

Exploring Cochise County, AZ – Wednesday, January 16th - Friday, January 18th

The first day of this trip, Wed Jan 16, will be spent in the Dragoon Mountains north of Tombstone AZ. We will be driving on forest service roads which require high clearance in some spots. We will carpool so no one who doesn't have high clearance is left out. We will explore the Council Rocks area where Thomas Jeffords and Brigadier General Oliver Otis Howard met with Cochise to negotiate peace with the Chiricahua Apaches on Oct 1, 1872. There are also petroglyphs/pictographs near this site. We think we have enough hikers and drivers to allow a group to hike the 4.7-mile trail from the West Stronghold to the East Stronghold where the rest of the group will pick them up. We'll spend some time at the East Stronghold, so the hikers can also see it.

Thursday Jan 17 we will visit Fort Huachuca near Sierra Vista where we will meet Charles Hancock from the Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers. Charles will tell us about the Buffalo Soldiers who were stationed here from the 1880s through WWII. The Army was segregated until July 1948 and an officer's club for black officers was built during WWII. This is the Mountain View Officers Club and is one of two of these segregated clubs still standing today. It has been placed on the National Historic Register and is to be restored and put to community use. We cannot enter the building for safety reasons but can learn about it and see the outside of the building with Charles. We will also spend part of the day with Fort Huachuca Cultural Resource Manager, archaeologist Martyn D. Tagg who will tell us about the prehistoric and historic sites found on Fort grounds and will take us to visit some sites and the Garden Canyon pictographs.

Friday Jan 18 we will visit sites along the San Pedro River starting with the Spanish Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate dating to 1776. We'll move on to the Murray Springs Mammoth Site and will possibly visit the supposed site of the Clanton Ranch, of O. K. Corral fame, depending on how energetic we still are.

The long-range weather forecast for Sierra Vista shows highs of around 60 degrees and some clouds, but more sun for these three days.

To sign up please email Gail Schulz at mschulz@frontier.net or call Gail at 970-946-5234.