

**Serbian Bird Photography Tour: 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Cost: £1800 per person (£1650 p.p. if Room Sharing)**

**Deposit: £300    Maximum Number: 4**



**Planned Itinerary**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June – First Day**

Meet at **Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport** early evening. Recommended flights are with **Air Serbia** from **London Heathrow** (Departing early afternoon). We then take our comfortable air-conditioned mini-bus transfer, with our [professional driver](#) to Palic, approximately 2 hours north of Belgrade.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

We use each hide in turn dependent on activity, on which we take advice from our knowledgeable guides. We usually have morning and late afternoon/evening photography sessions, although depending on weather conditions it is possible we could shoot throughout the day.

**Photography Hides**

**Please note: most permanent hides are One-Way Glass**

- **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; Squacco Heron; Black winged Stilt; Spoonbill
- **Two Woodland Drinking/Reflection Pools - if in use** (not available for 2023)
- **Bee-eaters:** pop-up hides are used at a breeding colony
- **Hoopoe:** pop-up hides at nest site
- **New Low Level Water Hide (if completed by May 2024)**
- **We may have other additional options for hides as opportunities arise (2023 we had a Penduline Tit nest)**

### **In the field Photography**

We visit up to **three protected nature reserves** – using a vehicle and on foot. This includes a **flight photography** session at eye level. Photography can include Pygmy Cormorant, Night Heron, Squacco Heron, Great Egret, Marsh Harrier, Great Reed Warbler, Savi's Warbler, Bearded Tit, Penduline Tit, Whiskered Tern. We see many birds including potentially *Turtle Dove, Syrian Woodpecker, Cattle Egret, Nightingale, Ferruginous Duck; Red crested Pochard; Red backed Shrike; Golden Oriole, Saker Falcon*. Other wildlife regularly seen includes: Roe Deer, Brown Hare, Lizards and Snakes.

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.

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Last Day**

Return to Belgrade in the morning for our return flights home. If time allows, in the morning, we will have a tour of Subotica town with a local guide. Do consider staying on an extra day to explore Serbia's capital, Belgrade - 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 shorter telephoto 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 or pillow supports 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. **A note on One-Way Glass:** this can affect image quality slightly. If this is a concern then consider using your best lenses / prime lenses where possible.

### **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 8.30pm. We usually have an extended break in the middle of the day.

### 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. If choosing to lay down in the water hide this can be quite uncomfortable and may not be suitable if you have physical / mobility issues. Please take extra care around large bodies of water. Transport to some hides can be bumpy as we cross uneven ground in a 4x4 vehicle. Please inform me if you are allergic to any insect bites, although this is something that is not usually a big problem in Serbia.

### Accommodation

We stay at Palic Resort close to Lake Palic, the largest natural lake in Serbia. You will have your own room with satellite TV, a private bathroom fitted with either a bath or shower and free Wifi. Your room will be air-conditioned unless otherwise stated. Your room may have a double bed or two single beds. The accommodation is to be considered a standard of 3 stars by most Western standards. Please note, you may have to climb stairs – you will be given help with luggage if required.

### Food

Breakfast will be provided for you to take to the hides (cereal bars / bananas / yoghurt, coffee). Lunch will be light including sandwiches, crisps, chocolate bar / cereal bar. Evening meals will be at a high quality local Serbian restaurant - Serbian food is some of the best in Europe.!

### 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.

### What's Included in the Cost

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



### **Payment**

A deposit of **£300** to be paid via preferred **Bank Transfer**, Cheque or Paypal. You will be advised how to pay the **balance** either by **cheque** or **bank transfer**. If you would like to pay in instalments, please contact me.

### **Insurance**

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

### **Exchange Rates (as of July 2023)**

£1 GBP = 136 Serbian Dinar

\$1 USD = 105 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 teams of rangers 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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