

**Serbian Bird Photography Tour: 25<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019**

**Cost: £1500 per person. Deposit: £200**

**Maximum Number: 4**



**Itinerary**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May– First Day**

Meet at Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport at midnight (Flight leave Luton approx. 20:15). Transfer to hotel in Belgrade for first night.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Journey to Subotica in the north. Along the way we visit a wetland nature reserve and take a boat ride through reed beds. We also visit a village famous for its abundance of White Stork nests. Arrive in Subotica in the evening.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

The full plan will be agreed at the start of the tour with some flexibility. **The middle of the day is kept free to rest.** We have morning and late afternoon/evening photography sessions.

**Photography Hides**

- **Tower hide:** Red Footed Falcon, European Roller, Common Kestrel
- **Low level water hide:** Grey Heron, Little/Great Egret, Night Heron
- **Drinking/reflection Pools:** woodland birds at water level with reflections
- **Bee-eaters:** pop-up hide are used at a breeding colony
- **Hoopoe:** pop-up hide at nest site

(There will be a minimum of eight hide sessions.)

### **In the field Photography**

We visit two **protected nature reserves**. Birds here include Pygmy Cormorant, Night Heron, Squacco Heron, Great Egret, Marsh Harrier, Great Reed Warbler, Bearded Tit, Penduline Tit, Whiskered Tern. Other possibilities: Black Woodpecker, Golden Oriole, Nightingale, Red backed Shrike. Pop-up hides can also be employed here.

Towards the end of the tour it will be possible to repeat certain photography hides. This will be agreed as a group.

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Last Day**

We have the last morning free to explore the capital Belgrade. An optional bus or boat tour is included as part of the tour. In the afternoon we are driven to the airport to catch our flight.

### **Equipment Required**

Lenses from 400mm – 600mm. Extenders may be of use, particularly with smaller lenses, e.g. 300mm. A tripod is required. Beanbags are not essential but can be packed empty then filled up in Serbia. Smaller lenses are useful for wider shots and landscapes. Bag hides should not be necessary, however it is worth bringing a camouflage hood and light gloves.

### **Climate**

In mid-May the temperatures are likely to be in the high twenties; it can sometimes be hotter. The tower hide in particular can get very hot at above 30 degrees. We work mostly in the early morning and late afternoon/evening to avoid the heat - this of course coincides with the best light.

### **Intensity**

There is very little walking involved. We will be up early in the mornings (around 5.00am) and finish our days around 9.00pm. There will be time to rest in the middle of the day.

### **Potential Hazards**

Potential heat requires a reasonable level of fitness and endurance. Some hides can be over 30 degrees with high humidity - you will also need to climb a ladder to enter the tower hide. Transport to some hides can be on bumpy roads in a 4x4 vehicle.

### **Accommodation**

We stay at **Hotel Galleria**. Rooms are luxuriously equipped and feature air-conditioning, a minibar, cable TV and a private bathroom with shower and hairdryer. The hotel comprises a business centre, conference facilities and a wellness area, as well as several luxury restaurants. Free WiFi is provided in all rooms. All rooms are on a single basis unless couples choose to share.

## Food

You will be provided with a packed breakfast for use in the hides. Lunch will be in a restaurant/café. Evening meals will be at a local restaurant and are at extra cost. Serbian food is some of the best food in Europe.!

## What's Included in the Cost

All accommodation; all transport in Serbia; breakfast and lunch, use of photo hides, driver, guides around protected sites; photography boat trip; bus/boat tour of Belgrade; airport transfers.

**Additional costs:** external flight; evening meals; food on the last day (breakfast is included) and alcoholic drinks. Plus any personal extras.

## Payment

A deposit can be paid via Paypal or Cheque. Please contact me to pay the **balance** either by **cheque** or **bank transfer**.

## Insurance

You must have adequate travel insurance as in the **Terms & Conditions**. Please also ensure your camera equipment is insured.

## Bad Weather

In bad weather we can still use the hides. If photography time is reduced due to bad weather (as a last resort) we will spend more time reviewing our images.

## Exchange Rates (as of August 2019)

£1 GBP = 132 Serbian Dinar

\$1 USD = 101 Serbian Dinar

€1 Euro = 118 Serbian Dinar

**Please Note: Whilst locations have been researched for specific photo opportunities, Paul Miguel cannot be held liable for lack of any species. However, we use very reliable locations including established hides and breeding sites and work with a ranger with extensive local knowledge.**

## Further questions:

If you have any further questions on any aspect of the tour please don't hesitate to get in touch by email: [paul@naturephotographycourses.co.uk](mailto:paul@naturephotographycourses.co.uk) or by phone +44(0)7759485791



**Thank you for your interest in this Tour**

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