



VIA PONTICA TOURS

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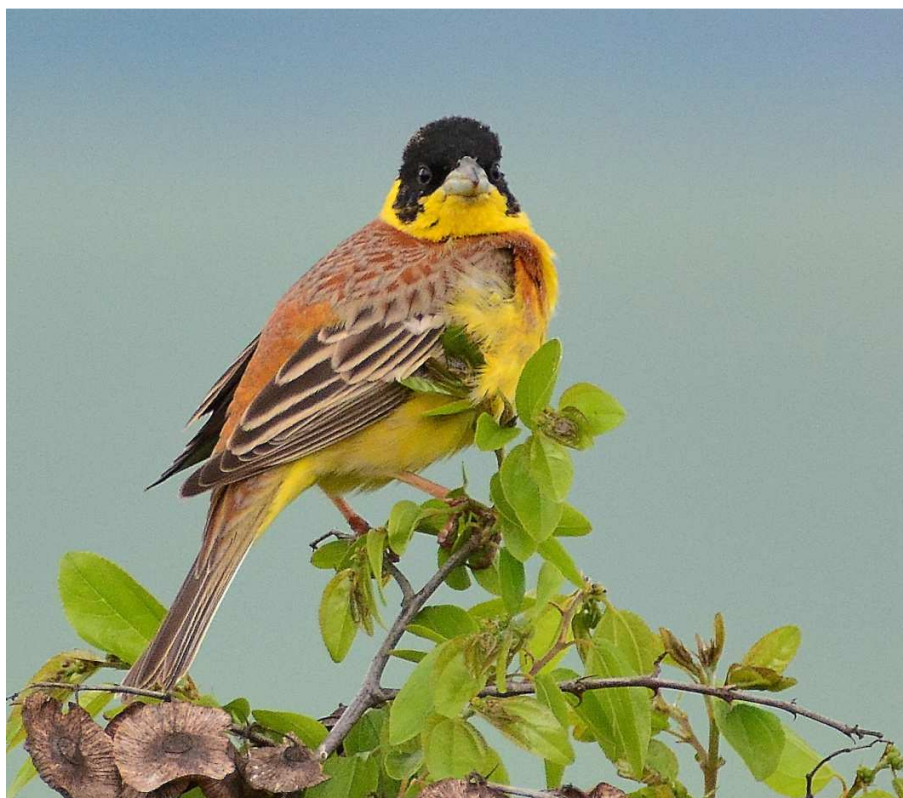
TOUR INFO

BULGARIA

SPRING BIRDWATCHING TOUR (10 DAYS)

DATES: 2 – 11 May 2017

Suitable period: End of April – end of June



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On this intensive tour we will expect to see more than 200 bird's species. We will visit most of the interesting places for birdwatching in Bulgaria: Eastern Rodope and Balkan Mountains, Black Sea Coast, Danube River and many more.

We expect to observe Imperial and Lesser Spotted Eagle, Griffon Vulture and Levant Sparrowhawk among many birds of prey; Dalmatian and White Pelicans, Black Stork, Pygmy Cormorant, Black, Syrian and White-backed Woodpeckers, Roller, Rock Nuthatch, Paddyfield, Barred, Olive-tree and Eastern Bonelli's Warblers, Masked and Lesser Grey Shrikes, Semi-collared and Red-breasted Flycatchers, Sombre Tit, Black-headed Bunting and many more birds. We will also the chance to observe many butterflies, dragonflies and plants.

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SPRING BIRDWATCHING TOUR (10 DAYS)

Day by day itinerary

Day 1

Arrival at the Sofia Airport. Transfer to the historical town-museum of Koprivstiza. After several stops for birdwatching we will arrive at the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 2

Early in the morning we will observe a breeding pair of *Imperial Eagle* nearby to the town. We will observe also *Black Woodpecker*, *Bonelli's Warbler*, *Black-headed Bunting*, etc. Transfer to the Eastern Rodope Mountain. Late in the afternoon we will arrive at the hotel. We will spend there two nights.

Day 3

Early in the morning we will visit the region with the unique breeding colony of *Griffon Vulture* in Bulgaria. We will visit also the feeding place where we can observe *Egyptian* and *Black Vultures*, *Golden and Imperial Eagles*, *Long – legged Buzzard*, *Levant Sparrowhawk*, *Black Stork*, *Rock Nuthatch*, *Subalpine*, *Orphean* and *Sardinian Warblers*, *Somber Tit* and many other birds. In the afternoon we will go birdwatching on the Krumovitza River Valley. In this very interesting valley we can observe *Egyptian* and *Griffon Vultures*, *Black Stork*, *Stone Curlew*, *Black-headed Bunting*, *Bee-eater*, *Roller*, *Golden Oriole*, *Rock Nuthatch*, *Red-rumped Swallow*, *Somber Tit*, *Masked* and *Lesser Grey Shrikes*, etc.

