



Birdwatch Serbia

Great birds! Beautiful reserves! Warm welcome!

"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 driver for the trip couldn't be faulted. They were full of local knowledge and enthusiasm and took us to some great out of the way spots for bird and wildlife watching as well as some more 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

"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

"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 found our guide Milan a great inspiration as he was so knowledgeable and passionate about all Serbian wildlife. The accommodation, food and Serbian hospitality were excellent and as a vegetarian, I was more than happy with the diversity of vegetarian options offered at each meal."

Helena Daly, 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 an incredible number of species in many different kinds of locations, whilst still being well looked-after in a relaxed manner. It was also nice to be able to spend significant time in traditional Serbian villages and to interact with the hospitable Serbian people. Overall enjoyment and the incredible value for money means I will definitely consider returning in the future."

Phil Aylen, April 2012

DISCOVER SERBIAN BIRDS WITH DAVID LINDO



01 December - 05 December 2013
Owls, geese and cranes With David Lindo & Milan Ružić



Program itinerary:

Day 1 - 01 December 2013 Belgrade-Ečka (D)
After your arrival in Belgrade we will transfer to Ečka c66km to the north. We will be based in Hotel Kaštel in Ečka. After enjoying dinner served in the hotel restaurant we will retire for a well deserved sleep!

Day 2 - 02 December 2013 Kikinda and environs (BD)
After breakfast, we will depart to our first birding venue: a small town called Kikinda known as the Long-eared Owl Capital of the World. This unique town has a square which hosts the largest Long-eared Owl daytime roosting site you will ever see with up to 750 birds! We will also visit some additional Long-eared Owl roosts in the surrounding area where you will be able to take amazing close range photos. Additionally, we will look for urban dwelling Short-eared Owls, Little Owls and Syrian Woodpeckers plus stop along the way for some Hen Harriers and Great Grey Shrikes.

Then, we will journey to Zrenjanin in the evening where we will have dinner in a local restaurant. Thereafter, we will return to Ečka to overnight at the hotel.

Day 3 - 03 December 2013 Bečej and environs (BD)
After breakfast, we will make our way to the second birding area and firstly visit Bačko Gradište village. There is a medium-sized Long-eared Owl roost here of up to 150 birds as well as Night Herons that have overwintered here since 2006. After seeing this village we will then go to Fantast Castle. Here we will be looking for more wintering Long-eared and Short-eared Owl as well as signs of Little and Barn Owls in the stables of a local farm. On the way from Bačko Gradište to Fantast Castle we will pass one of the largest carp fishponds in Serbia where we will look for flocks of the globally threatened Pygmy Cormorant and other wildfowl.

In the evening we will arrival in Bečej and have dinner in a local restaurant. Afterwards we will head back to the hotel in Ečka.

Day 4 - 04 December 2013 Slano Kopovo (BD)
After breakfast, we will go to Slano Kopovo nature reserve, an area of vast alkaline grasslands, shallow salty lakes and reedbeds. This is the most famous site for Common Crane migration in Serbia as it attracts up to 20,000 birds a day. Several thousand White-fronted Geese and various ducks should also be present too. Every winter several Red-breasted Geese also stop here on the way to Black Sea coast whilst there is always the possibility seeing rare Saker Falcons hunting.

We will have dinner in Novi Bečej in the evening in a local restaurant. Thereafter, it's back to Ečka for our last overnight stay.



Day 5 - 05 December 2013 Ečka - Belgrade (B)
After breakfast we will depart to Belgrade for your flight back home.



Price per person in EUR:
Price per person - EUR 525 (approx £ 425) - minimum 15 persons
Supplement for single room: EUR 50 per person
EUR 100 (approx £ 80) deposit required on booking

Price includes:
- Transfer according to the program
- Accommodation in Kaštel Ečka for 3 nights (1 night DB&B, 2 nights B&B - but meals in local restaurant on these nights are included)
- The services of two guides during the tour

Price does not include:
- Return flight to Belgrade
- Drinks during the meals
- Lunches

17 May - 24 May 2014

Program itinerary:

Day 1 - 17 May 2014 Belgrade - Zrenjanin
After arriving in Belgrade we will head to Zrenjanin. Later we will enjoy dinner and stay overnight at a hotel in Ečka.

Day 2 - 18 May 2014 Kikinda, Rusanda and environs
We will be watching some great birds including Red-footed Falcon, Common Kestrel, Barn, Long-eared and Little Owls. Overnight stay in Ečka.

Day 3 - 19 May 2014 Rusanda and environs
We will be watching more Red-footed Falcons, Common Kestrels, Barn, Long-eared and Little Owls plus migrant Wood Warblers. Overnight stay in Ečka.

