

Great birds! Beautiful reserves! Warm welcome!





# Map of Serbia



The Republic of Serbia is a landlocked country in Central and Southeastern Europe, covering the southern part of the Pannonian Basin and the central part of the Balkan Peninsula. It has typical continental climate of warm summers and cold winters. Depending on your particular interest Serbia is good for birdwatching any time of the year. March/April - spring migration, May/June - breeding in full swing, August/September - autumn migration and November/February - wintering wildfowl and Long-eared Owl wintering roosts.

So far, 379 bird species have been recorded in Serbia. Of these, 333 occur regularly and 260 breed. Among the breeding species, there are five species of global conservation concern: Ferruginous Duck, Imperial Eagle, Great Bustard and Corncrake. Other Serbian specials include Pygmy Cormorant, Black Stork, Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill, Griffon Vulture, Saker Falcon, Common Crane, Collared and Semi-collared Flycatcher.

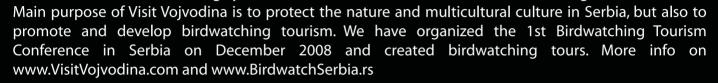
Many key sites in Serbia are recognised as areas of international conservation importance (IBA). An extensive network of nature reserves ensures that most of these areas are easily accessible to the visitor. Come and discover Serbia as another excellent birding destination in the Balkans.



Birdwatching activity in Serbia has the great potential because of preserved nature, large number of bird species and their habitats. During the crisis in the '90s, Serbia wasn't very well visited destination and for a large number of tourists it is still undiscovered. This undiscovered treasure in the heart of Europe has much to offer for true nature admirers.

NGO Visit Vojvodina was created by the leading incoming Birdwatchers on tour operator in Serbia, Magelan Corporation Ltd, also

creator of first on-line booking system for accommodation in Serbia – VisitSerbia.org.



Our company is working side by side with professionals and responsible local partners who are providing quality service and protecting environment. Our motto is to give the true pleasure for all visitors and chance to see, hear, feel and taste all the sites and flavors of Serbia. Tourists can also meet and get more familiar with the local people and their customs. All the tourists who are interested in domestic skills can learn them from the locals and at the same time help them to protect their way of life.

Main reason for increasing number of tourists every year is its location, tourist potentials, exciting tours, friendly people and its customs, preserved nature and low prices. In addition to outstanding birdlife, apart from birding tours in Serbia, the visiting birders can enjoy a host of cultural and historical attractions, from castles, museums and monasteries to rural farm houses and Belgrade's vibrant nightlife. All this is accompanied by a tradition of warmth and hospitality for which Serbia is world famous.

#### Sponsored by:

- Tourist Organisation of Serbia www.serbia.travel
- Provincial Secretariat for Environmental Protection <u>www.ekourb.vojvodina.gov.rs</u>
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- Tourist Organisation of the City of Novi Sad <u>www.turizam.rs</u>
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- Association for Development of Tourism in Vojvodina www.visitvojvodina.com
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# Ludas Lake and sandy environs



Black-necked Grebe



Black-tailed Godwit



Siberian Iris

This rich wetland in northern Serbia is a Ramsar protected site and each year hosts a well-known bird ringing camp. The area encompasses a natural freshwater lake surrounded by extensive wetlands and reedbeds. The sandy ground in Selevenjske pustare and Mali pesak supports a complex of wooded steppe and steppe grassland.

Birds include: Black-necked Grebe, Great Bittern, Little Bittern, Squacco Heron, Garganey, Marsh Harrier, Water Rail, Corn Crake, Little Crake, Black-tailed Godwit, Mediterranean Gull, Whiskered and Black Tern, Barn, Little and Long-eared Owl, Nightjar, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Roller, Black and Syrian Woodpecker, Woodlark, Tawny Pipit, Bluethroat, Moustached, Great Reed, Marsh, River and Savi's Warbler, Penduline and Bearded Tit, Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrike, and Golden Oriole.

