

THE BEST OF CARPATHIANS & DANUBE DELTA

All inclusive 9 day tour

Period: 1st May – 1st September

Group size: 6-12

Cost: from £ 955

This wonderful tour concentrates on two of Romania's finest birding & wildlife exploration places: the outstanding Carpathian Mountains and the magnificent Danube Delta. From Bucharest, the capital city of Romania, we travel north to the village of Bran,



which is in the heart of the Carpathian Mountains, in south-eastern Transylvania. Besides the Bran Castle, a national monument and landmark, commonly known as Dracula's Castle from Bram Stoker's novel, Bran is an excellent base for the spectacular mountain country we'll explore for the next 4 days. We start with a great birding & wildlife exploration in the mountains nearby for the butterfly-winged **Wallcreeper** and the largest carnivore of Europe: **the Brown Bear**. The mature beech canopy and ever green conifer forests are heaven for birds like: **Nutcracker, Black and Three-toed Woodpeckers, Crossbill, Goshawk, and Honey Buzzard**. Next, the high Făgăraș Mountains, well known as the Transylvanian Alps, with their upland meadows and snowy slopes are a veritable mountain paradise for **Alpine Accentor, Water Pipit, Black Redstart, Rock Bunting, Ring Ouzel and Golden Eagle**. In stark contrast, the landscape of meadows and great pastures at the base of the mountains offers breathtaking displays of flowers and plants and colorful butterflies flying around in the sun.

We leave the highlands behind and travel east through ever changing landscapes on our way to the magnificent Danube Delta. Woodlands, meadows, arable fields, bushy hills, river valleys and lakes are home to a rich avifauna and we shall expect to see interesting species as **Levant Sparrowhawk,**



Long-legged Buzzard, Barred Warbler, Sombre Tit, Pied & Isabelline Wheatears, Syrian and Middle Spotted Woodpeckers. Late in the afternoon we start a wonderful journey into the Danube Delta and enjoy the sheer spectacle of the thousands of birds to be around. From the deck of our boat, in a traditional fishing boat or on foot, we'll be admiring the **White & Dalmatian Pelicans** flying overhead or fishing in the lakes, as well as **Pigmy Cormorants**. In the shallow

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Enjoy the best of Romania's birding & wildlife!

waters **Spoonbills, Glossy Ibis, Great Egret, Squacco** and **Black-crowned Night Herons** are feeding, together with various **waders**. **Marsh Terns** hawk over open canals, **Little Bittern** and **Purple Heron** are flying in front of our boat. Raptors will include **Red-footed Falcon, Hobby** and the wonderful to watch in flight or perched **White-tailed Eagle**. The setting in of the nights will find us in the middle of the Delta, enjoying excellent fish dishes while watching the spectacle of birds in the sunset light. An unforgettable birdwatching experience at the end of a memorable tour!

Outline itinerary

Day 1 Arrive Bucharest. Transfer to Bran.

Day 2-3 Piatra Craiului Mountains.

Day 4-5 Făgăraș Mountains (Transylvanian “Alps”) area

Day 6 Transfer to Tulcea.

Day 7-8 Danube Delta exploration.

Day 9 Transfer to Bucharest. Departure.

Highlights

The stunning scenery of the “Transylvanian Alps”.

The fabulous gorges and the specific avifauna in Piatra Craiului Mountains.

The thrilling spectacle of birds & wildlife in the Danube Delta.

Accommodation

Very comfortable 3 and 4 star hotels (or their equivalent). Rooms with private facilities.

Bran (4n), Făgăraș Mountains (1n)

Danube Delta (2n), Tulcea (1n)

Food

All meals included, mostly picnic lunches and 3-course dinner.

Snack on arriving/departing day and between meals.

Ground transportation

Very comfortable air-conditioning minibus/small coach with large windows. Professional driver.

(Driving average: 150 km/day, easy walks, several stops per day)

Water transportation

Catamaran/Medium-sized motor boat & motored/rowing fishing boats for trips onto the channels and canals.

Professional crew.

Focus

Birds (over 175 species expected) & other wildlife.

Guide: professional ornithologist with an exceptional local history background.

Deposit: £200.

Single room supplement: £100.

The cost of the holiday is ground cost only and includes: ground and water transportation, 3 & 4 star accommodation, all meals, boat trip within the delta, entry permit into the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, services of professional English-speaking guides, tour materials (tour route map, Danube Delta map, bird & other wildlife checklist) and taxes.

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