Day 4

After breakfast we will make a long transfer to the Black Sea coast. We will stop at several places for birdwatching. We will cross the Mountains of Sakar and Strandja – the largest Natural Park in Bulgaria. We can observe many birds and especially *Lesser Spotted Eagle*, *Short-toed Eagle*, *Montagu's Harrier*, *Booted Eagle*, *Black Kite*, *Olive-tree Warbler*, *Masked* and *Woodchat Shrikes*, *Isabelline Wheatear*, *Black – headed Bunting*, *Spanish Sparrow* etc. Late in the afternoon we will arrive in a small and comfortable hotel near the Black Sea Coast. We will spend two nights there.

Day 5

We will visit the lakes around Burgas – Mandra and Atanassovo. On these lakes we can observe many birds and especially *White-tailed Eagle*, *Lesser spotted Eagle*, *Honey Buzzard*, *Short – toed* and *Booted Eagles*, *Goshawk*, *Marsh Harrier*, *Pygmy Cormorant*, *Squacco*, *Night*, *Purple* and *Grey Herons*, *Little and Great Egrets*, *Spoonbill*, *Glossy Ibis*, etc. In the afternoon we will visit the Ropotamo River reserve. In this reserve we can observe many water birds, *Woodpeckers*, *Short-toed Treecreeper*, etc.

Day 6

We will continue our tour with a transfer to the north part of the Black Sea coast. We will stop on the Pomorie Lake. At this place we can observe *Avocet*, *Shelduck*, *Sandwich* and *Little Terns* and many other birds. After lunch we will stop for birdwatching in Goritza forest. At this place we can observe *Semi-collared Flycatcher*, *Woodpeckers*, etc. Late in the afternoon we will arrive at our hotel on the Black Sea coast. We will spend there two nights.

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Day 7

We will visit the lakes Durankulak and Shabla – the wintering places for the world population of Red-breasted Goose. We can observe many birds and especially *Red-footed falcon*, *Red-necked Grebe*, *Little Bittern*, *Whiskered* and *White-winged Terns*, *Collared Pratincole*, *Paddyfield Warbler*, *Pied Wheatear*, etc. After lunch in a local fish restaurant on the shore of the lake we will go birdwatching on the steppe. We will visit a breeding place of the *Eagle Owl*. If we are lucky we can observe the *Pallid Harrier* a very rare breeding bird on the steppe. We will observe a *Peregrine Falcon*, *Red-footed Falcon*, *Mediterranean Shearwater*, Mediterranean race of European *Shag*, *Rose-coloured Starling*, *Calandra* and *Short-toed Larks* and many other birds. Late in the afternoon we will return to the hotel for the second overnight.

Day 8

On this day we will visit the biosphere reserve “Srebarna” a site included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We can observe the colony of endangered *Dalmatian Pelican*, *Ruddy Shelduck*, *Red-necked Grebe*, *Squacco Heron*, *Whiskered Tern*, *Lesser Spotted Eagle*, *Black Kite*, *Marsh Harrier* and if we have a luck - *White-tailed Eagle*. After breakfast we will visit a breeding colony of *Bee-eaters*. We can observe also *Lesser Spotted Eagle*, *Honey Buzzard*, etc. After a short transfer we will stop at a typical Danube Valley Marshes. We can observe *Black-necked Grebe*, *Pygmy Cormorant*, *Little Bittern*, *Penduline Tit*, *Bearded Reedling*, etc. Late in the afternoon we will arrive to our hotel in the region of Russenski Lom Natural Park.

Day 9

After breakfast we will visit the Russenski Lom Natural Park – a beautiful valley with many rock monasteries and rock cliffs. There we can observe *Lesser-spotted Eagle*, *Long-Legged Buzzard*, *Black Stork*, *Hoopoe*, *Somber Tit* and many woodpeckers. Late in the afternoon, after many stops for birdwatching we will arrive to an ancient historical small village. Overnight in a hotel – typical Bulgarian house from XVIII century.

Day 10

Early in the morning we will continue our trip to the town of Sofia (about 200 km). Depending on your departure flight we will stop for birdwatching around Sofia.

Group size:	4-14 persons	790 EUR
Individual:	2-3 persons	950 EUR
Deposit:		200 EUR
Single room supplement:		150 EUR

Price includes: Transport with comfortable bus and coach, accommodation in good hotels with private facilities, full board, professional guide and entrance taxes.

The price does not include: Airfares, travel insurance, alcohol drinks and cigarettes, room service, telephone calls.