# Gornje Podunavlje



Black Stork

wetland wilderness that extends over the borders into neighbouring Croatia and Hungary. The entire area represents one of the finest birding and wildlife areas in Europe. It comprises of oak, willow and poplar forest on alluvial soil with numerous seasonal pools. The forests are famed for their Wild Boar and Red Deer populations and nearby fishponds provide an additional attraction for waterfowl.

Birds include: Black Stork, Little Bittern, Night Heron, Spoonbill, Ferruginous Duck, Red-crested Pochard, White-tailed and Lesser Spotted Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Black Kite, Marsh Harrier, Saker Falcon, Black, Syrian, Middle Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Turtle Dove, Yellow Wagtail, Collared Flycatcher, Red-backed Shrike, Great Reed, Savi's and River Warbler.



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker



Greei



Avocet



Common Crane



This nature reserve is one of the best places in the Pannonian Plain to observe the annual spectacular Common Crane migration. Slano Kopovo consists of a large saltwater lake fringed on one shore by extensive reed beds and surrounded by an arid region of saline steppe. The region is home to a large variety of breeding and visiting waterbirds.

Birds include: Great Bittern, Garganey, Northern Pintail, Ferruginous Duck, Montagu's Harrier, Saker and Red-footed Falcon, Common Crane, Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted and Common Redshank, Greenshank, Green and Wood Sandpiper, Eurasian Curlew, Whimbrel, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Kentish Plover, Barn, Little and Short-eared Owl, Bluethroat, Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrike, and Northern Wheatear.

Roe Deer

# Great Bustard Pastures



Great Bustard

This nature reserve was set up in order to safeguard Serbia's last remaining population of Great Bustards. It is located in Northern Serbia, between the Tisa River and the Romanian border and consists of vast open steppe grassland and extensive farmland. Great Bustard Pastures are also recognized as internationally important area for plant and butterflies conservation.

**Birds include:** Long-legged Buzzard, Marsh and Montague's Harrier, Red-footed and Saker Falcon, Quail, Great Bustard, Little and Short-eared Owl, Hoopoe, Roller, Tawny Pipit, Black-headed Yellow Wagtail, Northern Wheatear, Whinchat, Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrike, and Corn Bunting.



Short-eared Owl



Swallowtail

# 5 Rusanda Lake



Red-footed Falcon



Sauacco Heron



Wolf Spider

Lake Rusanda is a highly saline, shallow wetland in Northern Serbia. Beside well known nature reserve Slano Kopovo, this lake is one of the last remaining natron lakes in Serbia and probably the saltiest one of all in the whole of Pannonian plains. Lake Rusanda is surrounded by pastures, extensive reedbeds, agricultural plough land, orchards and vineyards with cottages.

The lake itself is an outstanding migratory stopover site for dozens of species. Besides that, local park holds large and dense breeding populations of Common Kestrel, Red-footed Falcon and Long-eared Owl.

Birds include: Black-necked Grebe, Night and Squacco Heron, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Redshank, Marsh Harrier, Red-footed Falcon, Long-eared and Little Owls, Common Nightingale, Great Reed, Savi's and Icterine Warbler, Golden Oriole, Penduline Tit and Lesser Grey Shrike.



White-tailed Eagle

This well-known bird sanctuary east of Novi Sad is an important bird conservation area and a Ramsar site. The reserve features a flooded forest with large seasonal pools and extensive reedbeds (the largest in Serbia) fringed with willow and poplar woodland. The surrounding fishponds are amongst largest in Europe and host significant concentrations of waterbirds. The area can be explored on foot or by boat and a number of platforms and hides allow for good views over the pools and reedbeds.

Birds include: Great and Little Bittern, Great White Egret, Squacco Heron, Spoonbill, Shoveler, Ferruginous Duck, Garganey, White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Honey Buzzard, Goshawk, Water Rail, Corn Crake, Whiskered Tern, Lesser Spotted and Syrian Woodpecker, Wryneck, Red-backed Shrike, Penduline and Bearded Tit, Barred, Great Reed, Marsh, River and Savi's Warbler.



