

Travelogue Details

Texas Bird and Wildlife Photography

Margaret Meehan

For online interactive maps or to purchase high quality paper maps from Texas Parks and Wildlife:

Great Texas Wildlife Trails

<http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wildlife/wildlife-trails/>

Campos Viejos/Dos Venadas

- Hardy Jackson/Steve Bentsen
- Starr County, Texas, near Rio Grande City
- <http://camposviejosranch.com/photography.php>
- <http://www.dosvenadas.com/visit.htm>
- Blinds - \$150 per day for a group of 4 or more
- Ranch House Lodging \$170 per day, 3 meals, all inclusive
- 10 blinds between two ranches

Laguna Seca Ranch

- North of Edinburg, Texas
- <http://lagunasecaranch.com/index.html>
- Blinds - \$185 per day which includes a mandatory guide
- No lodging or meals on ranch (lodging and restaurants in Edinburg.)
- Ruth Hoyt, photo guide
- 4 songbird blinds, plus a raptor blind

Jones Alta Vista Ranch

- Jim Hogg County, Hebronville, Texas
- <http://www.jones-altavistaranch.com/photography/>
- 34,000 acre ranch
- 2 blinds - \$225 per day with guide
- Food and lodging - \$315 per day

High Island, Texas – May – Roseate Spoonbill Rookery

- Boy Scout Woods and Louis B. Smith Bird Sanctuary – Day pass \$8
- Food & lodging in Galveston
- Free ferry from Galveston to High Island

Equipment Needed

- 300mm lens or longer
- Tripod
- Gimbal head such as the Wimberley Head (WH-200) or Sidekick (SK-100)
- Lots of memory cards and batteries for all day shooting
- Clothing to match the weather (May had 90°-100° temperatures.)

Seasons to Visit

- Winter – For Migratory Birds
- Spring – For local deep South Texas Birds

Michigan Night Sky Photography

Margaret Meehan

Lake Hudson Recreation Area

- South West of Adrian, Michigan
- 5505 Morey Hwy., Clayton, MI 49235
- (517) 467-7401
- 1 hour from Toledo
- Signage says "Recreation Passport Required"
- \$11 MI resident annual pass
- \$5 MI resident motorcycle annual pass
- \$32 Non-resident annual pass
- \$9 Non-resident daily pass

Headlands International Dark Sky Park

- Free
- Emmet County Michigan
- Lodging in Mackinaw City
- <http://www.midarkskypark.org/>
- 12 minutes west of Mackinaw City
- Open 24 hours per day
- NO camping allowed
- Use red-filtered flashlights only
- Overnight sky viewing is permitted
- March 18, 2017 4:00-8:00 Learn to photograph the night sky

Lake Bailey

- Eagle Harbor Township, UP, Michigan
- Keweenaw Peninsula
- Boat launch access from M-26
- 7 minutes from Eagle Harbor, MI
- Lodging Eagle Harbor Inn
 - Restaurant closes at 8:00 p.m. Sunday,
 - 9:00 p.m. the rest of the week.
 - 7 guest rooms

Equipment Needed

- Tripod
- Wide-angle lens
- Remote trigger
- Camera that allows for long exposures
- Optional - intervalometer
- Red flashlight/headlamp

Digital Printing Workshop in Yosemite National Park

Joe Jacoby

Cost

- Airfair—DTW RT to Fresno, CA..... \$354
- Car Rental for 6 days..... \$154
- Park entrance fee (good for 7 days)..... \$30
- Lodging -
- 6 Nights at Yosemite Valley Lodge... \$1,360
- Charles Cramer Workshop Fee..... \$1,350
- Food for 6 days..... ~\$240
- Total..... \$3,488

Equipment Needed

- Laptop computer
- Light hiking shoes
- Clothing depends on the season
- Photo gear for landscape photography
 - SLR
 - Wide-angle to short telephoto lenses
 - Sturdy tripod

Seasons to Visit

Summer: All areas of the park are usually accessible by car by late May or early June. Arrive before mid-morning, especially on weekends, to avoid delays at entrance stations and popular areas like Yosemite Valley and Glacier Point.

- The weather is warm to hot, with occasional rain (usually as afternoon thundershowers), especially at the higher elevations.
- Most of the water flowing in Yosemite comes from snowmelt in the high country, so runoff decreases during the dry summer. Some waterfalls are completely dry by August.

