



## SPAIN: SPRING BIRDING EXTRAVAGANZA

08 – 23 APRIL 2024

08 – 23 APRIL 2025



*Great Bustard* will be a prime target on the tour. We will visit some of the best areas in Spain for this species.

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Spain is one of Europe's birding wonders. It combines a sensational range of species with beautiful weather and stunning scenery. This spring birding extravaganza is perfectly timed to take in the exciting migration with a small group of like-minded birders. As our tour progresses, we will take in Spain's vast interior with its breathtaking scenery, dotted with gorgeous white-painted classically Spanish villages. It is here that we will sample the finest avifauna that the country has to offer, including the excitement of up to 23 species of birds of prey! Our thorough itinerary covers a range of habitats from the famous coastal areas of Doñana National Park to the semi-arid steppe of the interior and the high peaks of the Pyrenees. This will enable us to see the true variety that Spain has to offer the visiting birdwatcher. The timing of our visit during the spring passage migration will also enable us to maximize the sheer number of species on offer.

Spain's bird list currently stands at 659 species (following International Ornithological Congress (IOC) v10.2 taxonomy as of November 2020), one of the highest single country lists in the Western Palearctic, and this results in a typically high total of well over 200 species regularly recorded on this tour. The combination of expert guides, a comprehensive itinerary visiting the best places to go birding in Spain, as well as visiting at the best time of year, will result in some wonderful avian experiences.



*Our tour will be given a splash of exotic color as the skies fill with **European Bee-eaters** arriving from their wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa.*

We begin our tour in the surrounds of the Guadalquivir river and the famous Doñana National Park where we will visit the bird rich habitats of this wonderful area. This is a great way to kick off our tour with classic Mediterranean species such as **Spanish Imperial Eagle**, **Black-winged Kite**, **Collared Pratincole**, **White-headed Duck**, **Red-knobbed Coot** (Critically Endangered on the Red

List of Spain (BirdLife International), and the only population in Europe), **Marbled Duck**, **Red-crested Pochard**, the newly described **Mediterranean Short-toed Lark** (Formally Lesser Short-toed Lark), **Lesser Kestrel**, **Montagu's Harrier**, **Iberian Magpie** (formerly Azure-winged Magpie), and **Western Swamphen** all targeted, along with many other species. Rarer species in the form of **Little Swift** and **Lesser Crested Tern** will add to the spectacle as will a visit to the land of the world's rarest large cat, **Iberian Lynx**. While sightings of this elusive predator are by no means guaranteed we will visit the best areas possible to give us a chance of an encounter with this mystical feline.

We then move north through the beautiful Spanish countryside towards Monfragüe National Park and the surrounding steppes and sierras. This area gives us a chance to explore some of Spain's special steppe species such as **Great Bustard**, **Little Bustard**, **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**, **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**, **European Roller**, **Eurasian Stone-curlew**, and **Great Spotted Cuckoo**. This beautiful area is also prime raptor country, and here we will be in search of **Egyptian Vulture**, **Cinereous Vulture**, **Griffon Vulture**, **Spanish Imperial Eagle**, **Booted Eagle**, and **Short-toed Snake Eagle**. The national park is home to many other fabulous species including **Black Stork**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Western Black-eared Wheatear**, and **Western Orphean Warbler**. We will also get our first taste of mountain birding in the Sierra de Gredos. Here we will look for **Ortolan Bunting**, **Water Pipit**, **Common Rock Thrush**, **Bluethroat**, **White-throated Dipper**, **European Crested Tit**, **Citril Finch**, and **Red-backed Shrike**, a species which is becoming increasingly rare in Spain. We continue our northward journey to the plains north of Madrid. Here we will target the mystical **Dupont's Lark**, which is best found in the early morning light of spring. This area is also superb for other larks such as **Greater Short-toed Lark**, **Calandra Lark**, **Crested Lark**, and **Thekla's Lark**. Other key species of the area are **Common Quail**, **Iberian Grey Shrike**, and **Tawny Pipit**.