© Photo: Katarina Paunović

European Pond Terrapin



Long-eared Owl



Black Redstart



Common Noctu**l**e

Town of Kikinda is well known as the World Owl Capital. This unique site is a town square which hosts the larges Long-eared Owl roost of up to 750 birds! This phenomenon gathers thousands of visitors every winter who come to experience masses of owls, to take photos from a real close, but also to taste some local dishes and wines.

During the winter here you can also look up for some urban dwelling Short-eared Owls, Little Owls and Syrian Woodpeckers, while around the town you can stop for Hen Harriers and Great Grey Shrikes. In spring and summer town parks and gardens are full with singing Black Redstarts, Common Nightingales and Serins.

**Birds include:** Long-eared, Barn and Little Owl, Green and Syrian Woodpecker, Black Redstart, Common Nightingale and Serin.



Whiskered Tern

Tamis River in Serbia is 118 km long, and along this stream there are large areas of wetlands, dynamic water surfaces, along with numerous oxbow lakes, inlets, swamps, depressions, wetland pastures, alluvial forests, as well as fishponds, mosaic-like agricultural land and picturesque rural land. This region holds two internationally important bird areas (IBA).

Birds include: Pygmy Cormorant, Black Stork, Great and Little Bittern, Great White Egret, Squacco Heron, Spoonbill, Ferruginous Duck, Garganey, White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Water Rail, Corn and Little Crake, Whiskered and Black Tern, Lesser Spotted and Syrian Woodpecker, Wryneck, Red-backed Shrike, Penduline and Bearded Tit, Icterine, Great Reed, Marsh, River and Savi's Warbler.



Great Reed Warbler



Scarlet Dragonfly



Black Woodpecker



Black-headed Bunting



Common Blue

Fruska Gora is a National Park with a picturesque ridge of hills that extend 78km west from Novi Sad towards the Croatian border. In prehistoric times, the hills were an island in the Pannonian Sea that covered the whole of northern Serbia. They also have a rich cultural history: no fewer than 16 orthodox monasteries are located here and traditional farmsteads (Salas) provide a hearty and homely welcome to visitors. The hills contain a variety of habitats including mixed forest, grazed steppe, farmland and meadows.

Birds include: Imperial Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Goshawk, Hobby, Saker Falcon, Turtle Dove, Scops and Little Owl, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Wood and Crested Lark, Tawny and Tree Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Black, Grey-headed, Syrian, Middle Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Collared Flycatcher, Marsh Tit, Short-toed Treecreeper, Red-backed Shrike, Golden Oriole, Serin, Hawfinch, Cirl, Ortolan, Black-headed and Corn Bunting.



Spoonbill

The reserve stretches 33.1 km along the Zasavica River and is dominated by a very specific riverine assemblage of plants and animals. A mosaic of aquatic and wetland ecosystems surrounds the site including fragments of flooded forests, remnants of oak, ash, poplar and willow stands, agricultural land and extensive grassland. Zasavica is famous for being the centre for the conservation of several varieties of Serbian domestic animal. Balkan donkeys, Podolian cattle and Mangulitsa pigs are to be found foraging the extensive pastureland.

Birds include: Little Grebe, Pygmy Cormorant, Little Bittern, Night Heron, Ferruginous Duck, White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Goshawk, Hobby, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Barn, Long-eared and Little Owl, Green, Syrian and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Crested Lark, Tawny Pipit, Black-headed Yellow Wagtail, Nightingale, Black Redstart, Whinchat, Whitethroat, Sedge, Great Reed, Savi's and Icterine Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Penduline Tit, Red-backed Shrike, Golden Oriole, Tree Sparrow, Serin, Hawfinch and Corn Bunting.



Ferruginous Duck



Edible Frog



Booted Eagle



Bee-eater



sandy region comprising 33,000 ha of grassland, farmland and mixed forest. It is bordered by the Danube, Tamis and Karas rivers and is home to a rich flora and fauna. It's famed for its high degree of endemism including many unique plants and insects. The Danube sandbanks house the largest Central European Sand Martin breeding colony with up to 18,000 pairs present! It's also home to Susliks, European Molerats, Marbled Polecats and at least three packs of Grey Wolves. Situated about 25km NE from Deliblato Sands, the Vrsac Hills are arch-shaped hills covered by mixed oak, beech, hornbeam and lime woodland, vineyards and extensive farmland.

