



# School Tours of the Gault Site



## What to Expect....

A tour of the Gault Site can be a valuable teaching tool and our staff would like to make it easy and fun. The site is located just north of Florence, 40-60 minutes north of Austin. There are no large signs advertising the site's presence but we place small signs with the GSAR logo on them at the entrance and one of our staff will be there to greet you. The site has an area for bus parking and turning just inside our gate as well as parking for cars.

Our tours run about 2 to 2 ½ hours long though we can customize a tour to fit your needs – please be sure to tell

our staff how much time you have. A tour of the site covers 1 ½ miles of moderate walking. We begin at the parking lot in live oak savanna on the Edwards Plateau and work our way back to the present archaeological excavations. On the way we see and talk about geology, environment, & history of the project as well as the periods that the site was occupied; Historic, Contact, Late Prehistoric, Archaic, Paleoindian, Clovis and possibly preClovis. Students are told about what



archaeology is, how science is used at Gault and about the current changes going on in the study of the earliest peoples in the Americas. After a demonstration everyone gets a chance to use an atlatl – the ancient dart thrower. We often can arrange to have a demonstration of flint knapping as well.

If you can stay for a longer period we have a picnic area with tables under a large spreading pecan tree. While, because of the nature of our research, students cannot excavate with us they can help screen the dirt coming out of the excavation and learn about the artifacts they find there.

## Preparation for a Gault Tour...

We suggest that you prepare your students for their experience. By learning something beforehand about Gault, archaeology and what they will see at site they will have a much more rewarding visit. Some suggestions are:

- The Gault School offers a free DVD of a movie about the Gault Site entitled *An Adventure in Time*. It is 21 minutes long and geared for 4<sup>th</sup> grade on up. Contact the GSAR office or our educational coordinator to have one sent to you.
- We strongly suggest the use of the online resource *Texas Beyond History* which can be found at [www.texasbeyondhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net). TBH has a section on the Gault site but also information on all periods of Texas history and prehistory, a kids section as well as resources for teachers.
- The Gault School of Archaeological Research has a rather large website with further information being posted on it continuously at [www.gaultschool.org](http://www.gaultschool.org)
- There are several excellent TV programs dealing with the peopling of the Americas. One is Nova's *America's Stone Age Explorer's* with information, including teachers guides at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/stoneage>. Another is Scientific American Frontier's *Coming into America* which also has teaching resources and a guide which can be found at <http://www.pbs.org/saf/1406>.
- Teachers have successfully used an article by Evan Hadingham from the Smithsonian Magazine (*America's First Immigrants*) to begin a dialogue with students regarding this process. The article can be found at: <http://www.kindapush.com/summer/APUSH/SmithsonianClovis.pdf>
- If you have time on your field trip you might also schedule a visit to the Bell County Museum in Belton which has a permanent exhibit about the Gault site and our continuing research. Information can be found at: <http://www.bellcountytexas.com/Museum/>



## General Information...

The weather in Central Texas is fickle, please check ahead and make sure that students are dressed appropriately for cold or damp weather. Good walking shoes (no sandals or open toes) are important and, if it has been wet in central Texas, shoes that can get a little dirty (we'll keep them out of the mud). If you are planning to stay and learn about excavation and screening then plan on clothes getting a little dirty and wet as all our screening is done with water. We also suggest a camera if you have one, sunscreen and a hat if it's sunny and water for the hike.

**Our school waiver and a map to Gault are attached. For more information contact  
[nlittlefield@gaultschool.org](mailto:nlittlefield@gaultschool.org)**

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Child's Name

In consideration of our child or children being allowed to tour the Gault Site, we as parents hereby release the Gault School of Archaeological Research, the land owner and all tenants from any sort of liability to us or any child due to accident or injury while on the premises.

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Date

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Parent or Guardian

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Child's Name

In consideration of our child or children being allowed to tour the Gault Site, we as parents hereby release the Gault School of Archaeological Research, the land owner and all tenants from any sort of liability to us or any child due to accident or injury while on the premises.

