

WINTER WILDFOWL TOUR

12 – 19 February 2017 (Tour code: WW)

Leader: Tihomir Stefanov.

Price: £995

(Based on a group of 6, a smaller group will incur a supplement).



This tour gives you a chance to see Red-breasted Geese, White-headed Ducks and other wintering geese and ducks on the Black Sea coast. The one-week tour will have two main centres, the first on the northern part of the Black Sea coast, and then in the south near Burgas Lakes.

Although wintering wildfowl will be our main target, wintering birds on the Black Sea coast include a wide range of raptors (including Spotted and White-tailed Eagles, Goshawk, Rough-legged and Long-legged Buzzards), a good selection of woodpeckers (no leaves for the birds to hide behind!), flocks of larks (including Calandra) and, on the sea, mixed rafts of grebes and divers. The itinerary at each base has not been pre-set, as this allows a flexible approach to each day, taking account of prevailing weather conditions and local information. The weather is likely to be cold, so you should be prepared for this and perhaps some travel delays.

Tihomir (Tisho) is currently working at the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia (www.nmnh.com) as head of the department of Recent and Fossil Fish. His main research topic is taxonomy and phylogeny of the freshwater fish of Bulgaria, but he is also an enthusiastic naturalist and a very keen birdwatcher.

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 and excellent value. The accommodation is comfortable (and well situated for birdwatching!) but not luxurious.

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.

Final details and bird lists will be sent to participants approximately two weeks before departure.

Projected Itinerary (which may be subject to adjustment)

Sunday 12 February Flight from Luton to Burgas.
Overnight stay in Pomorie.

Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 February Drive north to Kavarna for a three night stay. Visit to Durankulak, and, weather permitting, Shabla, hoping to see geese including Red-breasted and Lesser Whitefront, Spotted Eagle, Great Blackheaded Gull, Calandra Lark, Firecrest, Sombre Tit and Hawfinch.

Thursday 16 February Drive south along the coast for a three night stay at Pomorie. Birdwatching stops on the way.

Friday 17 and Saturday 18 February Birdwatching around Burgas lakes, Primorsko, Perla Residence, Ropotamo and Alepu Marsh searching for Dalmatian Pelican, Black-throated Diver, Black-necked Grebe, Pygmy Cormorant, Great White Egret, Ruddy Shelduck, Ferruginous Duck, White-headed Duck, White-tailed Eagle and Slender-billed Gull, Green, Great Spotted, Middle Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Sunday 19 February Transfer to Burgas airport for your return flight to the UK.

OUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flights from Luton to Burgas and all taxes and charges.
- Our Flights Premier Service with Plus Fare on Wizz Air flights including 32 kg checked baggage, a large cabin bag, seat selection and priority boarding. And we'll check you in online and send you your boarding passes in advance.
- Half Board.
- Accommodation in small, friendly (often family-run) hotels with en suite facilities on a twin bedded shared occupancy basis.
- Coach for transfers and excursions.
- Leader/Interpreter.
- Donation to Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds or other conservation organization.
- All reserve entrance fees.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Lunches (about £3 - £4).
- Travel Insurance (compulsory). Balkania Travel can advise.
- Drinks and personal expenses such as gratuities.
- Single room supplement £70.

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