



Photo: Lisbon and the Tagus Estuary, by Pedro Marques

Short-break Birds & Lisbon Programme

Lisbon & the Tagus Estuary

Birds & Nature Tours Portugal

Overview

Lisbon is the only European capital located right next to a rich, globally famous birdwatching hotspot, the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve. And some of the very best birding spots of this protected area lie only 20 minutes drive from Lisbon Airport or the city centre! We have taken full advantage of this and designed our Birds & Lisbon Programme, bringing together the best of urban and rural highlights.

In this programme, participants enjoy Lisbon at their leisure (staying in a Lisbon hotel) and, guided by Birds & Nature, also discover the wonderful bird life of the famed Tagus estuary, the most important Portuguese wetland and one of the principal wetlands in Europe.

This remarkable protected area offers an extensive bird list that includes Greater Flamingo, White Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Little Bittern, Squacco and Purple Herons, Booted Eagle, Black-winged Kite, Purple Swamphen, Little Bustard, Collared Pratincole, Little Owl, Pallid Swift, Eurasian Hoopoe, Common Kingfisher, European Bee-eater, Bluethroat,

Sardinian, Dartford, Savi's and Melodious Warblers, Iberian Chiffchaff, Iberian Grey and Woodchat Shrikes, Iberian Magpie, Spotless Starling, Rock Sparrow, European Serin, Cirl Bunting and an excellent selection of ducks, waders, gulls and terns.

In practical terms, after we pick you up from the Airport, it is only about 20 minutes before you can expect to be seeing Greater Flamingo, Glossy Ibis, Squacco and Purple Herons, Black-winged Kite, Eurasian Hoopoe, Iberian Magpie...

And next morning you will be enjoying great views of unique species like the Castle of São Jorge, the Monument to the Discoveries, the Tower of Belém, the Jerónimos Monastery...

Itinerary

Day 1 – Transfer from Lisbon Airport. Visit 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 and Ribeira das Enguias and the Barroca d'Alva rice fields and pastures. Overnight stay at the Hotel Zenit, in Lisbon (or equivalent).

Day 2 – Day free for visiting Lisbon. Some possibilities include visits to the main squares and avenues, the Baixa (downtown area), some of the hilltop districts, the Castle of São Jorge and the cathedral. Overnight stay at the Hotel Zenit (or equivalent).

Day 3 – Visit other interesting sites and habitats in the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve, including the open fields, rice fields, reed beds, lagoons, inter-tidal mudflats and salt marshes of the Ponta da Erva area. During the breeding season, we visit a heronry on the river Tagus. Overnight stay at the Hotel Zenit (or equivalent).

Day 4 – Day free for visiting Lisbon. Some possibilities include visits to the Belém area (the historic area from which the Portuguese caravels departed to discover the world), where you will find the Monument to the Discoveries and two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the beautiful Tower of Belém and the Jerónimos Monastery. Overnight stay at the Hotel Zenit (or equivalent).

Day 5 – Visit the salt pans of Samouco and the cork oak woodlands of Pancas, in the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve. Transfer to Lisbon Airport for return flight.

Price

1,000 Euros per person (based on 2 people). Price includes guide fees (during the birdwatching tours), transfers from/to the airport, ground transport during the birdwatching tours (in air-conditioned vehicles), accommodation in Lisbon (including breakfast), free use of optical equipment (quality binoculars and telescopes) and field guides, bird list, entrance fees to private or protected areas (during the birdwatching tours), participant's accident insurance (during the birdwatching tours) and VAT. Single supplement: 150 Euros. Not included are flights, meals and items of a personal nature. Meals in selected restaurants can be included if you wish, as a supplement, at a fixed extra cost. Please note the price per person will be reduced as the number of participants increases.

Note

It is possible to tailor the programme to your wishes by reducing or increasing the number of days, or changing the proportion of time spent visiting Lisbon and birdwatching in the Tagus estuary. We suggest you discuss your flight details with us, before booking your flights.

For enquiries, please contact us:

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