

# Spainbirds

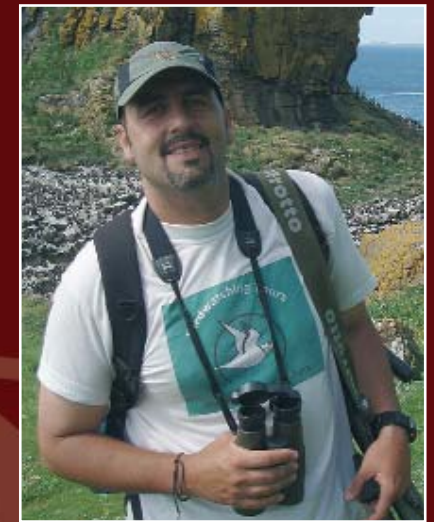
Birdwatching & Nature Tours



[www.spainbirds.com](http://www.spainbirds.com)

Without doubt Spain is one of the European countries with the widest biodiversity. It still has nowadays a few good locations which have remained unspoilt for decades, and where traditional agricultural and livestock uses have been preserved in spite of the important developments that have taken place in this country in recent years. Spain's excellent weather, a modern road network and some of the best tourist infrastructures of the world, even in very remote areas, all encourage the visit of a good number of wildlifers in general, and birdwatchers in particular.

However, in recent times the advance of the modern society has pushed into the background one of the main heritages of Spain: Our Nature. Today many urbanization projects such as golf courses in traditional dry areas, and those developments known as "ecological energy" such as the construction of enormous thermo-solar power plants and wind turbines fields are seriously threatening some of the most valuable corners of Extremadura and Andalucia.



**Santiago Villa**  
*Wildlife guide & Spainbirds manager*

The environmental education and the communication of knowledge about the nature resources of Spain are the best tools to fight against this situation. This is the reason why the environmental Non-Governmental Organizations and the small local businesses need to get help to carry out these educational actions, particularly with the youngest generations.

Since 2008, *Spainbirds Nature Tours* and SEO/BirdLife, the partner in Spain of BirdLife International, have been working together in a program of birdwatching and nature excursions designed especially for beginners, where each part contributes with its key expertise to show the many natural treasures of our country. It is a pride for our company, *Spainbirds*, to take up the challenge of passing on to the Spanish public our love for birds and birding, but also and no less, being the main reference for many travellers who come from other countries to visit our nature reserves and Parks by means of local and professional guides.

We at Spainbirds are very grateful to those hundreds of birders who, since 1999, have travelled with us to some of the regions shown in this current brochure, and we are hoping to maintain our contributions in the future to the study and conservation of what we do love so much: Our BIRDS.

**Spainbirds Nature Tours S.L.**

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# Doñana & Extremadura

# Extremadura

## The best of Southern Spain



Squacco Heron / Photo: Markku Helle



Little Bustard / Photo: Santiago Villa



Greater Flamigos / Photo: James Lidster

*\* 7 nights en suite accommodation in rural guest houses*

*\* Ground transport from Malaga*

*\* All meals included (plus red wine and water) with packed lunches*

*\* 7 participants + 1 guide*

*\* Flights + insurance not included*

### Day 1: Málaga - El Rocio - Doñana National Park

Meet and welcome at Málaga airport and travel to El Rocio, the North gate to Doñana National Park.

### Day 2: El Rocio - Doñana National Park I

The first birding experience in Doñana will give us views of Great Reed Warbler, Purple Swamp-hen, Glossy Ibis, Squacco Heron and with some luck White-headed Duck.

### Day 3: El Rocio - Doñana National Park II

A visit to some of the Atlantic Coast marshes near the National Park. Excellent chances to see Audouin's Gull, Red-knobbed Coot, Little Bittern, Whiskered Tern and Osprey.

### Day 4: El Rocio - La Serena plains

La Serena plains house a wonderful community of steppe birds, however we will explore some "sierras" for Black Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Bunting, Bonelli's Eagle and Alpine Swift.

### Day 5: La Serena - Trujillo

In the morning we will explore the plains for Collared Pratincole, Great Bustard, Little Bustard, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse and Montagu's Harrier...

