

WELCOME TO JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS



BUFFALO RUB

PETROGLYPH TRAIL
1.1 miles - Gravel path to rock face, grass path prairie loop

P

ATLATL RANGE

SEE INSET BELOW

VISITOR CENTER



HOUSE FRAME

Experimental archaeological interpretation of what a Fox Lake Phase house may have looked like.

GARDEN Features crops traditionally grown in the region from around 1,000 years ago.

PRAIRIE TRAIL
1.2 miles - Grass path

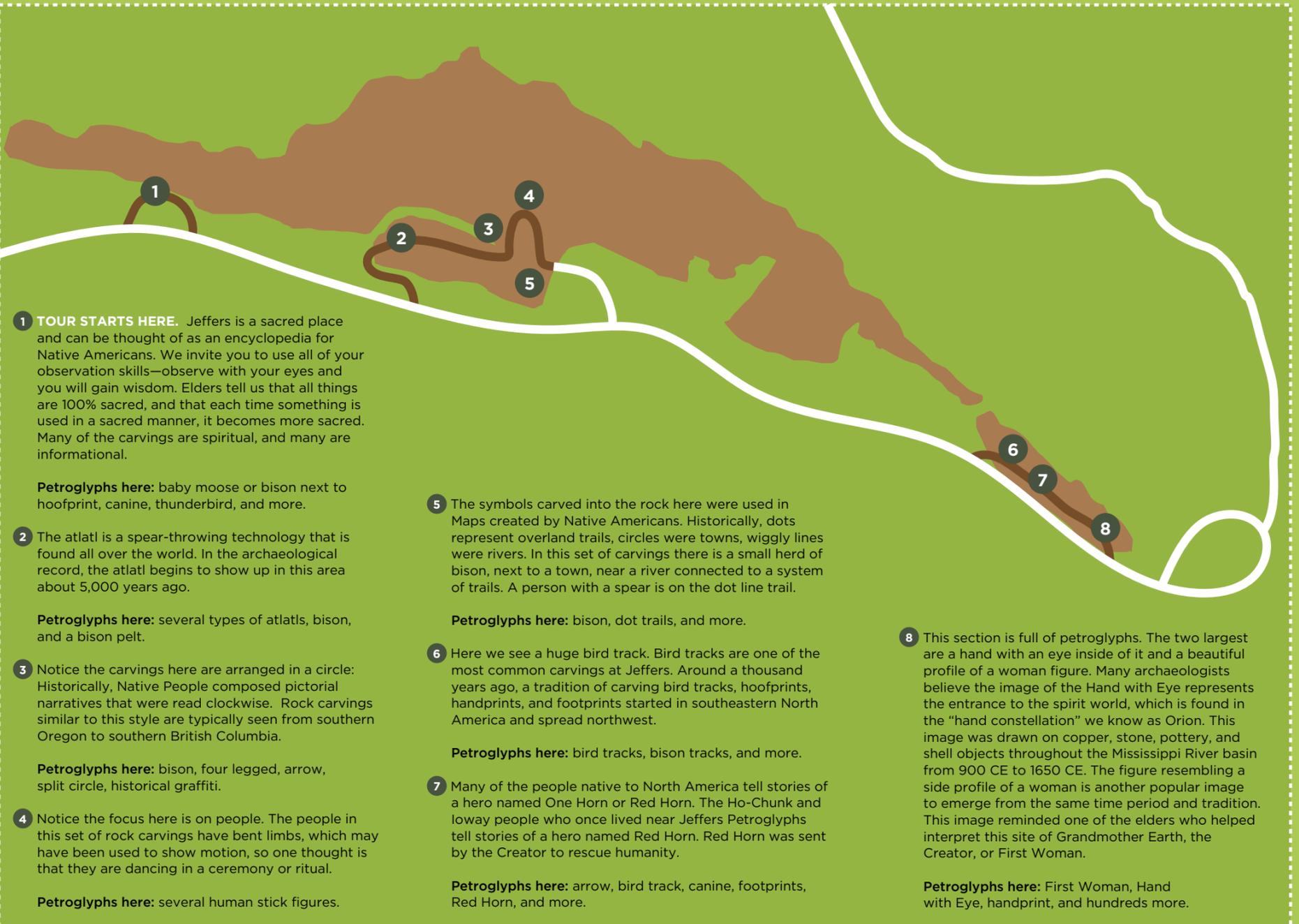


Minnesota's recorded history begins at this sacred site where Native Americans have worshipped and recorded the story of their lives in rock carvings for thousands of years. Jeffers Petroglyphs is the largest petroglyph site in the Midwest. We invite you to appreciate this awe-inspiring record of the past while enjoying the splendor of a tallgrass prairie ridge crowned by rich red rock.

WHEN SITE IS OPEN:

Begin your experience at the visitor center

- **View exhibits** about Native American culture and prairie ecology.
- **Shop the museum store** for locally made crafts, books, gifts, cold beverages, and snacks.
- **Guided 45-minute tours** begin at the rock face on the half hour.



1 TOUR STARTS HERE. Jeffers is a sacred place and can be thought of as an encyclopedia for Native Americans. We invite you to use all of your observation skills—observe with your eyes and you will gain wisdom. Elders tell us that all things are 100% sacred, and that each time something is used in a sacred manner, it becomes more sacred. Many of the carvings are spiritual, and many are informational.

Petroglyphs here: baby moose or bison next to hoofprint, canine, thunderbird, and more.

2 The atlatl is a spear-throwing technology that is found all over the world. In the archaeological record, the atlatl begins to show up in this area about 5,000 years ago.

Petroglyphs here: several types of atlatls, bison, and a bison pelt.

3 Notice the carvings here are arranged in a circle: Historically, Native People composed pictorial narratives that were read clockwise. Rock carvings similar to this style are typically seen from southern Oregon to southern British Columbia.

Petroglyphs here: bison, four legged, arrow, split circle, historical graffiti.

4 Notice the focus here is on people. The people in this set of rock carvings have bent limbs, which may have been used to show motion, so one thought is that they are dancing in a ceremony or ritual.

Petroglyphs here: several human stick figures.

5 The symbols carved into the rock here were used in Maps created by Native Americans. Historically, dots represent overland trails, circles were towns, wiggly lines were rivers. In this set of carvings there is a small herd of bison, next to a town, near a river connected to a system of trails. A person with a spear is on the dot line trail.

Petroglyphs here: bison, dot trails, and more.

6 Here we see a huge bird track. Bird tracks are one of the most common carvings at Jeffers. Around a thousand years ago, a tradition of carving bird tracks, hoofprints, handprints, and footprints started in southeastern North America and spread northwest.

Petroglyphs here: bird tracks, bison tracks, and more.

7 Many of the people native to North America tell stories of a hero named One Horn or Red Horn. The Ho-Chunk and loway people who once lived near Jeffers Petroglyphs tell stories of a hero named Red Horn. Red Horn was sent by the Creator to rescue humanity.

Petroglyphs here: arrow, bird track, canine, footprints, Red Horn, and more.

8 This section is full of petroglyphs. The two largest are a hand with an eye inside of it and a beautiful profile of a woman figure. Many archaeologists believe the image of the Hand with Eye represents the entrance to the spirit world, which is found in the "hand constellation" we know as Orion. This image was drawn on copper, stone, pottery, and shell objects throughout the Mississippi River basin from 900 CE to 1650 CE. The figure resembling a side profile of a woman is another popular image to emerge from the same time period and tradition. This image reminded one of the elders who helped interpret this site of Grandmother Earth, the Creator, or First Woman.

Petroglyphs here: First Woman, Hand with Eye, handprint, and hundreds more.