Deliblato Sands is a unique wilderness: a large

Birds include: White-tailed, Imperial, Lesser Spotted, Short-toed and Booted Eagle, Black Kite, Long-legged Buzzard, Hobby, Red-footed and Saker Falcon, Turtle Dove, Barn, Little, Scops and Ural Owl, Nightjar, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Roller, Black, Syrian and Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Wryneck, Crested Lark, Sand Martin, Tawny Pipit, Black Redstart, Barred Warbler, Collared Flycatcher, Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrike, Golden Oriole, Ortolan and Black-headed Bunting.



The Djerdap Gorge or Iron Gate, stretches for about 100 km along the right bank of Danube. It includes a narrow strip of forested hills that are about 2-8 km wide at an altitude ranging from 50 to 800 meters. The dominant characteristic features include limestone cliffs and mixed deciduous woodland. This National Park is well known for it's exceptional wealth and diversity of flora, fauna, geomorphologic objects and cultural monuments from various historical periods. Mala Vrbica is a mosaic wetland of former fishponds, extensive reedbeds and pastures east of Djerdap National Park.

Birds include: Pygmy Cormorant, Little Bittern, Squacco, Purple and Night Heron, Black Stork, Gadwall, Ferruginous Duck, White-tailed, Golden and Lesser Spotted Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Goshawk, Black Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Hazel Grouse, Corncrake, Black-winged Stilt, Black, Whiskered and Common Tern, Stock and Turtle Dove, Eagle, Scops, Little and Ural Owl, Nightjar, Alpine Swift, Bee-eater, Roller, Hoopoe, Grey-headed, Syrian, Middle Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Woodlark, Crag Martin, Red-rumped Swallow, Tawny Pipit, Dipper, Collared Flycatcher, Sombre Tit, Spanish Sparrow, Rock, Ortolan and Black-headed Bunting.

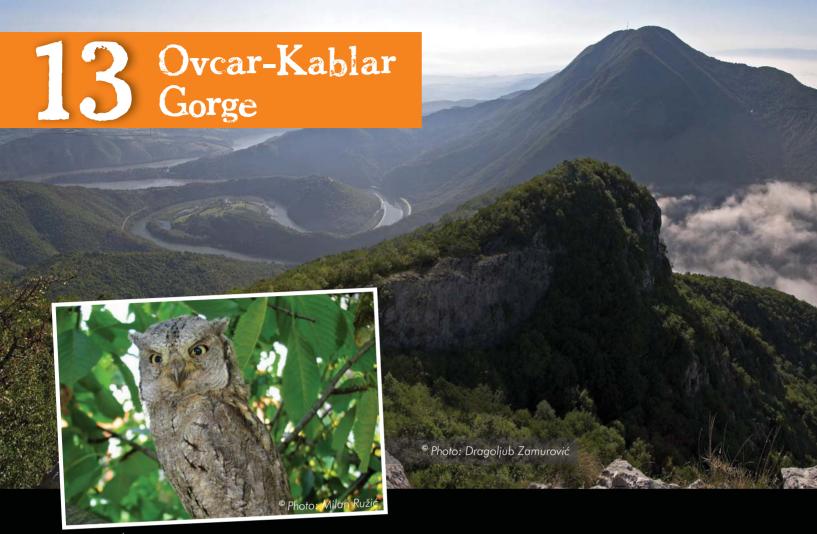


Northern Wheatear

Eagle Owl



Hermann's Tortoise



Scops Owl



Ortolan Bunting



Monkey Orchid

This western Serbian gorge is situated alongside the Zapadna Morava River. Its limestone cliffs and rocky terrain are interspersed with thickets of beach, oak, ash, hornbeam, elm and lime. The forested and extensively farmed mountain slopes that are covered by meadows, pastureland and orchards, provide outstanding diversity of habitats and wildlife. Rich plant, insect, reptile and mammal life can be found here as well. This is an area still inhabited by Grey Wolves and Wild Cats.

