOLIDATE INTO VEHICLES

**DRIVING REQUIREMENT:** THIS SITE IS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AND HAS LIMITED ACCESS. HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES ARE REQUIRED. CARPOOLING IS MANDATORY



## CENTIPEDE CAVE

 4 HOURS

Centipede Cave, located on the Rio Grande near where it converges with the Pecos River, is an intermediate sized rock shelter approximately 44 feet wide and 37.5 feet deep. The site, which faces southeast, was named by William Davis, who supervised its 1958 excavation for the Texas Archaeological Salvage Project. Numerous artifacts of stone, shell, bone, wood and fiber were recovered. Painted pebbles, cordage, basketry, sandals and cactus spine bundles were just some of the items. The roof of Centipede Cave is heavily sooted yet remnants of Pecos River style pictographs are visible. Outside the shelter, a deposit of burned rock extends down the steep slope in front of the mouth of the cave. The view of Mexico from Centipede Cave is spectacular.

**DRIVING REQUIREMENT:** THIS SITE IS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AND HAS LIMITED ACCESS. HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES ARE REQUIRED. CARPOOLING IS MANDATORY

**VERY STRENUOUS** 

You must be able to descend/ascend a very steep slope while scrambling over boulders on your hands and knees. This physically demanding climb requires a high level of fitness, endurance and stamina. Serious injuries due to poor physical conditioning can be catastrophic. You must carefully evaluate your ability before participation. You will be in a remote location where response to serious injuries and medical emergencies will be difficult and lengthy.

 **OFFSITE, PRIVATE RANCH ON THE RIO GRANDE**

**DRIVING TIME:** 30 MINUTES

**MEETING PLACE:** WHITE SHAMAN PRESERVE PARKING  
CAPOOLING IS MANDATORY

## SEMINOLE &amp; PRESA CANYON

 9 HOURS

This is a rare opportunity to explore the rock art in the remote areas of Seminole and Presa Canyons. On this tour, you will visit the Red Linear site, Black Cave and Black Cave Annex. Black Cave is the crown jewel of Presa Canyon. The site was first recorded by Emma Gutzeit and Mary Virginia Carson in 1931 and later by Forrest Kirkland in 1934.

The rock shelter gets its name from the black ceiling discolored by organic growth, carbon staining and natural accretion. The Red Linear site is located within a shallow overhang and contains some of the best-preserved examples of Red Linear style rock art, with dozens of images of anthropomorph figures with atlatls and zoomorph figures like deer and canids.

**VERY STRENUOUS** 

8 mile hike through canyon bottoms that includes navigating through thick brush and scrambling over boulders. You will be in a remote location where response to serious injuries and medical emergencies will be difficult and lengthy.

 **OFFSITE, SEMINOLE CANYON STATE PARK**

**DRIVING TIME:** 15 MINUTES

**MEETING PLACE:** VISITOR CENTER, 2 MILES EAST ON HWY 90

## UPPER SEMINOLE CANYON

 4 HOURS

This hike takes you into the remote upper sections of Seminole Canyon, an area rich in railroad, military and rock art history. Participants will be led to several Southern Pacific railroad-era (1882-1892) remnant-sites and to the Seminole Watering Hole, a massive rockshelter with an elaborate Red Monochrome Style rock art panel.

**MEETING PLACE:** VISITOR CENTER, 2 MILES EAST ON HWY 90

**STRENUOUS** 

This off trail hike includes navigating through rocky trails, thick brush and over boulders.

 **OFFSITE, SEMINOLE CANYON STATE PARK**

**DRIVING TIME:** 15 MINUTES

## FATE BELL SHELTER &amp; ANNEX

 2 HOURS

Fate Bell Shelter is one of the best-known and largest Pecos River style rock art sites in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands Archaeological District. This deeply stratified rock shelter is approximately 515 feet by 98 feet and contains evidence of over 8,000 years of occupation including magnificent rock art.

The site has national historical landmark status and is named after Fayette Bell, who once owned the land where the shelter is located. On the tour, you will see a massive burned rock midden and boulders with bedrock grinding features, deeply incised grooves and marine fossils.

**MODERATE** 

The hike is fairly rugged, with the hike out of the canyon being the most difficult part.

 **OFFSITE, SEMINOLE CANYON STATE PARK**

**DRIVING TIME:** 15 MINUTES

**MEETING PLACE:** VISITOR CENTER, 2 MILES EAST ON HWY 90

## LOWER PECOS NATURE WALK

 2.5 HOURS

The Lower Pecos region has been occupied off and on for at least the past 13,000 years. The rich archaeological evidence reveals the intimate relationship between plants and the first Indigenous people of what we now call Texas. Guided by Texas Master Naturalists, you will explore the uniqueness of this ecoregion where three major biotic provinces, the Tamaulipan, the Chihuahuan and the Balconian, converge. Marvel at this unique ecological landscape as you hike to a charming natural spring and identify some of the plants the People of the Pecos.

