

THE BEST OF DANUBE DELTA & DOBROGEA

All inclusive 9 day tour
Period: 15th April – 15th September
Group size: 6-12

Cost: from £ 975

Spring, summer or autumn, this tour is aimed to see the magic display of the birds in the magnificent Danube Delta and the surprising remote province of Dobrogea. From Bucharest, we travel east to the Black Sea Coast and explore the south side of the Black Sea Lagoons for **waders, Little & Sandwich Terns, Collared**

Pratincoles, and more of the waterbird species. **Red-throated Pipit, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Pallid and Montagu's Harriers, Caspian and Gull-billed Terns** are present in spring and autumn migrations. The finest birding sites in the lagoons area bring **White & Dalmatian Pelicans, Paddyfield Warbler, Marsh Sandpiper**, all **marsh tern** species together with an impressive number and variety of wild fowl all over the season.



The gorges inland Dobrogea reveal **Pied, Isabelline & Black-eared Wheatears, Long-legged Buzzard and Woodchat Shrike**. The elusive **Eagle Owl** and **Eastern Imperial Eagle** are possible. **Rose-coloured Starlings** are present in June & July. Going north, we spend a day in the old massive Babadag Forest, where **Levant Sparrowhawk, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Sombre Tit, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Barred Warbler** and **Middle Spotted Woodpecker** are likely to be encountered. Further north, the wetland sites adjacent to the Danube Delta will feature a wide range

of local specialties, including good numbers of **Mediterranean Gull, Spoonbill, Ferruginous Duck** and various **waders**, while **Pallas's Gull** can be well seen.

For more than a couple of days we have a formidable trip into the magnificent Danube Delta. Extensive marshes, lakes, wild and narrow water channels, gallery willow forests, sand banks and natural grasslands to be explored will reveal **White & Dalmatian Pelicans, Pigmy Cormorant, White-tailed Eagle, Spoonbill, Little Bittern**, all 'marsh tern' and **European Heron species, Glossy Ibis, Ferruginous Duck, Grey-headed & Black Woodpeckers, Penduline Tit and Kingfishers**. At nights we'll enjoy the comfort and pace of a welcoming boarding house placed in the heart of the magnificent Danube Delta. Every evening, excellent fish dishes and enjoyable house

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wine will be asking for commendable day reviews while watching the sun setting down over the waters. In the final part of our tour, we leave this water paradise behind for a full day in the area of Măcin Mountains, in north Dobrogea. Passing through scenery of contrasts, from woods to rocks and rolling steppe, we arrive at the foot of the Măcin Ridge which towers the surroundings, and expect to see: **Saker, Lesser Spotted and Booted Eagles, Short-toed Eagle, Roller, Lesser Grey & Red-backed Shrikes and Rock Thrush.** The whole area around may prove rewarding for **Stone Curlew, Tawny Pipit, Barred Warbler, Ortolan Bunting** and more. **Spur-thighed Tortoise, Green & Balkan Green Lizards, Large Whip Snake and East-Four-lined Ratsnake** might be other delights of the day before we end this tour in the port town of Brăila. A wonderful holiday during which you'll see an enchanting palette of eastern bird specialties & other wildlife!



Outline itinerary

Day1 Arrive Bucharest. Transfer to Constanța.

Day 2-3 Black Sea Lagoon area. Transfer to Tulcea.

Day 4 Babadag Forest.

Day 5 Murighiol saltish lakes.

Day 6-7 Danube Delta.

Day 8 Măcin Mountains. Transfer to Brăila.

Day 9 Transfer to airport & departure.

Highlights

The formidable exploration of the various habitats of Dobrogea province.

The boat excursion into the Danube Delta.

Accommodation

Very comfortable 3, 4 and 5 star hotels (or their equivalent). Rooms with private facilities.

Constanta (2n)

Tulcea (3n)

Danube Delta (2n)

Braila (1n)

Food

All meals included, mostly picnic lunches and 3 course dinners.

Snack on arriving/departing day and between meals.

Ground transportation

Very comfortable air-conditioning small coach/minibus 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.

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Focus

Birds (over 195 species expected) & other wildlife.

Guide: professional ornithologist with an exceptional local history background.

Deposit: £ 100

Single room supplement: £ 150

Tour cost is ground cost only and includes: ground & water transportation, 3, 4 and 5 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, birds & other wildlife checklist) and taxes.

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Enjoy the best of Romania's birding & wildlife!