

# Photo Summary of Field Trip to Tonto National Monument Upper Ruin Cliff Dwelling

March 12, 2023

Led and Coordinated by Brent Reed, RCC Board Member

Photos by Brent Reed and RCC Member Cindie Bright.

Sponsored by Rim Country Chapter (RCC) of the Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS)

Guide Lucy provided by the National Parks Service.

Captions for Photos by Brent Reed were provided by Brent Reed, with a little editing by Dennis DuBose.

Captions for Photos by Cindie Bright composed by Dennis DuBose. All additional text by Dennis DuBose. Dennis DuBose is responsible for all inaccuracies and errors.

Five Field Trippers from Rim Country Chapter and one from Desert Foothills Chapter (Cave Creek) assembled at the Tonto National Monument off Highway 188 in Tonto Basin. There are two Cliff Dwellings at the Monument. Archaeologists classify the Prehistoric Americans who lived here 1250 to 1450 AD as the Salado Culture. The Lower Ruin, a short climb on a paved trail above the Visitor's Center, is open for self-guided tours. The Upper Ruin can only be visited with a Guide by appointment. The Upper Ruin is more remote, requires a 600 foot climb up a rocky trail, and needs some guidance. The National Park Service provided a Guide Lucy for the hike up to the Upper Ruin. The Guide paused frequently along the trail so hikers could catch their breath and sip some water. The nominal excuse for the pauses was to point out various native plants. After the hike up to the Upper Ruin, several Field Trippers also visited the Lower Ruin.



Photo by Cindie Bright

View of Roosevelt Lake from Tonto Upper Ruin



Tonto Upper Ruin, Viewed from Afar Photo by Cindie Bright



Tonto Upper Ruin, Viewed closer up Photo by Cindie Bright



Photos by Cindie Bright

Roosevelt Lake, Viewed from Trail  
to Tonto Upper Ruin



Trail Guide Lucy, Provided by  
National Park Service



Photo by Brent Reed

Mexican Gold Poppies in bloom along Trail



Heading up the trail

Photo by Brent Reed



Photo by Cindie Bright

Teddy Bear Cholla along Trail



Photo by Brent Reed

Our wonderful tour guide Lucy, with Upper Ruin in Photo Upper Center



Approaching the Upper Ruin

Photo by Brent Reed



Photo by Cindie Bright

Rim Country Chapter Board Member and Field Trip Coordinator discusses Local Vegetation with National Park Service guide Lucy



Last Rest Stop Before Entering Tonto Upper Ruin

Photo by Cindie Bright



Arriving at Tonto Upper Ruin

Photo by Brent Reed



Tour Guide Lucy welcomes us to the Upper Ruin Photo by Brent Reed



Entering Tonto Upper Ruin, Note Wooden Wall Bracing Right Center  
Photo by Cindie Bright





Photo by Brent Reed

Original intact roof beams    These are right above photo below ...



Photo by Brent Reed

Lucy talks about the original ceiling behind her braced with a modern post

And here is the Original Ceiling Up Close ...



Photo by Brent Reed

Smoke blackened ceiling with support beams and latillas



Photo by Brent Reed

Upper Ruin alcove faces East, warmed by the morning sun, but shaded from the hot afternoon summer sun



Original plaster covers most walls

Photo by Brent Reed



Photo by Brent Reed

A Pygmy Nuthatch was busy building a nest in a crevice within the alcove



Photo by Brent Reed

Far from the Salt River below, now swallowed up by Roosevelt Lake



Filled-in doorway, much evidence of remodeling during prehistoric occupation Photo by Brent Reed



Another filled-in doorway Note that Finger Strokes show up in the plastering Photo by Brent Reed



Lucy explains

Photo by Brent Reed



Photo by Cindie Bright

Inner Courtyard Spring Water Collection Basin in Tonto Upper Ruin



Photo by Cindie Bright

A Room Interior Viewed from the Inner Courtyard at Tonto Upper Ruin





Photo by Cindie Bright

Pygmy Nuthatch Observing Field Trippers while Perched on a Wall in Tonto Upper Ruin



Photo by Cindie Bright

View of Roosevelt Lake before Departing Down from Tonto Upper Ruin



Photo by Cindie Bright

The Trail Down is as Steep as the Trail Up

After returning down to the Visitor Center, some Field Trippers Visited the **Tonto Lower Ruin** and took a few Photos ...



Lower Tonto Ruin from Afar

Photo by Cindie Bright



Lower Tonto Ruin Closer

Photo by Cindie Bright



Original post & beam in the Lower Ruin      Photo by Brent Reed



Multi-storied walls in the Lower Ruin

Photo by Brent Reed