**EASY**   
Easy .75 mile hike

 **OFFSITE, SEMINOLE CANYON STATE PARK**  
**DRIVING TIME:** 15 MINUTES  
**MEETING PLACE:** VISITOR CENTER, 2 MILES EAST ON HWY 90

## CRAB SHELTER

 8 HOURS

Crab Shelter, measuring approximately 164 feet by 98 feet, sits up high on a bluff overlooking the immaculate Devils River. The entire floor of the shelter is bare rock and sloped. The Pecos Style pictographs found here have been radiocarbon dated to be between 3,325-2,725 years old and include centrastyled anthropomorphs, serpentine lines and other geometric forms.

While the site has been significantly impacted by spalling, mineral deposits, fading and insect damage, the crab-shaped anthropomorph that the site is named for is highly visible.

There is a large midden on the slope below the shelter, along with beautiful examples of mortar holes, polished rock and incised lines. The view of the Devils River from this site is awe-inspiring.

**STRENUOUS**   
Strenuous rugged 2 mile round trip hike up a steep slope with loose rock and soil requiring good balance and the ability to climb knee to chest.

 **OFFSITE, DEVILS RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA**  
**DRIVING TIME:** 1.25 HOUR  
**MEETING PLACE:** DEVILS RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA - DAN A. HUGHES UNIT HQ

## SUNBURST SHELTER

 8 HOURS

Sunburst Shelter is named for imagery that appears to be suns with rays, two of which are drawn with pigment crayons. The site is over 300 feet long and faces southwest. You will see multiple rock art styles, including Pecos River and Bold Line Geometric. A total of 43 anthropomorphic, 80 enigmatic, and 23 zoomorphic figures have been identified at the site. There is a curvilinear line with an open circle at the end with eight vertical anthropomorphs with horizontal ecstatic hair suspended poised above it. It is thought this line represents the boundary between our world and the spirit realm.

**DRIVING REQUIREMENT:** THIS SITE HAS LIMITED ACCESS. HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES ARE REQUIRED. CARPOOLING IS MANDATORY

**MODERATE**   
Rugged 1 mile round trip hike on loose gravel and rock. Expect to push through dense thorny brush, scramble over uneven ground, rocks and dead wood. The shelter floor is on a slope.

 **OFFSITE, DEVILS RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA**  
**DRIVING TIME:** 1.25 HOUR  
**MEETING PLACE:** DEVILS RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA - DAN A. HUGHES UNIT HQ

## CHIMENEA SHELTER

 5 HOURS

Chimenea is a large rockshelter facing south-southwest overlooking an intermittent drainage canyon that feeds into Little Satan Creek. The site has multiple alcoves and a vent is believed to extend from one alcove to the surface of the rockshelter, hence the name Chimenea. There is an array of Pecos River Style pictographs, polished rock, grinding facets and a large talus deposit extending below the shelter. At this site you will see a herd of red, yellow and black zoomorphs running across the shelter wall interacting with natural portals and multiple anthropomorphs varying in size with one being 7' tall.

**STRENUOUS**   
Rugged 1 mile round trip hike through thorny brush, cactus and loose rock. Expect to scramble over rocks to reach the site.

 **OFFSITE, DEVILS RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA**  
**DRIVING TIME:** 1.25 HOUR  
**MEETING PLACE:** DEVILS RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA - DAN A. HUGHES UNIT HQ

11:00	<b>11:00 AM Gates Open &amp; Tour Sign-up Begins</b> <span>📍 Carport A</span> <i>Available Until Spots Are Filled</i>		
12:00			
12:30			
01:00	<b>1:00 - 3:30 PM</b> Lower Pecos Nature Walk <b>EASY</b> 🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Seminole Canyon State Park	<b>1:00 - 3:00 PM</b> Tinaja Canyon <b>VERY STRENUOUS</b> 🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲 <small>ROPE DESCENT + ASCENT</small> 📍 <b>On-site,</b> White Shaman Preserve	<b>1:00 - 3:00 PM</b> Shumla Lab Open House <b>EASY</b> 🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Comstock
01:30		<b>1:30 - 3:30 PM</b> Fate Bell Shelter + Annex <b>MODERATE</b> 🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Seminole Canyon State Park	<b>2:00 - 4:00 PM</b> White Shaman <b>VERY STRENUOUS</b> 🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>On-site,</b> White Shaman Preserve
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04:00	<b>4:00 - 5:00 PM</b> Curator Conversations with Dr. Thomas Adams, Chief Curator and Curator of Paleontology 📍 <b>On-site,</b> Carport A		
04:30			
05:00		<b>5:00 - 6:00 PM</b> Curator Conversations with Dr. Harry Shafer, Retired Curator of Archaeology 📍 <b>On-site,</b> Carport A	
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07:30	<b>7:30 - 9:00 PM</b> Night Sky Program 🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>On-site,</b> Enduring Spirit Statue		
08:00			
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10:00	<b>10:00 PM Quiet Hours Begin at Campsites</b> Enjoy music and late-night conversations at the fire ring.		

