

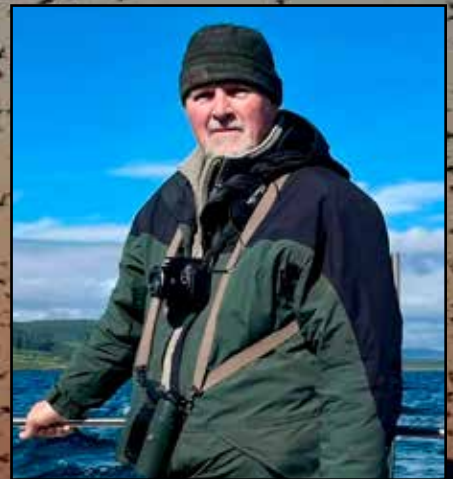
Squam Lakes Natural Science Center

Presents:

# Land of Enchantment

Natural Wonders of New Mexico

November 4-14, 2026



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 (especially for photography) and tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese have just arrived here for the winter. Iain has led this tour several times before and knows the area and wildlife well.

### Wednesday, November 4

We will fly from Boston to Albuquerque, NM, arriving in the late afternoon. We'll shuttle from the airport to the hotel and check in and spend the first night in Albuquerque. If you plan to travel from a different airport, Iain can make arrangements or you can book yourself (trip price will be adjusted accordingly based on default Boston itinerary price).

Hotel: Holiday Inn Albuquerque Airport.

### Thursday, November 5

After breakfast, Iain will pick up the van and then we will drive south to Socorro and spend 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, 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 from the "flight deck."

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, Socorro.

### Friday, November 6

We will return to Bosque before dawn to witness the fly out of geese and cranes—which can be even more breath-taking than the evening show. After breakfast we will return to Bosque del Apache to revisit any hotspots from yesterday. Later in the morning we'll travel east to visit the lava beds at the Valley of Fires Park near Carrizozo (where we will have lunch) then on to Roswell. Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, Roswell.

### Saturday, November 7

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



Snow Geese and a Ross's Goose



Say's Phoebe



Sandhill Cranes



Lava beds at Valley of Fires



Pelican, Redhead, American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Snow Goose, and Marsh Wren. The pre-dusk fly-in of cranes is amazing.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Roswell.

## Sunday, November 8

Today we will travel south to Carlsbad and visit the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens—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—Elk, Pronghorn, wolves, Javelinas, etc.—a nice opportunity to see desert animals up close.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Carlsbad

## Monday, November 9

After breakfast we will visit nearby Lake Avalon.

Depending on the water levels, we might see shorebirds, waterfowl, coots and 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 10

We will travel north all the way up to Santa Rosa looking for Golden Eagles, Horned Larks, Prairie Falcons, Pronghorns and Mule Deer along the way. Iain also has a spot where we might view Burrowing Owls in a colony of Prairie Dogs.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Santa Rosa

## Wednesday, November 11

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, prairie falcons, mountain bluebirds, eared and pied-billed grebes, thousands of waterfowl and perhaps a Ferruginous Hawk or two. In the afternoon we will head into Santa Fe.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, Santa Fe

## Thursday, November 12

After breakfast we will drive to the Bandelier National Monument near Los Alamos. We'll stop at Overlook Park in White Rock which was full of birds on our last visit.



Burrowing Owl



Greater Roadrunner



Bandelier National Monument



Sandhill Cranes at sunset

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. Later in the day we will visit Valles Caldera, a spectacular extinct volcano where Elk herds and Coyotes roam and if we are lucky, we'll see Gunnison's Prairie Dogs.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Santa Fe

## Friday, November 13

Today is our last full day. We will visit the Randall Davey Audubon Center. Here we should see Western Bluebird, Mountain Chickadee, Bushtits, Spotted Towhee and perhaps a Black-billed Magpie. 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, Albuquerque.

## Saturday, November 14

We will shuttle back to Albuquerque airport in the early morning and then fly home.

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\*

\*Photo of Iain (in Scotland) by Janet Lucas.



Ferruginous Hawk



Prairie Dog



Valles Caldera