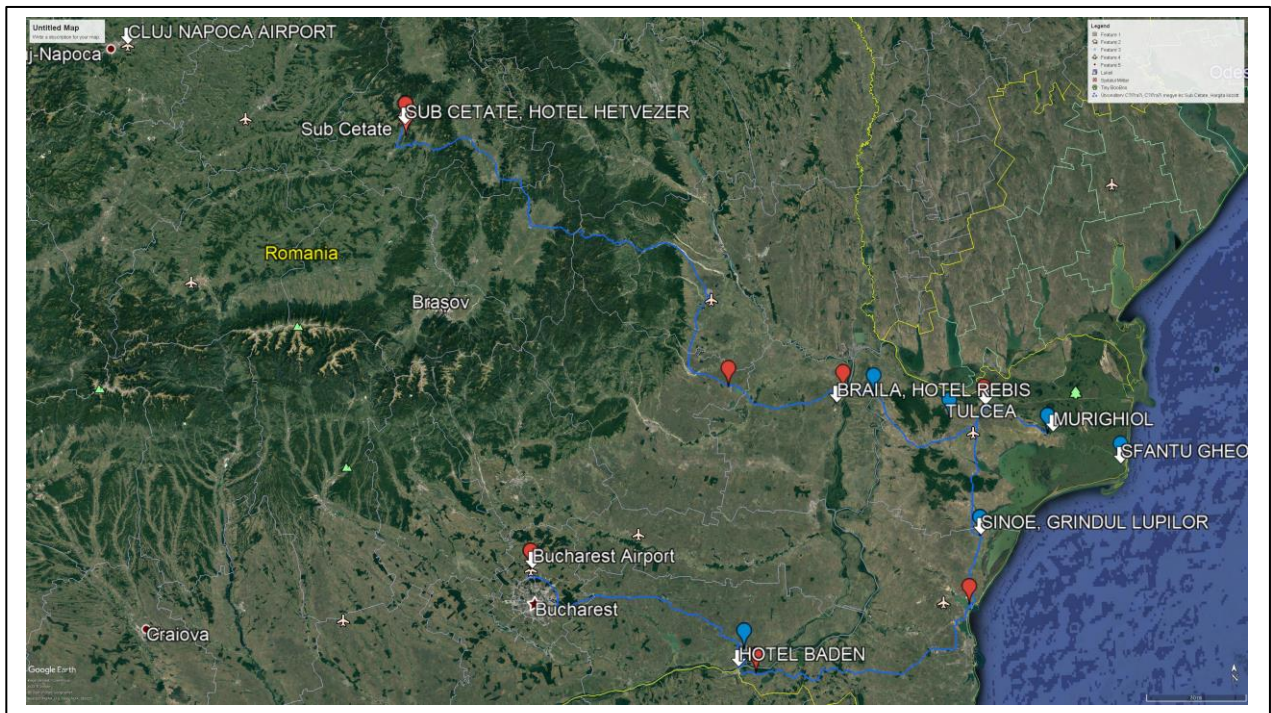


DANUBE DELTA and TRANSYLVANIA BIRDING TOUR

21st of August – 1st September, 2019

Romania is a fantastic bird watching destination in Europe where our company has more than 20 years of experience. Based on our best knowledge we designed an autumn birding and wildlife tour especially for your company. The trip will start/ends in Bucharest however the return flight is possible from Cluj Napoca (Transylvania) Airport (Cluj – Billund or Cluj - Malmö) too.

Our company going to supply a checklist with all the possible birds on this tour to everybody and every day before the evening dinner this list will be completed together with the daily observations and we relive again all the sightings and highlights for every day with a company of a cold drink.



Danube Delta and Transylvania birding trip on Google Maps with the marked key places.

Day 1.

After arrival in Bucharest we will need two hours to reach our first Hotel by the Danube shore, just in the vicinity of Calarasi city. If we have time we could stop briefly to check several roadside ponds. **Night at Calarasi, Hotel Baden.** <http://www.hotel-baden.ro/en/>

Day 2.