*Wallcreeper is the only member of the monotypic Tichodroma genus and highly prized among birders around the world, especially family listers as this species is also a monotypic family.*



We then take our long journey to the Pyrenees with woodpeckers our first targets. By using expert local guides, we will search for **Middle Spotted Woodpecker**, **Black Woodpecker**, and the incredibly rare (in this part of Europe) **White-backed Woodpecker**. We then proceed further into the vast Pyrenean wilderness looking for the iconic **Bearded Vulture**, a true highlight of a visit to the region. We will continue to explore this breathtaking part of Europe and target the key species of the high Pyrenees. Along with **Bearded Vulture** we will spend time in search of the beautiful **Wallcreeper** (a monotypic family). The area that supports this species is also a great place to yet again search for **Red-backed Shrike** plus other key species for the region such as **Black Woodpecker**, **Marsh Tit**, **Garden Warbler**, **Eurasian Treecreeper**, **Yellowhammer**, **Ring Ouzel**, **Rock Sparrow**, **Eurasian Wryneck**, **Alpine Chough**, and **Alpine Accentor**. With luck we may also spot **Southern Chamois**, a species of goat-antelope, and the very adorable **Alpine Marmot**, a species of ground dwelling squirrel. We finish our Pyrenean adventure with a visit to the high plateaus and dramatic glacial valleys of the Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park. Here we will target some of the previously mentioned montane species plus the striking **White-winged Snowfinch**.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end and the final leg of our tour will see us link up with a local guide to look for the often hard to find **Moustached Warbler** and **Bearded Reedling** (Bearded Tit) in the area around Lleida. We finish with a visit to the Delta de Llobregat near Barcelona which will give an excellent range of wetland species and migrants, the perfect way to end our spring birding extravaganza.

If you wanted to spend more time in the region, why not join us for our **Morocco: Best of Northwest Africa** tour which runs immediately prior to this Spain tour. Our Morocco tour takes in the country's highlight birds and best birding sites. Top target birds in Morocco include **Levaillant's Woodpecker**, **Houbara Bustard**, **Moussier's Redstart**, **Northern Bald Ibis**, **Barbary Partridge**, **Cream-colored Courser**, **Egyptian Nightjar**, **White-rumped Swift**, **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Maghreb Magpie**, **African Blue Tit**, **Fulvous Babbler**, **Atlas Pied Flycatcher**, **Desert Sparrow**, **African Crimson-winged Finch**, and **Trumpeter Finch**, plus multiple species of owls, warblers, larks, and sandgrouse. There will also be a great selection of migrants building up in Morocco before they continue their journey from sub-Saharan Africa to their breeding grounds in Northern Europe.

You can also join us for our brand new 14-day **Poland: Best of Eastern Europe** tour straight after this Spain tour. These two tours complement each other brilliantly, as you will have the opportunity to add a vast array of superb species from Eastern Europe to those you have just seen in Western Europe. Highlight species in Poland include **Great Snipe**, **White-winged Tern**, **Aquatic Warbler**, **Icterine Warbler**, **River Warbler**, **Barred Warbler**, **Citrine Wagtail**, **Lesser Spotted Eagle**, **Greater Spotted Eagle**, **Red-footed Falcon**, **Ural Owl**, **Eurasian Pygmy Owl**, **Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Spotted Nutcracker**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, **Collared Flycatcher**, and so much more. We also have a good chance of seeing some of Europe's top mammals which include **European Bison**, (Eurasian) **Grey Wolf**, **Eurasian Lynx**, and (European) **Brown Bear**.

If you cannot make the dates of this scheduled tour please get in touch and we would be happy to help build a custom tour with dates to suit you.

## Itinerary (16 days/15 nights)

### Day 1. Arrival in Seville

Welcome to Andalusia! You will be met at Seville San Pablo Airport by your Birding Ecotours tour leader and local Spanish bird guide. Once the whole group has arrived we will meet at our hotel to discuss the trip itinerary and use the time to facilitate with anything the group may need, or just relax after your flight before the trip starts and we head into more remote areas of the country. We will have a group 'welcome meal' in the evening.

Overnight: Hotel in Seville

### Day 2. Birding around Sanlúcar de Barrameda

Our first full day of the tour will see us explore the superb area around Spain's second longest river, the Guadalquivir. Throughout the day we will visit three bird rich sites that offer great variety and experiences.

The first site we are likely to visit is the Bonanza Saltpans. This expansive saltpan site is superb for shorebirds (waders) and we will spend some time here looking for species such as **Little Stint**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Pied Avocet**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Kentish Plover**, **Sanderling**, **Ruff**, **Common Redshank**, and **Dunlin**.

