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Bob Watson Photography

Reflecting The Spirit of Nature

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July 1, 2021 Newsletter - No. 115

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ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT, ARIZONA

(Click On Image To Enlarge)

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona

I wrote in last month's Newsletter that I traveled to various parts of Arizona this

past spring and featured last month my visit to Saguaro National Park. This month I feature my visit to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Organ Pipe NM).

Organ Pipe NM is not a place you just happen to stop by. It's a destination that requires planning because of its remoteness, particularly if you're going to spend much time there. This 530 square mile National Monument is located in the extreme southern part of Arizona adjoining the Mexican border, well off any expressway and about a 2 ½ hour drive west from Tucson or Phoenix, AZ. Unless you plan to camp, or "car camp" as I did, the nearest accommodations are about 35 miles north in Ajo, AZ.

You're rewarded with endless cacti growing in some of the most beautifully rugged mountainous desert scenery the Sonoran Desert has to offer. There are masses of Saguaro, Prickly Pear, Cholla and Organ Pipe Cacti, for which the National Monument is named. In fact, approx. 95% of all wild Organ Pipe Cactus grow in Organ Pipe NM, and this is also the only place the Senita Cactus grows.

Organ Pipe NM was established in 1937 to celebrate and protect the life and landscape of the Sonoran Desert. In 1976 it was designated as a World Biosphere Reserve, and in 1977 95% of the National Monument was declared a Wilderness Area. The area receives approx. 225,000 visitors each year, mainly in January through April. Other months are terribly hot, with temperatures exceeding 100 degrees in the months of June through August. It was 99 degrees during my visit in early April.

Everything I've seen and read, leads me to believe that Organ Pipe NM is a safe place to visit with some caution as to where you go and keeping an open eye. Being so close to the Mexican border, there has been some violence in the past, most notably in 2002 when Park Ranger Kris Eggle was killed while pursuing members of a drug cartel who had fled into the U.S. after committing a string of murders in Mexico. The Visitors Center is now named after Mr. Eggle. There's also a large presence of Border Patrol in the area and border crossing was not being allowed in the border town of Lukeville at the time of my Visit.

I enjoyed my visit to Organ Pipe NM. In addition to its rugged desert mountainous beauty and plentiful cacti, the remoteness and extremes of this wild National Monument further complemented my wonderful experience. My only wish was for more time, and cooler temperatures.

Featured Photographs For July 2021 (20% Off)

When you purchase ANY SIZE FINE ART PRINT OR CANVAS WRAP of any Featured Photograph in the month of July, you'll receive a Featured Discount of 20%. Click on any photograph above and you'll be directed to my website. Choose the size Fine Art Print or Canvas Wrap you'd like, proceed to add the image to your shopping cart and use the Coupon Code, JUL21, during checkout.

For the month of July 2021 only, this same Coupon Code of JUL21 will give you access to the same 20% discount off any images included in my "Southwest Gallery". To view entire Gallery, click here: Southwest Gallery

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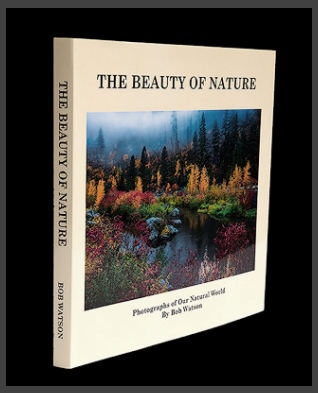
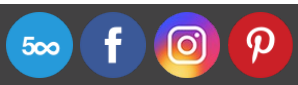
MY NEW BOOK



My new book, ***The Beauty of Nature***, contains 120-pages and 97 color photographs. It was compiled with my images, and quotes about nature, to sooth and nurture the mind, body and soul. **Click here** to learn more and purchase: ***The Beauty of Nature***.

This book also makes an excellent Gift for your friends and loved ones. Learn More!

Thanks for letting me share my photography with you.



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