Day 4 - 20 May 2014 Zrenjanin - Vrsac, Tamis
We will take a look at Vrsac and visit the Tamis Wetlands and Fishponds. There after, dinner and overnight stay in Vrsac.

Day 5 - 21 May 2014 Vrsac
We spend the whole day exploring Vrsac Hills plus get involved in ringing owls and raptors. Overnight stay in Vrsac.

Day 6 - 22 May 2014 Vrsac
The whole day will be spent on the Deliblato Sands looking for raptors. Overnight stay in Vrsac.

Day 7 - 23 May 2014 Deliblato Sands
Another day spent on the Deliblato Sands looking for migrants and raptors. Overnight stay in Vrsac.

Day 8 - 24 May 2014 Vrsac - Belgrade
After breakfast we will depart to Belgrade.

Site 1 (Important Bird Area)
Lake Rusanda is a highly saline, shallow wetland in the Vojvodina region of Northern Serbia. Beside the well know nature reserve Slano Kopovo, this lake is one of the last remaining natron lakes in Serbia and is probably the saltiest in the whole of Pannonian plains. Lake Rusanda is C-shaped and is surrounded by pasture and agricultural land while in the centre of the ellipse are orchards and vineyards with cottages. The lake itself is alkaline nearly 4.5 km long by 300-400 m wide and quite shallow being a maximum of 60 cm at its deepest points. On the northeastern bank there is a large reed-bed up to 100 m wide whilst the rest of the lake, especially southern and western shores, have muddy shallow banks.

A total of 210 bird species have been found in and around the site. The lake itself is an outstanding migratory stopover site for dozens of species including grebes, ducks, geese, cranes, waders and gulls.

Nearby, the adjoining local park holds one of the largest and densest breeding populations of Common Kestrel, Red-footed Falcon and Long-eared Owl in Serbia. Important breeding bird species include Black-necked Grebe, Night and Squacco Herons, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt and Redshank. Around Rusanda there are several good localities with Red-footed Falcon colonies, clutches of Common Kestrel and Long-eared Owl breeding pairs, plus Barn and Little Owl breeding sites.

As well as Rusanda, we will also visit Kikinda, a town better known as The World Owl Capital. Its urban townsquare holds up to 750 Long-eared Owls in winter roosts.

Site 2 (Important Bird Area)
The wetlands and carp fishponds around Tamis River are one of the finest birding spots in a whole of Serbia. They consist of vast areas of natural and artificial ponds, marshes, wet meadows and riverine forests scattered around a slow flowing Tamis River.

Birds include: Cetti's Warbler, White-tailed Eagle, Ferruginous Duck, Night Heron, Squacco Heron, White-tailed Eagle, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Black and Whiskered Tern.

Site 3 (Important Bird Area, Nature Reserve)
The Vrsac Hills are situated about 25km northeast from the Deliblato Sands. They are arch-shaped hills covered by the mixed oak, beech, hornbeam and lime woodlands, vineyards and extensive farmland.

Birds include: Goshawk, Sparrowhawk, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Ural, Tawny, Little, Scops and Long-eared Owl, Syrian Woodpecker and Black Redstart.

Site 4 (Important Bird Area, Nature Reserve)
The Deliblato Sands is a unique wilderness comprising 33,000 hectares of grassland, farmland and mixed forest. It is large sandy region bordered by the Danube, Tamis and Karas rivers and is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna. It's famed for its high degree of endemism including many unique plants and insects. The Danube sandbanks host the largest Central European Sand Martin breeding colony with up to 18,000 pairs!

It is also possible to find Susliks, European Polecats, Marbled Polecats and at least three packs of Grey Wolves.

Birds include: White-tailed, Imperial, Short-toed and Booted Eagle, Black Kite, Goshawk, Long-legged Buzzard, Hobby, Saker Falcon, Little and Scops Owl, Nightjar, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Roller, Wryneck, Crested Lark, Sand Martin, Tawny Pipit, Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Lesser Grey Shrike, Golden Oriole and Ortolan Bunting.

Price per person in EUR:
Price per person - EUR 625 (approx £ 493) - minimum 15 persons
Supplement for single room: EUR 50 per person
EUR 100 (approx £ 80) deposit required on booking

Price include:
- Transfer according the program
- Accommodation in Kaštel Ečka for 3 nights (1 half board and 2 bed and breakfast) and in 3* hotel in Vršac (1 half board and 3 bed and breakfast)
- 5 x dinners in local restaurant
- Guide during the tour

Price doesn't include:
- Flight to/from Belgrade
- Drinks during the meals
- Other meals not mentioned in the program