

Bosque del Apache

National Wildlife Refuge



For more information contact:

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July 2007

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Each season at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge offers unique viewing opportunities. Peak visitation occurs in winter when bald eagles and thousands of sandhill cranes and snow geese are present. To view the largest population of wintering birds plan to visit between mid-November through mid-February. Free general refuge tours are offered during this season. Call for current information.

During the spring and fall, visitors can see migrant warblers, flycatchers and shorebirds. The summer months are a good time to see nesting songbirds, waders, shorebirds and ducks. Some year-round residents include mule deer, coyote, porcupine, muskrat, turkey, quail, pheasant and roadrunner.

Annual Festival of the Cranes

Plan to visit the weekend before Thanksgiving during the annual Festival of the Cranes. This event includes speakers, special tours and wildlife displays.

Visitor Center and Accommodations

For your orientation to the refuge, we suggest stopping at the Visitor Center. Here you will find current information on wildlife sightings, exhibits, videos, and a bookstore/giftshop. Hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:00 pm and weekends from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm year-round except for Christmas, New Year's Day and the 4th of July.

The 15-mile auto tour loop allows visitors to enjoy wildlife viewing and photography. Wildlife is accustomed to visitors and may be closely observed from vehicles, which serve as photo blinds. The refuge tour route is open from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset every day of the year. There is a fee for the self-guided auto tour; federal entrance passes are accepted. Please pick up and pack out all litter.

Where to stay?

Contact the Socorro Chamber of Commerce for area information at 505/835-0424.

Directions to Bosque

Bosque del Apache NWR is situated just off Interstate 25 midway between Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Socorro is the nearest city. To reach the refuge from Socorro, drive nine miles south on 1-25 to exit 139, continue east a quarter mile on US 380 to the flashing signal at San Antonio, turn right onto Highway 1 and drive south nine miles to the Visitor Center. From Las Cruces, drive north on 1-25 to exit 124 (San Marcial), then north on Highway 1 to the Visitor Center. The entrance to the scenic Auto Tour Loop is just south of the Visitor Center.