The area is also excellent for two rare waterbirds, the Endangered **White-headed Duck** and the Critically Endangered (in Spain), **Red-knobbed Coot** (BirdLife International). The entire European population of the coot is found in Spain and even here it is incredibly rare. **Greater Flamingo** is a common species here and we will visit a nearby heronry where we can find a variety of Pelecaniformes such as **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Squacco Heron**, **Western Cattle Egret**, **Purple Heron**, and **Eurasian Spoonbill**.

The second site in the area will see us explore the habitats bordering the Guadalquivir river. It is here we will search for two key species in the form of **Marbled Duck** (another very localized species in Europe) and **Mediterranean Short-toed Lark**, two species that are hard to come by elsewhere in Spain. The vineyards around the area are a good spot to look for **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Lesser Kestrel**, and **Montagu's Harrier**, and the timing of our tour may allow us to catch up with the striking **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin**, which breeds here.

Our final site in the area is the Port of Chipiona. Famed for its superb seafood the town also holds the only European colony of the strikingly black-and-white plumaged **Little Swift**. While common on the other side of the Mediterranean in Morocco this species is a real European mega rarity, and we will take some time enjoying the nesting colony. The beach nearby can be excellent for shorebirds, gulls, and terns including rare species such as **Lesser Crested Tern**.

Overnight: Palacio de Arizón, Sanlúcar de Barrameda

### Day 3. Sanlúcar de Barrameda to El Rocio

Depending on our success on day two we will either spend some time in the morning around Sanlúcar de Barrameda or proceed directly to the superb Brazo del Este wetlands to the north. This

protected area near the city of Seville is a superb habitat for shorebirds and waterbirds, plus passerines such as **Savi's Warbler** and **Great Reed Warbler**. We also stand a chance of adding some elusive crakes to our list with **Spotted Crake**, **Little Crake**, and **Baillon's Crake** all present here.



*We'll look for some elusive rallids such as **Spotted Crake**.*

As we proceed through the site, we will spot significant numbers of **Western Swamphen**, **Purple Heron**, **Squacco Heron**, **Collared Pratincole**, **Whiskered Tern**, and many more species typical of this habitat. We should also get some introduced species from Africa that have established themselves in the area such as **Black-headed Weaver**, **Yellow-crowned Bishop**, and **Common Waxbill**.

In the afternoon we visit Dehesa de Abajo and Dehesa Las Hermsillas on the borders of Doñana National Park. At these sites we have another chance of **Red-knobbed Coot**, **Marbled Duck**, **Red-crested Pochard**, and possibly **Ferruginous Duck**. We can then proceed to Dehesa Torneros which is a beautiful area in spring with large numbers of wildflowers. This habitat is excellent for **Common Cuckoo**, **Sardinian Warbler**, **European Serin**, **Corn Bunting**, **European Stonechat**, and other common passerines. The real bonus of this area is that we will be in the land of the **Iberian Lynx** and we will spend time looking for this elusive big cat.

After dinner we will search the grounds of our hotel looking for **Red-necked Nightjar**, **Tawny Owl**, and **Long-eared Owl**.

Overnight: *Ardea Purpurea*, Villamanrique de la Condesa

#### Day 4. El Rocio

This morning we will visit the lagoon of El Rocio and surrounding sites of La Rocina, El Acebrón, and El Acebuche. This is a superb area for species that are otherwise hard to find in this part of Spain and we will spend time searching for **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**, **Iberian Green Woodpecker**, **Eurasian Golden Oriole**, **Dartford Warbler**, **Iberian Chiffchaff**, and **Iberian Magpie**. **Iberian Magpie** was formally called **Azure-winged Magpie**, with two disjunct populations, however this species has now been split into two species, with birds in China remaining as **Azure-winged Magpie** (we see these on our [China: Sichuan](#) tour), and birds in Iberia gaining the new name. They are both beautiful birds.

In the afternoon we will head towards Centro de Visitantes Jose Antonio Valverde. This is a superb birding area where we will be in the prime habitat of **Spanish Imperial Eagle** plus other highlight raptor species such as **Montagu's Harrier** and **Black-winged Kite**. The lagoon and wetland areas here will give us a variety of species such as **Greater Flamingo**, **Collared Pratincole**, and **Squacco Heron**.

