

The Best Photo Tour at the Danube Delta with extension possibility to the Land of Dracula Birds & Bears - Romania, (7+4nights) 12 days

Put together your own group and receive significant discounts!

Romania should be high on the list of destinations for every wildlife photographer. The vast labyrinth of the Danube Delta is for those who enjoy spectacular amount and variety of birds including **squadrons of pelicans, clouds of waders, ribbons of cormorants, reed-beds full of warblers, lakes and marshes full of herons, egrets and ibises** while **White-tailed Eagles** circling above. Various **Woodpeckers and the most colourful birds of Europe such as Hoopoe, Roller, Bee-eater and Golden Oriole** are plentiful. We use the best accommodation surrounded by dozens of professional photography hides.

Possible mammals include **Golden Jackal, Otter, Muskrat** and perhaps even **Wildcat**.

The rugged and densely wooded **Carpathian Mountains** provide a contrast and a good opportunity to discover exciting mountain species including **Ural Owl, Wallcreeper, Alpine Swift, Ring Ouzel and Nutcracker** just to mention a few of the possibilities. But the main attraction here is the chance to spend some time in one of the best professional photography hides for **European Brown Bear**.



Fact File

- 12 days in Romania
- start and finish in Bucharest
- visiting the Danube Delta and the Eastern Carpathians
- using 2 accommodations with professional photography hides nearby

Highlights

- 5 full days in the Danube Delta, excellent variety of photohides
- 3 full days at Eastern Carpathians, photography from professional Bear-hide
- full day tour to Békás/Bicaz Gorge with photo possibility of Wallcreeper, Alpine Swift & more
- superb scenery, excellent photo opportunity of rare birds and mammals



Accommodation

Main tour: 6 nights in the Danube Delta
1 night at a good Bucharest airport hotel
Extension: 4 nights in the Eastern Carpathians

Our price includes

- all travel as noted in the itinerary; 2 boat excursions, 1 off-road excursion in the Delta
- using professional photography hides
- all accommodation based on shared rooms, there are single rooms as well for extra charge;
- 3 meals per day, generally breakfast, lunch, dinner (consists of at least two courses);
- services of the leader(s);
- trip materials.

Not included

- flights to and from Bucharest;
- optional programmes to places of interest and entrance fees involved;
- airport and other departure taxes, tips;
- food beyond generally 3 meals/day mentioned in the itineraries;
- excess baggage charges;
- telephone calls;
- alcoholic beverages;
- compulsory personal insurance.

ECOTOURS – Worldwide Travel Services ; EASTERN EUROPE & LATIN AMERICA Specialist

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Activity level Generally easy to moderate walks; Some longer drives expected

Optional programmes

Optional visit of Dracula's Castle

Itinerary

Day 1

Meet with your English speaking professional guide at Otopeni **Bucharest** airport followed by a long transfer to **Tulcea** and then a bout journey to your accommodation.

Days 2-6

We visit one of the best wildlife and birding areas in Europe, the huge **Danube Delta** which is protected by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and also it is listed as one of the most important RAMSAR wetland areas in Europe.

Imagine in the heart of this area a fascinating place with an excellent lodge providing more than 30 specialized photography hides scattered around lakes & channels dotted with bushy and forested areas on an incredible 1000 hectares property.

We offer to use several different hides in a rotating system to give everyone chance to photograph various species at different light conditions. The possibilities are almost unlimited from lake-shore hides through tower hides till floating hides at muddy pools, ponds, alongside extensive reed-beds, steppe and sandy scrub habitats which attract many resident and migrating bird species during the season.

The actual possible species will obviously depend on the month of your visit as well. But definitely any bird or wildlife photographer should be delighted by the long list of possible species including **White-tailed Eagle, Pygmy Cormorant, Squacco Heron, Purple Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Ferruginous Duck, Dalmatian and White Pelicans, Eurasian Roller, European Bee-eater, Glossy Ibis** and another 200+ species.

We spend 6 full days photographing mainly birds but there is a good chance for mammals as well like **Golden Jackal, Otter, Muskrat** and perhaps even **Wildcat**.

All photographs at this itinerary were made during one of our tours in that area.

Day 7

We have a boat ride and a long transfer from the Danube Delta region back to Bucharest, dinner and night at a good airport hotel.

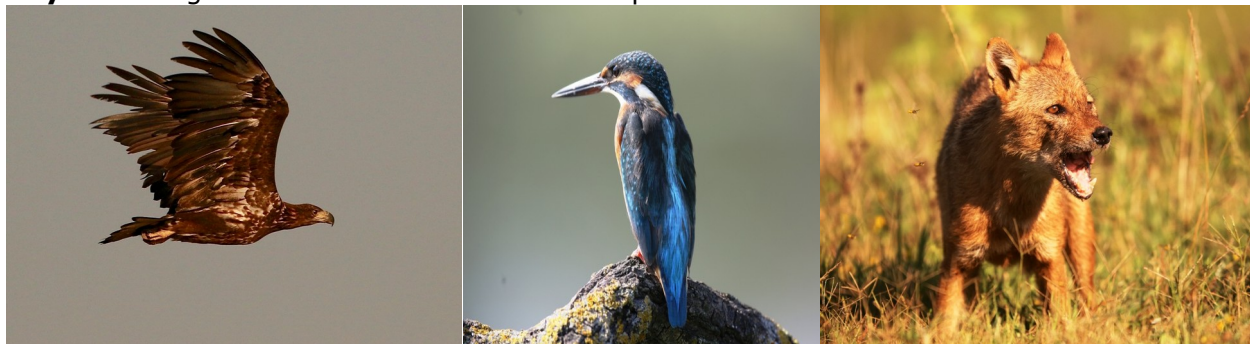
Day 8 breakfast and **flight back home OR 4nights/5days extension** in the Carpathian Mountains

Eastern Carpathian mountains is part of the natural border of Transylvania and boast with an extremely dense population of Brown Bears, Wolves, Lynx, Wildcats and several bird species. Here we stay at a family style hotel at the edge of a great forest with professional bear-hides.

Days 9-11

In the **Eastern Carpathians** the habitat will be completely different, mainly dominated by vast forests, some meadows at slopes and uplands. During the days we will search **Nutcracker, Crested Tit, Hawfinch** and **Ring Ouzel** in the forests while above the open areas we can look for **Lesser Spotted Eagle** and other raptors. With a day long excursion we can visit various areas including a limestone gorge with **Wallcreeper & Alpine Swift**. One of the afternoons the highlight will be surely the visit of the bear hides to photograph **European Brown Bear**.

Day 12 A long transfer back to **Bucharest** Airport.









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