We will start every morning with an optional pre-breakfast birding walk around the hotel. This optional birding starts 1 hour before breakfast at 6:00. Breakfast will be at 7.00, then we leaving the Hotel at 8.00 o'clock.

The Hotel is located right in the shore of the river Danube so first we going to check the river than the nearby fields and trees. After breakfast we are going to cross the Danube with a ferry boat and drive to the Constanta direction. The first 40 km is the most important for birding and we will stop in every promising place for birds. The first stop will be to check the sky over the Bulgarian village of Silistra, right in the other side of the Danube and looking for Common and Pallid Swifts. After this stop we soon stop again and visiting a wetland/fishpond by Buceag village to find our first Ferruginous Duck, Black-necked Grebes, Glossy Ibis, Ruddy Shelducks... than a bit later we will visit a woodland where we going to have picnic lunch too.

From this point we drive more or less straight to Constanta where we have time to check a sea side lagoon for more wetland birds.

Our next accommodation will be in Sinoe village on the Black Sea coastal area and expect to reach it until 19.00 PM. **Night at Sinoe, Hotel Grindul Lupilor.** <http://grindul-lupilor.ro/en/index.php>

Day 3.

Usual pre breakfast walk in the village, then after the breakfast we will visit several places by the Black Sea coast. Expect to see species like Caspian Tern, White-winged Black Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Collared Pratincole, Red-necked Phalaropes, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper, Stone Curlew and even some late Paddyfield Warblers.

We going to check some bushes in the middle of steppe habitat for migrants like Red-breasted Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher, masses of Red-backed Shrikes, Lesser Grey Shrike, Icterine Warbler, Golden Oriole, Wryneck, Hoopoe and more.

Lunch back in the Hotel than in the afternoon we will visit an abandoned rock quarry for Pied Wheatear, Isabelline Wheatear but this site usually a good place for raptors like Long-legged Buzzard, Short-toed Eagle or even Saker Falcon too. **Night at Sinoe, in Hotel Grindul Lupilor.**

Day 4.

Usual pre breakfast walk in the village then after the breakfast we will visit another coastal marshy wetland nearby Vadu, where we going to spend the whole morning. Small wetlands in the southern tip of the huge Sinoe lagoon are great place for birding. Picnic lunch will be in the Black Sea shore, then we drive back to Sinoe. On the way back we going to check the Nuntasi lake, then a Gull roosting site after the scarce Pallas`s Gull. **Night at Sinoe, Hotel Grindul Lupilor.**

Day 5.

Usual pre breakfast birding around the accommodation, then after breakfast we leave our accommodation. We will start birding in an open woodland area in the vicinity of Celic Dere Monastery. We expect to find birds like Hawfinch, Sombre Tit, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Syrian Woodpecker or even Black Woodpecker. From this spot we drive straight to Murighiol, the place where we going to leave our car and embark to our Hotel Boat/or Ponton for the next three nights. We are having the lunch on the boat, then enjoying the cruise downriver on the Danube. We expect to reach Sfantu Gheorghe village by 19.00 - 20. 00 PM. **Night on the Hotel Boat.**

Day 6.

During the pre breakfast birding we will meet on the top floor of the boat from where we have a great view over the surroundings and we could enjoy our first cup of coffee too. Breakfast will be at 7.00 as usual, then from 8.00 we going to explore a place for Moustached Warbler, than a woodland area for Black, Grey-headed and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, and migrant flycatchers and warblers. Lunch back on the boat, then in the afternoon we going to explore the famous Sachalin Bay.

When we going to explore places in the Danube Delta we going to use open boats suitable for 6-8 persons, so in your case we going to use 2 boats every time. On the boat you will need sun cream, hats against the sun and some occasion you may need windstopper jacket too.

In the Sachalin Bay the landing in the Island is a 'wet landing' and it is usually necessary to wade the last 10-30 meters through shallow (ankle or knee deep) water to reach the shore. Be advised that the seed pods of the water chestnuts here have sharp spikes so barefoot is not recommended for this or once ashore; instead, we recommend you wear some old trainers, sandals or flip flops that you don't mind getting wet when visiting Sachalin.

