

Bird Photography in Spring



Pygmy Cormorant



Black-headed Bunting

With its rich biodiversity and scenic beauty Bulgaria offers excellent nature photography opportunities. This tour is timed to see and take pictures of an impressive range of Bulgaria's breeding birds, along with numerous migrating birds heading north along the Via Pontica – one of the busiest migration flyways in Europe.

We will start from the Northern Bulgarian Black Sea Coast, where we will be based for the first 3 nights. In the area of Durankulak and Shabla Lakes we will try to photograph Golden Oriole, Roller, Paddyfield Warbler, Red-footed Falcon, Bee-eater, woodpeckers, while at Cape Kaliakra we will be exploring the cliffs and the adjacent grasslands and take photos of Eagle Owl, Long-legged Buzzard, Rose-colored Starling, Pied Wheatear, Alpine Swift, Stone Curlew, etc.

On one of these days we can go further south and visit some nice wetlands around Varna, with very good chances of photographing the Pygmy Cormorant, Garganey, Penduline Tit, and by a lucky chance – the Little Crake.

Our next stop is the Bourgas wetlands, where we have excellent opportunities for photographing White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Squacco, Night and Purple Herons, Great Reed and Cetti's Warblers. On the way, however, we will make a few stops at the coastal riverine and oak forests for Black, Grey-headed and Middle-spotted Woodpeckers, Semi-collared Flycatcher, Short-toed Treecreeper, etc.

mid-April – June

We will also visit the Sakar Hills, where we usually take good shots of Eastern Imperial Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard, feeding on the Souslic colonies in the area, and a variety of passerines, including the Black-headed Bunting, Ortolan Bunting, Masked, Red-backed and Woodchat shrikes and many others.

Then we will move on to the Eastern Rhodope Mountains. There we make use of our special hides for photographing Black, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures feeding on the carcass. There are good chances of photographing other birds of prey coming to the carcass, like the Eastern Imperial Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Black Kite, etc. We will also survey the cliff formations in the area for Blue Rock Thrush, Western Rock Nuthatch, Rock Bunting, Sombre Tit. We can put tent-hides along the Arda river where there are very good chances of photographing feeding Black Storks. The surroundings of the town of Madzharovo are also very good for Scops and Little Owl photography.

Finally we will travel to the Western Rhodopes, crossing lots of picturesque and scenic areas, and we will stay in the area of the Trigrad Gorge – probably the most reliable place in Europe to photograph the Wallcreeper. We will spend the next two days exploring the area. There we can also expect to photograph birds like the Crag Martin, White-throated Dipper, Rock Bunting, Firecrest and Coldcrest, Crested Tit, etc.

Itinerary:



- Day 1
Arrival at Varna Airport
- Days 2 & 3
Northern Black Sea coast
- Day 4
Transfer to Bourgas via the forests in the Eastern Balkan Range
- Day 5
Bourgas wetlands
- Day 6
Drive to the Sakar Hills and the Eastern Rhodope Mountains
- Days 7
Sakar Hills
- Days 8 & 9
The Eastern Rhodopes
- Days 10 & 11
The Western Rhodopes
- Day 12
Departure



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