

WINTER WILDFOWL 5 – 12 February 2010

(Tour Code: WW) **Leader: Tihomir Stefanov**

Price: £895. (Based on a group of 8 or more. A smaller group will incur a supplement.)

£50 discount on bookings received before 31 October 2009.

This eight day 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 tour will visit the Burgas lakes, Durankulak and, weather permitting, Shabla 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 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 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.

Projected Itinerary (which may be subject to adjustment)

Friday 5 February Flight from Gatwick to Varna. Overnight stay.

Saturday 6 February Drive south along the coast for a three night stay at Sarafovo. Birdwatching stops on the way.

Sunday 7 and Monday 8 February Birdwatching around Burgas lakes, 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.

Tuesday 9 February Drive north along the coast to Kavarna for a three night stay, with birdwatching stops along the way.

Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 February Visits to Durankulak and, weather permitting, Shabla, hoping to see geese including Red-breasted and Lesser Whitefront, Spotted Eagle, Great Black-headed Gull, Calandra Lark, Firecrest, Sombre Tit and Hawfinch. Farewell dinner.

Friday 12 February Time for some local birdwatching around Kavarna before your return flight to Gatwick.

OUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flights on scheduled service from Gatwick to Varna. (Connecting flights from other airports and/or overnight accommodation near airports can also be arranged for you at a supplement).
- Airport Taxes.
- Half Board.
- Accommodation in small family run hotels with en suite facilities on a twin bedded shared occupancy basis.
- Coach for transfers and excursions.
- Guide/Interpreter.
- Donation to Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds or other conservation organisation.
- All reserve entrance fees.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Lunches (about £4 or less).
- Travel Insurance (compulsory). Balkania Travel can advise.
- Drinks and personal expenses such as gratuities.
- Single room supplement (£75).

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