



Florida Spring Birds

Photographic tour with tour leaders Mark Green & Stan Tekiela

20th - 28th February 2027

Trip Overview

Group size:

The trip accommodates a maximum of 6 guests.

Due to the nature of the trip we will have to take an interim payment of £1000 on the 30th August and the amount will be deducted off your final balance.

Cost includes:

Accommodation, all local transport, reserve entry fees, and all meals.

Cost excludes:

International flights, ESTA, sundry items, alcohol and personal travel insurance.

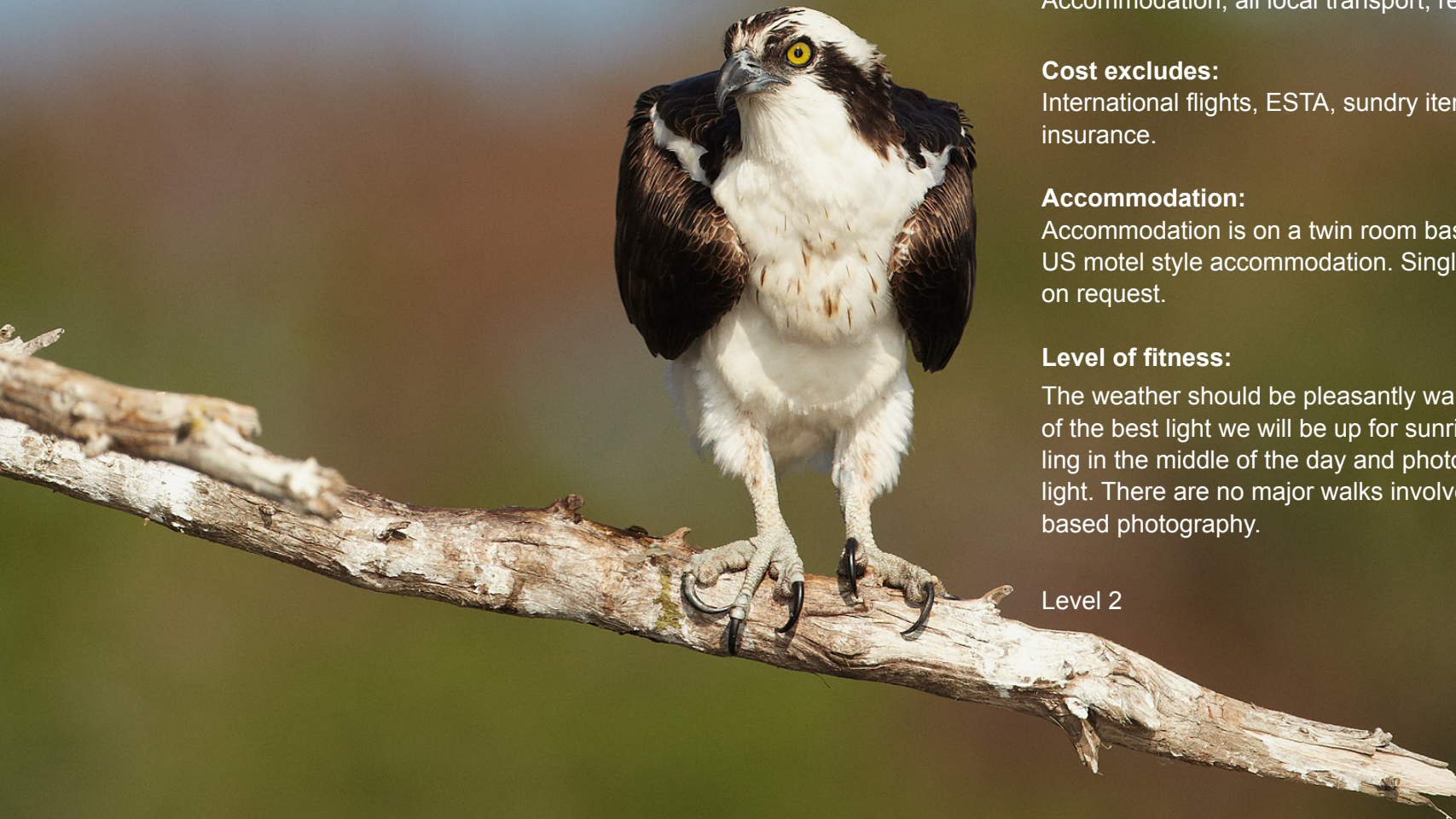
Accommodation:

Accommodation is on a twin room basis in typically clean and comfortable US motel style accommodation. Single room supplements are available on request.

Level of fitness:

The weather should be pleasantly warm and sunny, and to make the most of the best light we will be up for sunrise every morning, resting or travelling in the middle of the day and photographing again in the late afternoon light. There are no major walks involved and there is a morning of boat-based photography.