Overnight: [Ardea Purpurea](#), Villamanrique de la Condesa



*Black-winged Kite will be a star attraction of day four when we visit their prime habitat.*

#### Day 5. El Rocio to Monfragüe

Our day will start with a short birding session at Bollullos Par del Condado. This area is our last stop in Andalusia and could be our last chance of seeing the stunning **Montagu's Harrier**. Unfortunately, this species has declined rapidly in the neighboring region, and our next destination, Extremadura, so this gives us one last chance of seeing this iconic Mediterranean species. Our tour



should also be timed perfectly to coincide with the arrival of **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** and we will search this area for them as well.



*We should encounter the migrant **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** on this Spanish birding tour.*

Afterwards we will commence the journey north through the beautiful Spanish countryside towards Monfragüe. On the route we will stop at Alange Reservoir in Badajoz to search for **Black Wheatear**, **Egyptian Vulture**, **Bonelli's Eagle**, **Woodchat Shrike**, **Black Kite**, **Western Black-eared Wheatear**, **Eurasian Scops Owl**, and **Gull-billed Tern**.

After this stop we continue our journey north towards Monfragüe. Depending on our time of arrival we can visit one or two sites close to our hotel. One site is Jaraicejo where the star species is the tiny **Spectacled Warbler**, a rather cute Sylvia warbler. Other Sylvia warblers present here include **Western Subalpine Warbler** and **Dartford Warbler**. Sylvia warblers are part of the Sylviidae family (now Sylviid Babblers) and are Europe's answer to the colorful New World Warblers, the Parulidae family of the Americas. Additional key species in this bird rich area include **Black Stork**, **Spotless Starling**, **Eurasian Crag Martin**, **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Short-toed Snake Eagle**, **Booted Eagle**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Common Nightingale**, **Cirl Bunting**, **Spanish Sparrow**, **Western Bonelli's Warbler**, **European Turtle Dove**, **Iberian Grey Shrike**, **Thekla's Lark**, **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Greater Short-toed Lark**, and **European Bee-eater**.

Another nearby site is Almaraz where we have a chance of spotting the huge and equally striking **Eurasian Eagle-Owl**. This apex predator is a highlight of any tour and a sighting of one will be a great way to end the day.

Overnight: Hospederia de Monfragüe, Torrejón el Rubio



### Day 6. Monfragüe to Santa Marta steppes

We will spend the full day exploring the Santa Marta steppes. This beautiful area is our best chance of the tour to spot some of the many iconic species of the steppe habitat. We will have plenty of time looking for **Great Bustard, Little Bustard, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, European Roller, Eurasian Stone-curlew, and Great Spotted Cuckoo.**

Overhead the sight and sound of **European Bee-eaters** will likely fill the air and other steppe species such as **Iberian Grey Shrike, Black Kite, Lesser Kestrel, Crested Lark, Calandra Lark, Greater Short-toed Lark, Eurasian Hoopoe, Corn Bunting, and European Stonechat** will add variety to a day focused on the real specials of this area.

Overnight: Hospederia de Monfragüe, Torrejón El Rubio



*Crested Lark can be seen in Spain's picturesque countryside.*

### Day 7. Monfragüe to Gredos

Our second day in Monfragüe will take us to Monfragüe National Park itself before we continue our journey north to Gredos. The majestic scenery and fabulous wildlife here make this a real highlight of the tour. The national park is a mecca for birds of prey with **Egyptian Vulture, Cinereous Vulture, Griffon Vulture, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Booted Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Spanish Imperial Eagle, Golden Eagle, Red Kite, Black Kite, Common Buzzard, Western Osprey, Lesser Kestrel, Common Kestrel, Eurasian Hobby, Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Northern Goshawk, Black-winged Kite, and Montagu's Harrier** all recorded in the area during spring. While some of these species are more common than others, we will have a fantastic day in the national park, taking in its many birds of prey.

However, it is not all just about birds of prey here as many other star species call the national park their home. These include **Black Stork**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Western Black-eared Wheatear**, **Western Orphean Warbler**, **Alpine Swift**, **Thekla's Lark**, **Eurasian Crag Martin**, **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Western Subalpine Warbler**, **Rock Bunting**, **Cirl Bunting**, **Iberian Grey Shrike**, **Northern Wheatear**, **Eurasian Golden Oriole**, **Zitting Cisticola**, **Melodious Warbler**, **Iberian Chiffchaff**, **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Spanish Sparrow**, **Hawfinch**, and **Rock Sparrow**.