### Day 6: Trujillo - Monfragüe National Park

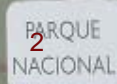
Five species of eagles breed in Monfragüe, including the rare Spanish Imperial Eagle. All three vultures, Egyptian, Black and Griffon are common as well as Black Storks and Black Kites.

### Day 7: Trujillo - Cáceres plains

A full day to explore this large area suitable for Stone Curlew, Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Montagu's Harrier, Great and Little Bustards, Lesser Kestrel, Calandra Lark, Rollers and Bee-eaters.

### Day 8: Trujillo - Madrid

Travel back to Madrid airport with some birding on route if flight schedule allows it.



The village of El Rocio / Photo: Santiago Villa

## Extremadura

## The Paradise for Raptors

### Day 1: Madrid Airport - Trujillo

Meet and welcome at Madrid Airport and travel to Extremadura. Birding on route for Great Bustards and Black-shouldered Kite amongst others.

### Day 2: Trujillo - Monfragüe Natural Park I

Five species of eagles breed in Monfragüe, including the rare Spanish Imperial Eagle. All three vultures, Egyptian, Black and Griffon are common as well as Black Storks and Black Kites.

### Day 3: Trujillo - Villuercas Mountains

A full day visit to the highest point of Extremadura and the surrounding "sierras". Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Orphean Warbler, Honey Buzzard and Black Wheatear.

### Day 4: Trujillo - Cáceres Plains

Our day for the steppe specialties: Stone Curlew, Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Montagu's Harrier, Great and Little Bustards, Lesser Kestrel, Calandra Lark, Rollers and Bee-eaters.

### Day 5: Trujillo - Monfragüe Natural Park II

A second visit to the most important place for raptors in Europe is always well worthwhile. We should also see Blue Rock Thrush, Black Redstart, Subalpine and Dartford Warblers and White-rumped Swift in late Spring.

### Day 6: Trujillo - reservoir of Arrocampo

The reservoir of Arrocampo is the only place in the Cáceres province where one can see Squacco Heron, Little Bittern, Savi's Warbler, Purple Swamp-hen and Purple Heron.

### Day 7: Trujillo - Vegas Altas rice fields - Sierra Brava

The Southern fields near Trujillo are a well known place for its community of steppe birds and wildfowl. Amongst the most interesting species we might see are Great and Little Bustard, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Black-shouldered Kite, Gull-billed Tern and Collared Pratincole.

### Day 8 / Trujillo - Madrid airport

Travel back to Madrid airport with some birding on route if flight schedule allows it.

Holm Oak in Cáceres plains / Photo: Santiago Villa



Spanish Imperial Eagle / Photo: Paul Hackett



Great Spotted Cuckoo / Photo: Martin Perrow



Great Bustards / Photo: Santiago Villa

*\* 7 nights en suite accommodation in a rural guest house*

*\* Ground transport from Madrid*

*\* All meals included (plus red wine and water) with packed lunches*

*\* 7 participants + 1 guide*

*\* Flights + insurance not included*

# Extremadura & Gredos mountains

## Raptors, bustards, owls and... bluethroats!



Ortolan Bunting / Photo: Santiago Villa



Eurasian Eagle Owl / Photo: Santiago Villa



Bluethroat / Photo: Santiago Villa

### Day 1: Madrid – Trujillo

Meet and welcome at Madrid Airport and travel to Extremadura. Birding on route for Great Bustards and Black-shouldered Kite amongst others.

### Day 2: Trujillo - Monfragüe National Park

Five species of eagles breed in Monfragüe, including the rare Spanish Imperial Eagle. All three vultures, Egyptian, Black and Griffon are common as well as Black Storks and Black Kites.

### Day 3: Trujillo - Cáceres plains

Our day for the steppe specialties: Stone Curlew, Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Montagu's Harrier, Great and Little Bustards, Lesser Kestrel, Calandra Lark, Rollers and Bee-eaters.

### Day 4: Trujillo - reservoir of Arrocampo

The reservoir of Arrocampo is the only place in the Caceres province where one can see Squacco Heron, Little Bittern, Savi's Warbler, Purple Swamp-hen and Purple Heron.

