

**AUTUMN MIGRATION along the VIA PONTICA (Tour Code: AM)**

**3 - 10 September 2023**

**Leader: Assen Ignatov**

**PRICE: £1,340**

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



This one-week tour visits the migration hotspots on the northern and southern Black Sea coast, where the migration is a truly remarkable spectacle. The southern section in particular is a bottleneck for birds from all of eastern Europe. Flocks of tens of thousands of White Stork, birds of prey and pelicans heading south fill the skies, as well as passerines such as Red-breasted Flycatcher and Pied Wheatear, and a good selection of waders.

In the north there will be visits to important hotspots like Kaliakra and Kamen Bryag, Varna lake, Durankulak and Shabla lakes. At these northern sites we are hoping for a wide range of smaller birds including numbers of Red-breasted Flycatchers, warblers, wheatears and wagtails.

In the south there will be excursions to the Burgas lakes, especially Atanassovsko and the Migration Watch Point, BSPB Poda reserve, the Ropotamo reserve and the hills behind Sunny Beach. This is the area that should produce the most visible migration with passage of storks, pelicans, buzzards and eagles, together with a good selection of waders.

Our tour leader, Assen Ignatov, works for the National Museum of Natural History. He is a very experienced and knowledgeable guide, as well as being a gifted artist and photographer.

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. 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.

The hotels are family run, well situated and convenient for early morning walks, both serve good traditional food. The holiday is on a Half-Board basis. Final details and bird lists will be sent to participants approximately two weeks before departure.

## **Projected Itinerary**

(Please note that this programme may be changed at the leader's discretion according to local information about bird migration).

**Sunday 4 September** Flights from a London area airport to Varna. Drive North and check-in for three night stay in Kavarna.

### **Monday 4, Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 September**

Visits to Kaliakra, Bolata, Durankulak, Shabla and Kamen Briag, looking for Stone Curlew, Calandra Lark, Sandwich Tern, Shag, migrating falcons, other birds of prey and passerines.

**Thursday 7 September** Drive south to Pomorie for a four night stay, calling at Kamchia and Goritsa.

**Friday 8 and Saturday 9 September** Visits to Atanassovsko, Mandra and Vaya lakes and Poda reserve looking out for waders, possible Red-necked Phalarope, Collared Pratincole, migrating pelicans and birds of prey including Montagu's Harrier, White-tailed Sea Eagle, Gull-billed and other species of terns, Ferruginous Duck, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, herons and egrets.

**Sunday 10 September** Morning another visit to one of the nearby bird hotspots. A lunchtime visit will be organised to a local winery with tasting, before afternoon return flight to UK.

# BULGARIA 2023

## OUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flight from London area airport to Burgas, including airport, government and baggage taxes and charges. Other regional departures may be possible, flight supplements may apply. Do enquire.
- Accommodation in small, friendly (often family-run) hotels with en suite facilities on a twin-bedded shared occupancy basis.
- Half board (breakfast and dinner).
- A winery visit and tasting.
- Coach for transfers and excursions.
- Specialist Bulgarian leader.
- Donation to the 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 other personal expenses such as gratuities.
- Single room supplement (£120).

Published June 2022



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

Email: [annie.kaym1@gmail.com](mailto:annie.kaym1@gmail.com). [www.b-bs.org.uk](http://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](mailto:ognian@balkaniatravel.com), visit our website [www.balkaniatravel.com](http://www.balkaniatravel.com)

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