Level 2



Trip Overview

We have been developing trips in the US for many years and pride ourselves on going to some of the best locations that this wonderful country has to offer. We are lucky as we have secured the services of Stan Tekiela who is based in the States and has written over 200 books on the wildlife that can be found in this diverse country. We have been running trips to Florida for over 10 years now and in late winter it is a true bird photographer's Mecca – warm sunny days, beautiful lagoons and probably some of the tamest birds in world who will walk right up to you to photograph. Water is pretty much at the heart of everything photographic too and this trip will focus principally on several intimate and dramatic Gulf coast sites where Egrets, Herons, Spoonbills, Anhinga, Terns and Pelicans will be among the regular subjects we'll be working with. We'll also spend some time inland as well with nesting Ospreys and Burrowing Owls among the highlights. We will be moving on with reasonable regularity to visit each location to ensure a depth to the portfolio you'll build over the course of trip, as well as gain a flavour of the diversity of Florida's amazing birdlife and with Stan's local knowledge there are always a few new surprise occasions to discover on each trip as well!



Itinerary

Day 1: A day of travelling to Tampa airport in Florida, so it will be off for a well-needed first night's rest at a local motel when we arrive. Full flight details/recommendations will be advised nearer the time.

Day 2: We'll begin our early mornings schedule with a trip to the coast for a first session with the variety of Egrets, Herons, Pelicans, Gulls, and waders that we'll become increasingly familiar with, and the location here allows good opportunities for low-level photography in particular. With a restful middle part of the day (an approach we'll adopt throughout the trip as mid-day light can be harsh) we'll head to a different location for silhouette shots as the sun sets.

Day 3: A second morning in the Fort DeSoto area before we start our journey south to spend an afternoon and evening at a heron and egret rookery near to the town of Venice which with this being nesting season should offer lots of interaction and flight shot opportunities too with a number of different species usually present at this long-standing and productive location.

Day 4: After an early morning visit back at the rookery site to catch the sunrise and morning light, we will head further south towards Cape Coral, an area which is well known for several nest sites of the cute and very photogenic Burrowing Owls. We should be able to work with them at ground level for some very intimate and engaging images. We will look to spend the afternoon through until last light with these before heading to our motel base for the next 2 nights.



Itinerary

Day 5: We'll return to spend some morning light time with the Burrowing Owls before heading to a different wetland site for the afternoon in search of the iconic and very photogenic Snail Kites, so named because of water snails forming the bulk of their diet. This rare raptor is showing a return from very low numbers due to extensive habitat restoration over the last 20 or so years and is a Florida speciality.

Day 6: We will head across to the Atlantic coast and our final base of Vero Beach over the course of the day with a possible return to the Snail Kites site in the morning (there are often sandhill Cranes here too) and will also look to stop at Wakodahatchee Wetlands in the afternoon which is an excellent site for large numbers of nesting Wood Storks giving us a new species to add to our growing portfolio.

Day 7: Today we will take an early morning boat trip onto another lake where there are more nesting Ospreys than we've ever seen in one location: the boat will gently glide in near them and we'll be able to photograph nest building, flight, and landing shots on a truly dramatic morning. In the afternoon we'll head to a location that allows us to work with the stunning Roseate Spoonbill.

Day 8: A last morning with the egrets, wood storks and herons before heading back to Tampa airport for our overnight return flights.

Day 9: Early morning arrival home.



Things to bring

Our accommodation is clean and comfortable in a typical American style motel: do please let us know of any special dietary requirements you may have though. Please note that whilst dry and very comfortable temperatures it can be a bit chilly in the morning and a waterproof warm coat could also come in use. Good solid footwear would be useful. Sun block of around 50 would also be sensible at this time of the year and sunglasses. For the beach/lagoon areas where we can wade in the water you might want to consider bringing some completely immersible shoes/footwear (beach “jelly” shoes or windsurfing plimsoll style) and bring a pair of shorts as well for working here.



Things to bring

In terms of camera gear then the longest lens you have will be needed (300mm with converter as a minimum really and 500mm + ideal) along with a tripod. You may also want some supplementary lenses for other opportunities such as a 24-70mm for wide-angle landscapes and then maybe an intermediate zoom (70-200mm or 100-400mm). In the evenings we will have a chance to critique and look at individuals work if you so wish so, please feel free to bring anything you'd like to share on either a laptop or iPad.



Useful Contact Information

Our contact numbers for the build up to and for the duration of the trip are:

Mark: +44 (0) 7496 664445

Stan: 612 669 6220



Please don't hesitate to contact us even if you think it is a minor question, we're here to help.



Address

4 Deer Park Drive, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7HB

Tel: 01952 411436

Email: mark@natures-images.co.uk

Web: www.natures-images.co.uk

Registered in England and Wales No: 6635478
Natures Images is the Trading Name of Natures Images Ltd

