

Santa Fe Tour, 6-nights/7-days

Day 1: Fly to Santa Fe Regional Airport (SAF). You are responsible for booking your own flight. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel in Santa Fe where we will spend 6-nights. Activities for the day depend on arrival time at SAF

Day 2: Getting to know the nature and culture of Santa Fe. Visiting areas in the Santa Fe area: Randall Davey Audubon Center, Cerro Gordo Preserve, La Cieneguilla Petroglyphs, and the Historic Santa Fe Plaza. Lunch is at our hotel.

Day 3: Visiting areas in Albuquerque. Albuquerque has an elevation of 5,314 feet. This is nearly 2,000 feet below Santa Fe, which is a significant difference in regard to air density and oxygen. If the elevation of Santa Fe is slowing you down, on this day you will get a break. Possible locations to visit: Petroglyph National Monument, Rio Grande State Park, Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument, and Cochiti Lake. We spend the whole day in this area and do not return to Santa Fe for lunch.

Day 4: Visiting locations north of Santa Fe: White Rock, Valles Caldera National Preserve, Bandelier National Monument, and the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. We spend the whole day in this area and do not return to Santa Fe for lunch.

Day 5: Visiting locations north of Santa Fe: Rio Chama Valley, Abiquiu Reservoir, Echo Amphitheater, and Georgia O'Keeffe's Ghost Ranch. We spend the whole day in this area and do not return to Santa Fe for lunch.

Day 6: In the morning: Pecos National Historic Park, Galisteo Basin Preserve, Glorieta Pass, and Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve. Lunch is at our hotel. Afternoon high elevation activities: Hyde Park, Black Canyon, Aspen Vista (10,300 feet), and the Santa Fe Mountains. At these locations we will find high elevation bird species that we do not see at any other locations that we visit.

Day 7: Shuttle to the Santa Fe Airport (SAF) airport for flight home.

Elevation: The elevation of the city of Santa Fe is 7,200 feet. Most of the daily birding tours will be at elevations from 6,300 - 7,800 feet. There will be one day of birding tour that reaches 10,300 feet. If you might be sensitive high elevation, we recommend arriving in Albuquerque (5,312 feet) or Santa Fe a day or two early to help you better acclimate and you can always skip the birding days that are at high elevation. Please contact us for more info about elevation.

Beautiful Walks: There will be visits to the La Cieneguilla Petroglyphs, the Rio Chama Valley, Santa Fe National Forest, Valles Caldera National Preserve, Bandelier National Monument, Hyde Memorial State Park, Randall Davey Audubon Center, Georgia O'Keeffe's Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, and the Pecos National Historic Site.

Audubon Center: At the edge of Santa Fe is the Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary. Birds to see: Steller's Jay, Spotted Towhee, Northern Mockingbird, Sage Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Northern Roughed-winged Swallows and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

Santa Fe Mountains: About 30 minutes outside of Santa Fe are the arid Ponderosa Pine mountains of the Southwest. This is the southernmost area of the Southern Rockies. Home to many unique birds that love the arid west: Juniper Titmouse, Pinyon

Jay, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Clark' Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Cassin's Finch, Western Tanager and Townsend's Solitaire.

Georgia O'Keeffe: The Ghost Ranch, just outside Santa Fe was the home, studio and inspiration for many of Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings. The 21,000 acre ranch and museum is open to the public, where you will enjoy birding, walking and being inspired by this wonderful landscape. Favorite birds here: Woodhouse's Scrub Jay and the Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

Lodging for a tour with hotels: We will be staying at the beautiful Pueblo Bonito Inn, located close to the historic Santa Fe Plaza; a 10-minute walk. Each room is a one-bedroom suite, with a kitchenette, and decorated with beautiful southwest design in an historic adobe building.