

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center

Presents:

Land of Enchantment

Natural Wonders of New Mexico

November 6-16, 2024



Led by Iain MacLeod

Join Iain MacLeod for a spectacular tour of New Mexico. November is a very special time to visit this area. The temperatures are comfortable, the light is fantastic and tens of thousands of cranes and snow geese have just arrived here for the winter.



Wednesday, November 6

Depart Logan airport. Arrive in Albuquerque, NM in late afternoon or evening. We will spend the first night in Albuquerque. Hotel: Holiday Inn Albuquerque Airport.

Thursday, November 7

After breakfast, we will drive south to Socorro and spent the day at Bosque del Apache NWR. Spectacular views abound and more than 320 species of birds have been recorded on this 57,191 acre refuge. Highlights of our visit will include dozens of Northern Harriers, Loggerhead Shrike, thousands of Sandhill Crane and Snow Geese, Western Grebe, Gambel's Quail, Pyrrhuloxia, American Avocet, Greater Roadrunner, Say's and Black Phoebe and thousands of Pintail, Shoveler and other assorted waterfowl. We'll also see Coyotes and White-tailed Deer—we even saw a Bobcat here on one trip. We'll watch the amazing evening fly-in of cranes and geese. Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, Socorro.



Friday, November 8

We will return to Bosque before dawn to witness the fly out of geese and cranes—which is even more breathtaking than the evening show. After breakfast we will return to Bosque del Apache to revisit any hotspots from yesterday. We may also take a hike in a nearby canyon in search of desert wildlife. Later in the morning we'll travel east to visit the lava beds at the Valley of the Fires Park near Carrizozo (where we will have lunch) then on to Roswell. Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, Roswell.



Saturday, November 9

After breakfast we will head to the Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, just outside Roswell. This refuge encompasses more than 23,000 acres in the Pecos River Valley. Highlights will include Sandhill Crane, White Pelican, Redhead, American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Snow Goose, and Marsh Wren. A nearby Prairie Dog colony is always a highlight—hopefully the Burrowing Owls will be there. The pre-dusk fly-in of cranes is amazing. Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Roswell



Sunday, November 10

Today we will travel south to Carlsbad and visit the Living Desert State Park—a real hit on previous trips. This park includes a museum, visitor center, hot-houses with a spectacular collection of succulents, and live animals in wonderful natural enclosures in the desert (elk, pronghorn antelope, gray wolves, javelinas, etc.)—a nice opportunity to see desert animals up close.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Carlsbad

Monday, November 11

After breakfast we will visit nearby Lake Avalon (which was a exciting new addition on the last trip). Last time we saw several species of shorebirds and lots of White Pelicans. We'll then travel to Rattlesnake Springs where we'll have a lovely picnic lunch and then head to the famous caverns at the Carlsbad Caverns National Park. We will spend the afternoon in the breath-taking splendor of this amazing cave—an experience you will never forget. Back on the surface, Iain will try to find Rock Wrens and Pyrrhuloxia in the cacti and desert brush.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Carlsbad

Tuesday, November 12

We will travel north all the way up to Santa Rosa looking for Golden Eagles, Horned Larks, Prairie Falcons, Prong-horned Antelope and Mule Deer along the way.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Santa Rosa

Wednesday, November 13

Today we will head to the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge. This 8,750 acre refuge, which lies at 6,500 feet above sea level, will provide opportunities to see Bald Eagles (on one trip, we had eight soaring together in a perfect blue sky), Prairie Falcons, Mountain Bluebirds, Eared and Pied-billed Grebes, thousand of waterfowl (including Ross's geese) and perhaps a few Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks. In the afternoon we will head into Santa Fe. Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Santa Fe

Thursday, November 14

After breakfast we will drive to the Bandelier National Monument near Los Alamos. We'll stop at Overlook Park in Whiterock which was full of birds on our last visit. At Bandelier we'll explore the amazing native American cliff dwellings in the spectacular canyon. Along the way we should see Townsend's Solitaire, Stellar's Jay, Pigmy Nuthatch and Mountain Chickadee.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Santa Fe



Friday, November 15

Today is our last full day. We will visit the Randal Davey Audubon Center. Here we should see Stellar's and Scrub Jays, Black-billed Magpie, Mountain Chickadee, and perhaps a Clark's Nutcracker. The woods around Santa Fe will be full of thousands of south-bound American Robins and large numbers of White-crowned Sparrows. In the afternoon you can explore the shops and historic sites of Santa Fe. In the late afternoon we will travel south to Albuquerque.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Albuquerque Airport

Saturday, November 16

After a final breakfast together, we will return to Albuquerque airport and then back to Boston.

The cost of the trip is \$4,250 per person.

All-inclusive cost includes: round-trip airfare from Boston to Albuquerque, NM, ground transportation (12-passenger van), 10 nights hotel accommodations, all meals, admission fees, and leaders fees. Accommodations will be in double occupancy rooms (i.e. couples will have their own room, singles will share with one other person). \$750 additional supplement for a single room.

Maximum Group size: 8

All photos taken by Iain on his trips to New Mexico in November 2014, 2018 and 2022.

