



BIRD MIGRATION IN THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

16 – 20 September 2019



Honey buzzard

Our birding holidays will be focus on Tarifa, a wonderful area to witness the busiest migration fly-way of Western Europe, with numerous raptors species on the list. This tour includes a Whale boat trip into the Strait of Gibraltar where we should get some of the local sea mammals as well as some seabirds. This exciting tour gives you the opportunity to see migration at its best. **Important: the wind direction and strength plays an important role during the bird migration. Therefore, our itinerary might be changed in order to maximize the bird sightings.**



Flights

Arrival / departure from Málaga airport.

Food

All included in the price from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 5. Dinner will be at the hotel and will consist of traditional Spanish meals (starter, main course and dessert) with local wine. Our picnic lunch will be prepared everyday by the rural hotel.

Accommodation

Nice rural hotel near the main birding areas. En-suite double room

Cost

1050 €/ person. Single supplement 120 €

Dates

September 16-20th 2019

Itinerary

Day 1: Málaga airport – Tarifa (2 h 10 min)

After check-in the hotel, we will spend the rest of the day birding in Sierra de la Plata. Not far from here, there has been breeding records of White-rumped and Little Swifts, two very rare species in all in Europe. Apart from looking for both species, we will keep an eye on Subalpine Warbler, Blue-Rock Thrush, Black-eared Wheatear and Red-rumped Swallow among others. Not far from here, Red-necked Nightjars roost during the migration. The rest of the day will be spent in La Janda, a top birding site where Yellow Wagtails, Spanish Sparrows, Purple Heron and Squacco Heron are found. Another interesting species such as Black-shouldered Kite, Bonelli's and Spanish Imperial Eagles are possible.



Bald Ibis

Day 2: Los Lances Beach – Algeciras watchpoints (We will choose the best viewpoints depending on the weather).

After breakfast and before raptors activity kicks off, we will visit Los Lances beach, one of the best places to see gulls, terns and waders on migration. We should check among the commoner species of terns for Lesser Crested Tern which turns every year. The rest of the day will be spent in different watch points looking for more migrants.

Day 3: Boat trip - Barbate marshes

Today we will be enrolled in a boat trip where Pilot whales, Bottlenose dolphins, or even Orcas with a bit of luck, could be seen. In addition, there will be good chances for Cory's and Balearic Shearwater, Terns and Skuas. After lunch we will drive west to visit Barbate wetland. Osprey, Caspian Tern and different species of waders and Slender-billed gulls are likely to be found here.

* The schedule for the boat trip will depend on weather and sea conditions



Black Storks

Day 4: Los Alcornocales Natural Park– The Palmones Bay

On our fourth day, we will visit the restricted area in the Cork Oak Forest Natural Park or “Los Alcornocales Natural Park”, which holds a good number of passerines and raptors, especially on days with strong winds when many birds look shelter in the forest. Some of the birds we look for are Sardinian Warbler, Bonelli's Warbler, Firecrest, Short-toed Trecreeper, Golden Oriole, Woodchat Shrike to name few.

The rest of the day will be spent in the Palmones Bay where there are good chances of observing Ospreys, Herons, Egrets and Waders. Later, we will explore the watch point around Tarifa. We might get both species of Storks, Booted and Short-toed Eagles, European Honey Buzzard and maybe also Montagu's harrier. Rarer migrants might turn up at any time during our stay in this hot spot so we will keep an eye for Rüppell's Vulture and Long-legged Buzzard.



Egyptian vulture

Day 5: Tarifa – Málaga

If flight times allows, we will do some birding before going to Málaga airport. White-headed Duck, Whiskered Tern and Mediterranean Gull are some of the many interesting birds present in this reserve.