Overnight: Hostal Almanzor, Navarredonda de Gredos



*Monfragüe National Park is a good spot to find **Black Stork**, amongst others.*

## Day 8. Gredos to Hoces del Duratón

Our day will begin with a pre-breakfast visit to the hotel bird blind (hide) where we could get close views of **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Red Crossbill**, and **Eurasian Nuthatch**, plus common garden species of the area such as **Eurasian Blue Tit**, **Great Tit**, **House Sparrow**, **European Goldfinch**, and **European Greenfinch**.

After breakfast we will continue our day by driving up to La Plataforma which sits at 5,800 feet (1,770 meters) above sea level. Here we will enjoy stunning scenery along with some excellent bird species such as **Ortolan Bunting**, **Northern Wheatear**, **Water Pipit**, **Eurasian Skylark**, **Common Rock Thrush**, **Bluethroat**, and **Red-backed Shrike**, a species which is becoming incredibly rare in Spain. We will also explore the nearby forests for **White-throated Dipper**, **Goldcrest**, **European Crested Tit**, and **Citril Finch**.



*We may find the colorful **Bluethroat** on this tour.*

We are also in suitable terrain to search for **Iberian Ibex**. This fantastic-looking goat is split into four subspecies, two of which are extinct, with the subspecies in the Gredos area being known as Western Spanish (Gredos) Ibex.

In the afternoon we head northeast towards the Hoces del Rio Duratón National Park. If time allows, we will make our first attempt at the incredibly elusive **Dupont's Lark**. BirdLife International list this bird as being of globally Near Threatened status and it has declined rapidly in many areas. It has always been a highly prized species, but that status is becoming more relevant than ever in recent years.

Overnight: Rincón de las Hoces, Burgomillodo

### **Day 9. Hoces del Duratón to Irati**

Today will see us make an early morning start as we go in search of **Dupont's Lark** at Hoces del Duratón. As previously mentioned, this is a highly prized species and our best chance of seeing it will occur in the early morning as they perform their beautiful song. This area is generally excellent for larks and we could come across **Greater Short-toed Lark**, **Calandra Lark**, **Eurasian Skylark**, **Crested Lark**, and **Thekla's Lark** here. Other star birds of the area include **Common Quail**, **Common Cuckoo**, **Iberian Grey Shrike**, and **Tawny Pipit**.

After breakfast we will prepare ourselves for the drive of around four hours to the Pyrenees mountains. Depending on time we have two options for this journey and your guides will discuss this with you at the time. Both routes offer the opportunity of good birding with the southern route giving us the opportunity to look for the highly sought-after **Middle Spotted Woodpecker**.



After our drive we will arrive in the village of Ecay de Lónguida which sits nestled in the foothills of the Pyrenees just 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the border with France.

Overnight: Hotel Ekai, Ecay de Lónguida



***Red-backed Shrike** has become increasingly rare in Spain in recent years. Habitat loss has seen a massive retraction of their breeding range to just a few pockets in the north of the country.*

*Worryingly, they have declined by 95% in the last 40 years in Spain's Basque Country. This species is also decreasing at an alarming rate across Europe as a whole. This population decline is likely to also be linked to a reduction in insect prey due to an increase in insecticide use in modern farming practices.*

## Day 10. Irati to Echo

We will join forces with local guides to search for several woodpeckers which are found in the areas of Irati Nature Reserve and Quinto Real. We will once again target **Middle Spotted Woodpecker**, but it is **Black Woodpecker** and **White-backed Woodpecker** which are the two most-prized species here. These are both incredibly difficult to see anywhere in Spain and to see both species would be a superb start to the day. We will give plenty of time to look for all three species while being aware that we have another chance of getting **Black Woodpecker** later in the tour.

The afternoon will be spent driving to the breathtaking Echo valley. This area is extremely popular with climbers, but it is also a superb birding area and it is here that we will look for the iconic **Bearded Vulture**. This species of vulture is a star bird of the region and we will have several opportunities to connect with it.

Overnight: Hotel de Montaña Usón, Echo





*Middle Spotted Woodpecker* is one of three highly prized woodpecker species of the Irati Nature Reserve. We will spend time here searching for this species as well as the rarer **Black Woodpecker** and **White-backed Woodpecker**.

