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# NATURALIST

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SCIENCE & TOURISM



## NATURALIST BIRDWATCHING

### Portugal 5 Days – Lisbon, Alentejo and Algarve Western Palearctic & Migratory birds

#### Next Dates

27-1 October 2017

2-6 May 2018

9-13 May 2018

26-30 September 2018

3-7 October 2018

#### Program Resume

Join our ornithologist on a 5 days tour “all included” through the best birding sites of the south-western Europe. Delight yourself with the unique light and photogeny of inland and coastal landscapes of the Natural Reserves/Parks of Lisbon, Alentejo and Algarve. Explore a diversity of habitats at short distances with extended species lists, and a well known migratory route to Northern Africa. Enjoy the sun and regional delicacies at the end of our birding sessions. Contribute with data collection for ongoing conservation programs. Weekly tours with a maximum of 8 participants.

#### Detailed Program

##### Day 1&2

Pick-up in the morning at Lisbon Airport (arrivals) or Hotel.

Our tour starts in the Tagus Estuary in the south margin, for a morning and after lunch birdwalk, before heading to Sado Estuary for overnight. The Tagus and Sado Estuaries are important wetland areas for migrant birds and they are also a nesting sites for several species. Here we can observe the Greater Flamingo, Pied Avocet, Glossy Ibis, Purple Heron, Black-winged Kite, Collared Pratincole, Common Hoopoe, Iberian Grey Shrike, Iberian Magpie, Iberian Chiffchaff, Eurasian Oystercatcher and a great diversity of gulls and terns.

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In the Sado Estuary Natural Reserve we will visit Herdade da Mourisca, one of the reserve hotspots for birdwatching. Sunset wine tasting session and overnight near the Sado Estuary. The group expedition will head to Santo André beach in the Alentejo coast in the afternoon to observe Little Terns, Gannets, Ringed Plover, Little Stint, Common Scoter, Turnstone, Common Greenshank, Sandeling and Black-headed Gull.

### **Day 3**

Morning to explore the Natural Reserve of Santo André and Sancha lagoons. Species such as Coot, Little Grebe, Cormorant, Black-winged Stilt, Red-crested Pochard, Ruddy Shelduck, Gray Heron, Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Curlew, Common Snipe, Bluethroat, Reed Warbler, Eurasian Marsh Harrier and Osprey. Lunch in Sines/ Santiago do Cacém and transfer to south of Portugal to overnight.



### **Day 4**

Morning for birdwatching in the most interesting sites of the Natural Park of Ria Formosa – Salt Farms and Quinta do Lago, near to Almancil. Here, we can find Purple Gallinule, Red Knot, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Black-necked Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Common Kingfisher, Common Moorhen, Sardinian Warbler, Short-toed Treecreeper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank, Eurasian Wryneck and Eurasian Teal. Lunch in a Portuguese typical restaurant. In the afternoon, discover Ria Formosa through a boat tour and observe some coastal and marine species such as Audouin's Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Sandwich Tern, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Sandpiper and other waders.

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## Day 5

Transfer to Alentejo in the morning. Photograph the jewel of Alentejo – Great Bustard: the heaviest flying bird in Europe. Visit the habitat of Great Bustard near Castro Verde and observe other species such as White Stork, Montagu's Harrier, Lesser Kestrel, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, European Roller, Calandra Lark, European Bee-eater, Rufous Bush Robin and Black-eared Wheatear. Lunch in a Portuguese typical restaurant. Transfer to Lisbon.



## Rates

The 5 days tour rate is 1380€ per person in double room (twin adds 140€; VAT included). Accommodation at selected sites, with breakfast, dinner at restaurants and lunch at local cafés and restaurants. Transfer in van with air-conditioning, insurances, park fees. Included: English, Spanish and Portuguese speaking ornithologist with high knowledge on local and migratory species and habitats and a degree on Biology and conservation. Data collection for ongoing research and conservation projects. Telescope and binoculars are can be provided. Not included: Flights and accommodation prior or after the tour.

## How to get there - **Fly Lisbon**

Daily direct flights of normal or low cost airlines from several European capitals. An option is to relax in Lisbon in the days prior or after the tour. In case needed we can provide some help.

## Contact us:

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