



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Portugal Birds & Wine in Autumn *20th November to 30th November 2022 (11 days)*



Griffon Vulture by Yeray Seminario

Portugal offers a fantastic diversity of habitats, and consequently an equally diverse array of birds in a relatively small area, allowing us to visit several species rich areas without needing to travel long distances.

All this birding activity is combined with visits to some of the most important wine producers in the main wine regions of Portugal (including the Douro, for Port wine), giving an opportunity throughout the whole of our route to better understand the country's rich wine heritage. At various times we'll be joined by qualified wine makers who will help us learn to discern the subtle differences between the various regions, terroirs, wines and grapes. Besides the great wines, we'll have numerous opportunities to sample Portugal's many culinary delights.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

THE ITINERARY

Day 1	Arrival in Lisbon, transfer to Alcochete; Tagus Estuary N. R., Alcochete area
Day 2	Tagus Estuary N. R., Ponta da Erva & Pancas
Day 3	Travel to Mértola; Castro Verde plains
Day 4	Guadiana Valley Natural Park
Day 5	Mértola archaeological sites; Castro Verde plains
Day 6	Travel to Portalegre; Serra de São Mamede Natural Park
Day 7	Travel to Castelo Rodrigo; International Douro Natural Park
Day 8	International Douro Natural Park
Day 9	International Douro N. P.; travel to Alijó
Day 10	Alto Douro Wine Region; travel to Lisbon; Peniche and Cape Carvoeiro
Day 11	Final departure



TOUR MAP



THE TOUR IN DETAIL...



Bluethroat by Clayton Burne

Day 1: Arrival in Lisbon, transfer to Alcochete; Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve, Alcochete area. After arriving in the historic city of Lisbon, we will spend the day birding several areas and a variety of habitats within the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve, including the inter-tidal mudflats and salt marshes of Hortas, the salt pans of Atalaya, Ribeira das Enguias, Samouco and the Barroca d'Alva rice fields and pastures.

The Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve is a remarkable protected wetland area with an extensive bird list that includes the likes of Greater Flamingo, White Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Greylag Geese, Eurasian Wigeon, Red-crested and

Common Pochards, Tufted Duck, Little Bittern, Squacco Heron, Booted Eagle, Black-winged Kite, Western Swamphen, Little Bustard, Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Golden Plover, Pied Avocet, Spotted and Common redshanks, Greenshank, Bar-tailed and Black-tailed godwits, Curlew, Common, Wood and Green Sandpipers, Kentish and Great Ringed Plovers, Eurasian Whimbrel, Eurasian Curlew, Little Stint, Ruff, Bluethroat, Iberian Grey Shrike, Spotless Starling, Crested Tit, Rock Sparrow, European Serin and an excellent selection of other ducks, waders, gulls and terns.

In the late afternoon we shall transfer to Alcochete on the south eastern banks of the Tagus Estuary.

Day 2: Tagus Estuary, Ponta da Erva & Pancas. We have the entire day to bird the Tagus estuary and other surrounding sites including the open fields, rice fields, reed beds, lagoons, inter-tidal mudflats and salt marshes of the Ponta da Erva area and the cork oak woodlands of Pancas.

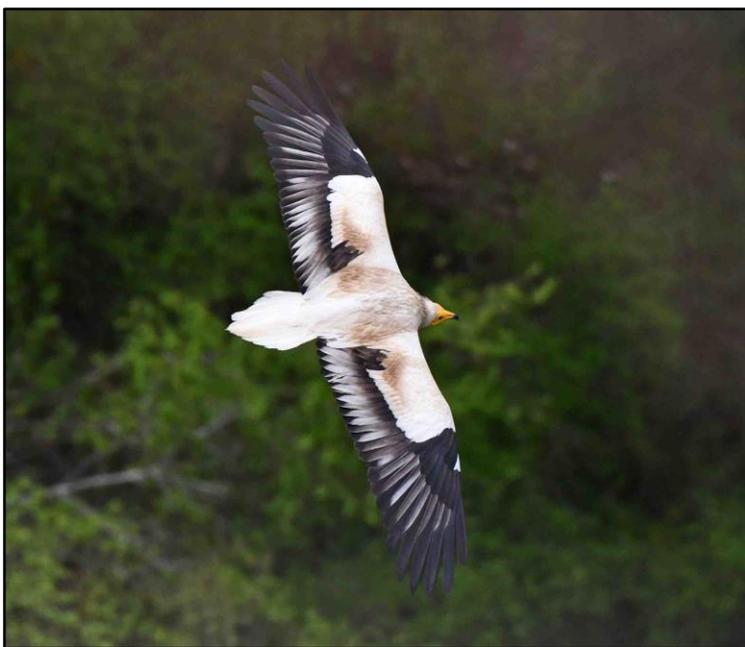
Later this afternoon, we will enjoy our first wine tasting at Companhia das Lezírias.

