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## ***Natural Treasures of the Sonoran Desert Photography Tour***

March 22-28, 2020  
7 Days – 6 Nights

Wildlife photographers and bird watchers alike will explore the “Real, natural, Arizona”. The group will start its trip in Tucson where they will be introduced to wildlife and plants of the southwest at the Arizona- Sonoran Desert Museum. This world-renowned facility is a zoo, natural history museum and botanical garden all in one. It will be a terrific springboard for the week with opportunities to see captive animals including hummingbirds, javalina, Gambel’s quail, Mexican wolf, coati, and more. The site will also allow people unfamiliar with desert southwest plants and wildflowers to learn first-hand about many native species.

From our base camp in the Tucson area, we will find the perfect places to catch sunrises and sunsets over the Sonoran desert including the iconic saguaro cactus. Other highlights of the experience will include a private photo session with native Arizona wildlife and visits to our favorite locations to take in all that the desert has to offer.



The tour will be co-lead by ODC Network’s Chief Naturalist Joy Funk and Professional Photographer John Dykstra. Joy and John have significant experience guiding eco-tours and are sure to help you capture great photos in Arizona. We will also be employing the services of local expert Sandy Anderson of Gray Hawk Nature Center.

### **Day 1 – Travel to Tucson, AZ**

Our first day includes travel from Michigan to the Tucson International Airport. Once the rental vehicles are picked up we will be on our way for our first adventure in Saguaro National Park East. The day will end on East Park Link Road north of Tucson for unobstructed views of a sunset. Accommodations for the week will be at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Tucson, AZ (D\*)

**Day 2 – Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum and Saguaro National Park West**

Start the day at the world renowned Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum with its wildlife, scenery and gardens. There’s something for every photographer including over 200 live animals, more than 50,000 plants, and beautiful landscapes on the edge of Saguaro National Park West. We will finish the day at Saguaro NP West for sunset photography at Signal Hill (B,L,D)

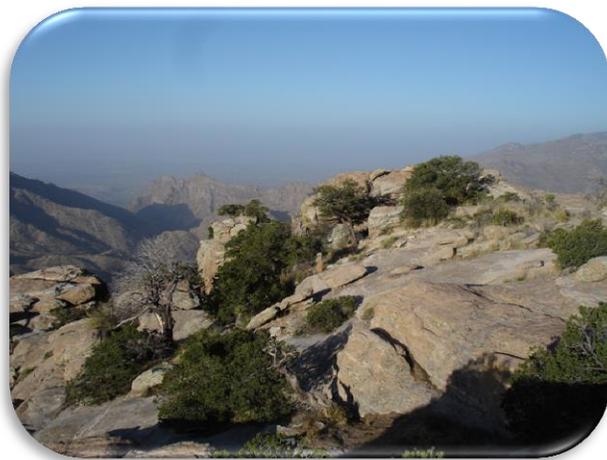


**Day 3 – Sweetwater Wetlands, Old Tucson and Silver Bell Mountains**

We will stay in the city for most of the day with visits to Sweetwater Wetlands, old churches and Reid Park. The day will end with stunning views of the Silver Bell Mountains over an iconic desert forest of Saguaro cactus. (B,L,D)

**Day 4 – Sierra Vista and Patagonia**

We will travel a bit this day as we go to Sierra Vista, AZ southeast of Tucson. Our day will start with photography of native Sonoran desert wildlife with Sandy Anderson of Gray Hawk Nature Center. While in the area, we will also visit the world famous Paton Center for Hummingbirds run by the Tucson Audubon Society. After lunch we will head west to Madera Canyon for photography before heading back north to Tucson for the night. (B,L,D)



**Day 5 – Mt Lemmon and Windy Point**

Our cameras will be heading up the mountain on this day as we explore the scenery of the Sonoran Desert from Windy Point and Mt Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Range. The vistas of the Coronado National Forest, Sonoran Desert and Tucson will provide great opportunities for photography but bring a jacket since we will get up to about 7,000 ft above sea level. (B,L,D)

### Day 6 – San Xavier del Blanc and Sabino Canyon

One of the most photographed buildings in the Tucson area is the San Xavier Mission National Historic Landmark. It is the oldest intact structure built by Europeans in the state of Arizona with construction taking place in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. With its white stucco, ornate entrances and carved wood doors it will be sure to provide numerous opportunities to capture Spanish mission architecture. After lunch we will drive to Sabino Canyon on Tucson's east side to explore the Coronado National Forest and the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains. We will be sure to end the day with a prime spot for Sonoran Desert photography at sunset! (B,L,D)



### Day 7 – Departure and Travel

After breakfast at the hotel, we will head back to Tucson International Airport for our return flights. (B)

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**Pricing:** \$1,950 per person (based on double occupancy) (\$900 single supplement)

**Payment:** \$750 deposit due at time of booking and required to hold a place on the trip; deposit plus \$750 1<sup>st</sup> payment due by December 1, 2019; Final payment of \$450 due by February 1, 2020. All payments may be made at one time if desired via cash or check. **Transaction fees may apply for making payments with a credit card.**

**Cancellations:** Full refunds will be made until December 1, 2019. After December 1, 2019, up to 50% of money received may be forfeited by the participant. No refunds will be given for cancellation after February 1, 2020.

**Included:** 6 nights lodging; all meals during the itinerary; all transportation within Arizona; professional naturalist and photography guides; entrance to museums, parks and attractions as a group

**Not included:** Flight to and from Tucson International Airport; alcoholic beverages; and personal items during the trip. (Flights for the group may be coordinated through Travel Leaders in Jenison. Travelers wishing to make their own arrangements must be at Tucson International Airport by 11:00 AM Mountain Standard Time on March 22, 2020.)

Please contact trip leader Joy Funk to learn more or to make a payment: 616.393.9453 or [joy@outdoordiscovery.org](mailto:joy@outdoordiscovery.org).

