

Free Tours of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology

Admission and tours of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology are free. We focus on the human occupation of the El Paso area and the Southwest from 14,000 years ago to the present. We request that tours be arranged at least two weeks prior to the desired tour date and there should be at least one adult chaperone for every 10 children. For more information or to schedule a tour with us, please contact Brittany Hutchinson at (915)-755-4332 or HutchinsonBM@elpasotexas.gov.

Entry & Lobby - You'll experience hands-on exhibits including a full-size model of a pueblo room, a toy display, and artifacts from our education department which can be handled by the public. We have a tree-ring dating activity and interactive "How old is it?" stratigraphic dating activity. You will also see maps of the Southwest locating contemporary Indian villages and reservations as well as prehistoric culture areas and sites. Our gift shop offers intriguing items for children and adults including toys, books, jewelry, and pottery.

South Gallery – Dioramas depict everyday scenes in Indian life of the Paleoindians of over 10,000 years ago, Hunters and Gatherers of Archaic times, horticultural pit-dwellers, Pueblo cliff dwellers, and the Mescalero Apache including the Mountain Spirit Dancers who are still performing ceremonies today.

North Gallery – As you enter the gallery, there is an exhibit of fossils of the El Paso area, then tools and tool-making materials from the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric periods. The east hallway showcases the Jornada Mogollon people who lived in this region prehistorically and presents the artifacts they left behind. In the northeast corner is an exhibit of historic baskets from the Hopi, Navajo, Apache, O'odham and Raramuri Indians. The north hallway displays Mogollon painted pottery, including Mimbres and Casas Grandes with examples of the recent Mata Ortiz village pottery revival. Included are plaques illustrating the Mimbres Twins myth. In the northwest corner you will see historic and modern pueblo pottery. In the west hallway are artifacts from Precolumbian Mexico, concluding with an exhibit of modern artifacts from the Raramuri Indians of northwestern Chihuahua, Mexico.

Auditorium Gallery – Temporary exhibits: Check with museum staff for the current exhibit. Don't miss the artifact-filled drawers in this gallery.

Outdoor Exhibits – The surrounding trails around the museum offer a beautiful view of the native plants of the El Paso area. Trails tours can be arranged by request.