Fall: All areas of the park usually remain open through October, and sometimes into November.

- The weather is variable, ranging from hot to cold, dry to rainy or snowy.
- Water levels tend to be very low, with waterfalls containing little or no water.
- Yosemite is not known for spectacular fall colors because most trees are evergreen. The maples, oaks and dogwoods are most showy around mid-October.

Winter: Yosemite is snowy and cold, though sunny and chilly days are not uncommon. Many of the roads are closed. Tire chains are often required.

- Water levels tend to be low.
- But...if you are willing to tolerate the cold and snow, there are compensations for the adventurous photographer....

Spring: As warmer weather begins to melt the snow, even the smallest creeks are rushing with water. You may see many small, unnamed waterfalls and cascades all along the Valley rim. Larger creeks and rivers, along with the better known waterfalls, tend to reach peak runoff in May or June.

Spring is the best time of year to photograph waterfalls.

Another reason to visit Yosemite in the spring:

“Digital Printing for the Fine Art Photographer”,

A 5-Day Workshop taught by Charles Cramer at the Ansel Adams Gallery

- For more: <http://www.charlescramer.com>

Ecuador & The Galápagos Islands

John Helsop

The Galápagos Islands

- 836 miles from Quito, Ecuador

Lodging

- Hotels in both Quito and the Galápagos

Transportation

- Plane
- Boat
- Bus

Equipment Needed

- Hiking Boots Or Comfortable Shoes
- US Dollar is used
- Did not need Travel Outlet Adapters
- Lightweight Jacket (Rain and Windproof)
- Light winter hat and light gloves
- A few long sleeve layers and long pants
- Swimwear and sandals
- Shorts and quick dry/wicking shirts
- Enough batteries to power camera all day
- Extra money for tips/equipment rental
- Let your credit card company know where and when you will be somewhere if you plan to use it.
- Waterproof camera (can be a disposable)
- Cellphone or device with Wi-Fi capability
- Passport
- Sunglasses

The Wilds – Columbus Zoo

Mike Kowalski

- Roughly 4 hours from Toledo, south on I-75 to I-70,
- 14000 International Rd. , Cumberland, OH 43732
- <https://thewilds.columbuszoo.org/home>
- Hours vary by season
- Open-air Safari
- Wildside Tour
- Overnight stays -Yurts
 - Nomad Ridge
 - May-October
- Equipment & Tips
 - Lenses for every focal length. Some animals will come right up to the truck, and others will be out in a field. It all comes down to how much you want to carry. I had a 2 DSLR bodies along with a 24-70, 70-200, and a 300mm prime. I wish I had brought a longer lens still. I also had my two daughters to help carry bags.
 - Make sure to have plenty of batteries, memory cards, and cleaning equipment for dust or rain & snow.
 - There is a significant fee to reschedule, and no refunds are available.
 - Know your directions to get there. Your GPS may lose signal.
 - Parking is \$6
 - Dress for the weather!!! Comfortable clothes and shoes.
 - Animals will not be as active or be as visible on hot summer days. I recommend going in the spring or fall.
 - Bring water and snack for the 2½ hour tour.
 - Bring small currency for feeding birds and fish at a stop.
 - There is also a stop with an opportunity to get food and use bathroom.

China

Larry Clapper

Paperwork & Transport

- US Passport & Visa \$130
Travel Agency Organized Visa
- Airlines – Continental Airlines, American, Delta & Jet Blue all fly to China.
- Cleveland to Chicago
- Chicago to Beijing

Travel and Accommodation

- Hotel- Central Plaza Holiday Inn Beijing
- Golden Flower Hotel In Xi'an for Example.
- Chinese Regional Airlines from Beijing to Xi'an & Xi'an to Shanghai
- Shanghai Back to USA – Approx 13 Hours.

