

Birding trip to Andalusia-The Strait of Gibraltar

Bird migration between two continents

April 18-23nd 2022

This tour includes a Whaleboat trip into the Strait of Gibraltar, where we should see some of the local sea mammals and seabirds. This exciting wildlife trip will give you the opportunity to see the bird migration in the busiest migration flyway of Western Europe, with numerous raptors species on the list.

Flights

There are plenty of lowcost flights from the UK to Málaga airport

Food

All food is included in the price from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 6. Not alcoholic drinks included. Our picnic lunch will be prepared every day by the hotel.

Accommodation

Hotel la Codorniz (Quail in Spanish!) www.lacodorniz.com

Cost

1350 €

Single supplement 120 €

Group size (minimum 4 and maximum 6 guests)

Itinerary

Day 1. Monday, April 18th. Málaga airport – Tarifa (1 h 50 min)

Welcome to Málaga airport, then transfer directly to our accommodation in Tarifa. We will spend the rest of the day at the watchpoints looking for bird

migrants. Some of the species we might get today, include 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 magnificent birding spot, so we will keep an eye for Rüppell's Vulture and Long-legged Buzzard.

Day 2: Tuesday, April 19th. Los Lances Beach – Algeciras watchpoints

After breakfast and before the raptors' activity kick-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 on the beach every year. The rest of the day will be spent in different watchpoints looking for more migrants.



Griffon vulture

Day 3: Wednesday, April 20th. Boat trip - Barbate marshes

Today we will enroll in a boat trip where Long-finned Pilot whales, Bottlenose, Striped and Common dolphins 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



Long-finned Pilot whales

Day 4: Thursday, April 21st. Los Alcornocales Natural Park – The Palmones Bay

On our fourth day, we will visit the cork oak forest of Los Alcornocales Natural Park, which holds a good number of passerines and raptors, particularly on the days of strong winds many birds. Some of the birds we look for are Sardinian Warbler, Crested Tit, Bonelli's Warbler, Firecrest, Short-toed Trecreeper, Golden Oriole, Woodchat Shrike to name a few. The rest of the day will be spent in Palmones Bay where there are good chances of observing Ospreys, Herons, Egrets, and Waders.

Day 5: Friday April 22nd Sierra de la Plata - La Janda

The morning will be spent in Sierra de la Plata. Not far from here, there is a breeding colony of Little Swifts which we will visit. In addition, 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. Other exciting species such as Black-shouldered Kite, Bonelli's, and Spanish Imperial Eagles are fairly possible.



Red-necked Nightjar

Day 6: Saturday, April 23rd. Tarifa – Málaga airport

If flight times allow, we will do some birding in the surrounding Málaga airport in the well-known Guadalhorce river mouth. White-headed Duck, Whiskered Tern, and Mediterranean Gull are some of the many exciting birds present in this reserve.