



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Vermillion Flycatcher

As birders flip through their favorite field guide, many become obsessed with the narrow breeding range extensions into southeast Arizona of our most sought-after Mexican specialties. Elegant Trogon barks, melodious warbler songs, melancholy wails of Gray Hawk, and the return of the Elf Owl signals the onset of Spring in Southeast Arizona—one of the best times of year for visiting birders. As birds arrive in April and May, they are eager to attract a mate and establish territories. That means lots of singing, calling, foraging, nest building—making them easier to find than at any other time of year!

Springtime Birding in Arizona's Sky Islands

7 Nights/8 Days



Violet-crowned Hummingbird



Grace's Warbler



Pyrrhuloxia

7 Nights/8 Days Itinerary (subject to change based on weather & rarities)

Day 1:

Arrival at Tucson (TUS) airport
Airport pick-up at 2:00 pm
Transfer to Portal, Arizona
Check-in at Portal Peak Lodge
Dinner in Portal
Night Portal Peak Lodge

Day 2:

Breakfast at Portal Peak Lodge
Birding Portal and the Chiricahuas
Picnic lunch
Birding the Chiricahuas
Transfer to Sierra Vista
Check-in at Ramsey Canyon Inn
Dinner in Sierra Vista
Night Ramsey Canyon Inn

Day 3:

Continental breakfast at Ramsey Canyon Inn
Birding the San Pedro River
Picnic lunch
Birding at Ramsey Canyon Preserve
Dinner in Sierra Vista
Night Ramsey Canyon Inn

Day 4:

Continental breakfast at Ramsey Canyon Inn
Birding at Beatty's Guest Ranch & Miller Canyon
Picnic lunch
Birding at Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary
Dinner in Sierra Vista
Night Ramsey Canyon Inn

Day 5:

Continental breakfast at Ramsey Canyon Inn
Birding at Paton Center for Hummingbirds
Sit-down lunch at The Gathering Grounds
Birding at Tubac De Anza Trail
Transfer to Green Valley, Arizona
Check-in at Santa Rita Lodge
Dinner in Green Valley
Night Santa Rita Lodge

Day 6:

Continental breakfast provided
Birding at Box Canyon & Florida Wash
Picnic lunch
Birding at Madera Canyon
Transfer to Tucson
Check-in at La Quinta
Dinner in Tucson
Night La Quinta

Day 7:

Continental breakfast at LaQuinta
Birding at Saguaro National Park & Santa Catalinas
Lunch at The Iron Door
Birding at Summerhaven
Dinner in Tucson
La Quinta drop-off and farewells
Night La Quinta

Day 8:

Continental breakfast at La Quinta
Take airport shuttle at your convenience.

Highlight Species:

Gambel's Quail, Montezuma Quail, Inca Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Lesser Nighthawk, Common Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, White-throated Swift, Rivoli's Hummingbird, Blue-throated Mountain-gem, Lucifer Hummingbird, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Golden Eagle, Gray Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Whiskered Screech-Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Elf Owl, Spotted Owl, Elegant Trogon, Acorn Woodpecker, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Arizona Woodpecker, Prairie Falcon, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Greater Pewee, Hammond's Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Bell's Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, Steller's Jay, Woodhouse's Scrub Jay, Mexican Jay, Chihuahuan Raven, Mexican Chickadee, Bridled Titmouse, Juniper Titmouse, Verdin, Violet-green Swallow, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, Cactus Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Phainopepla, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Yellow-eyed Junco, Canyon Towhee, Abert's Towhee, Spotted Towhees, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Scott's Orioles, Lucy's Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, Pyrrhuloxia, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting.

Effort & Pacing:

Moderate: Fair amount of walking with frequent breaks to observe birds and occasional feeder sits. Some flat surfaces and minor elevation gains, uneven or rocky terrain possible, 1-3 hours on your feet, moderate periods away from vehicle.

Included in this itinerary:

Meals beginning with dinner on arrival day and ending with breakfast on departure day, guided birding and interpretation, lodging for stated days of tour, ground transportation, pickup from Tucson International Airport (Shuttle on departure day), entrance fees to parks, recreation areas, & feeder stations, full five-gallon water cooler each day.

Not Included:

Flights, Laundry service, Cellular charges, alcoholic beverages, room service, additional hotel charges/damages, personal snacks, travel insurance, anything else not specifically stated as included.

Travel insurance:

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. In the event that you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you.



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