



DEYOUNG
ACTIVE PHOTO TOURS

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NEW MEXICO WHITE SANDS, WINTERING BIRDS & DESERT SKIES SUGGESTED GEAR LIST

WHAT TO EXPECT:

In November, this region can have lows around 25-35°F and highs in the 60s. In December, this region can have lows around 10-20°F and highs around 50°F and everything in between. Bring layers of clothing because it will be cold in early morning sunrise/late night shoots, below freezing and will warm up throughout the day.

At Bosque del Apache, walking will be minimal - mainly up to a few hundred yards, on flat ground on gravel, dirt and/or mud. We will generally stay within eyesight of our vehicle during each shoot session.

At White Sands there is more opportunity to make longer hikes for photos. Due to the popularity of White Sands (remember, crowds are minimal in winter) it is often necessary to walk at least a mile out on the dunes to ensure landscape images with minimal or no human footprints. While the majority of the dunes are small, there could be some short, steep climbs of 50-100 foot tall dunes where your feet slide back some on ascent. Walking on the dunes is easiest in winter when the dunes are more likely to be firm. During our time on the dunes, we track our hike to ensure we don't get lost.

In December, we can expect sunrise as early as 6:48AM (beginning of the month) to 7:06AM (end of the month) and sunset at approximately 4:57 PM (beginning of the month) to 5:07PM (end of the month). As a result, our days will be long, and we may have limited downtime. Meals may not be timely. However, we will have snacks and hot drinks available in the vehicle. If you need additional rest, snacks, or beverage, just let us know. Our itinerary is somewhat flexible and will adjust accordingly.

We will carry an inReach satellite communication device and basic first aid kit for emergencies but please come prepared with any prescription medications you might need.

WHAT TO BRING

RECOMMENDED GEAR

- Camera with manual, extra batteries, battery charger, extra storage cards and card



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- Laptop with power cord (and copy of Lightroom, Photoshop or both)
- Lenses:
 - For White Sands - Wide-angle lens - 14-24mm or similar range. Telephoto lens 70-200mm
 - For Bosque del Apache/Wintering Birds – Above lenses AND a telephoto lens around 400mm (without the use of a tele-converter) in order to capture close-ups of the birds.
- Flash and a way to use it off camera (optional, but if you have it bring it!)
- Sturdy tripod. For larger lenses ensure your tripod head can support the lens weight and enable movement to track the birds in flight.
- Cable release
- Polarizing filter
- Vest or small backpack. Please do not take more than you need to carry.
- Rain gear for you and your camera. (Rain gear serves well for wind protection too.) For equipment plastic bags will work.
- Flashlight or headlamp.
- Lens cloths to keep your camera clean.

RECOMMENDED CLOTHING

Overall approach: Dress in layers, non-cotton, moisture wicking, waterproof/breathable shells for both lower and upper body, waterproof breathable shoes, and a warm hat and gloves.

Base Layers:

Bring at least one moisture wicking base layer such as Capilene, Merino wool, or something similar.

Insulating Layers:

Upper body: 2-3 light layers like expedition weight Capilene, fleece, nano or micro puff jackets are better than 1 heavy coat for both thermal regulation and overall warmth. Windbloc fleece is also good as one of your insulating layers. A medium weight, high-quality down coat (850 or 950 fill) is good too.



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Lower body: Legs don't need as much insulation as core does but it's still best to avoid cotton jeans on shoot days. Thin, lightweight base layer long johns made from the same material as upper body base layers under fast drying pants work well. Winter weight, full-length tights are also popular choices for lower body wear. Lower layers should easily fit under rain/wind pants without bunching and binding.

Outerwear: High quality waterproof/breathable shells are abundant these days and the best choice for protection from rain, wet vegetation, and wind while active. Well made, waterproof/breathable shells are also much better at cutting wind and not just rain.

Upper body: A rain parka with hood that's large enough to get a couple of layers under.

Lower Body: Rain pants with a lower zipper long enough to easily pull over boots and shoes.

Head: Tightly woven or windbloc hat that covers ears.

Hands: Lightweight stretchy base layer gloves work well. If your hands get cold easily consider mittens. Have mittens large enough to easily fit over liner gloves. My personal favorite is Windbloc fingerless flyfishing gloves that easily fit into arctic mittens for winter photography and outer shell waterproof/breathable mittens for cold rainy/snowy days.

Shoes: Normal running/hiking shoes or ankle-high hiking shoes – whatever feels most comfortable for you to be in all day. If your feet tend to get cold, consider a thicker winter-style boot for Bosque del Apache.