

# Doñana & Extremadura

## *Top birding regions in Spain*

**April 10 - 16, 2021**

Itinerary

### **Day 1 / April 10: Sevilla airport - El Rocio (Doñana N.P. I)**

Meet and welcome at the airport of Sevilla heading towards the charming village of El Rocio. Today we will dedicate part of the day looking at the main marsh of the National Park known as Madre de las Marismas. We will be looking for Greater Flamingos, Eurasian Spoonbills, Crested Coot, Red-crested Pochard, Black Kite and waders on migration. Dinner and accommodation at El Rocio (Hotel Toruño).

### **Day 2 / April 11: El Rocio - Doñana N.P. II**

Breakfast at our hotel in El Rocio. Today we will go right into the heart of the Natural Park along a sandy road that leads to the visitor centre named in honour of the naturalist Jose Antonio Valverde. In the surrounding fields and wetlands, it is possible to find species such as Purple Swamphen, Hen Harrier, Common Cranes, Glossy Ibis and perhaps the first Squacco and Purple Herons arriving from their winter headquarters. We will make several stops along the journey before reaching the visitor centre to see other typical species of the open fields such as Lesser Short-toed Larks, Stone Curlew or Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. Dinner and accommodation in El Rocio (Hotel Toruño).

### **Day 3 / April 12: El Rocio - Odiel Marshes - Doñana N.P. III**

Today we will visit the Odiel Marshes Nature Reserve. Placed next to the town of Huelva this reserve has become the first place where Ospreys have bred again in mainland Spain. The narrow road that leads to the lighthouse of the breakwater known as Juan Carlos I provides excellent opportunities for seeing different species of gulls and Audouin's is surely the most attractive amongst them all. Additionally, we have good chances for Mediterranean Gull, Stone Curlew, Whimbrel, Caspian Tern and maybe some local rarities. If time allows we will explore the public areas near El Rocío visiting some of the most popular spots of the National Park: La Rocina, El Acebuche and El Acebrón all are well known places for birding locally. Apart from its rich bird life, Doñana is home to the second population of the most threatened feline in the world: the Iberian Lynx. Accommodation in El Rocio (Hotel Toruño).

### **Day 4 / April 13: El Rocio - Alange reservoir - Torrejón El Rubio (Extremadura)**

Transfer to Extremadura in the early morning. Birding en route with excellent chances for seeing Bonelli's Eagle, Lesser Kestrel, Great Spotted Cuckoo and Great Bustard amongst others. Accommodation in Torrejón El Rubio, next to the well known Monfragüe National Park (Hospedería de Monfragüe).

### **Day 5 / April 14: Torrejón El Rubio - Monfragüe N.P.**

Monfragüe will undoubtedly offer us some of the highlights of the trip. An impressive community of raptors breed within its almost 18,000 hectares. Although Griffon Vultures are the commonest bird of prey in the

park with around 600 pairs breeding, we will also have good chances for watching Eurasian Black Vulture, Spanish Imperial Eagles (maybe first arriving Short-toed and Booted Eagles), both Black and Red Kites, and the odd looking Egyptian Vulture.

Sylvia warblers are also well present in the woods and shrubby slopes of Monfragüe with four species: Sub-alpine (could be a bit early for seeing them!), Blackcap, Dartford and Sardinian Warblers. On the cliffs we will try our luck at finding Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Bunting, Red-rumped Swallow, Crag Martin, the wary Black Stork and the impressive Eurasian Eagle Owl. Dinner and overnight at Torrejón El Rubio (Hospedería de Monfragüe).

#### **Day 6 / April 15: Torrejón El Rubio - Trujillo & Cáceres Plains**

Breakfast first, then we will travel to the plains. A vast flat region exists between Trujillo and Cáceres towns with isolated woodland patches suitable for a large community of steppic birds and raptors. This will be the best day to see some of the specialities of the steppe habitats such as Stone Curlew, Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Montagu's Harrier, Great and Little Bustards, Lesser Kestrel, Corn Buntings, Calandra Lark and maybe the first Black-eared Wheatears. Before ending our day we will surely have time to explore the Guadiloba reservoir where we might see Eurasian Spoonbill, Cattle Egret, Spanish Sparrow, Crested Lark and Zitting Cisticola. Accommodation at Torrejón El Rubio (Hospedería de Monfragüe).

