

**Serbian Bird Photography Tour: 31<sup>st</sup> May – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Cost: £1700 per person. Deposit: £250**

**Maximum Number: 3**



**Itinerary**

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May – First Day**

Meet at Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport early evening. Advised flights are with **Air Serbia** from **London Heathrow** (Departing early afternoon). We then take our comfortable mini-bus transfer, with our [professional driver](#) to Palic.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

The full plan will be agreed at the start of the tour with flexibility. We usually have morning and late afternoon/evening photography sessions, although depending on weather conditions we may shoot throughout the day.

**Photography Hides**

- **Tower hide:** Red Footed Falcon, European Roller, Common Kestrel
- **Two Low level water hides:** Grey Heron, Little/Great Egret, Night Heron, Purple Heron, Pygmy Cormorant
- **Two Drinking/Reflection Pools:** various woodland birds at water level with reflections
- **Bee-eaters:** pop-up hides are used at a breeding colony
- **Hoopoe:** pop-up hides at nest site
- **Warbler hide:** reed-bed hide for various singing Warblers

### **In the field Photography**

We visit two **protected nature reserves** – by vehicle and on foot. Birds here include **Pygmy Cormorant**, Night Heron, **Squacco Heron**, Great Egret, Marsh Harrier, Great Reed Warbler, **Savi's Warbler**, Bearded Tit, **Penduline Tit**, Whiskered Tern. Other possibilities include *Black Woodpecker*, *Golden Oriole*, *Nightingale*, *Nightjar*, *Black winged Stilt*, *Ferruginous Duck*.

We have a total of **12 photography sessions**. Towards the end of the tour it will be possible to repeat certain photography hides and locations. This will be agreed as a group.

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Last Day**

We have a fairly early start to return to Belgrade for our return flights home. Do consider staying on an extra day to explore Serbia's capital. Walking tours, bus tours and boat trips are available through various companies.

### **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 if you want this option, then bring empty and fill up in Serbia. (Beanbags are provided in low level hides). 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 for potential 'in the field' photography.

### **Climate**

In early June the temperatures are likely to be in the high twenties/early thirties; it can sometimes be hotter. The tower hide in particular can get above 30 degrees. We usually work in the early morning and late afternoon/evening to avoid the heat - this of course coincides with the best light, and activity.

### **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.

### **Potential Hazards**

Potential heat requires a reasonable level of fitness and endurance. At the extreme end, some hides can be over 30 degrees with high humidity - you will also need to **climb a ladder** to enter the tower



hide. Please take extra care around large bodies of water. Transport to some hides can be on bumpy roads in a 4x4 vehicle.

### **Accommodation**

We stay at Palic Resort close to Lake Palic, the largest natural lake in Serbia. Free WiFi access is available throughout the property. You will have your own room with satellite TV and a private bathroom fitted with either a bath or a shower. The accommodation is considered a standard of 3 stars by Western standards.

### **Food**

Breakfast will either be taken at our hotel, or you will be provided with a packed breakfast for use in the hides. Lunch will either be in a restaurant/café or on the go. Evening meals will be at a local restaurant. Serbian food is some of the best in Europe.!

### **What's Included in the Cost**

All accommodation; transport to hides; breakfast, lunch, evening meal, use of photo hides, English speaking guides, access to protected sites; professional airport transfers. **Additional costs: external flight; food on the last day (breakfast is included) and alcoholic drinks. Plus any personal extras.**

### **Payment**

A deposit of £250 to be paid via preferred **Bank Transfer**, Cheque or Paypal. 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 May 2022)**

£1 GBP = 137 Serbian Dinar

\$1 USD = 111 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 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**