### Day 11. Echo

We will once again explore the Echo valley and its surrounding areas. We begin at Gabardito in the high Pyrenees where, along with **Bearded Vulture**, our primary target will be the outrageous **Wallcreeper**. This species is monotypic meaning it is the only species in its family and it is a highly prized bird for visitors to the region. We will then head to the forests nearby to search for **Black Woodpecker**, once again, and also for other forest species such as **Marsh Tit**, **Garden Warbler**, and **Eurasian Treecreeper**, the latter of which does not occur further south in Spain. We will continue our high-altitude birding at Guarrinza and La Mina which are a stone's throw from the border with France. Here we will target species such as **Yellowhammer**, **Red-backed Shrike**, and **Alpine Chough**. There are also two exciting mammal species here. The first is Alpine Marmot which is a species of ground squirrel and can be seen scurrying around the rocky outcrops of the area. The second is the rare Southern Chamois, a species of goat-antelope, which favors high mountain areas. Its population numbers just 50,000 individuals but is thankfully increasing.

After a day exploring the high Pyrenees we will return to Echo for the night.

Overnight: Hotel de Montaña Usón, Echo



***Alpine Accentor** is a hardy passerine of high-altitude mountains. They are also an altitudinal migrant in many areas and retreat to lower altitudes during the peak of winter.*

### Day 12. Echo to Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park

Depending on the success of the previous days we will have the ability to be flexible today. In the morning we can attempt to spot **Wallcreeper**, once again, in case we missed it during previous searches. If we have already had success with this iconic species, then we can spend the morning in the Baztan valley for species like **Red-backed Shrike** and **Marsh Tit**. If time permits, we could spend the full day in this valley and climb its neighboring peaks to the French border to look for high-altitude specials such as **Ring Ouzel** (*alpestris* subspecies) and **Alpine Accentor**.

If we spend the morning in this area, we will make the journey towards Ordesa in the afternoon. En route we will stop to spot some species we may have missed so far. We will be in the prime habitat of **Eurasian Wryneck**, **Western Subalpine Warbler**, **Rock Sparrow**, **Common Chiffchaff**, and **Ortolan Bunting**. This area is also good for **Black Woodpecker**, if we have not already connected with this species.

Overnight: Hotel Palazzo, Nerín

### Day 13. Ordesa to Lleida

Today we will exchange our tour bus for 4x4 vehicles as we head into the Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park. This is the only way to reach this high-altitude area and we will spend the day at around 8,200 - 9,800 feet (2,500 - 3,000 meters) above sea level. This is the Pyrenees Mountains at their largest and the breathtaking Monte Perdido, the third highest peak in the Pyrenees, will tower over us, it is a spectacular site to be birding.

We will spend the day on the high plateau and view the glacial valley of Ordesa in all its majesty. It is here we will once again find high-altitude bird species with **White-winged Snowfinch** being the star of the show. This stunning species is joined in its mountain home by **Alpine Accentor**, **Ring Ouzel** (*alpestris* subspecies), **Alpine Chough**, **Water Pipit**, **White-throated Dipper**, **Eurasian Crag Martin**, **Rock Bunting**, **Black Redstart**, and **Rock Sparrow**. We may get lucky and have **Griffon Vulture** and **Bearded Vulture** soar overhead, once more, as we descend through the valley stopping to look for other species that favor this valley.



*Griffon Vulture* is one of a several vulture species we may encounter on this birding tour.

With our lungs filled with fresh mountain air and our cameras full of stunning photos we will begin the descent out of the Pyrenees. We will travel south into the heartland of Lleida, the penultimate region we visit on our tour.

Overnight: Ibis Hotel, Lleida

## Day 14. Lleida

We will once again team up with a local guide to try and seek out some of the area's species that we may have missed previously. In addition, we will also look for two species which can prove very tricky. **Moustached Warbler** is one of these, and this species of *Acrocephalus* warbler can be exceptionally elusive as it moves through its preferred dense reedbed habitat. The second is the striking **Bearded Reedling** (Bearded Tit), another species which can be elusive. This bird is often heard before it is seen, with its characteristic "ping" call a great indicator that a group is nearby.

We will once again overnight in the town of Lleida.

