

Bird Photography in Spring

With its rich biodiversity and scenic beauty Bulgaria offers excellent nature photography opportunities. This tour is timed to see and take pictures of an impressive range of Bulgaria's breeding birds, along with numerous migrating birds heading north along the Via Pontica – one of the busiest migration flyways in Europe.

We will start from the Northern Bulgarian Black Sea Coast, where we will be based for the first 3 nights. In the area of Durankulak and Shabla Lakes we will try to photograph Golden Oriole, Roller, Paddyfield Warbler, Red-footed Falcon, Bee-eater, woodpeckers, etc., while at Cape Kaliakra we will be exploring the cliffs and the adjacent grasslands and take photos of Eagle Owl, Long-legged Buzzard, Rose-colored Starlings, Pied Wheatears, Alpine Swift, Stone Curlew, etc.

On one of these days we can go further south and visit some nice wetlands around Varna, with very good chances of photographing the Pygmy Cormorant, Garganey, Penduline Tit, and by a lucky chance – the Little Crake.

Our next stop is the Bourgas wetlands, where we have excellent opportunities for photographing White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Squacco, Night and Purple Herons, Great Reed and Cetti's Warblers. On the way, however, we will make a few stops at the coastal riverine and oak forests for Black, Grey-headed and Middle-spotted Woodpeckers, Semi-collared Flycatcher, Short-toed Treecreeper, etc.



Pygmy Cormorant



European Roller



April – mid-June

Then we will visit the Sakar Hills, where we usually take good shots of Eastern Imperial Eagle, Long-legged Buzzard and other birds of prey feeding on the Souselic colonies in the area. We will move on to the Eastern Rhodope Mountains, where we will be staying for the next 4 nights. There we make use of our special hides for photographing Black, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures feeding on the carcass. There are good chances of photographing other birds of prey coming to the carcass, like the Eastern Imperial Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Black Kite, etc.

We will also survey the cliff formations in the area for Blue Rock Thrush and Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Rock Nuthatch, Rock Bunting, Sombre Tit. We can put tent-hides along the Arda river where there are very good chances of photographing feeding Black Storks. The surroundings of the town of Madzharovo are also very good for Scops and Little Owls.

Finally we will travel to the Western Rhodopes, crossing lots of picturesque and scenic areas, and we will stay in the area of the Trigrad Gorge – probably the most reliable place in Europe to photograph the Wallcreeper. We will spend the next two days exploring the area. There we can also expect birds like the Alpine Swift, Crag Martin, White-throated Dipper, etc.

Itinerary:



Day 1

Arrival at Varna Airport

Days 2 & 3

Northern Black Sea coast

Day 4

Transfer to Bourgas via the forests in the Eastern Balkan Range

Day 5

Bourgas wetlands

Day 6

Drive to the Sakar Hills and the Eastern Rhodope Mountains

Days 7

Sakar Hills

Days 8 & 9

The Eastern Rhodopes

Days 10 & 11

The Western Rhodopes

Day 12

Departure

Griffon Vultures



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Black-headed Bunting