### Day 5: Trujillo - Villueras Mountains

A full day visit to the highest point of Extremadura and the surrounding "sierras". Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Orphean Warbler, Honey Buzzard and Black Wheatear.

### Day 6: Trujillo - Gredos

Although a mostly driving day we will stop in some spots to look for Bonelli's Warbler, Ortolan Bunting, Rock Bunting and Golden Oriole.

### Day 7: Gredos Mountains

We are in a traditional area for alpine birds such as Ortolan Bunting, Northern Wheatear, Water Pipit, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush and Bluethroat. In the Scots Pine forest we will search for Citril Finch and the Iberian subspecies of Pied Flycatcher.

### Day 8: Gredos – Madrid Barajas Airport

Travel back to Madrid airport with some birding on route if flight schedule allows it.

# Spanish Pyrenees

## Wallcreeper, Lammergeier and Dupont's Lark

### Day 1: Madrid - Hecho Valley

Meet and welcome at Madrid airport. We will arrive at our hotel with time for a walk in its nearby grounds to see our first Red-backed Shrikes and perhaps Lammergeier.

### Day 2: Hecho Valley - Gabardito refuge - Selva de Oza

Wallcreeper will be our main target for the first full day into the Pyrenees. The spectacular ravines, woods and deep gorges of the Hecho valley will provide us chances for seeing Egyptian Vulture, Citril Finch, Marsh Tit, Black Woodpecker, Firecrest and Garden Warbler.

### Day 3: Hecho Valley - Zuriza - Belagua Natural Reserve

At Belagua we will concentrate on Citril Finch, Bullfinch, Alpine Accentor and Ring Ouzel... and we will cross the border into France!

### Day 4: Hecho Valley - San Juan de la Peña - Riglos

Today we will visit the area known as Sierra de San Juan de la Peña and its old monastery dated from the X century. This is a great place to find Black Woepecker.

### Day 5: Hecho Valley - Candanchú & Astún ski resorts

In the surroundings of the tourist developments of both ski resorts we might see Yellowhammer, Northern Wheatear, Alpine Chough and Citril Finch while Rufous-Tailed Rock Thrush and Ortolan Bunting are also present.

### Day 6: Hecho Valley - El Portalet - France

Today we will explore some good places to look for Snow Finch, whilst Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Skylark, Alpine Chough and Water Pipit are frequent in this area.

### Day 7: Hecho Valley - Lécera (Belchite)

The steppe of Belchite is of the best places in Spain to locate the rare Dupont's Lark. Stone Curlew, Black-eared Wheatear, Short-toed and Lesser Short-toed Larks, Calandra Lark, Crested and Thekla Larks are all common birds here.

### Day 8: Lécera - Belchite Steppes - Madrid

After another try for the elusive "diablo" we will travel back to Madrid airport.



Wallcreeper / Photo: Santiago Villa



Lammergeier / Photo: James Lidster



Dupont's Lark / Photo: Ricardo Rodríguez

\* 7 nights en suite accommodation in rural guest houses

\* Ground transport from Madrid

\* All meals included (plus red wine and water) with packed lunches

\* 7 participants + 1 guide

\* Flights + insurance not included

\* 7 nights en suite accommodation in rural guest houses

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## Alpine birds & butterflies



Alpine Accentor / Photo: Santiago Villa



Wallcreeper / Photo: Santiago Villa



Picos de Europa / Photo: Santiago Villa

### Day 1: Santander - La Hermida gorge - Potes

Meet and welcome at Santander airport and then we head to the beautiful town of Potes where we will stay the following 7 nights.

### Day 2 - 7: Picos de Europa mountains

We will spend the whole week exploring the woods and high mountains of one of the nicest corners of Spain. Alpine meadows, glacier lakes, beech forests, deep gorges and a good selection of different habitats will provide us the chance to see the most representative range of flora and fauna for this region.

Although we will concentrate mostly on birds, we will also target butterflies, mammals such as the scarce Chamois and some amphibians such as Marbled or Alpine Newts.