#### **Day 7 / April 16: Torrejón El Rubio - Arrocampo Reservoir - Madrid airport**

On our last day of the tour we will visit the Arrocampo Reservoir, a fairly unique wetland used to cool down the motors of the nuclear station of Almaraz. An unusual but wonderful place for birding where we will look for Black-shouldered Kite. We will also visit a little Orchid Reserve where one can see 7 species of orchids by this time of the year. Transfer to Madrid airport where the tour ends.

***This itinerary might change according weather conditions or at discretion of our guide***

**PRICES:**

Per person sharing in twin / doubled-room with private facilities: **€ 1.495**

Single Supplement: **€ 250**

*Group size: Min. 4 – Max. 7 travelers plus our guide*

**The price includes:**

- \* Ground transport from Sevilla and to Madrid airport in modern, fully seat-belted, air conditioned 9-seat vehicle
- \* 6 Nights accommodation with en suite bathroom (3 nights in Hotel Toruño / Doñana & 3 nights in Hospedería de Monfragüe / Extremadura)
- \* All meals inc breakfast, fantastic “tapas-rationes” lunches and evening meals + red wine in a moderate consumption
- \* Services of professional birding guide
- \* Basic travel insurance
- \* Bird checklist (revised edition 2016)
- \* All taxes

**The price doesn't include:**

- \* Air fare (Easyjet, Ryanair & other companies operate daily flights from several UK airports)
- \* Extra drinks and other items of a personal nature

**Number of travelers:**

The minimum number of travellers on each trip is 4 and the usual maximum number is 7 plus the guide or 14 with two guides.

**Travel:**

Because other 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 specified airport 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/or other means of transport) specific airport departures, times to suit you, special offers and carrier companies. *Spainbirds Nature Tours* is a licensed tour operator (CICMA 2517) which is allowed to book flights for our clients, please don't hesitate to letting us know if you prefer that we book your airline tickets for you. The meeting point for customers will be the corresponding local airport depending on the trip selected.

**Ground transport:**

We always use comfortable, modern air conditioned minibus or people carrier. All our vehicles comply with the current EU safety legislation. Notice please that we don't charge any fee to transport people, and our incomes are applied as a trip organizer and wildlife guide services but never as professional drivers.

**Accommodation & food:**

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

**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.

**Insurance:**

It is highly advisable to take out a personal insurance policy before leaving your country. Please let us know the name of your company insurance before travelling. For information of all travellers *Spainbirds Nature Tours* has its own civil liability insurance through **REALE SEGUROS, policy number 1331100001899/0**, covering damages to third parties to a maximum of 1,800,000 Euros. As travel agency licensed by the Spanish Tourism Board all our clients will be traveling covered by a *basic travel insurance*, but which might not be enough to cover certain personal or items damages.

In addition to your personal Travel & Medical Insurance, do bring (and carry with you when out and about) your up to date European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) – they only last 5 years! If you still have one of the older forms (E111) then it needs to be changed to this new card.

Note for UK travelers: You do not have to pay for an EHIC, which can be obtained or renewed free of charge by calling 0300 3301350 or applying on-line at [www.ehic.org.uk](http://www.ehic.org.uk). This is a secure site that diverts to the correct page within the main NHS.UK website. The cards are valid for five years, after which they can be renewed, again, free of charge. Please notice that the new Brexit situation will make to all cards expire after December 31, 2020!!!

### How to book a tour to Spain:

To book our services you need to make a written confirmation by letter or email or fill our booking form available on our web site, plus paying **€ 450 as deposit** for all the Spain tours. Deposits for our overseas expeditions are showed in the literature related to every tour.

**The rest** shall be paid to *Spainbirds Nature Tours* by wire transfer or credit card, **at the latest 60 days** before the journey starts. The price includes guide services, accommodation, all meals, ground transport and fuel. Customers are entitled to cancel their bookings at any moment, but on the following terms:

1. If the cancellation is made between booking and 60 days before the start of the trip they will forfeit the deposit or, if preferred, it will be kept for future tours run by *Spainbirds Nature Tours* **with an expiration date of ONE year**.
2. If the cancellation is made between 59 and 31 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 30 days of the start of the journey they will forfeit **100%** of the total 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 paid must be done by bank transfer to our account on OPENBANK (details will be sent to you once you confirm booking).

If you agree these booking conditions please then fill and send us your **booking form**.

*\* Every of our overseas tours has its own booking conditions since all international and domestic flights are usually included in the price. If you are interested to fly from your home country and not meeting the group in Spain please let the office know this issue to find the most suitable alternative for both sides. You will be able to find our terms and conditions for the overseas tours in the pdf file linked in the literature of every tour.*

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