



In this 7-day itinerary, we will visit two of the best and well-known wildlife destinations in Europe: Extremadura and Coto de Doñana. In addition, we will spend one day making the most of the bird migration from Tarifa, the most important flyway between Africa and Western Europe.

A birding visit to Extremadura in early spring offers a great opportunity to explore this wonderful region for birds but also orchids and butterflies. In addition, temperatures are lovely in April.

During our 3-night stay in Extremadura, we will be based in a delightful country house located in the middle of the steppes, where we will search on Great and Little Bustard. We will be literally surrounded by White Storks; 40 pair nests have been recorded in the surroundings of the rural hotel.

In Coto de Doñana. We will be based in the quaint village of El Rocío. With its sandy streets, the town looks like a film set from a spaghetti western. This is a place like no other in southern Spain.

Flights

Arrival and departures from Málaga airport.

Food

All included in the price from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 8. In Extremadura, dinner will be in a restaurant in the medieval town of Trujillo, just 10 minutes' drive from our accommodation and it 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 or local guide.

In Doñana, dinner will be in a local restaurant located right in front of the hotel.

Accommodations

We will stay in a beautifully restored and comfortable country houses in delightful surroundings. All rooms are provided with private facilities.



Cost

1550 € per person in double room (180 € single supplement). Minimum 4 guests and maximum 7 guests.

Guiding, accommodation, transfer and meals included.

Itinerary

Day 1. Tuesday April 11th. Arrival 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, Goshawk, and maybe also Montagu's harrier.

Day 2. Wednesday April 12th. Tarifa-El Rocio (Doñana)



We will make several stops around Tarifa, and on our way to Doñana National Park looking for some special birds like the rare Bold Ibis, Slender-bill and Audouin's Gull among others. We will also spend some time looking for Black-shoulder Kites and a good number of raptors, including the Spanish Imperial Eagle. During the afternoon, we will walk the surroundings of the beautiful town of el Rocío. The marshes of El Rocío hold a nice variety of wildfowl as well as Greater Flamingos, Red-Knobbed Coots and wablers, including Great-reed and Savi's warbler. In addition, Squacco Heron, Purple Heron and Marbled teals might be seen in the marshes. Accommodation in el Rocio.



Day 3. Tuesday April 13. North area of Doñana



Today will be birding in the heart of the park. To get to this isolated area, we will have to spend some time driving around tracks. All this effort will pay off with stunning birds. We should see a nice variety of Larks, including Short-toed and Calandra. Another species we will see are Collared Pratincole, Black-winged Kites, Whiskered Terns, and Black Storks among other birds. Furthermore, we will visit a couple of nature reserves where usually White-headed Duck, Marbled Teals, Ferruginous duck and Red-crested Pochard are found. Accommodation in el Rocio.



Day 4. Friday April 14. El Rocio-Trujillo



After early breakfast, we will load the minibuses and set off towards Trujillo. The transfer will take a bit more than 3 hours but we will make some stops on the way. The rest of the day will be spent in the steppes looking for Great Bustards (the world's heaviest flying



bird) as well as for different species of warblers (Sardinian, Subalpine and Melodious), Bee-eaters, Rollers, etc. The Extremadura Steppes are some of the richest and least disturbed grassland habitats in Europe and hold great number of specialities. Accommodation near Trujillo. Dinner in the Trujillo.

Day 5. Saturday April 15 Monfragüe National Park



Monfragüe is an incredibly beautiful area packed with raptors. We will take a walk to the top of the castle for an eye-to-eye view of soaring raptors. From this high vantage point, you usually can see a nice variety of raptor species as well as Black Storks as they take advantage of the thermals, a truly breath-taking sight! We will stop in some specific places to see top raptor species such as Spanish Imperial Eagle, Black and Egyptian Vulture and Bonelli's Eagle among other species. Along the rivers and dams, we shall keep an eye for otters and in the forest, we will look for Iberian Magpies, Woodlarks, Firecrest and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. We will also keep an eye on Alpine and Pallid Swifts. Accommodation near Trujillo. Dinner in the Trujillo.



Day 6. Sunday April 16. The steppes

Around these well-preserved steppes we will look for Stone Curlews, and Thekla Larks. Spanish Sparrows are common as well as Corn Buntings and Hoopoes. Other species we might find in this habitat are Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouses, Iberian Grey and Woodchat Shrikes, Little Owl, Spotless Starlings and Red-rumped Swallow. We will visit also the Lesser kestrel and Pallid Swifts colonies. In good weather conditions we might see some amphibians and reptiles such as Stripeless Tree Frog, Spanish Terrapin and Large Psammmodromus. Accommodation near Trujillo. Dinner in the Trujillo.



Day 7. Sunday March 17th Transfer to Málaga airport

Sadly, this will be the last day of the birding trip to two of the top wildlife destinations in Europe. Your guide will take you to Málaga airport. If times allows, a couple of birding stops will be made.