Birds include: Short-toed Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Corncrake, Turtle Dove, Scops Owl and Little Owl, Hoopoe, Kingfisher, Black, Green, Grey-headed, Syrian Lesser-spotted Woodpecker, Wryneck, Wood Lark, Tree Pipit, Grey Wagtail, Dipper, Black Redstart, Whinchat, Mistle Thrush, Lesser Whitethroat, Spotted and Collared Flycatcher, Marsh and Sombre Tit, Short-toed Treecreeper, Red-backed Shrike, Golden Oriole, Tree Sparrow, Serin, Hawfinch, Yellowhammer, Cirl, Rock, Ortolan and Corn Bunting.



with Montenegro lies this incredible wilderness of limestone cliffs and mountain gorges with deep forests and extensive alpine pastures. This rugged region can be explored on foot or by boat along the flooded Uvac River. With 19 diurnal and 9 nocturnal birds of prey recorded, the Uvac and Milesevka Gorges are definitively one of the finest raptor-watching areas in the central Balkans. In addition to over 170 bird species, there are also bears, wolves and lynxes.

Birds include: Goosander, Griffon Vulture, Golden, Short-toed and Lesser Spotted Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Corncrake, Rock Partridge, Eagle, Tengmalm's, Ural and Scops Owl, European Nightjar, Hoopoe, Black and Grey-headed Woodpecker, Wryneck, Grey Wagtail, Woodlark, Rock Martin, Red-rumped Swallow, Dipper, Black Redstart, Northern Wheatear, Rock Thrush, Wood Warbler, Goldcrest, Spotted and Collared Flycatcher, Crested, Marsh and Sombre Tit, Short-toed Treecreeper, Wallcreeper, Red-backed Shrike, Nutcracker, Golden Oriole, Serin, Bullfinch, Hawfinch, Common Crossbill, Yellowhammer, Cirl, Rock, Ortolan and Corn Bunting.



Nutcracker



Nose-horned Viper

## Our original birding tours

## **Great Spring Birding**

(8 days - 7 nights)

On this new, exciting and original tour we are based in two great areas: the Fruska Gora National Park and the Maljen Mountains. During the week we will look for many Balkan specialities such as raptors, owls, woodpeckers and passerines.

Day 1. Arrive Belgrade Airport, meet with guides and head northwest by private bus to the Fruska Gora National Park. Night Fruska Gora.

Days 2 & 3. We have two full days in and around Fruska Gora. In particular we will visit areas for raptors, woodpeckers and passerines. We will work the area on short drives and easy walks and take picnics in scenic spots. There will also be the option to visit an old wine-cellar. Nights Fruska Gora.

Day 4. Today we head southwards for our second base in the Maljen Mountains. On the way we will stop at Zasavica Nature Reserve and then continue to our second base for the week in the tranguil Maljen Mountains. Night Divcibare.

Days 5-7. We have three full days to explore the upland meadows, pastures, traditional worked farmland and oak, beech and pine woodlands of these seldom birded mountains. We will almost certainly be the only birdwatchers here. We will certainly visit the scenic limestone cliffs of the Tresnjica Gorge: home to a colony of often photogenic Griffon Vultures. Other birds hereabouts include Golden and Short-toed Eagles, Peregrine, Rock Partridge, Eagle and Scops Owls, Nightjar, Woodlark, Red-rumped Swallow, Grey Wagtail and Rock Thrush. Other birds are Hazel Grouse, Grey-headed, Middle Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Sombre, Crested and Willow Tits, Nutcracker and Common Crossbill amongst others. There are also genuine Rock Doves and a chance of Wallcreeper in the limestone gorges we visit. Nights Divcibare.

Day 8. This morning we return to Belgrade and the airport (which is around 130 km and 2 hours way) to take our flights home.