Overnight: Ibis Hotel, Lleida

### Day 15. Lleida to Barcelona

The penultimate day of this exciting tour will see us spend the morning driving from Lleida into the Catalan capital of Barcelona. This stunning city also has the fantastic Delta de Llobregat on its doorstep, and it is here we will spend the day birding. This area is a fantastic spot for shorebirds (waders), wetland birds, and spring passage migrants making their way north. Species of note for this site include **Red-crested Pochard**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Pied Avocet**, **Kentish Plover**, **Common Ringed Plover**, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Yellow-legged Gull**, **Whiskered Tern**, **Purple Heron**, **Squacco Heron**, **Western Cattle Egret**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Great Reed Warbler**, **European Serin**, **Greater Flamingo**, **Water Rail**, and **Western Swamphen**.



*Our tour will end as it begins with many shorebird (wader) species. **Pied Avocets** are one of the prettiest shorebirds found in Spain and we will get good views of them during the tour.*

It is also a great site for picking up migrant passerines, particularly warblers and we may come across **Wood Warbler**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **European Pied Flycatcher**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Eurasian Reed Warbler**, **Western Bonelli's Warbler**, **Willow Warbler**, **Eurasian Blackcap**, **Garden Warbler**, **Western Subalpine Warbler**, **Sardinian Warbler**, **Common Whitethroat**, **Common Nightingale**, **Common Redstart**, **Northern Wheatear**, and **Western Yellow Wagtail**.

The site is also a good lure for rarer species and in recent springs this part of Spain has seen eruptions of **Collared Flycatcher**, a rare vagrant that moves from Africa to eastern Europe (we often see this gorgeous bird on our Greece tour for example).

Overnight: Hotel in Barcelona



**Day 16. Barcelona where tour concludes**

Non-birding day. After a leisurely breakfast at our hotel we will head to Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat Airport to connect you with your flight home or for some further travel (such as our **Poland: Best of Eastern Europe** tour, to really maximize your birding visit to Europe).

Prior to leaving Barcelona, your guide will be on hand to answer any questions relating to the trip list or identification of species we have seen on the tour and we will have the important task of deciding 'bird of the trip', not an easy one, as we will have seen some absolute crackers.

Overnight: Not included

*Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors. In addition, we sometimes must use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.*

<b>Duration:</b>	16 days
<b>Group Size:</b>	6 - 8
<b>Dates:</b>	08 - 23 April 2024 08 - 23 April 2025
<b>Start:</b>	Seville San Pablo Airport, Seville, Andalusia, Spain
<b>End:</b>	Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat Airport, Barcelona, Spain
<b>Prices:</b>	€ 7,180 per person sharing – based on 5 - 8 participants (2024) € 7,970 per person sharing – based on 5 - 8 participants (2025)
<b>Single Supplements:</b>	€732 (2024) €812 (2025)

*In the event of fewer than six participants signing up to the tour there will be the option of a surcharge to guarantee departure. The amount of the surcharge will depend on how many participants are signed up to the tour and will occur if all participants agree. For example, with five participants there would be an 11% surcharge, if less than five the surcharge would be higher.*

**Price includes:**

All accommodation (day 1 until day 15 as described above, or similar)  
Meals (from evening welcome dinner on day 1 until breakfast on day 16)  
Drinking water – please bring a refillable water bottle  
Expert tour leader  
Local bird and wildlife guide fees  
Birdwatching site entrance fees and travel permits  
All ground transport and tolls/taxes while on tour, including airport pick-up and drop-off

**Price excludes:**

Flights to Seville San Pablo Airport, Seville, Spain  
Flights from Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat Airport, Barcelona, Spain  
Expenditures due to flight cancellations/delays or other causes beyond our control (force majeure)  
Visa fees if visa required  
Departure tax  
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls etc.  
Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing excursions  
Soft/alcoholic drinks  
Personal travel insurance  
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))

**Useful information**

During this spring birding extravaganza, your guide will be driving you in a comfortable vehicle. The tour does not require a great deal of walking or steep hiking to see the bulk of the birds, though there are opportunities for longer hikes if you wish. The highest altitudes involved are usually between 8,200 – 9,800 feet (2,500 – 3,000 meters), but only for one or two days of the tour.

Spanish food is excellent and plentiful, and it is customary in Spain to provide plenty of wine free with the evening meal. Your accommodations all have private bathrooms and range from 4-star to small, simple, family-run rural hotels. Many are delightfully individual, in pleasant and beautifully renovated ancient stone farmhouses nestled in quiet, charming villages, where **Eurasian Scops** and **Tawny Owls**, **Common Nightingale**, **Black Redstart**, and **Woodlark** sing outside our windows at night!