Some of the more interesting species of birds we might see are Black and Middle-spotted Woodpeckers, Citril Finch, Wallcreeper, Snow Finch, Alpine Accentor, Water Pipit, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Red-backed Shrikes, Wryneck, Red-billed and Alpine Choughs, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Cirl and Rock Buntings... plus a good selection of raptors such as Honey Buzzards, Red and Black Kites, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures and Golden, Booted and Short-toed Eagles.

We will also try to see some of the 150+ species of butterflies that are present in this fabulous region. Apollo, Mountain Clouded Yellow, Chapman's Ringlet, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Cleopatra, Spanish Swallowtail are just some of the interesting variety of butterflies to be found here.

### Day 8: Potes - La Hermida gorge - Santander

The last day we will travel to Santander airport.



\* 7 nights en suite accommodation in family hotel in Potes

\* Ground transport from Santander

\* All meals included (plus red wine and water) with packed lunches

\* 7 participants + 1 guide

\* Flights + insurance not included

### Day 1: Málaga Airport - Tarifa watchpoints - Zahara

Meet and welcome at Málaga airport and heading to the Tarifa watchpoints to see our first raptors crossing the Strait. Booted and Short-toed Eagles, Honey Buzzards and possibly Black Storks might be seen.

### Day 2: Zahara - Los Lanches Beach - Algeciras

Los Lanches beach is one of the best places to see waders, gulls and terns in migration. The rare Lesser Crested Tern and Dotterel have been recorded here every year. Honey Buzzards, Black Kites, White Storks are some of the species often seen from the coast.

### Day 3: Zahara - Los Alcornocales - Palmones Bay

The Los Alcornocales N.P. houses a wide variety of passerines. Firecrest, Crested Tit, Bonelli's Warbler, Serin, Golden Oriole, Woodchat Shrike, Dartford and Sardinian Warblers are amongst the most interesting species.

### Day 4: Zahara - Valle de Santuario - Los Lanches Beach

The sheltered Valle de Santuario offers the chance to see raptors at close range, and with luck juveniles of both Bonelli's and Spanish Imperial Eagles.

### Day 5: Zahara - Cabo de Trafalgar - Barbate

A good option for seeing seabirds from the Cabo de Trafalgar such as Gannets, Great Skuas and Balearic Shearwaters. In the nearby Barbate marshes we will try for Caspian Terns, Ospreys and the odd Bald Ibis.

### Day 6: Zahara - La Janda - Sierra de la Plata

La Janda is always a must. Here one can see Black-shouldered Kite, Collared Pratincole, Night Heron, Whinchat, Spanish Sparrow and Squacco Heron. The rare White-rumped and Little Swifts have bred in Sierra de la Plata.

### Day 7: Zahara - Los Lanches - Algeciras viewpoints

Last chance for seeing some of the rarest migrants of this part of Spain. Rüppell's Vulture and Long-legged Buzzard are regularly seen soaring with other more common birds.

### Day 8: Zahara - Málaga airport

Travel back to Málaga airport. Birding on route.

## Migration to Africa



Short-toed Eagle / Photo: Martin Perrow



Booted Eagle / Photo: James Lidster



Audouin's Gull / Photo: Santiago Villa

\* 7 nights en suite accommodation in a hotel at Zahara de los Atunes

\* Ground transport from Malaga

\* All meals included (plus red wine and water) with packed lunches

\* 7 participants + 1 guide

\* Flights + insurance not included

# ... and what else do we offer?

## Private breaks

As well as the organised tours shown in this brochure, *Spainbirds Nature Tours* offers its private-guide services and it can also draw up tailor-made itineraries for individuals, groups, clubs and associations. All you have to do is explain us by email or letter what type of trip you're interested in and we'll send you a detailed estimate without any commitment on your part whatsoever.

More information on [www.spainbirds.com](http://www.spainbirds.com)

## Photographic & Digiscoping trips

*Spainbirds Nature Tours* also offers special photographic tours for both professionals and amateurs. The wonderful weather present almost all year round plus a wide variety of animals and plants make Spain one of the top countries in Europe for wildlife photographers.

We would remind you that we have been running highly successful trips for **digiscopers** who wish to improve their technique thanks to the knowledge and skills of our colleague *Paul Hackett*.