Once we back to the boat we start cruising backward until the Lake Erenciuc channel entrance.

Night on a Hotel Boat.

Day 7.

During the pre breakfast birding we will meet on the top floor of the Boat from where we have a great view over the surroundings and we could enjoy our first cup of coffee too. Breakfast will be at 7.00 as usual, then from 8.00 we going to explore the nearby lake where we expect to find Little Crake and more. The wooded channel before the lake is also good for passerines and woodpeckers!

From this point our boat will start moving upriver again and we are going to travel several hours with the boat. After lunch we will be out again with the small boats until 19.00. In the afternoon we are going to visit the Perivolovka channel, Lake Uzlina, Lake Isac and meet with the Hotel Boat at Murighiol where we overnight. **Night on the Hotel Boat.**

Day 8.

Pre breakfast birding on the top of the Hotel Boat, then after the breakfast we leave the Boat and return to our trusty bus. Our boat spent the night close to Murighiol so today we just need to cross the river with the small boats and we are in the Murighiol car park.

Today we will visit the Macin Mountain National Park area first where we expect to witness raptor migration over the rocky hills. This time of the year Honey Buzzards, Lesser Spotted Eagles, Black Storks migrate in good numbers. Lunch in a nearby restaurant, then we are going to cross the Danube River once again with a ferry boat and visiting a steppe habitat which is a stop-over area for Dotterels. **Night at Braila, in Hotel Rebis.** <http://hotelrebis.ro/>

Day 9.

Pre breakfast birding in a park just outside the accommodation, then after breakfast we start travelling to Transylvania region. Today is a longer driving day. Just an hour distance from our accommodation is a superb salt lake where we are going to stop briefly, but from this point more or less straight driving to our next accommodation to Sub Cetate village which is 300 km far and takes 5 hours to reach it. We are going to cross the Carpathian Mountains and stopping briefly in several interesting places higher in the Mountains. We expect to reach our next base around 20.00 PM. **Night at Sub Cetate, in Hotel Hetvezer.** <https://www.romanianguesthouse.com/>

Day 10.

Pre breakfast birding around the Hotel garden then after breakfast we leave to the Bicaz Gorge - Hasmas Mountains National Park to find Wallcreepers and other high elevation species. Lunch in a roadside restaurant, then driving back to the accommodation and preparing for the Bear watching session from 17.00 until the evening. **Night in Sub Cetate, at the Hotel Hetvezer.**

Day 11.

Pre breakfast birding around the Hotel Garden then after breakfast we are going to drive higher to the Harghita Mountains. Today we try to locate some higher elevation species like Three-toed Woodpecker, Crested Tit or even Capercaillie or Hazelgrouse. Lunch is back in the hotel then in the afternoon we are visiting some old deciduous woodlands. During this tour all the 10 species of European Woodpeckers are possible to see! Today afternoon we will take a special effort to find the rare White-backed Woodpecker. **Night at Sub Cetate, in Hotel Hetvezer.**

Day 12.

After the breakfast we drive straight to the Airport (**Bucharest Airport 4 and half hours driving**) to catch your flight back home.

Billeder fra områderne taget af lokale folk



white_pelicans_ZoltanBaczo



black_storks_ZoltanBaczo



broad_billed_sandpiper_ZoltanBaczo



dotterel_ZoltanBaczo



hazel_grouse_JanosOlah



landscape_with_birds_ZoltanBaczo



paddyfield_warbler_ZoltanBaczo



pallas_gull_ZoltanBaczo



pied_wheatear_juvenile_JanosOlah



ponton_hotel_boat



pratincoles_resting_ZoltanBaczo



red_backed_shrike_JanosOlah



red_necked_phalarope_ZoltanBaczo



sombre_tit_JanosOlah



squacco_juvenile_ZoltanBaczo



transylvania_bears_JanosOlah



transylvania_autumn_JanosOlah