

Venture to Hawk Mountain, PA and Cape May, NJ

Itinerary: September 28 - October 5, 2021

Please plan to meet at the Holiday Inn at the Philadelphia Airport on the night of September 28. The hotel and meal tonight are both included in the trip cost.

Day 1 (Wednesday, September 29)

After breakfast we will pick up our van, bird locally, and then drive to the Hawk Mountain area. *The next 3 nights will be near Hawk Mountain, PA*

Day 2 (Thursday, September 30)

All day today will be spent at the overlooks, on the trails, and at the visitor center at Hawk Mountain. Northwest winds and ridge topography at Hawk Mountain produce the updrafts that help carry birds of prey southward on their migration. From August through December, an average of 20,000 hawks, eagles, and falcons pass over the rocky promontory at North Lookout. Ospreys and thousands of Broad-winged Hawks arrive in September; October brings the greatest variety of species, with large numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. Weather influences the flights; a northwest wind usually brings the greatest numbers.

Day 3 (Friday, October 1)

Today will be another full day at Hawk Mountain. In addition to the overlooks, there is a trail from South Lookout leading to the "River of Rocks," an impressive glacial boulder field on the valley floor. The sanctuary highlands are dominated by an oak-maple forest, with a scattering of rhododendron, laurel, and hemlock. In addition to raptor watching, we will look for songbirds in the woodlands. *Night near Hawk Mountain, PA*

Day 4 (Saturday, October 2)

Today we will head south to Delaware, and explore the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and other habitat along the Delaware Bay Shore. Bombay Hook is comprised of over 15,000 acres of tidal marsh, fresh water impoundments, wooded swamps, farmland, and grassy upland. Established as a refuge for migrating and wintering waterfowl, it also offers haven for numerous other species of birds. *Night in Dover, DE*

Day 5 (Sunday, October 3)

This morning we will take the ferry from Lewes, Delaware, across Delaware Bay, to Cape May, New Jersey. In the afternoon we will visit the Cape May Point Hawkwatch Platform. Cape May is located at New Jersey's southeastern-most tip, on a peninsula bordered on the east, south, and west by water. In fall, birds migrating along the coast, funnel down the peninsula. As many species of birds are hesitant to cross broad stretches of water, they concentrate at Cape May Point. *Night in Cape May, NJ*

Day 6 (Monday, October 4)

Another full day of bird watching at the Hawkwatch Platform in Cape May Point State Park and other sites in the Cape May area. Cape May is a renowned birdwatching destination, and not solely for raptors. Other locales in the area where we can observe raptors and other fall migrants include The Nature Conservancy's Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge and the Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area. *Night in Cape May, NJ*

Day 7 (Tuesday, October 5)

After a final morning of birding, we will head north from Cape May, back to Philadelphia for our return flights.