Bosque del Apache & White Sands Photo-Tour & Workshop

November 23 to November 29, 2012

Bosque del Apache which translates to Woods of the Apache is a most spectacular congregation of birds. The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is a 57,331-acre wildlife oasis of upland desert and floodplain that was established in 1939. The refuge is located in south-central New Mexico about one hour from Albuquerque. The Rio Grande flows through the area providing water to the refuge. Close to 15,000 Sandhill Cranes and over 30,000 Snow and Ross’s Geese migrate here for the winter.
The refuge is an ideal location to capture large flocks of snow geese, particularly when they are flushed by the presence of a predator. At dusk numerous flights of geese and cranes return to the refuge to roost, making for great evening “birdscapes.” At dawn, the “Fly Out” is another phenomenal experience. Along with these magnificent birds, opportunities to photograph wild turkeys, pheasants, roadrunners, owls, golden eagles and bald eagles abound. Mammals like the coyote and black tailed deer are also present.

The late November tour serves up the opportunity for autumn colors and potential for some light snow cover.

We will spend the majority of our time at the refuge but will head out to photograph White Sands National Monument. The gypsum sand dunes stretch for miles and we will spend a day to capture the dunes in the early morning and evening light with the full moon as a bonus.

Photographers on this trip will learn how to photograph these scenes under a number of different lighting situations, including sunrise and sunset, back lighting.

This workshop is an exciting opportunity for photographers of all levels to enhance their skills capturing what these two locations present. You will learn to take control of your camera and achieve your artistic goals in this natural setting.

Who should attend?
This is a hands-on birdscape and landscape workshop for photographers of all skill levels. We will have an opportunity in the afternoon to review and critique images and learn post processing techniques for optimizing images.

Individual attention will be given to attendees, irrespective of experience or expectations. Digital and film shooters are most welcome.
The primary focus is to learn how to capture the scene to the very best effect. You will use sweeping wide angle foregrounds and selective cropping, various focusing and panning techniques and the best way for obtaining optimum exposure in bird and landscape photography.

In addition, a full list of topics which will be covered during the workshop, together with a suggested packing list will be forwarded to attendees before the workshop.

In the field you will be provided instruction based upon your needs. We will cover:

- Light - Quality and Quantity
- Temperature
- Direction, side and backlighting
- Exposure
- Metering for the best exposure
- Filters and Polarizers

How to obtain tack sharp images:

- Auto Focus Modes
- Manual Focus Mode

You will also learn how to work your subject:

- Perspective
- Composition
- Panoramas
- Panning and freezing techniques
- Intentional motion blur
Our days will be based on a very flexible schedule allowing us to respond to the opportunities based on weather, and light conditions, so you can have the best experience each day. We will head out each morning before sunrise to capture images in the best light. We photograph throughout the morning, breaking for a late breakfast/lunch and open discussion sessions. Late afternoon we will head out for more photography, concluding after sunset. Dinner is at a location of your choosing. We will then meet to do image downloads and have a feedback session. Instruction sessions will be included as well as a prep session for the next day.

**Day 1 (November 23)**

Arrive at Albuquerque and drive to Socorro to check in at the hotel. For those who arrive by 2:00 PM, we will then head out to capture some images in the refuge and the sunset. We will grab a quick dinner and meet at the hotel to download our images and welcome reception.

**Day 2 - 3 (November 24 - 25)**

We will venture out before sunrise to be at the refuge for photographing the wildlife. Returning to the hotel for lunch and open discussions and instructional sessions. Late afternoon we will head to the refuge for more wildlife photography against the setting sun.

**Day 4 (November 26)**

After an optional trip to the refuge we will check out of the hotel and drive to White Sands (about a 3 hour drive) having lunch on the way and check in at the Hotel. Late afternoon we will head to White Sands Monument to photograph the sunset and the rising full moon. A late dinner is expected this evening.

**Day 5 (November 27)**

We will depart for White Sands before Sunrise and hopefully get a few more images of the Moon setting and concurrently get a Sunrise. We will then return to Socorro and check back into the Hotel night. We will have an evening opportunity in the refuge to photograph the wildlife at sunset.

**Day 6 (November 28)**

We will venture out before sunrise to be at the refuge for photographing the wildlife. Returning to the hotel for lunch and open discussions and instructional sessions. Late afternoon we will head to the refuge for more wildlife photography against the setting sun.

**Day 7 (November 29)**

Considering airline schedules we will do some early morning photography at the refuge and then check out and head for Albuquerque to catch our return flights.
Registration

Registration is limited to a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 participants. The cost is $1050.00 per participant, that includes all hotels on a double occupancy basis, breakfast and site fees. Travel, car rental, other meals excluding breakfast, insurance and incidentals are not included. Please complete the registration and release forms (links are provided below or you can get them at www.shivverma.com/workshops at the beginning of the 2012 schedule. A $500.00 deposit is required by September 30, 2012, to confirm your reservation. The balance is due by October 30, 2012. Please make your payments to Shiv Verma Photography and mail them to 652 Dedham Street, Wrentham, MA 02093-1149. The workshop and photo-tour is subject to cancelation if we do not have the minimum number of participants.

Accommodation & Travel

Plan on flying into Albuquerque, NM and then drive to Socorro (75 miles 1hr 20 mins). We will be staying at the Econo Lodge in Socorro and the Best Western in Alamogordo (White Sands)

Single Supplement is $480. We will be assigning a roommate. However, if you have someone you wish to share with please let us know.

Econo Lodge
713 California Street
Socorro, NM 87801
(575) 835-1500

Best Western Desert Aire
1021 South White Sands Boulevard
Alamogordo, NM 88310
(575) 437-2110

Information

Images for this brochure courtesy: US Government National Parks and Dan Charbonnet - your permission for use is most appreciated.

Contact us at 617.759.0010 or email sv@shivverma.com