

Mimbres Archaeology

October 23–29, 2017



ITINERARY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

Arrive in Tucson, Arizona, no later than 4 p.m. Meet the group for dinner, program orientation, and an introductory presentation from our scholars, Patricia Gilman, Ph.D., and Paul Minnis, Ph.D. Overnight, Tucson. **D**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

This morning we head east across the basin-and-range landscape of southern Arizona to Dripping Springs, where we enjoy a special tour of the Amerind Museum. The museum presents an overview of ancient human occupation in the Southwest, including the Hohokam, Mogollon, and ancestral Pueblo cultures. Remarkable displays of perishable artifacts—such as baskets, sandals, and cloth—and other rare items encourage us to think about the landscape and the environment of these cultures. After a picnic lunch surrounded by spectacular rock formations, continue east to Silver City, New Mexico, and check into tranquil Bear Mountain Lodge on the edge of the Gila Wilderness. Overnight, Bear Mountain Lodge. **BLD**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Drive through the fertile Mimbres Valley to visit several important sites by special permission of the Nature Conservancy and the Gila National Forest. These sites represent the Classic Mimbres phase, when significant changes occurred in domestic and civic-ceremonial architecture; mortuary and residential patterns; subsistence technology; and ideology. We discuss how architectural changes reflect the onset of the Classic Mimbres period. Overnight, Bear Mountain Lodge. **BLD**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

The Mimbres style of black-on-white pottery with depictions of people, animals, and mythic creatures represents a unique cultural heritage. The pottery illuminates our discussion of village life and ideology in the Mimbres world. The Western New Mexico University Museum in Silver



The Amerind Museum. Courtesy Amerind Museum



Bear Mountain Lodge. Courtesy Bear Mountain Lodge



View of the Gila Wilderness, Gila National Forest

City holds one of the world's largest collections of Mimbres pottery; the museum is undergoing major renovation, and we will visit its temporary satellite location. Later in the day, we drive to the west side of the Gila Wilderness, where a short walk takes us to Woodrow Ruin. Pat, Paul, and guest scholar Marilyn Markel (education director for the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site) reveal evidence that may indicate that this is not a typical Mimbres site; we examine what may be a ball court similar to those found in the Hohokam region of southern Arizona. Overnight, Bear Mountain Lodge. **B L D**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

This morning, we follow a winding mountain road to Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. Walk up the canyon to visit the beautiful cliff dwellings, which postdate the Classic Mimbres phase. They were occupied from the late A.D. 1270s through the early A.D. 1300s, about the same time as Paquimé, in the Casas Grandes area (northwestern Chihuahua, Mexico)—the last great site to be occupied before the Spanish arrived. We discuss this dynamic period, when there appears to have been a dramatic population shift. Archaeologist Steve Lekson has proposed that most Mimbres people resettled in the Casas Grandes area. After a picnic lunch, we visit TJ Ruin, one of the largest and best-preserved Mimbres sites. Overnight, Bear Mountain Lodge. **B L D**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Head south into the lower Mimbres Valley, to Old Town Ruin, situated on a bluff overlooking the Mimbres River. The site was continuously occupied from about A.D. 200 through the Classic Mimbres phase and into the 14th century. At the Pony Hills rock art site, we scramble up a ridge to view Mimbres designs pecked into the black surface of the bedrock and boulders. Continue to Deming to visit the Deming Luna Mimbres Museum and a remarkable display of Mimbres artifacts from private collections. Overnight, Deming. **B L D**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Drive back to Tucson. Depart from Tucson anytime after 12 noon. **B**



Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument



The Gila Cliff Dwellings canyon



Crow Canyon travelers explore the Gila Cliff Dwellings

B = breakfast, **L** = lunch, **D** = dinner
Itinerary subject to change

Note: Mimbres pottery not depicted due to cultural concerns.

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