



**VIA PONTICA TOURS**

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## TOUR INFO

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### **BULGARIA**

#### **RED-BREASTED GEESE WINTER TOUR**

**Suitable period: *From 10 January to End of February***



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A unique opportunity to observe almost the whole population of the threatened Red-breasted Geese during the winter in combination of thousands of Greater White-fronted Geese. With a chance you can also observe the very rare Lesser White-fronted Geese. In addition you will have also the possibilities to observe also a good number of rare winter visitors like Black-throated Diver, Black-necked Grebe, Pygmy Cormorant, Great Egret, Bittern, Ferruginous Duck, Rough-legged and Long-legged Buzzards, Merlin, Syrian Woodpecker, Great Grey Shrike, Brambling, Bearded Tit and many more.

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## RED-BREASTED GEESE WINTER TOUR

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### Day by day itinerary

**Day 1:** Flight to Varna. There you will be met by your knowledgeable local guide, then make the 40 mile journey by minibus to our exceedingly comfortable lakeside accommodation, near Durankulak, where we will enjoy its splendid overview.

**Days 2 - 4:** Lakes Durankulak and Shabla, two brackish wetlands surrounded by arable lands, present impressive gatherings of overwintering waterfowl. The spectacle of flying and feeding Red-breasted Geese is the main attraction, with Black-throated Diver, Black-necked Grebe, Pygmy Cormorant, Great Egret, Bittern, White-fronted, Greylag and possible Lesser White-fronted Geese, Ferruginous Duck and Smew also present. Three species of swans (including Bewick if you are lucky) should be seen. Spotted Eagle and Saker Falcon are among the top raptors looked for, Rough-legged and Long-legged Buzzards and Merlin also on the cards. Syrian Woodpecker, Great Grey Shrike, Brambling, Bearded Tit, and the elusive Moustached Warbler are among small passerines of interest, and gatherings of gulls will be examined for Great Black-headed Gull.

From Cape Kaliakra Shag, Mediterranean Shearwater and even Arctic Skua may be spotted, with Crested and Calandra Larks occurring in surrounding steppe habitat. A late afternoon visit to a gorge presents chance of an Eagle Owl, and after-dark spotlighting excursions are undertaken in search of nocturnal predatory mammals.

**Day 5:** A day trip to Romania (if the weather permits) features unforgettable views of Dalmatian Pelicans, Red-breasted Geese, Long-legged and Rough-legged Buzzards and White-tailed Eagle. In addition to species already seen we may add the exceedingly rare Pallas's Gull.

**Day 6:** Depending on your departure flight on the Varna Airport we will stop for birdwatching around.

**Group size:** 4-8 persons 560 EUR

**Individual:** 2-3 persons 625 EUR

**Deposit:** 200 EUR

**Single room supplement:** 60 EUR

**Price includes:** Transport with comfortable bus and coach, Accommodation in double room with private facilities, full board (except the dinner on day 1 and lunch on day 6), professional guide and all entrance taxes.

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