- Land Travel In China via Charter Bus with local guide in each city speaking English.
- No Need to Rent A Car – Traffic Insane – No English Traffic Signs.
- Rely On Guides for Organization, Group Trips, Limited Time at Locations.
- Price – All Inclusive - \$3200 per person

Weather and Extra Details

- Fall Is A Good Time To Go – 60 / 70 Degrees
- Try to Avoid National Holidays
- Expect To Barter When Visiting Stores & Markets
- English Language is Very Limited
- Clothing – Plan for Typical Fall Climate We See In The USA
- Smart Casual Is Their Typical Attire
- No Need For Suits & Ties or Women's Fancy Dress.
- Essential You Have Good Walking Shoes
- Don't forget Your Medications
- Electrical Adapters, Batteries etc (Buying there is not easy and can be more expensive)
- Food In Hotels is Excellent – Western Breakfast and Chinese Cuisine Dinners
- Safety – Be Careful of Pickpockets – Keep Money Safe & Leave Jewelry at Home
- Use a Safe When In The Hotel - Whenever Provided
- Don't Get Tempted To Buy Big Souvenir's, You Will Never Get Them Home
- Expect Luggage Searches As A Standard Practice

Equipment

- Camera Body – Nikon D90 But Any Will Suffice
- Wide Angle – 18-50mm for Street Shots
- 10-24mm for Landscapes
- Telephoto - 50-150mm Detail & People
- Multiple Memory Cards
- Batteries & Chargers
- Power Adapters
- Easy Access Camera Bag
- Walking Shoes
- Light Clothes

New York City Steve Bishop

Transport Needs

- Planes – Yes
Your Own Airline Choice
- Trains – A Possibility to get there plus NY
Amtrak and New York Subway
- Automobiles – Taxi, Limo Services
No Need for Rental Cars

Air Tickets

- American Airways
- Jet Blue
- Spirit
- United
- Priced between - \$136 to \$180 Round Trip
- These are excellent prices due to it being early in the year, the closer to the summer, the more tickets inflate.

Amtrack

- Typical Departure TOLEDO to New York (Penn Station)
- 11:50pm Departs – Arrives 5:00am
- Basic - \$149 One Way
- Business - \$192 One Way
- Super Line \$380 One Way with Sleeper Cabin.

Transport in NYC

- TTaxi – Great Fun Hailing The Yellow Cabs (Light On)
- Subway – All Day Tickets Best Option (\$15 Start Price)
- No Need for Rental Car – Driving Slow, Parking Impossible
- Walk - You Will Notice Manhattan People are Fit!
- Taxi – Great Fun Hailing The Yellow Cabs (Light On)
- Subway – All Day Tickets Best Option (\$15 Start Price)
- No Need for Rental Car – Driving Slow, Parking Impossible
- Walk - You Will Notice Manhattan People are Fit!

Hotel and Flight Combos

- Marriott Mid Town East Side - \$557
- The Roosevelt Hotel Mid Down - \$497
- Manhattan Times Square Hotel - \$428
- Marriott Downtown Wall Street - \$549
- World Trade Center Hotel - \$552
- The Plaza Central Park - \$1,414

Equipment

- Camera Body – Mirrorless, APSC or Full Frame
- Wide Angle – 11mm to 24mm Landscape
- Telephoto - 70-200mm Detail & People
- Street Life – 50mm or 24-105mm
- Compact Travel Tripod
- Mini Tripod
- Travel Tri-Pod
- Versatile Bag for Quick Access
- Walking Shoes
- Light Clothes

Local Opportunities

- Cleveland Metropark System
 - 19 Reservations
 - Cleveland Zoo
 - <http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/>
- Schedel Arboretum and Gardens, Elmore, OH
 - www.schedel-gardens.org/
- Renaissance Festivals, Holly, MI
 - End of August through beginning of October
 - www.michrenfestnew.michrenfest.com/
- Flag City Balloon Festival, Findley, OH
 - August 11-13, 2017
 - flagcityballoonfest.com/
- Dragon Boat Race, Riverfront, Toledo
- Rowing Regatta, Riverfront, Toledo
- Holiday Parades/Fireworks, Local Cities
- Historic Woodlawn Cemetery, 1520 W. Central Ave., Toledo
- Cedar Point Amusement Park, Sandusky, OH
- Fort Meigs – Re-enactment days, Perrysburg, OH
- River Raisin National Battlefield – Re-enactment days, Monroe, MI
 - <https://www.nps.gov/rira/index.htm>
- Local Sporting Events
 - Mudhens Baseball
 - Bicycle Races
 - Walleye – Hockey
- Butterfly House – Whitehouse – Re-Opens May 1, 2017
 - <http://www.wheelerfarms.com/>