



Sunrise Birding, LLC

PO Box 274, Cos Cob, Connecticut 06807 USA

THE SPANISH PYRENEES

Private Tour: June 7-16, 2010

The Pyrenean mountain range is a paradise for the all-round nature lover. Stunning snow-capped peaks dominate the horizon and beautiful flower filled alpine meadows covered in butterflies abound. It is a perfect environment to search for the alpine bird specialties. The skies here abound with raptors and include the huge and majestic Lammergeier, king of all the vultures, but the sheer volume of Eurasian Griffons has to be seen to be believed. With only short distances to travel between sites we will be able to spend plenty of time searching the rich and varied habitats, from the rugged snow covered mountain tops, where we will seek out all the high altitude species, to rolling alpine meadows and rocky gorges where we usually have close views of one of the most sought after of birds, the exquisite Wallcreeper. No need to worry about difficult walks – there are none. We have minibuses with us at all times and spend each day at a slow pace enjoying the wealth of wildlife on offer.



ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1: Monday, June 7	Arrival Barcelona 11:20 AM. Travel to Huesca area.	1 Night Boletas
Day 2: Tuesday, June 8	Morning birding around Huesca, Travel to Hecho Valley.	7 Nights in Hecho Valley
Days 3-8: Wednesday – Monday, June 9-14	Spanish Pyrenees including Hecho Valley, Aragon Valley and Binies Gorge, Candanchu, Roncal and Anso Valleys, Riglos.	
Day 9: Tuesday, June 15	Travel toward Barcelona.	1 Night Boletas
Day 10: Wed., June 16	Departures from Barcelona at 12:20 PM	



Some target species on this tour include:

Wallcreeper, Lammergeier, Alpine Accentor, Citril Finch, Black Wheatear, Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush, European Bee-eater, Serin, Golden Oriole, Melodious and Subalpine Warblers, Ortolan Bunting, Eurasian Eagle-Owl, Alpine and Red-billed Choughs, Rock Bunting, Booted and Short-toed Eagles, Alpine Swift, Crag Martin, Red-backed Shrike and Crested Tit to name a few. We'll also enjoy literally hundreds of butterfly and flower species.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1, June 7 – On arrival at Barcelona airport, we will set off toward Huesca birding en route with good chances for raptors and several species of steppe birds. Overnight near Huesca.

Day 2: June 8 – In the morning we will spend some time birding the areas around Loporzano and Sierra de Guara Natural Park checking for Lammergeier, Black Wheatear, Golden Oriole, Tawny Pipit, Short-toed and Golden eagle, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Red-legged Partridge, Alpine Swift, European Bee-eater, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Thekla Lark, Black-eared Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Thrush, Dartford, Spectacled, Sardinian, Subalpine, Orphean Melodious, Olivaceous, Bonelli's, and Garden Warblers, Southern Grey Shrike, Rock Sparrow, Spotless Starling, Red-billed Chough, Rock Bunting and Ortolan Bunting. Later in the day we will travel north to our wonderful hotel in the Pyrenees.



Days 3 - 8: June 9-14

There will be little travelling as we visit a number of localities within easy reach of our hotel, and it should not take too long for us to familiarize ourselves with some of Northern Spain's exciting flora and fauna. The Aragon Valley and Binies Gorge hold a fine collection of species including Black and Red Kites, Egyptian and Griffon Vultures, Short-toed Eagle, Woodchat Shrike, Rock Sparrow, Spotless Starling, European Bee-eater, Serin, Golden Oriole, Melodious and Subalpine Warblers and Ortolan Bunting. We may also go out one night at dusk to search for the huge Eagle-Owl. The Hecho Valley leads from lowland right up



to snow-capped mountains and here amongst the alpine meadows, with hundreds of flowers and butterflies, we will search for the legendary Lammergeier. This superb bird has often been seen from our hotel while we enjoy an early evening cup of tea. We should see Alpine and Red-billed Choughs, Rock Bunting and at a site very close to our hotel, the exquisite and much sought after Wallcreeper. We have seen this beautiful bird every year, and on many occasions we have watched this pair down to 15 feet away. Other sites we will visit include Candanchu, Roncal and Anso Valleys. Amongst the profusion of species to be encountered at these sites we should see Citril Finch, Alpine Accentor, Booted and Golden Eagles, Alpine Swift, Crag Martin, Red-backed Shrike, Crested Tit and Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush. We will also keep a look out for

Alpine Marmots and shy Chamois. Amongst the hundreds of butterfly and flower species the magnificent Apollo Butterfly and several species of orchid should be found. As a contrast to the mountains, we will spend a day in the dry zone around Riglos. Here we will look for Blue Rock Thrush, Black Wheatear, and Sardinian, Orphean and Dartford Warblers.

Day 9: June 15 - After some morning birds, we will depart the area heading back toward Barcelona stopping off for an overnight on the way.

Day 10: June 16 - Drive back to Barcelona for international flights out.

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TOUR PRICE:

\$1995.00 US per person from Barcelona, Spain based on double occupancy. If paying in UK Pounds, the tour price is £1425.00.

Single Supplement: \$395.00 US or £285.00

Maximum Group Size: 12 plus leader(s)

Included in cost: Transport throughout the tour by minibus, hotel accommodation based on twin rooms en-suite, all meals from lunch on Day 1 until breakfast at hotel Day 10, including picnic lunches, wine, afternoon tea, and services of leaders.

Not included: Insurance, drinks other than wine (at the Pyrenees hotel) and water, and items of a personal nature.

Cancellations and Refunds: Refunds, less a cancellation fee of \$300 per person will be made only if Sunrise Birding, LLC is notified in writing of intent to cancel on or before March 10, 2010. No refunds will be made after March 10, 2010. All cancellations must be made in writing. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.



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