

Serbian Winter Wildlife Tour: 9th – 13th December 2019

Cost: £950 per person. Deposit: £100

Maximum Number: 4



Itinerary

Monday 9th December – First Day

Advised flights are with Wizz Air from Luton to Belgrade arriving mid-morning. We take our comfortable transfer to Subotica in the afternoon. If time allows we will visit an owl roost along the way.

Tuesday 10th – Thursday 12th December

We have 3 full days for wildlife watching and photography. We have the option of using two photography hides and visiting at least one large owl roost. There will be a degree of flexibility for our itinerary, depending on the weather conditions.

Photography Hides

- **Eagle Hide**

The Eagle hide comfortably fits 3 photographers; it has comfy swivel chairs with plenty of room. The hide uses a one-way glass system to minimise disturbance to raptors. White tailed Eagles visit this site each winter, however they are weather dependent and cannot be guaranteed. Birds that have been photographed from the hide include: Raven, Rough Legged Buzzard, Goshawk, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Hen Harrier and Marsh Harrier. Common Buzzards and Hooded Crows are regular visitors. There is also a chance of Red Fox and Golden Jackal. You will need to be prepared to spend up to 10 hours in the hide. Please note: there is no toilet - there are bottles or a bucket! Using the Eagle hide is **not mandatory**.

- **Drinking Pool Hide**

The drinking pool hide is situated in a forest clearing. As the only large source of water in the area, it attracts regular species. During the winter you can expect to see Song Thrush; Fieldfare; Redwing; Hawfinch; Greater spotted Woodpecker and Sparrowhawk. Goshawk is also a possibility. In this hide it is **not necessary to stay for the entire duration**, however the more times you leave the hide the more chance of causing disturbance, particularly to any raptors.

Long Eared Owls

We spend some time in Kikinda, the world famous roosting site for Long eared Owls. Total numbers can be in the hundreds, with up to 30 in one tree! Please note: concentrations of birds can move from year to year, so this will affect photography depending on the trees they choose. With this in mind, and to increase our chance, we also have two other sites to visit, where owls have roosted each winter.

Other Locations

A degree of flexibility is built into this tour, particularly for non-photographers. One option for birdwatching is a visit to Slano Kopovo, a wetland site which attracts thousands of over-wintering Ducks, Geese and Cranes. On our travels we are likely to see Great grey Shrike and Hen Harrier. There is also a chance of Short eared Owl and Pallid Harrier.

Equipment Required

Lenses from 300 mm – 600 mm. Extenders may be of use, particularly with smaller lenses, e.g. 300 mm. A smaller lens is also useful for capturing wide images of the owl roosts. A tripod is required. Please note: to photograph the owls at twilight/night you are advised to use a beanbag on top of a tripod. Bring an empty beanbag which can then be filled up in Serbia. Please confirm what equipment you will be bringing.

Climate & Clothing

Historically Serbian winters have been cold, however in recent years they have been much milder. Temperatures can be very similar to UK, but there is a greater chance of cold conditions including sub-zero temperatures and/or snow. Please dress appropriately for cold weather. You are advised good walking boots, particularly if we visit the reserve of Slano Kopovo which can be extremely muddy.

Intensity

There is very little walking involved. For the eagle hide we need to make a very early start, leaving before 5.00 am.

Accommodation

We stay at [Hotel Galleria](#) in Subotica. 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 en suite basis, unless couples choose to share.

Food

You will be provided with breakfast and lunch. Breakfast will usually be taken in the hotel and lunch will be either a café/restaurant or packed lunch. Evening meals will be at a local restaurant or hotel and are **at extra cost**. Serbian food is some of the best food in Europe!

What's Included in the Cost

All accommodation; breakfast and lunch (including one non-alcoholic drink); vehicle transport; airport transfers; English speaking guides; special access to buildings near owl roosts; one session in eagle hide; one session at drinking pool hide.

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

We aim to keep birding and photographing. Please bring wet weather gear and rain covers for cameras. In extremely bad weather we may visit the Kikinda National Museum and more urban areas.

Exchange Rates (as of July 2019)

£1 GBP = 131 Serbian Dinar

\$1 USD = 104 Serbian Dinar

€1 Euro = 117 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 work with rangers and Serbian ornithologists 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