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Date

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Child's Name

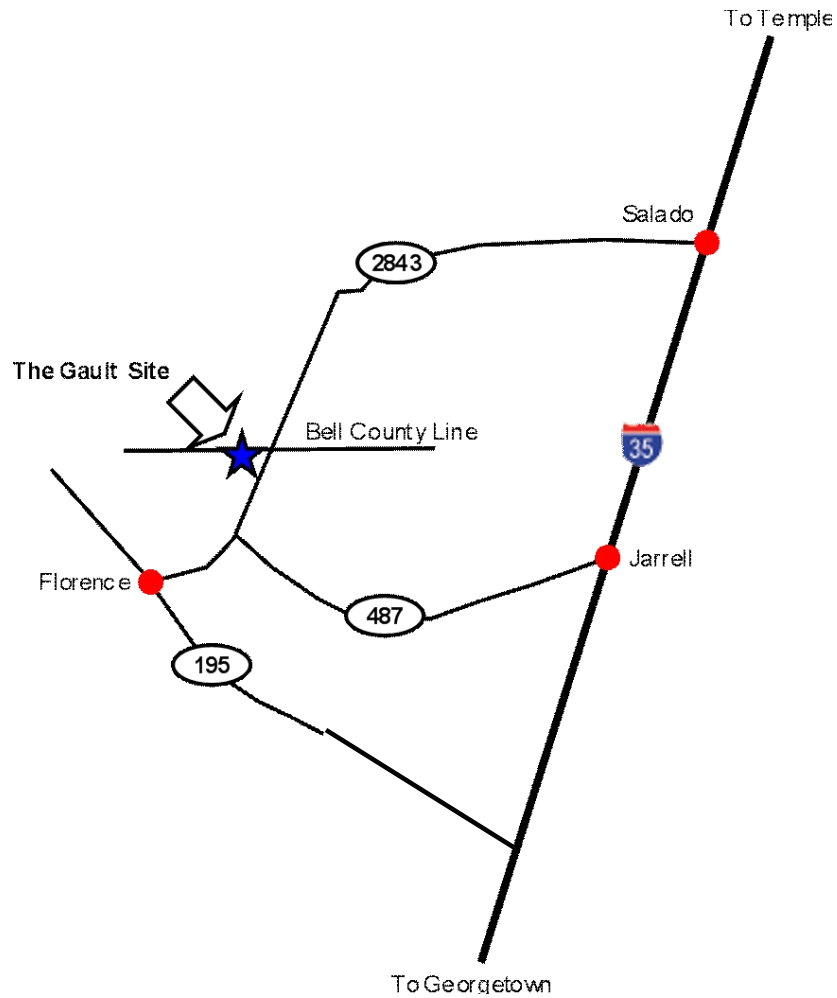
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Date

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Parent or Guardian



### Directions to the Gault Site

#### From the South

I-35N to exit #266

Florence/Killeen/195

Turn Left follow 195, 15 miles to Florence

Turn Right at Stoplight on 487, follow 4 miles

Turn Left on FM 2843, go 3.5 miles

House on the left/west (3433) with red tiles is Gault School, next drive on left with black mailbox (3451), stop sign and automatic gate is the Gault Site

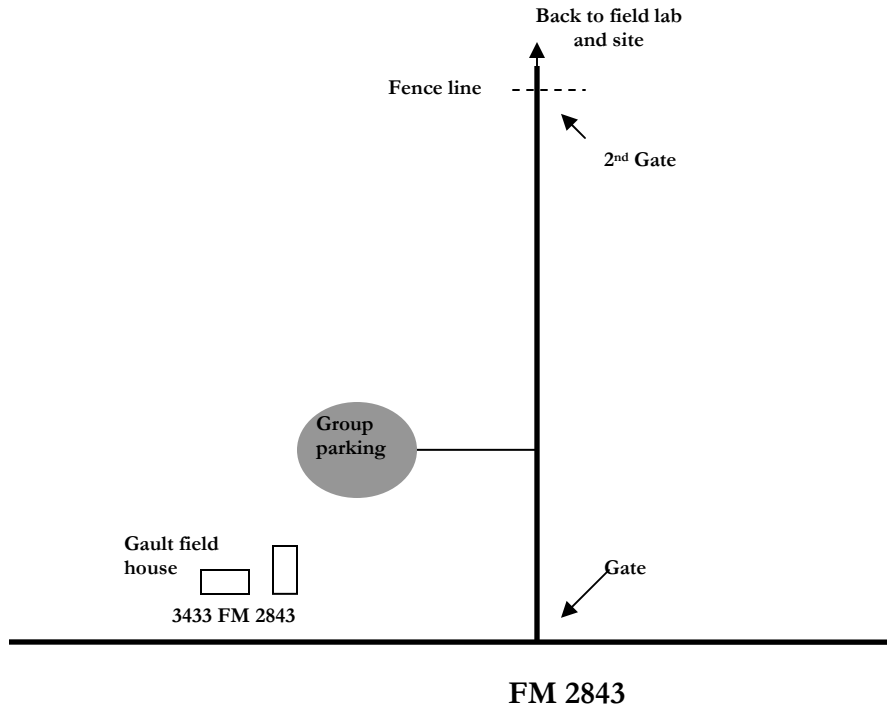
#### From the North

I-35S to exit #283, stay on feeder road about 1/2 mile

Turn Right on FM 2843, follow for 11 miles

Go south past the Williamson County line sign about 200 yards.

Gault site is on your right/west with two black mailboxes (3451), stop sign and automatic gate (address # series in Bell County is different than in Williamson)



### Arrival at the Gault Site

There is an automatic gate on the driveway to FM 2843 – someone will meet you here or it will be open.

Groups can park on the gravel parking inside the gate and to the left

The field lab and site are back down the driveway, through the second gate (Make sure gate is closed behind you as we have livestock on the property) and to the field lab (metal barn) or straight past the lab down to the site (large white tent)