



# Birdwatching Spain

## Wildlife holiday in Costa Blanca

“Butterflies, birds and orchids in early spring – a great diversity of wildlife”

### Dates

7 days. 20-27<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### Cost

1250 € 160 € single supplement

Price includes: Accommodation, all meals, all ground transport, guiding and check list

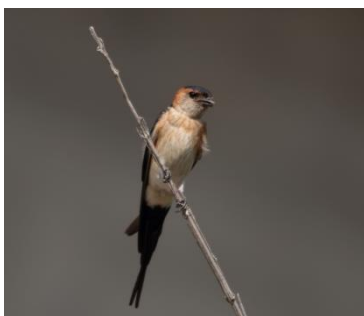
Not includes: Flights, travel insurance and personal items

Leaders: Pau Lucio

Group size: Maximum of 7 guests

Grade: Gentle pace and generally easy terrain and shorts walks

Airport: Easy jet flies to Valencia from Luton and Gatwick. A second possibility will be Alicante airport



## Holiday Highlights

- Up to 10 species of orchids are possible, including some rare hybrids: *Ophrys x castroviejoii* and *Ophrys x peltieri*. In addition, a nice variety of Mediterranean spring flowers.
- 120 possible from over 400 bird species recorded in the region.
- Early butterflies: Spanish Festoon, Moroccan Orange Tip, Provençal hairstreak, Bath and Green-striped White, etc.
- Special birds: Very likely are Marbled and White-headed duck, Moustached and Savi's Warbler, Red-knobbed coot, Bonelli's eagle, Slender-billed and Audouin's Gull, Red-rumped Swallow, Black wheatear, Blue-rock Thrush etc.

## Holiday details

In this relaxing holiday for anyone passionate about orchids, butterflies and birds, we will focus on the mild coast and the limestone hills of Costa Blanca. The warmth on the coast makes it the perfect area to enjoy an interesting diversity of orchids in late winter. At this time of the year, orchids from the genera *Ophrys* are the most abundant. We shall see real beauties such as the Giant orchid, Sawfly orchid or the endemic *Ophrys dianica*. The area is also well known by the richness of its wetlands which will be packed with birds feeding in the paddy fields. We should see thousands of Egrets, Gulls, Ibises and raptors. Besides, these wetlands hold a healthy population of White-headed Ducks, Moustached Warbler and with a bit of luck we might even spot the scarce Marbled Teal.

We will also explore the inland mountains looking for wild flowers. The plant diversity of Valencia region is so remarkable that is considered a hot spot. Regarding butterflies, we will visit different reliable areas where beauties like Spanish Festoon, Provençal Hairstreak or Moroccan Orange Tip can be found among many others.



We will have one accommodation for the holiday. It is placed in the surroundings of the Natural Park of Marjal de Pegó-Oliva, at the hospitable and environmentally friendly Hotel Font Salada. In addition, there is a thermal spring with free access less than half kilometre from the hotel.

The holiday is timed to see a wide variety of wildlife. Tens of butterfly species and flowers. What's more, the warm weather of the coast (15-20°C) will allow us to enjoy an early spring with both wintering and early bird migrants. This trip is ideal for anyone with deep interest in general wildlife, particularly birds, orchids and butterflies.

**Itinerary:** Day 1: Arrival to Valencia and visit to the Albufera de Valencia

Day 2: Wild flowers and butterflies in the hills of Serra Grossa

Day 3: Pegó marshes and seawatching

Day 4: Orchids in Costa Blanca

Day 5: El Fondo and Salinas de Santa Pola

Day 6: Orchids and butterflies in Vall d'Ebo and Vall de Gallinera

Day 7: Transfer to the airport