

**Witte Museum Tour –Painted Shelter on the Rio Grande River**  
**Saturday June 2, 2018**  
**9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**This tour is limited to 35 participants (Ages 12 and up)**

**All minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.**  
**Your own high-clearance vehicle is required for this tour.**

Come join the Witte Museum guides for an adventure hiking tour to Painted Shelter. Located just west of Comstock, this site is found deep in a canyon just a short distance off the majestic Rio Grande. There is a large spring close by that provides an almost constant water source - a beautiful large shelter with water, shade trees, and Red Monochrome and Pecos River Style pictographs. It's very easy to see why people wanted to live here. The Witte Museum thanks the private landowners for their stewardship of this unique cultural resource and for graciously providing access.

This tour is moderately difficult but **does require full mobility and balance from all participants**. The hike traverses moderately steep, loose rock, slopes, large boulders and thick brush.

The guides must ensure the safety of each participant and may ask someone to “sit out” the tour if, in the Guide’s opinion, it would be unsafe for that person to proceed.

Please keep in mind that 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.**

Please do not bring any pets.

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

**A high clearance vehicle is required for this 12-mile round trip on dirt ranch roads.**

**DETAILS & WHERE TO MEET**

Please note, the Witte Museum does not provide transportation to the site. On the morning of the tour meet your guide at **9:30 AM just 1 mile West of Comstock at the Desert Hills RV Park**. Depending on the number of participants we may ask to consolidate vehicles.

Once we leave the meeting site there are no conveniences. Please bring food/packed lunch, water, camera, hat and good soft-soled shoes. **The tour should complete by 3PM.**

**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 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 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 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.
- 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.**

The Witte Museum especially wishes to thank the landowners for their stewardship of this unique cultural resource and for graciously allowing access.

## 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.**

