



# Birdwatching Spain

## Autumn holiday in Aragón

“Gallocanta, Belchite, Sierra de Guara and Albufera de Valencia”

### Dates

November 6-12<sup>th</sup> 2019

### Cost

1300 €. 180 € 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.



## Holiday highlights

- Gallocanta is one of the main wintering quarters for Common Cranes in Europe, numbers usually reach 45-50000 Cranes!! See thousands of them roosting!
- Good variety of raptors including: Lammergeiers, Hen and Marsh Harrier, Red Kite, Golden and Booted Eagles and really close-up views (2-3 meters) of Griffon Vultures feasting on carcasses.
- Special bird species: Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouses, Calandra and Lesser short-toed Lark, Wallcreeper, Shearwaters, Night Heron, Purple Gallinule, Bluethroat, etc.
- Visit the Albufera de Valencia, one of the most important wetlands in Spain. Enjoy in a local restaurant the famous tasty dish “paella”.

## Holiday details

We will start our trip from Valencia airport where we will set off to the worldwide-known Gallocanta lagoon. Gallocanta is not only known for holding thousands of Common Cranes but also for many other interesting birds such as Hen Harrier, Golden Eagles or Griffon Vultures.

On the morning of the third day, we will drive to the steppes of Belchite to look out for both species of Sandgrouses and Larks, particularly Thekla, Calandra and Lesser-short toed. We shall visit the surroundings of the old village of Belchite which remains in ruins after a ferocious battle during the Spanish Civil War. There we will look for Black Wheatear and Blue Rock Thrush. Finally, we will check-in in our hotel in the beautiful village of Alquézar. It was built around a stunning eighth-century Moorish fort which sits on a pinnacle above the gorge of the Río Vero.

On the fourth day we will explore the Sierra de Guara, land of gorges, cliffs and canyons beloved for many raptors. This pre-Pyrenean mountain chain holds a healthy population of Lammergeiers (12 pairs) and it is also an excellent place to see the stunning Wallcreeper. We might be lucky to encounter a Wallcreeper wandering around the village!



During our stay in Sierra de Guara we will visit a vulture feeding station which has been running for over 25 years. Seeing these scavengers just few meters away from us, will be a once-in-a-life experience.

On the fifth day, we will drive back to Valencia stopping in a well preserve forest to get Iberian Green Woodpecker, Crested Tit, Woodlarks, Ring Ouzels, etc. Our last full day, will be spent in the third most important wetland of Spain, the Albufera de Valencia. There we expect to see 1000's of Herons and Egrets, Booted Eagle, Glossy Ibises, Water Pipits and many more species. In addition, we will have lunch in a local restaurant by the Albufera and try the delicious *paella*.

Join us in this unforgettable birding trip!