07:00	<b>7:00 AM Cowboy Coffee + Oatmeal Breakfast</b> <span>📍 Kitchen</span>						
08:00	<b>8:00 AM - 5:00 PM</b> Sunburst + Crab Shelter <b>STRENUOUS</b> 🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Devils River State Natural Area	<b>8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Centipede Cave <b>VERY STRENUOUS</b> 🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲 <small>ROPE DESCENT + ASCENT</small> 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Rio Grande, Private Ranch	<b>8:00 AM - 12:30 PM</b> Eagle Nest Canyon <b>VERY STRENUOUS</b> 🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Langtry, Private Ranch	<b>8:00 AM - 4:00 PM</b> Seminole + Presa Canyons, Black Cave Annex, + Red Linear Site <b>VERY STRENUOUS</b> 🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Seminole Canyon State Park	<b>8:00 AM - 3:30 PM</b> Meyers Spring <b>EASY</b> 🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Dryden, Private Ranch	<b>8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Painted Shelter <b>MODERATE</b> 🧑‍🦲🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Comstock, Private Ranch	<b>8:00 - 10:30 AM</b> Lower Pecos Nature Walk <b>EASY</b> 🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Seminole Canyon State Park
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11:00							<b>11:00 AM - 1:00 PM</b> Shumla Lab Open House <b>EASY</b> 🧑‍🦲 📍 <b>Off-site,</b> Comstock
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**7:00 AM Cowboy Coffee + Oatmeal Breakfast** 📍 Kitchen

<p><b>8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b> Upper Canyon</p> <p><b>STRENUOUS</b> 🚶🚶🚶</p> <p>📍 Off-site, Seminole Canyon State Park</p>	<p><b>8:00 AM – 12:30 PM</b> Eagle Nest Canyon</p> <p><b>VERY STRENUOUS</b> 🚶🚶🚶🚶</p> <p>📍 Off-site, Langtry, Private Ranch</p>	<p><b>8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b> Centipede Cave</p> <p><b>VERY STRENUOUS</b> 🚶🚶🚶🚶 <small>HOPE DESCENT + ASCENT</small></p> <p>📍 Off-site, Rio Grande, Private Ranch</p>	<p><b>8:00 – 10:00 AM</b> Tinaja Canyon Tour</p> <p><b>VERY STRENUOUS</b> 🚶🚶🚶🚶 <small>HOPE DESCENT + ASCENT</small></p> <p>📍 On-site, White Shaman Preserve</p>	<p><b>8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b> Painted Shelter</p> <p><b>MODERATE</b> 🚶🚶</p> <p>📍 Off-site, Comstock, Private Ranch</p>	<p><b>8:00 – 10:00 AM</b> White Shaman</p> <p><b>VERY STRENUOUS</b> 🚶🚶🚶🚶</p> <p>📍 On-site, White Shaman Preserve</p>	<p><b>8:00 AM – 12:30 PM</b> Chimenea Shelter</p> <p><b>STRENUOUS</b> 🚶🚶🚶</p> <p>📍 Off-site, Devils River Natural State Area</p>
				<p><b>10:30 AM – 12:30 PM</b> White Shaman</p> <p><b>VERY STRENUOUS</b> 🚶🚶🚶🚶</p> <p>📍 On-site, White Shaman Preserve</p>		

**4:00 PM**

All participants must depart by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

# WONDER AWAITS YOU AT THE WITTE MUSEUM



Visit the immersive **Kittie West Nelson Ferguson People of the Pecos Gallery** and experience the daily life and spiritual world of the People of the Pecos 3,000-4,000 years ago when the White Shaman mural was painted. Discover how the People of the Pecos lived, gathered food, hunted, moved with the seasons and transformed natural materials into tools, utensils, clothing and shelter. See the people as they prepare food, teach the young, make a fire and procure game. Learn how they expressed their cosmology of a layered universe.

