



In this 7-day itinerary, we will visit two of the best and well-known European wildlife destinations: 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 an excellent opportunity to explore this wonderful region for birds, 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 for Great and Little Bustard. White Storks will literally surround us; 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 in a spaghetti western. This is a place like no other in Western Europe.

Flights

The arrival and departure will be from Málaga airport.

Food

All are 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 minute's 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, comfortable country house 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 11. 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 looking for bird migrants at the watchpoints. Some of the species we might get today include both species of Storks, Booted and Short-toed Eagles, European Honey Buzzard, Goshawk, and maybe Montagu's harrier.

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



We will make several stops around Tarifa, and on our way to Doñana National Park, looking for unique birds like the rare Bald 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 which include Great-reed and Savi's warbler. In addition, Squacco Heron, Purple Heron, and Marbled teals might be seen in the marshes. Accommodation in el Rocío.



Day 3. Tuesday, April 13. North area of Doñana



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



Day 4. Friday, April 14. El Rocio-Trujillo



After early breakfast, we will load the minibus 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 a significant number of bird specialties. 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. We might find other species in this habitat, such as Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouses, Iberian Grey and Woodchat Shrikes, Little Owl, Spotless Starlings, and Red-rumped Swallow. We will also visit the Lesser kestrel and Pallid Swifts colonies. We might see some amphibians and reptiles in good weather conditions, such as Stripeless Tree Frog, Spanish Terrapin, and Large Psammmodromus. Accommodation near Trujillo. Dinner in the Trujillo.



Day 7. Sunday, March 17 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 allow, a couple of birding stops will be made.