

Birding Languedoc

Tour programme 2023

France offers a fabulous array of wildlife just an easy train-ride away. And nowhere more so than the Languedoc-Roussillon region, which stretches from the high plateaux of the Eastern Pyrenees in the south via the vineyards and coastal lagoons of the Narbonnaise in the Western Mediterranean, and north to the Minervois hills. This diversity of habitats is home to an impressive range of wildlife in a relatively small area. Interesting resident birdlife (*Bonelli's eagle, Blue rock thrush, Sardinian warbler, Eagle owl* to mention but a few) is complemented in the spring and autumn by spectacular migration (*White stork, Black kite and Honey buzzard* – as well as tens of thousands of hirundines and passerines). Summer nesting visitors add some exotic touches of colour (*Roller, Bee-eater and Golden oriole*). The area also boasts over 80 species of orchids and more than 150 species of butterflies together with interesting reptiles, dragonflies and mammals.

We understand that birdwatchers are keen to travel again but may want to stay closer to home in these challenging times... So where better to go than the sunny south of France to enjoy brilliant birding and wildlife, soak up some sunshine and enjoy delicious local food and wine!

Nothing beats local knowledge, and our English-speaking guides and bilingual tour leader are **all long-term Languedoc residents with an intimate understanding of the local wildlife and conditions.**

Our **small group fixed date tours vary in length and price** and we hope you will find one to suit. However, if you prefer to travel with a group of people you know, why not **privatise one of our advertised tours** for your birding watching club or a group of friends? You can also ask for a **tailor-made itinerary to suit your group's interest and budget.**

Birding Languedoc tours are relaxed but focussed and we go out of our way to find charming high-quality accommodation. Prices are all inclusive except for travel and we offer a special **#lowcarbonbirding discount to participants traveling by train.**

As Languedoc specialists, **we are passionate about our local wildlife and love sharing "our patch" with fellow birders and natural history enthusiasts.** We will do our best to make sure you get the most out of a trip here.

New this year: Orchids of the Aude – Part One: offers a unique opportunity to **discover some of the 90 species of wild orchid** that have been recorded in the Aude county of southern France. The group will be guided by a local orchid specialist and a qualified botanist.

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If small group tours are not for you, another option is to **organise your own independent holiday to coincide with one or more of our guided day trips in English**, allowing you time to explore on your own whilst benefitting from a day or two out with our experienced local guides. This makes the perfect combination for a great value-for-money birding trip to the Languedoc with plenty of things to do and see in the area for non-birders. The spring day trip programme is available on our website from mid-December.

See the appropriate tour page on the Birding Languedoc website: www.birdinglanguedoc.org for more detailed information.

If you are interested in joining a residential tour, please complete the **Booking Request Form** and do get in touch by email: birdinglanguedoc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

We look forward to helping you enjoy the amazing birds and wildlife of the Languedoc!

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Price pp from**</u>
5-10 March	BLWWB-23	Winter Break looking for Wallcreeper	1,200€
10-14 May	BLORCH-23	Orchids of the Aude – Part 1	990€
22-29 May	BLGSBW-23	Gourmet Spring Birding & Wine in the Med	1,800€
29/06-06/07	BLJBBP-23	Butterflies & Birds of Eastern Pyrenees	1,750€
*7-14Sept	BLABPN-23	Autumn Birding Pyrenees & Narbonnaise	1,750€

We only ask for a deposit once departure is confirmed.

* These tour dates are still to be confirmed.

**As of 07/10/2022 the exchange rate is approximately 1.14€ to the British pound. Therefore, dividing the prices mentioned above by 1.14 will give you an idea of the GBP equivalent. Our trips are however, sold in euros. When the trip is confirmed, you may choose to pay the full amount, rather than just the deposit, to avoid exchange rate fluctuations and remove any uncertainty as to how much the trip will cost you.

*** All Birding Languedoc trips are sold by a fully bonded tour operator.