[WitteMuseum.org](http://WitteMuseum.org)





**SCAN HERE TO PLAN YOUR VISIT**

# PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE

FRIDAY 2/27

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SATURDAY 2/28

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SUNDAY 3/1

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FILL YOUR DAILY SCHEDULE

## PLANTS + CRITTERS ALONG THE TRAIL

### OCOTILLO

Known as “little torch” in Spanish, it is named after the cluster of fiery red flowers it produces. Ocotillo is not a true cactus, but a desert shrub with many slender, spiny branches that rise from a single stem at ground level. It is used for the construction of structures and fences, beverages and medicines. Fresh flowers are edible and have a sweet flavor. Ocotillos can reach heights of up to 20 feet and can live over 60 years, some have even been known to live over 100 years.



SPOTTED



### RABBIT

Rabbit was one of the most important animals to the people of the Pecos. Rabbit motifs are even found in rock art! Hunters would use long, low rabbit nets across ravines to entangle them. The net prevented damaging the valuable pelt that was used to make clothing and other items.

SPOTTED

### AOUDAD

Aoudad, also known as Barbary sheep, are native to Northern Africa and arrived in Texas in the 1950s. They are reddish-tan color and have a long beautiful mane. Aoudads thrive in the rugged dry habitat of the Lower Pecos and have displaced native bighorn sheep.

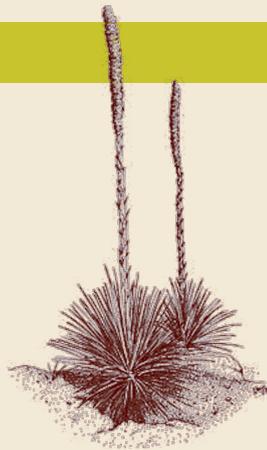


SPOTTED

## PLANTS + CRITTERS ALONG THE TRAIL

### SOTOL

This spiny evergreen plant was an important carbohydrate food source for the people of the Pecos. The pulpy “hearts” were baked for 2–3 days and then pounded and formed into patties which could be dried and stored. Sotol leaves are ideal materials for weaving mats, baskets and trays.



SPOTTED

### BLACK & TURKEY VULTURES

Black & turkey vultures are abundant in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands. Vultures are ecologically valuable as they are the nature’s “clean-up crew.” Vultures are highly social creatures and are known to be monogamous birds that mate for life. Unlike turkey vultures, black vultures lack a highly developed sense of smell. Black vultures find carrion mostly by using their vision or by following turkey vultures.



BLACK VULTURE

SPOTTED



TURKEY VULTURE

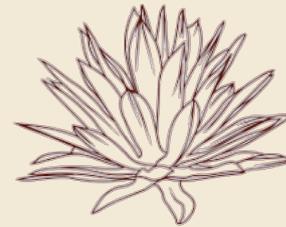
SPOTTED



### CENIZO

Cenizo is a medium-sized native shrub with delicate silver to gray-green leaves. It has a stunning display of lavender blooms after a rain shower, hence the name “barometer bush.” Tea can be made from its leaves for medicinal purposes in treating congestion, coughing, chills and fever.

SPOTTED



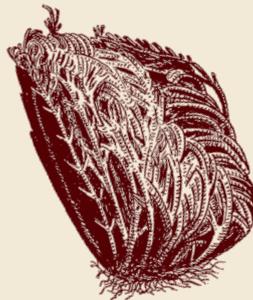
### LECHUGUILLA

Lechuguilla means “little lettuce” and is the smallest agave growing in the Trans-Pecos area of the Chihuahuan Desert. Leaves and leaf fibers used for cordage, sandals, mats, nets, baskets and more. Like sotol, the heart of the plant can be cooked underground in an earth oven for 2–3 days and eaten. The toxic sap is useful as a detergent, as a fish stupefier, an arrow-tip poison as well as a medicine.

SPOTTED

### RESURRECTION PLANT

Growing close to the ground, the resurrection plant is a species of desert plant in the spike moss family. It is known for its incredible ability to survive for years without water by drying up and going dormant. There are numerous examples of this botanical wonder along the White Shaman trail.



SPOTTED

### YUCCA

There are several species of yucca in the region. Yucca is an excellent source of fibers called pita or ixtle. People of the Pecos stripped these fibers from leaves using a scraping tool then used them as thread or wove them into cordage, rope and nets. Whole leaves were used to make baskets, sandals and mats. Yucca flowers and flower stalks are edible. Dried bloom stalks are great for friction fire starting. Yucca contains chemicals called saponins, which make for a great natural soap!



SPOTTED

