



Armendaris Bats Member Field Trip
Departing August 10, returning August 11, 2024

We are very excited about the turn out for our field trip to view the second largest population of Mexican free-tailed bats in North America. **Please be aware that this field trip is weather dependent.** In the event of heavy monsoon rains, the road may be impassable. Also, be aware that the bat caves are in a very remote location with no cell phone service. Once we leave T or C, we must be self sufficient as there will be no gas stations and no shops. I need a cell phone contact for every participant as well as emergency contact information (someone who is NOT with you). Please fill out the forms at the end of this letter and return them to me by July 20.

Liability Forms: Attached to this email are liability forms for Hawks Aloft and also Turner Ranch Properties. Please complete and sign these forms and return them to me no later than July 20, 2024. Please return these to me via e-mail at gail@hawksaloft.org.

Meeting in T or C at 3:00: Our official meeting spot will be The Vera, 500 Main, Truth or Consequences, NM <https://goo.gl/maps/7V1L2TE9EgZ3wnYTA>
It is a salmon colored building on top of the hill. Once everyone is present, we will caravan to Ranch HQ in Engle, NM.

Carpooling from Albuquerque: Since we haven't yet heard from every participant, we don't yet know who will be carpooling from Albuquerque. So, if you need a ride from ABQ, it is essential that you contact Gail as soon as possible so we can make those arrangements. HAI will provide two SUVs to carry people to the site as well as a pickup truck to carry tents/equip. We URGE you to use one of our transport vehicles.

So, you want to drive your own Vehicle! It must be a high clearance 4WD and you must have a good spare tire and the necessary tools to change that tire. Reach out to Gail to discuss specifics: How many passengers can you carry? What is your driving experience on back roads? Call Gail First – 505-235-0702. Do not plan to show up at Ranch HQ planning to drive unless you have cleared it first.

Getting to Ranch Headquarters: Take I-25 south or north to T or C. **Plan to fill up your vehicle in T or C.** Take the north exit east into town, and turn left on NM 51 (there is a stop light at this intersection). Follow NM 51 until it crosses the railroad tracks and becomes a dirt road. Opposite you will see several buildings and a parking area. This is ranch headquarters. We are hopeful that someone from the ranch will be on hand to talk to us about some of the projects that are underway at the Armendaris.

Getting to the bat caves: We will have to pile into as few 4WD vehicles as possible at Ranch Headquarters. Only high clearance vehicles, preferably 4WD with good tires, can drive to the bat caves.

H A W K S A L O F T , I N C

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WEBSITE / <http://www.hawksaloft.org>

If you are one of the drivers to the bat caves, it is **essential** that you are experienced at driving on back country roads and keep pace with the rest of the group. We need to reach our destination with plenty of time to set up, and fix dinner before the bats fly. **There are no exceptions to this rule and you cannot travel freely on the ranch.** There will be time for photo opportunities elsewhere on the ranch on Sunday morning.

Equipment and clothing: There are no trees at the site. We will provide a shade tent, cooking stoves, and water. We will provide a portable toilet and a shelter around it.

Water: We will provide 4 large Igloo containers with cold water as well as extra water.

Meals at the Bat Caves:

Boxed dinners and breakfasts will be provided by Sierra Grande Lodge. Tables will be provided. Bring your favorite beverage. Wine and beer are fine, as are non-alcoholic beverages.

PLEASE BE SURE TO CONTACT GAIL WITH ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS THAT YOU HAVE!

Sunday lunch (or brunch depending on time of day): We plan to stop at La Cocina in T or C for refueling!

Thanks for being an important part of the success of Hawks Aloft. We are very excited about this trip and look forward to spending time with you there.

Extras to make our stay more comfortable Sierra Grande Lodge will provide an insulated container of coffee for overnight and will refill that in the morning when they deliver breakfast. One of the biggest problems that we have is keeping up with coffee consumption in the morning. If you have a coffee press or an extra camp stove that you can share, we would be so grateful!

Plan to bring the following:

- Camera or video camera
- Extra batteries
- Binoculars
- Hiking Boots
- Sunscreen
- Sun Hat
- Bug Repellant
- Clothing (bring layers – think no shade)
- Tent
- Tarp
- Camp chairs
- Sleeping bag (it may be too hot to comfortably sleep inside your bag, so you may want to bring a sheet to cover yourself).
- Thermarest, or other mattress pad
- Pillow
- Your favorite beverage for Saturday dinner
- Your own drinking glass and mug for coffee

Remember to bring your CAMP CHAIR!

PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

Please fill out one for each participant.

Name	
Cell Phone	
E-mail	
Emergency Contact	
Emergency Phone #	
Special Dietary Needs	
Any other Special Needs	

Name	
Cell Phone	
E-mail	
Emergency Contact	
Emergency Phone #	
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Any other Special Needs	