

Serbian Bird Photography Tour: 23rd – 30th May 2020

Cost: £1500 per person. Deposit: £200

Maximum Number: 4



Itinerary

Saturday 23rd May– First Day

Advised flights are from Luton with Wizz Air, planned to arrive in Belgrade late afternoon. We transfer to our hotel in Belgrade for first night stop over.

Sunday 24th May

Journey to Subotica in the north. Along the way we visit a wetland nature reserve and take a boat ride through the reed beds. Arrive in Subotica in the evening.

Monday 25th – Friday 29th May

We usually do morning and late afternoon/evening photography sessions. However, depending on changing weather we may shoot throughout the day. This will be decided on a day to day basis. Each day we will offer two hide sessions (apart from last day).

Photography Hides

- **Tower hide:** Red Footed Falcon, European Roller, Common Kestrel
- **Low level water Hide 1:** Herons, Egret
- **Low level water Hide 2:** Herons, Egret, Pygmy Cormorant, Whiskered Tern.
- **Warbler Hide:** Situated deep in the reed beds in an area rich in Warbler species; we can employ bird callers.
- **Drinking/reflection Pool:** a variety of woodland birds at water level with reflections
- **Bee-eaters:** pop-up hides are used at a breeding colony
- **Hoopoe:** pop-up hides are used at nest site

In the field Photography

We aim to 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, Syrian Woodpecker.

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

Friday 29th May

We have one final morning photography session before **leaving for Belgrade around midday**. Time permitting we will visit either the White Stork village or another nature reserve on our way. We spend the **final night in Belgrade** for our last meal.

Saturday 30th May – Last Day

We have the last morning free to explore the capital Belgrade. An optional walking tour is included as part of the tour. In the afternoon you will be driven to the airport in good time to catch your flight.

Equipment Required

Lenses from 300mm – 600mm. Extenders may be of use, particularly with smaller lenses, e.g. 300mm. A tripod is required. Beanbags are not essential; if needed they are provided in the hides. Smaller lenses are useful for wider shots and landscapes. Bag hides should not be necessary, however it is worth bringing a camouflage hood, light gloves and maybe a light camouflage net.

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 little walking involved and any walking is on flat paths. The days can be very long, we will be up early in the mornings (around 5.00am) and finish our days around 8.30pm.

Potential Hazards

Potential heat requires a reasonable level of fitness and endurance. Some hides can be over 30 degrees with high humidity – as such we try not to shoot in the middle of the day. Please note: you

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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 spend the first and last night at [Hotel Royal Inn](#) in Belgrade. Built in 1883 it is the oldest hotel in the capital which more recently underwent a modern renovation. It is situated in the heart of old Belgrade close to the Republic Square and Kalemegdan Fortress. Rooms are equipped with a minibar, flat screen TV, and free WIFI.

For the majority of our trip we stay in Subotica 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 hotels rooms are on a single basis unless couples choose to share.

Food

Breakfast is either at our hotel or as a packed breakfast for use in the hides. Lunch will be in a restaurant/café or again a packed lunch. 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 (including one non-alcoholic drink), use of photo hides, driver, guides around protected sites; photography boat trip; walking tour of Belgrade; airport transfers.

Not included: external flight; **evening meals**; food on the last day (breakfast is included) and alcoholic drinks; additional drinks/snacks. 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 July 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 or by phone +44(0)7759485791

Thank you for your interest in this Tour

Paul