### Price includes:

- Transfer with mini van during the program
- Accommodation (6 HB, 1 bed and breakfast)
- 1 dinner in local restaurant
- Local guide during the tour

## Price does not include:

- Flight to/from Belgrade
- Beverage at meals
- Other costs not included in the program



## Mad about Owls

(4 days - 3 nights)

Northern Serbia is world famous for its enormous Long-eared Owl winter roosts which can host up to 750 birds at once. Majority of these are situated in peaceful, culturally and historically rich villages and towns where you can also find Barn, Little and Short-eared Owls.

Day 1. Arrive Belgrade Airport. Meet local guide at the airport and depart for hotel. We stay in close to Carska Bara Nature Reserve for all 3 nights. Night Carska Bara.

Day 2. After breakfast we set off to explore the Banat region stopping in Kikinda and numerous villages to check out the various Long-eared Owl roosts. It will be a fairly easy day of short drives and short walks. Other habitats include deciduous woods, parks, farmland and the saline Lake Rusanda where we will also look for waterfowl, birds of prey, woodpeckers and passerines. Night Carska Bara.

Day 3. We will spend day in and around the Carska Bara Nature Reserve. Weather permitting we may even take a boat trip into the reserve. Night Carska Bara.

Day 4. After breakfast we head back to Belgrade (up to 2 hours drive). If time allows we might see something of the capital before heading for the airport where the tour ends.

### Price includes:

- Transfer with mini van during the program
- Accommodation in Kastel Ečka (1 HB, 2 bed and breakfast)
- 2 dinners in local restaurant
- Local guide during the tour

## Price does not include:

- Flight to/from Belgrade
- Beverage at meals
- Other costs not included in the program

We promise you at least 1.000 Long-eared Owls on this trip! If you don't see that many owls, money back guarantee.



# Impressions from Serbia

"If you want to see plenty of owls, masses of birds of prey and an astounding variety in a short space of time, then Serbia is well worth a

visit.
It's a beautiful country and our guides and lit's a beautiful country and our guides and driver for the trip couldn't be faulted. They were driver for the trip couldn't be faulted. They were full of local knowledge and enthusiasm and full of local knowledge and enthusiasm and took us to some great out of the way spots for took us to some great out of the way spots for took us to some more bird and wildlife watching as well as some more bird and wildlife watching.

surprising locations.

David organised a wonderful trip that is to be highly recommended for both keen birders and enthusiastic amateurs alike."

Clare Evans, April 2012

"I thoroughly enjoyed my birding tour in Serbia as I saw so many different species of birds in a number of different habitats. As a novice birder, I was so inspiration as he wildlife. The all Serbian wildlife. As a hospitality were excellent and as a hospitality were excellent and as a hospitality were excellent and as a with the diversity of vegetarian with the diversity of vegetarian options offered at each meal."

Helena Daly, April 2012

"My trip to Serbia was a revelation: spectacular birding in stunning locations, with a warm welcome and expert guiding from start to finish. I'll be back!"

Mike Unwin, 2004 Birdwatch Magazine, UK "Paul and I would like to thank you for the wonderful week we spent with you in Serbia in April. We were amazed at the variety and numbers of raptors and other species. Hugely impressed with the knowledge patience and humour of our guides thank you all once again."

Paul and Caroline Boak, April 2012

"Pallid Harrier, wine, Goshawk, song, Long-legged Buzzard, great restaurants, Caspian Tern, what a laugh, Ural Owl, dinner and local hooch with the rangers, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Long-eared Owls etc, etc, etc. Absolutely brilliant guides ... top Serbian guide Milan and of course the totally knowledgeable and constantly entertaining Urban birder ...... David Lindo, what more could you want ... a truly fantastic Serbian birding experience ... See you in December 2012."

Alan McMahon, April 2012

"This was an excellent trip, thanks mainly to the combination of tour leader David Lindo and local guide Milan Ruzic which allowed us to see different kinds of locations, whilst still being well looked-after in a relaxed manner. It was traditional Serbian villages and to interact with enjoyment and the incredible value for money future."

Phil Aylen, April 2012

