

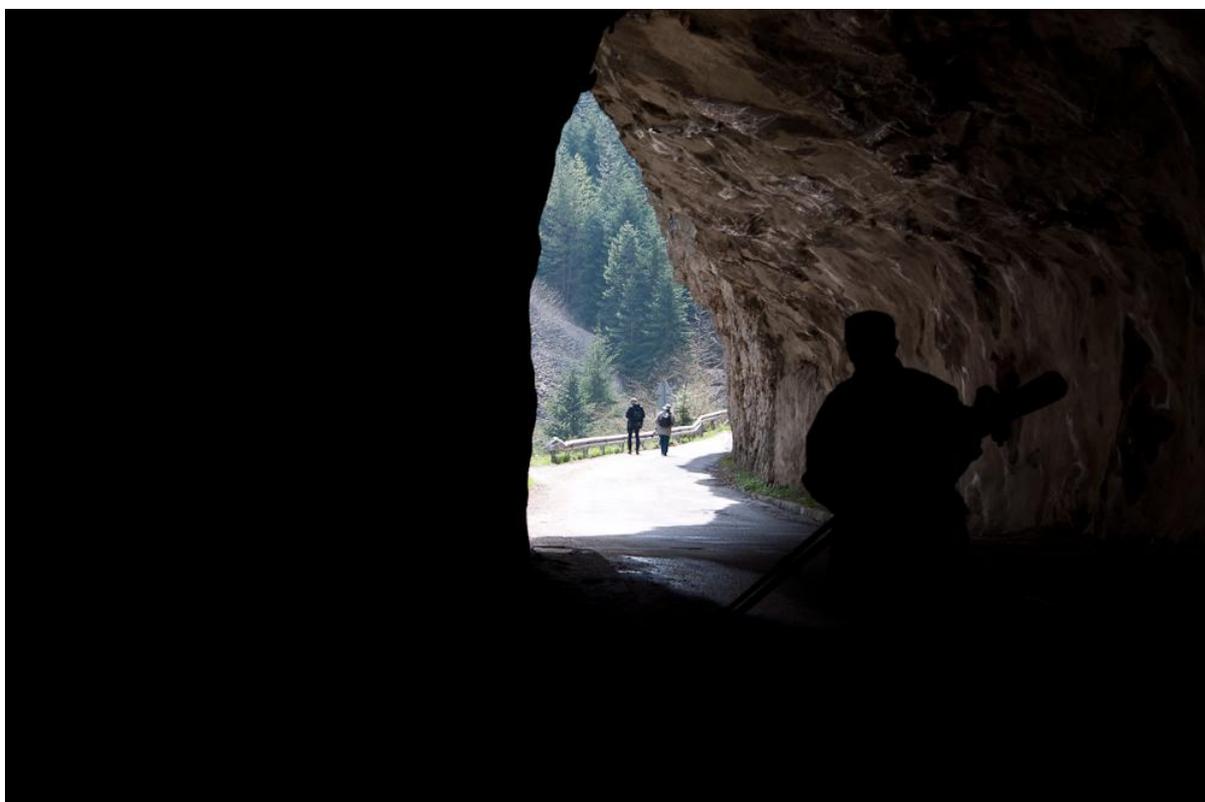
Bulgaria-Macedonia 2014

Day 1. Arrive at Sofia and transfer to Trigrad with stop at Besaparski hills. Possible birds include *Short-toed lark*, *Stone curlew*, *Roller*, *Long-legged buzzard*, *Isabeline wheatear*.

Night in Trigrad

Day 2. Trigrad Gorge. Morning spent in the gorge looking for Wallcreepers. Afternoon 3-4 hours walk between Trigrad and Yagodina. Possible birds – *Peregrine falcon*, *Rock bunting*, *Hazel grouse (possible)*, *Crested tit*, *Black woodpecker*.

Night in Trigrad



Trigrad Gorge. Foto: Nikolaj Noel Christensen

Day 3. Trigrad – Melnik. AM Transfer to Melnik via Popovi livadi Pass. Possible birds – *Short toed eagle*, *Rock partridge*, *Wood lark*, *Barred and Sardinian warbler*.

Night in Melnik

Day 4. Melnik. Day around Melnik including visit to Harsovo (larks), Rupite and Rozhen Monastery. Possible birds – *Roller*, *Long-legged buzzard*, *Levant sparrowhawk*, *Sub-alpine warbler*, *Short-toed and Calandra larks*, *Bee-eaters*, *Rock sparrow* (possible).

Night in Melnik

Day 5. Kerkini lake. A day trip to the bird rich Kerkini lake in Northern Greece to catch up with marsh terns, Dalmatian and White pelicans, Glossy ibis, Night and Squacco heron, several woodpeckers, and a variety of Grebes, Ducks and Waders.

Night in Melnik



This long-horned beetle with the latin name *Moriuns funerus* is on the IUCN Red list of threatened Species as vulnerable. The picture is taken in the Ruin-area of Melnik. Foto: Kurt Christensen

Day 6. Transfer to Kavadartsi in Macedonia via Kozhuf mountain. Possible species – Golden eagle, Honey buzzard, Semi-collared flycatcher, Water pipit, Rock thrush, Alpine chough, etc.

Night in Kavadartsi

Day 7. Kavardarsi – Vulture feeding station at Vitachevo - AM > Afternoon in Vardar valley. Possible birds – *Griffon and Egyptian vultures, Imperial eagle, Olive tree warbler, Masked shrike, Sombre tit, Ortolan bunting and many more.*

Night in Kavardarsi

Day 8. Kavardarsi – In the morning we'll visit Babuna river and Crkvino to look for Rock Partridge and then a short drive to the steppe areas around Gradsko to look for Imperial eagle and Lanner falcon(both breeding in the area) Afternoon in the area of Drenova gorge and Tikvesh lake. Possible birds – *Stone curlew, Rock nuthatch, Black stork., Levant sparrowhawk, Blue rock thrush, Rock thrush, Black-eared wheatear, Crag martin.*

Night in Kavardarsi

Day 9. Kavardarsi. – In the morning we'll again visit Gradsko steppe. In the afternoon there is time to visit the archaeological town at Stobi and Marena Village with the colony of Lesser Kestrel. If time we will visit the winery in Kavardarsi.

Night in Kavardarsi



Lesser Kestrel. Foto: Nikolaj Noel Christensen

Day 10. Transfer to Prespa lake on the Greece side for two nights stay with stops at Prilep for Montagu's harrier, Semi-collared flycatcher, Short-toed larks, Roller and others

Night in Prespa

Day 11. Prespa lake. Day spent around Small and Big Prespa lakes looking for Dalmatian and White pelican, Night and Squacco heron, Penduline and Bearded tits, Olive tree warbler, etc.

Night in Prespa

Day 12. Prespa – Bitola in Macedonia. Transfer to our hotel in the foot of Pelister./ In the afternoon – Galichitsa mountain to look for Black redstart, Nutcracker, Ring ouzel, Water pipit, Rock partridge.

Night in Bitola

Day 13. Bitola – Rilski manastir. Morning visit of Bitola fishponds . Transfer from Bitola to Rilski monastery. Afternoon in the area of the Monastery for sightseeing and birdwatching.

Night at Rilski monastery.

Day 14. Rilski manastir – Sofia. Depending on flights we can spend the morning in the area of the monastery to catch up with Golden eagle, Nutcracker, Ring ouzel, Black woodpecker and White-backed woodpecker, Marsh tit and if lucky - Wallcreeper.

Fly from Sofia