## Birding in Madrid

The region of Madrid has an incredible selection of birds as result of the different ecosystems present within its limits. There are not many places in Spain where one can see in the same day Spanish Imperial Eagle, Black and Griffon Vulture, Great & Little Bustard and Eurasian Eagle Owl amongst others. In addition, within about an hour's driving you might see Dupont's Lark and White-headed Duck!

More information in [www.birdingmadrid.com](http://www.birdingmadrid.com)

## Accommodation for wildlifers

If you are an independent outdoors traveller and need information about where to stay when travelling to Spain please don't hesitate to visit the "accommodation" section on our website. Some of the best "casas rurales" and family hotels located close to the main hot spots for birding are present there!

More information in [www.spainbirds.com](http://www.spainbirds.com)

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

The minimum number of travellers in each trip is four and the usual maximum number is 7 plus the guide.

### TRAVEL

Because birding tours normally carry the cost of the airfare and are not necessarily the cheapest, *Spainbirds Nature Tours* asks the customer to book the flights independently to Madrid, Málaga, Seville, Santander or any other place where the trip starts and ends. This gives you the customer, greater flexibility in terms of choosing the flight and return leg of your journey home (flights and other means of transport) specific airport departures, times to suit you, special offers and carrier companies. The meeting point for customers will be the corresponding local airport depending on the trip selected.

### GROUND TRANSPORT

The price includes all travel and fuel during the trip in a comfortable, modern air conditioning minibus or people carriers. All our vehicles comply with the current EU safety legislation.

### ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Accommodation is carefully chosen by *Spainbirds Nature Tours* to offer the customer a good quality standard of hotel or fully equipped country inns next to the birding areas. We ensure that all rooms are en suite and price includes full board (breakfast, picnic lunch and evening meal + red wine & water). For those who require a single room they will have to pay the corresponding supplement, which will depend on the chosen itinerary shown in our tours section.

Payment will be done directly to *Spainbirds Nature Tours* preferably through a bank transfer to our account number but credit cards are also accepted. See below in HOW TO BOOK. *Drinks, telephone calls and items of a personal nature is not included in the price of the holiday.*

### DATES

Since the groups are usually small, the journey dates may occasionally be fine tuned to meet the needs of all interested parties but will never be changed if the flights have been already booked.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is highly advisable to take out a personal insurance policy before leaving your country. Let us know please the name of your company insurance before travelling. For information of all travellers *Spainbirds Nature Tours* has its own civil liability insurance through VITALICIO Seguros, policy number 27-1-277-000.405, covering damages to third parties until a maximum of 300.000 Euros.

### HOW TO BOOK

To book our services you need to make a written confirmation by letter or email or filling our booking form available on our web site: [www.spainbirds.com](http://www.spainbirds.com) plus paying €100 as deposit. The rest shall be paid to *Spainbirds Nature Tours* by wire transfer or credit card, at the latest 45 days before the journey starts. The price includes guide services, accommodation, all meals, ground transport and fuel. Our expenses are mostly for leading a group and never as professional drivers. Customers are entitled to cancel their bookings at any moment, but on the following terms:

1. If the cancellation is made between 90 and 45 days before the start of the trip they will forfeit the deposit (€100) or if preferred will be kept for future tours run only by *Spainbirds Nature Tours*.
2. If the cancellation is made between 44 and 15 days before the start of the journey they will forfeit 50% (where the deposit would be also included) of the total amount paid to *Spainbirds Nature Tours*.
3. If the cancellation is made within 14 days of the start of the journey they will forfeit 75% of the total cost already paid.

Any breach of the above instalments or unjustified delays in paying them will automatically lead to cancellation of the booking, the above mentioned rules then being applied. The post-cancellation sum of money to be reimbursed will be sent by wire transfer. All amounts must be paid by wire transfer to our account number of BANCO ESPAÑOL DE CRÉDITO (details will be sent to you once you book with us) or credit card through the secure system of our web site.

After receipt of the deposit we will send a detailed itinerary, bird and wildlife checklists and full information about your accommodation to your home / e-mail address.