

**NEW TO BIRDWATCHING? Try our**  
**Beginners' Tour! 14 – 21 May 2010**  
**Leader and tutor: Peter Carty.**

(Tour code: BB)

**PRICE: £875** (based on a group of 10, a smaller group will incur a supplement).

If you don't know your Buzzard from your Bustard or your Dipper from your Diver, come and join us for our first birdwatching tour designed for beginners. The tour will focus on two contrasting areas, both with a rich variety of birds: the lakes around Burgas and the eastern Rhodope mountains around Madzharovo. Each day will be spent observing birds, and in the evening there will be optional lectures and teaching sessions to improve your identification skills.

Peter is currently the nature reserve warden of 2500 hectares at Long Mynd and Wenlock Edge in Shropshire. He has worked as a warden for 26 years, in a variety of different areas including the Sefton Coast in Merseyside, Sandscale Haws in Cumbria, Aride Island in the Seychelles and Egilsay in Orkney. He is a keen birder and an enthusiastic observer of plants, reptiles, amphibians, dragonflies, butterflies and mammals. He has led five BBFS tours to Bulgaria and has learned to read and pronounce Bulgarian though not yet to understand it! He has endless patience and good humour with those who would like to learn about birds. Peter will be assisted by Mitko Petrakiev, a very experienced tour guide.

Bulgaria's beautiful scenery, friendly people and excellent wine and food are additional highlights. The BBFS offers you the benefits of **over thirty years' experience** of organising tours to Bulgaria and excellent value. The accommodation is comfortable (and well situated for birdwatching!) but not luxurious. The holiday is on a Half-Board basis. For your **financial protection** our tour operators, **Balkania Travel Ltd.** are **ATOL bonded** in accordance with the **Civil Aviation Authority's requirements**. Our tour price includes a **donation** to the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds or other conservation organisation in Bulgaria. Final details and bird lists will be sent to participants with their tickets.

**Outline Programme** (which may be subject to adjustment)

**Friday 14 May** Flight from London-Luton to Burgas. 3 night stay in Sarafovo.

**Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 May** Visits to some of the Burgas lakes where you might see Dalmatian and White Pelicans, Squacco Heron, Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill, White-tailed Sea Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Black-winged Stilt, Collared and Black-winged Pratincole, Bearded Tit.

**Monday 17 May** Drive inland via Boliarovo and Elhovo to Madzharovo area for a 3 night stay. Several stops for birdwatching on the way. Possible birds include Ruddy Shelduck, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, Honey Buzzard, Bee-eater, Olive-tree Warbler, Masked Shrike and Calandra Lark.

**Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 May** Local excursions including the Vulture feeding station. Possible birds include Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Black Stork, Blue Rock Thrush, Booted Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Chukar, Scops Owl, Bonelli's Warbler, Roller, Black-eared Wheatear, Subalpine Warbler, Barred Warbler, Sombre Tit, Rock Nuthatch and Hawfinch.

**Thursday 20 May** Return drive to Burgas, via Stara Zagora. Visit to the Bird Rescue Centre run by Green Balkans. ([www.greenbalkans.org](http://www.greenbalkans.org)) This is one of the charities supported

by the BBFS. Continue via Sliven for a wine-tasting at the House of Wine, and a short stop for possible Imperial Eagle and Suslik. Overnight stay in Sarafovo and farewell dinner.

**Friday 21 May** Return flight to London-Luton.

**OUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Return flights from London-Luton to Burgas.
- Airport departure taxes.
- Half Board.
- Accommodation in small family-run hotels with private facilities on a twin bedded shared occupancy basis.
- Coach for transfers and excursions.
- Specialist British leader.
- Guide/Interpreter.
- Entrance fees.

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- Lunches (about £4 or less).
- Travel Insurance (Compulsory). Balkania Travel can advise.
- Drinks and personal expenses.
- Single room supplement ( £60)

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