

Serbian Birds of Prey and Owls Spring Tour

The area of Lake Rusanda is around 75 km from Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. Lake Rusanda is a highly saline, shallow wetland in the Vojvodina region of Northern Serbia. The Vršac mountains, another site that included in this program, is around 85 km from Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, and around 90 km from Lake Rusanda. Deliblato Sands is a unique wilderness comprising 33,000 hectares of grasslands, farmlands and mixed forest lying on a large sandy region. It is famed for its great number of species unique to the area, including many plants and insects.

8 days / 7 nights

Price per person 480 GBP

Price is valid for group of minimum 10 persons

Supplement for single room: 50 GBP per person

- Flight with JAT airways, from London, price per person from 165 GBP including airport taxes (no cancellation)

- Flight from London, price per person 260 GBP including airport taxes, for minimum 6 persons (possible cancellation one month before departure)

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JU 208 E 22APR 7 BEGLHR 1810 2015

Price includes:

- Transfer according the program
- Accommodation in Zrenjanin (3 nights) and in Vrsac (4 nights) HB
- Guide during the tour

Price does not include:

- Flight to/from Belgrade
- Other meals and drinks not mentioned in the program

Meals:

- (B) = Breakfast
- (L) = Lunch
- (D) = Dinner



Day 1. Belgrade-Zrenjanin (approx. 80 km)

After arrival in Serbia, departure from Belgrade to Zrenjanin.

Day 2. Rusanda and environs

Here you can see: Red-footed Falcons, Common Kestrels, Barn, Long-eared, Little Owls.

Day 3. Rusanda, Kikinda and environs

Here you can see: Red-footed Falcons, Common Kestrels, Barn, Long-eared, Little Owls. In afternoon we are going to Kikinda that has become well known for its largest Long-eared Owl communal roosting site which holds up to 750 birds!

Day 4. Vršac

Departure to Vrsac, visit to the Vrsac Mountains in the afternoon. Overnight in Vrsac, motel Vetrenjača.

Day 5. Vršac

Whole day on Vrsac Mt. exploring and ringing owls and birds of prey. Overnight in Vrsac, motel Vetrenjača.

Day 6. Deliblato Sands

Whole day on Deliblato Sands with the birds of prey. Overnight in Vrsac, motel Vetrenjača.

Day 7. Deliblato Sands

Whole day on Deliblato Sands with the birds of prey. Overnight in Vrsac, motel Vetrenjača.

Day 8. Deliblato- Belgrade

After breakfast, departure to Belgrade.



Site 1 - Rusanda lake (Important Bird Area)

Lake Rusanda is a highly saline, shallow wetland in the Vojvodina region of Northern Serbia. Beside well known nature reserve Slano Kopovo, this lake is one of the last remaining natron lakes in Serbia and probably the saltiest one of all in the whole of Pannonian plains. Lake Rusanda has a C-shape and is surrounded by agricultural plough land and pastures, while in the centre of the ellipse there are orchards and vineyards with cottages. Lake itself is shallow, only up to 60 cm at it's deepest points and stretching nearly 4.5 km and 300-400 m wide. On the NE bank of the lake there is a large reed-bed up to 100 m wide, Other parts of the lake, especially southern and western parts of the lake don't have reed-beds at all, but have muddy shallow banks. Water in this lake is alkaline, having up to 1.4 % of salt.

A total of 210 bird species were found during the recent and historical research on the site. The lake itself is an outstanding migratory stopover site for dozens of species such as grebes, ducks, geese, cranes, waders and gulls.

Beside that, local park in the Spa holds one of the largest and densest breeding populations of Common Kestrel, Red-footed Falcon and Long-eared Owl in Serbia. Important breeding bird species include also Black-necked Grebe, Night Heron, Squacco Heron, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt and Redshank.

Around Rusanda there are several good localities with Red-footed Falcon colonies, clutches of Common Kestrel and Long-eared Owl breeding pairs, plus Barn and Little Owl breeding sites.



Site 2 - Vršac (Important Bird Area, Nature Reserve)

The Vrsac Mountains are arch-shaped hills covered by the mixed oak, beech, hornbeam and lime woodlands, vineyards and extensive farmland situated about 25km NE from Deliblato Sands.

Birds include: Goshawk, Sparrow Hawk, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Ural Owl, Tawny Owl, Little Owl, Scops Owl, Long-eared Owl, Syrian Woodpecker, Black Redstart.



Site 3 - Deliblato sands (Important Bird Area, Nature Reserve)

Deliblato Sands is a unique wilderness comprising 33,000 hectares of grasslands, farmlands and mixed forest on a large sandy region. It is bordered by the Danube, Tamis and Karas rivers and is home to a rich flora and fauna. It's famed for its high degree of endemism, including many unique plants and insects. The Danube sandbanks are home to the largest Central European Sand Martin breeding colony, with up to 18,000 pairs! It's also home to Susliks, European Polecats, Marbled Polecats and at least three packs of Grey Wolves.

Birds include: White-tailed Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Booted Eagle, Black Kite, Goshawk, Long-legged Buzzard, Hobby, Saker Falcon, Little Owl, Scops Owl, Nightjar, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Roller, Wryneck, Crested Lark, Sand Martin, Tawny Pipit, Barred Warbler, Collared Flycatcher, Red-backed Shrike, Lesser Grey Shrike, Golden Oriole, Ortolan Bunting.