Day 3: Travel to Mértola; Castro Verde plains. After breakfast we will leave Alcochete and the greater Lisbon area behind, travelling to Mértola in the south Alentejo region. En route we shall start our initial explorations of the great Castro Verde rolling plains, home of Great Bustard, Common Crane, Red



Great Bustard by Ignacio Yufera





Egyptian Vulture by Tuomas Seimola

Bombeira do Guadiana.

Kite, Western Marsh and Hen Harriers, Merlin, Long-eared and Short-eared Owls, Eurasian Stone-curlew, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Calandra Lark, Water, Meadow and Tawny Pipits.

Day 4: Guadiana Valley Natural Park.

Today we will visit the bluffs and hills of the Guadiana Valley Natural Park, including the Mértola, Mina de São Domingos and Alcaria Ruiva areas. Species of note that we may find today include Spanish Imperial, Golden and Bonelli's Eagles, Red-legged Partridge, Iberian Green Woodpecker, Eurasian Crag Martin, Red-rumped Swallow, Thekla Lark, Woodlark, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Rock Thrush, Spanish Sparrow and Rock Bunting.

This afternoon we will enjoy wine tasting at

Day 5: Mértola archaeological sites and Castro Verde plains. After breakfast, we'll head to the archaeological remains of Mértola. Here we shall be guided by an historian, who will explain these fascinating archaeological remains (mainly Roman and Moorish) which make this town one of the most important archaeological sites in Portugal.

In the afternoon, we shall head back to the Castro Verde plains to search for any species that we may not have found on day 3.

Day 6: Travel to Portalegre; Serra de São Mamede Natural Park. We depart Mértola after breakfast and travel north to Portalegre, in northern Alentejo. We will visit the Serra de São Mamede Natural Park, including the Castelo de Vide, Póvoa e Meadas, Beirã and Marvão regions. This region contrasts significantly from that which we have seen so far, hosting Pyrenean Oak and Sweet Chestnut woods, characteristic of the Serra de São Mamede Natural Park. In this area we can expect to find the likes of Cinereous Vulture, Little Owl, Eurasian Hoopoe, Common Kingfisher, Song and Mistle Thrushes, Sardinian and Dartford Warblers, Firecrest and Iberian Magpie.



Western Black-eared Wheatear by Tuomas Seimola



This evening we shall enjoy wine tasting at Cabeças do Reguengo.



Western Swamphen by Rob Williams

rewarding for species such as Black Stork, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Eurasian Eagle-Owl, Red-billed Chough, Eurasian Siskin, Eurasian Serin and Hawfinch.

Whilst here, we will also visit the most important open-air Palaeolithic rock art site in the world, the Foz Côa Valley, a World Heritage Site. We can look forward to wine tasting at Quinta do Cardo this evening.

Day 9: International Douro N. P.; travel to Alijó. We have a short drive to Alijó today. Located in the Alto Douro Wine Region, we will visit Miranda do Douro and São João das Arribas along the way.

The Alto Douro region is a World Heritage site, where the wine has been produced for some 2,000 years. Since the 18th century, its main product, Port Wine has been famous for its quality. This long tradition of viticulture has produced a unique landscape of outstanding beauty. The region is also good for a number of birds such as Dunnock, Western Black Wheatear, Eurasian Bullfinch and Cirl Bunting.

Day 10: Alto Douro Wine Region; travel to Lisbon; Peniche and Cape Carvoeiro. Today we make our way back to Lisbon, visiting other sites in the Douro Valley along the way. We will stop for lunch at the Graham Winery, in Gaia which will also include a visit to the cellar and wine tasting. We will make a brief stop in the city of Porto before continuing



Bonelli's Eagle by Rob Williams



onwards to Lisbon. Time permitting, we may also stop at Peniche for some sea watching. We will enjoy a final celebratory dinner this evening.

Day 11: Final departures. All good things must come to an end. After breakfast we shall head to Humberto Delgado Airport where the tour will conclude.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 11;
- All lodgings;
- Wine at dinner;
- Cellar and wine tasting sessions;
- Ground and boat transportation;
- Reserve and historical site entrance fees;
- Bottled water;
- Extra activities as mentioned in the itinerary; and
- All local guiding services.

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any drinks (except as stated above);
- Special gratuities & tips for local guides; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tippling: As noted above, gratuities are NOT included on this tour.



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include ANY airfares. The tour will begin in the morning of day 1 with a group transfer from Humberto Delgado Airport, Lisbon to Alcochete. Please ensure that you arrive the previous day. The tour will conclude at Humberto Delgado Airport, Lisbon after breakfast on day 11.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Humberto Delgado Airport (IATA: LIS) is the main port of entry and exit for international flights on this tour. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

