Arizona: Ladies Only
Spas, Sips, and Specialties

Tour Leader: Jamie Cunningham
April 5-12, 2025
Join Jamie on “Sips, Spa, and Specialties”, a relaxing, ladies-only retreat full of some of Southeast Arizona’s best birding spots at an easy pace. Our target list includes lots of incredible species like Elegant Trogon, Elf Owl, Scaled Quail, many desert and riparian species, and warblers like Red-faced, Grace’s and Olive. Along with great birding, we’ll enjoy lots of wine, an art gallery, a champagne brunch, a morning of field sketching, and even get a massage. Unlike other tours, some wine and brews will be included in this all-inclusive itinerary. Participants will also enjoy a complimentary welcome basket full of goodies by fellow women artists, authors, and more!

**Itinerary Overview:**

April 5: Arrival in Tucson, Transfer to Hotel, and Afternoon Birding in Tucson
April 6: Morning Brunch, Transfer to Sierra Vista, Afternoon Birding in the Huachuca Mountains
April 7: Birding the Huachuca Mountains
April 8: Morning Field Sketching at the Paton Center and Afternoon Birding in Green Valley
April 9: Birding in Green Valley
April 10: Morning Birding in Green Valley, a Day Spa Visit, and Evening Birding in Tucson
April 11: Morning Birding on Mount Lemmon and Evening Birding in Tucson
April 12: Departure from Tucson

**Detailed Itinerary:**

**April 5: Arrival in Tucson, Transfer to Hotel, and Afternoon Birding in Tucson**

Please plan to arrive at Tucson International Airport (TUS) no later than 2:00 pm local time. You can transfer to our hotel via shuttle where the group will be picked up to do a little late afternoon birding at Sweetwater Wetlands. We’ll look for Vermillion Flycatcher, Greater Roadrunner, Gambel’s Quail, Verdin, Gila Woodpecker, Pyrrhuloxia and more! There is also an abundance of waterbirds at this location including Cinnamon Teal, Mexican Duck, and Neotropic Cormorant. We’ll conclude our first evening with a nice dinner and views of the famous Saguaro Cacti and surrounding mountain ranges.

- **Overnight: Tucson, Arizona**

**April 6: Morning Brunch, Transfer to Sierra Vista, Afternoon Birding in the Huachuca Mountains**

After a nice brunch in Tucson, we’ll head south towards the Sierra Vista area. There are many wonderful feeder set-ups in the area that we’ll hit today. We should be able to tally at least a half dozen hummingbird species including the beautiful Rivoli’s Hummingbird. If we’re lucky, we should be able to catch a view of Lucifer Hummingbirds, as this area is one of the few places in the US to find these stunners. Expect to see three oriole species, multiple woodpecker species including Ladder-backed, Acorn, and Arizona Woodpecker, the noisy Mexican Jay, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, and several warbler species. We might even catch a glimpse of the hard-to-find Montezuma Quail.
We will enjoy a pleasant dinner, then head out at night to look for Elf and Western Screech-Owls while listening for Common Poorwills.
- **Overnight: Sierra Vista, Arizona**

**April 7: Birding the Huachuca Mountain**

In the morning, we'll head to some of the famous B&B feeders in the area looking for species such as Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Bridled Titmouse, and Brown-crested Flycatcher. After lunch we will enjoy more birding, followed by a field sketching lesson to prepare for sketching the next day. We may visit a garden to sip wine while watching a nesting pair of Elf Owls engage in courtship behavior.
- **Overnight: Sierra Vista, Arizona**

**April 8: Morning Field Sketching at the Paton Center and Afternoon Birding in Box Canyon**

We’ll depart Sierra Vista in the morning and go to Tucson Audubon’s Paton Center to watch their hummingbirds. Each participant will have received a field sketching kit at the beginning of the trip that will be put to good use on this day. We’ll take advantage of the many feeders and shaded sitting areas to really take in the up-close views of many species. We have a chance to see 8-10 hummingbird species here including Anna’s, Rufous, Black-chinned, and Violet-crowned Hummingbirds. There are many other birds on-site such as Inca Dove, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-winged Sparrow, and Bewick’s Wren. After lunch, we’ll visit other locations in the Patagonia area in search of grassland species. We may get views of Vesper Sparrow, Say’s Phoebe, Western Bluebird, Chihuahuan Meadowlark, and Prairie Falcon. Pronghorn are often seen in the area as well. Once we arrive near the Tubac area where we’ll spend the night, we’ll explore Box Canyon in the late afternoon in search of Five-striped Sparrows and other specialties. If there is time, we will stroll artsy Tubac after dinner.
- **Overnight: Tubac, Arizona**

**April 9: Birding in Green Valley**

We’ll begin our morning in the famous Madera Canyon. Great feeders offer a ton a species viewed from under a covered seating area. We’ll look for Madera’s most famous species, the Elegant Trogon, while enjoying views of Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, and Yellow-eyed Junco. We will keep an eye out for Montezuma Quail that hang out in the picnic area. Occasionally, Coati and Black Bear can be seen in the area, too.
- **Overnight: Tubac, Arizona**
April 10: Morning Birding the Santa Cruz, a Day Spa Visit, and Evening Birding in Tucson

This morning will consist of birding along the Santa Cruz River looking for specialties such as Thick-billed Kingbird and Rose-throated Becard. Afterwards, we will visit a day spa which will offer a much-needed bit of relaxation. Each participant will receive a 45-minute Classic Swedish or Deep Tissue massage. Massage not your thing? You can also choose a pedicure, or for those not interested in spa services we can visit a local bakery for coffee and snacks. We’ll plan on doing some evening birding in and around Tucson, while enjoying the desert sunset. Landscape photography or sketching opportunities will be offered this evening.
- Overnight: Tucson, Arizona

April 11: Morning Birding on Mount Lemmon and Evening Birding in Tucson

In the morning, we’ll head up to Mount Lemmon in search of new high elevation species such as Red-faced, Olive, and Grace’s Warbler. We’ll also search for migrant species like Townsend’s and Hermit Warblers. We should get good looks at the cute Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee, and Steller’s Jay, too. We may have a chance at seeing a Red-naped or Williamson Sapsucker as well. We’ll end our evening with a drive through Sabino Canyon to look for bobcats and coyotes. We will get good looks at many desert specialties like Cactus Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Gila Woodpecker, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Pyrrhuloxia, Phainopepla, Black-throated and Brewer’s Sparrows, and Abert’s and Canyon Towhees.
- Overnight: Tucson, Arizona

April 12: Departure from Tucson

Red-faced Warbler
**Trip Details:**

**Cost:**  
Price per person (double occupancy), from Tucson, Arizona: $3,399  
Single Supplement: $600  
Minimum Participants: 4  
Maximum Participants: 5

**Price Includes:**  
Expert Guide  
Ground Transportation in Arizona  
All Lodging  
All Meals  
Park Entrance Fees  
First alcoholic beverage at lunch and dinner ($15 max per drink)  
Welcome Basket  
Sketching Kit

**Price Does Not Include:**  
Airfare to and from Tucson, Arizona  
Passport and Visa Fees (if applicable)  
Personal Items  
Travel Insurance  
Tips

**Deposit:**  
A deposit of $500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (January 5, 2025).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

**Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:**  
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