

## **AUTUMN MIGRATION TOUR to BULGARIA'S BLACK SEA COAST**

**11 – 18 September 2017** (Tour Code: AM2)

**Leader: Assen Ignatov.**

**Once again we are happy that Ann Scott will be participating in this tour! She looks forward to welcoming friends old and new.**

**PRICE: £990**

(Based on a group of 8 or more, a smaller group will incur a supplement.)

This one-week tour visits the birding hotspots both in the north and south of the Black Sea Coast. The Via Pontica migration is a truly remarkable spectacle, the southern part in particular is a bottleneck for birds from all of eastern Europe.



Flocks of tens of thousands of White Stork, birds of prey and pelicans heading south fill the skies, as well as passerines such as Red-breasted Flycatcher and Pied Wheatear, and a good selection of waders.

In the north there will be visits to important migrant hotspots like Kaliakra and Kamen Bryag, Varna lake, Durankulak and Shabla lakes. At these northern sites we are hoping for a wide range of smaller birds including numbers of Red-breasted Flycatchers, warblers, wheatears and wagtails.

In the south there will be excursions to the Burgas lakes, especially Atanassovsko and the Migration Watch Point, BSPB Poda reserve, the Ropotamo reserve and the hills behind Sunny Beach. This is the area that should produce the most visible migration with passage of storks, pelicans, buzzards and eagles, together with a good selection of waders.

Our tour leader, Assen Ignatov, works for the National Museum of Natural History. He is a very experienced and knowledgeable guide, and also a gifted artist.

Bulgaria's beautiful scenery, friendly people and excellent wine and food are additional highlights. The B-BS offers you the benefits of nearly forty years' experience of organizing tours to Bulgaria. For your financial protection our tour operators for twenty years, Balkania Travel Ltd. are licensed by the UK Civil Aviation Authority, ATOL 4465 and bonded by the International Air Transport Association, IATA number 91-2 7839. Our tour price includes a donation to the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds or other conservation organization in Bulgaria.

The hotels are family run, well situated and convenient for early morning walks, both serve good traditional Bulgarian food. The holiday is on a Half-Board basis. Final details and bird lists will be sent to participants approximately two weeks before departure.

**Projected Itinerary** (*Please note that this programme may be changed at the leader's discretion according to local information about bird migration*).

**Monday 11 September** Flights from a number of regional airports to Burgas (see flights available at the end of the itinerary). Early arrivals can enjoy some birdwatching right outside the hotel. One overnight stay at Pomorie.

**Tuesday 12 September** Drive north to Kavarna for a three night stay with birdwatching stops along the way.

**Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 September** Visits to Kaliakra, Bolata, Durankulak, Shabla and Kamen Briag, looking for Stone Curlew, Calandra Lark, Sandwich Tern, Shag, migrating falcons, other birds of prey and passerines.

**Friday 15 September** Drive south to Pomorie for a three-night stay, calling at Kamchia and Goritsa.

**Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September** Visits to Atanassovsko, Mandra and Vaya Lakes and Poda Reserve looking out for waders, possible Red-necked Phalarope, Collared Pratincole, migrating pelicans and birds of prey including Montagu's Harrier, White-tailed Sea Eagle, Gull-billed and other species of terns, Ferruginous Duck, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, herons and egrets.

**Monday 18 September** Return flights to UK.

**Early Booking Discount: £50 per person booked by the end of August 2016**

**Flights:** At the time of writing this itinerary, available flights were from Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle. Other regional airport departures may be available, do enquire.

**OUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Return holiday charter flights from airports listed above to Burgas, including airport, government and baggage taxes and charges.
- Accommodation in friendly hotels with en suite facilities on a twin-bedded shared occupancy basis.
- Coach for transfers and excursions.
- Specialist Bulgarian leader.
- Donation to the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds or other conservation organization.
- All reserve entrance fees.

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- Lunches (about £4 - £5).
- Travel Insurance (Compulsory). Balkania Travel can advise.
- Drinks and other personal expenses such as gratuities.
- Single room supplement (£75)

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