

NOVEMBER IS WALLCREEPER MONTH - TOUR INFORMATION

Price – 1,145 euros per person

November 2023 – Two separate but identical tours, each one from [Sunday to Thursday](#)

Dates

5th to 9th November

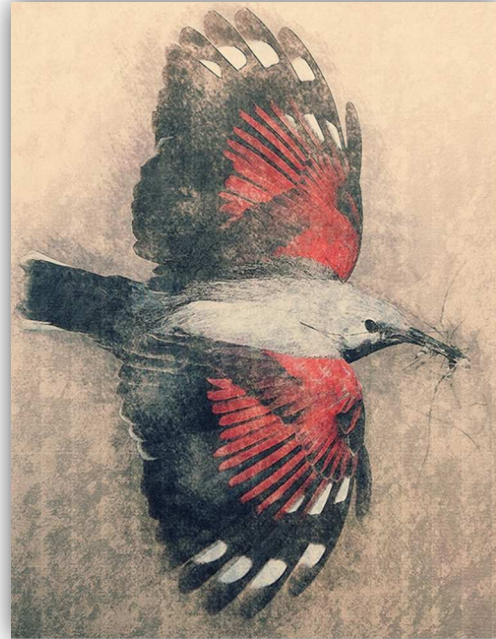
12th to 16th November

Pick-up and drop-off points*

Barcelona airport

* It may be possible to make special specific arrangements other than these if necessary. Please consult beforehand.

Hotel



Our hotel for the first 3 nights is the [Hosteria de Guara](#), in Bierge. An indication of the excellence of this hotel is that we have been staying there regularly with groups and private tours since 2010. Excellent wine, food, ambience, location, rooms, décor, friendliness and comfort. We really can't think of a better place to stay when on a birding tour such as this one.

We will be spending one night in the Ebro Delta, at either the Delta Hotel or the Hotel Flamingo, pending availability.

Flights and other travel arrangements

Please note that flights or other forms of transport to and from Barcelona airport are not included in the tour price, and that we expect you to make your own arrangements in this respect, ensuring that you reach the airport by the time which we will convey at a later date. If you are staying in Barcelona before or after the tour please note that there are many very good public transport options between the airport and the city.

Itinerary

Day 1: Sunday

We meet in the morning at the pre-arranged time at Barcelona airport and then we drive westwards towards Lleida (1hr 30m). We spend some time birding around Lleida looking for an assortment of birds which may include Little Bustard, Stone Curlew, Iberian Green Woodpecker, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Calandra Lark, and more, before ending the day at our welcoming hotel in the Sierra de Guara Natural Park (1h 15m).



Day 2: Monday

We'll be impatient to set eyes on a **Wallcreeper** or two, so off we go! After breakfast we drive to a site (1h) where we have had a very high success rate with this species in the past, and we'll take a short walk and learn all about Wallcreepers and Wallcreeper neck! **Alpine Accentors**, Griffon Vultures, Blue Rock Thrush, Sardinian Warbler and Crag Martin are usually in the vicinity too.

From here we will check other sites on the return route to our hotel. The ruins of a castle usually hold **Black Wheatear**, Thekla Lark, Rock Sparrow, Dartford Warbler, Red Kite and Red-billed Chough. Then we spend some time at a good location for **Lammergeiers** – at one of the few sites where we have seen this magnificent bird actually breaking bones! Here there may also be Golden Eagle, Woodlark and Rock Bunting. Closer to the hotel we often see small groups of Hawfinch, Crested Tit, Firecrest, Iberian Grey Shrike, and Cirl Bunting, among others.

Day 3: Tuesday

We head to the plains to the south today, stopping first at some impressive sandstone cliffs where we have encountered Wallcreepers in the past. Then we drive along dusty tracks with Mediterranean Short-toed Larks to look in particular for both species of sandgrouse - **Pin-tailed and Black-bellied** – before



making an effort to locate some of the small number of shy and retiring **Great Bustards** that still inhabit this region.

Day 4: Wednesday

Today we head for the Ebro Delta, passing by Lleida once again. This allows us a bit of extra time in this bird-rich area, perhaps to seek out species such as Ferruginous Duck, **Eagle Owl**, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Bearded Tit and Moustached Warbler, before arriving in the Ebro Delta in the afternoon.

Day 5: Thursday

We have most of the day to explore the surprising Ebro Delta: a complex of lagoons, bays, spits, reedbeds, ricefields and canals that is home to a great variety and abundance of birds. Species we hope to encounter include Audouin's Gull, Slender-billed Gull, Whiskered Tern, Caspian Tern, Purple Swamphen, Glossy Ibis, Greater Flamingo, Kentish Plover, Bluethroat, Penduline Tit, and a large number of waders, gulls, terns, herons and seabirds.

Adjusting our departure from the Ebro Delta to best fit our travellers' plans we have less than a 2-hour drive from here to Barcelona airport, where the tour ends.



Pace and walking

We do not plan to do anything that could be called a taxing walk. Most of our birding is done from near the vehicle, with some short walks of less than a kilometre (usually less) on level or slightly sloping terrain. "Extra" walks to get better views of the Wallcreeper if these have not been satisfactory are possible but not obligatory.

Meals

All meals are included from a picnic lunch on day 1 to picnic lunch on day 5. Evening meals are 3-course with a selection of dishes, mostly based on local produce, in the hotel restaurant. Breakfasts are simple buffet-style also taken in the hotel restaurant. Lunches are usually light, sometimes taken "on the go" ie at a location in the field, or sometimes a sandwich and a drink in a bar/café.

Drinks

Only drinks included with the meals are included in the price.

Tips

Tipping hotel, restaurant or bar staff is not obligatory but is usually appreciated by the recipients! We do not include tips in the tour price, as we leave that option up to the guests who may or may not want to express their satisfaction with the service in that way.

Payment and booking

1. Confirm to us by email that you wish to participate in this tour, telling us your preferred dates if you have them.
2. We return confirmation that you have a place on the tour, provided that it goes ahead.
3. At a later date, designated by us, we will request payment of 25% of the tour price
4. At a later date we will expect full payment of the tour, to be received no later than onemonth before the beginning of the tour.
5. Bank charges for international money transfers are not included in the tour price and must be paid by the tour participant.
6. You may wish to pay the full tour amount at the time of paying the deposit – that's nota problem for us!

We recommend payment by bank transfer. If it is more convenient for you to pay by credit card, then please inform us and we'll send you an e-mail with a link (On-line Virtual PayGold system) for a safe and quick payment with your credit card.

Receipt/Proforma Invoice will be issued for payments before the trip (we'll need your data: full name of person/entity, full address, VAT or TAX number (company)).

The remainder must be received no later than 30 days before the trip starts.

Our cancellations and returns policy

The cancellation of the booking will result in our retaining the following amounts:

- More than 60 days before the start of the tour -> 50% deposit
- Between 10-60 days ->100% deposit

If the tour is cancelled within 10 days of the starting date we will retain 50% of the tour price paid plus any money transfer fees entailed in the process.

