

WINTER WILDFOWL TOUR

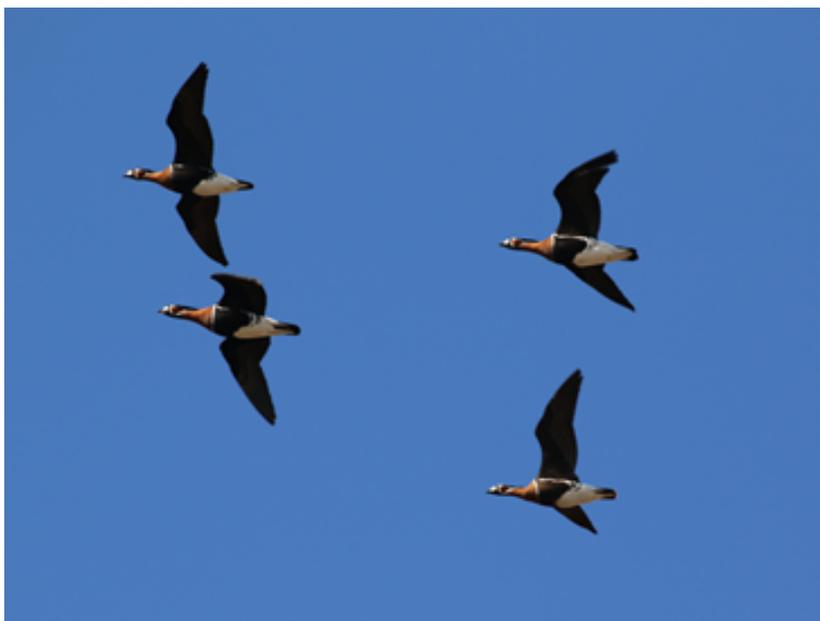
Not a wild goose chase, plus a winter warmer!

1 – 8 February 2023 (Tour code: WW)

Leader: Tihomir (Tisho) Stefanov

Price: £1,375

(Based on a group of 8, a smaller group may incur a supplement).



This 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 one-week tour will have two centres, the first on the northern part of the Black Sea coast, and then in the south near Burgas 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 as an ichthyologist at the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia (www.nmnh.com). His main research topic is taxonomy and phylogeny of the freshwater fish, and he has recently been promoted as an Associate Professor in Zoology. He is an enthusiastic naturalist and a very keen birdwatcher.

Bulgaria's beautiful scenery, friendly people and excellent wine and food are additional highlights. The B-BS offers you the benefits of over forty years' experience of organizing tours to Bulgaria and excellent value. The accommodation is comfortable (and well situated for birdwatching!) but not luxurious.

For your financial protection our tour operators for over twenty five years, Balkania Travel Ltd. are licensed by the UK Civil Aviation Authority, ATOL 4465 and bonded by the International Air Transport Association, IATA number 91-2 7839. Our tour price includes a donation to the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds or other conservation organization in Bulgaria.

Final details and bird lists will be sent to participants approximately two weeks before departure.

Projected Itinerary (which may be subject to adjustment)

Wednesday 1 February Flight from Luton to Varna.

Check-in for three nights in Kavarna.

Thursday 2 and Friday 3 February Visit to Durankulak, and, weather permitting, Shabla, hoping to see geese including Red-breasted and Lesser White-fronted, Spotted Eagle, Great Black-headed Gull, Calandra Lark, Firecrest, Sombre Tit and Hawfinch.

Saturday 4 February Drive south along the coast for a four night stay at Sarafovo. Birdwatching stops on the way.

Sunday 5 to Tuesday 7 February Birdwatching around Burgas lakes, Primorsko, Perla Residence, Ropotamo and Alepu marsh 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, Green, Great Spotted, Middle Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. A Winter Warmer visit will be arranged at Pomorie Winery during your stay in the south.

Wednesday 8 February Morning visit to Pomorie Lagoon.

Transfer to Burgas airport for your afternoon return flight to the UK.

BULGARIA 2023

OUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flights from Luton to Varna and back from Burgas and all taxes and charges.
- Our Flights Premier Service includes 20kg hold checked baggage, a large cabin bag, seat selection and priority boarding. And if you wish, we'll check you in online and send you your boarding passes in advance.
- Half Board.
- Accommodation in small, friendly (often family-run) hotels with en suite facilities on a twin bedded shared occupancy basis.
- One winery visit with wine-tastings.
- Coach for transfers and excursions.
- Leader/Interpreter.
- Donation to Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds or other conservation organization.
- All reserve entrance fees.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Lunches (about £4 - £5)
- Travel Insurance (compulsory). Balkania Travel can advise.
- Drinks and personal expenses such as gratuities.
- Single room supplement £120.

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Further information from Dr Annie Kay, B-BS Tours Organiser.

Email: annie.kaym1@gmail.com. www.b-bs.org.uk

Bookings forms and deposits by bank transfer or cards over the phone to Balkania Travel Ltd.,

c/o Ognian Avgarski, 63 Alphabet Square, London E3 3RT. Phone: 0207 536 9400,

Email: ognian@balkaniatravel.com, visit our website www.balkaniatravel.com

(Registered office Conex House, 148 Field End Road, Eastcote, HA5 1RJ)

