Spain

Best of Birding

Strait of Gibraltar Extension



Bearded Reedling by Clayton Burne

Spain has long been a very popular birdwatching destination, offering a wide range of Mediterranean habitats along with safe, easy and excellent birding. Many sites are in beautifully scenic settings, featuring Romanesque architecture and ancient, fortified hilltop villages; whilst much of interior Spain that we visit is very rural and way off the tourist trail. Our comprehensive itinerary is specially designed for a great diversity of birds and concentrates on three major and distinct habitats: the semi-arid steppes and cork-oak dehesas (a type of wooded pastureland) of the central and northern interior, the scenic Sierras and high, alpine Pyrenees to the north in Catalonia, and the wetlands and marshes of Doñana National Park on the Atlantic coast. During spring, the area's many resident and breeding birds are joined by migrants en route from Africa to their northern nesting areas, and some of the fabulous species we hope to see include Spanish Imperial Eagle (up to 23 raptor species are possible!), Great and Little Bustards, Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Spectacled Warbler, Alpine Accentor, both species of noisy Chough, White-throated Dipper and the fabulous Wallcreeper. Our journey begins in the southern city of Seville, travels through the steppes and heartland of Spain with stops in the Sierra de Gredos before reaching the mighty Pyrenees, and then continues east to the historic city of Barcelona. We

travel in spacious and comfortable vehicles, the food is delicious and plentiful; while our accommodations are mostly family-run establishments in pleasant and beautifully renovated ancient stone farmhouses, nestled in quiet and charming villages.

Our brief yet exciting extension to the Strait of Gibraltar is timed for the amazing Spring Migration, whereby thousands upon thousands of raptors and a huge array of other Eurasian species make the daily crossing from the African Continent back to their summer breeding grounds in Europe and Asia. Aside from marvelling at this incredible spectacle, some of the many highlights we can expect during our time in this immensely important flyby area include the Iberian endemic Spanish Imperial Eagle, visiting a newly established breeding colony of the Critically Endangered Northern Bald Ibis, an exhilarating sea cruise in search of seabirds and several species of whales and dolphins, and spending time at a colony of very confiding Lesser Kestrels in the port town of Tarifa.

Itinerary & Map

Strait of Gibraltar Extension

Day 1	**Arrival in Seville; transfer to Sierra de la Plata**
Day 2	**Los Lances, Barbate, Montenmedio & La Janda**
Day 3	**Huerta Grande, Spring Migration & Whale Watching**
Day 4	**Doñana National Park & Bay of Cadiz Natural Park**
Day 5	**Isla de Tarifa, Spring Migration & departure**

Best of Birding

Day 1	**Arrive in Seville; birding River Guadalquivir**
Day 2	**Sanlucar & Doñana National Park (Bonanza Salt Pans)**
Day 3	**Brazo del Este & Doñana National Park**
Day 4	**Doñana National Park**
Day 5	**Doñana National Park to Monfragüe**
Day 6	**Monfragüe National Park**
Day 7	**Trujillo to Gredos**
Day 8	**Sierra de Gredos**
Day 9	**Gredos to Tudela**
Day 10	**Tudela to Hecho Valley**
Day 11	**Hecho Valley**
Day 12	**Hecho Valley to Ordesa National Park**
Day 13	**Ordesa to Lleida area**
Day 14	**Lleida to Barcelona**
Day 15	**Delta del Llobregat & final departure**


Hecho Valley
Tudela
Lleida
Barcelona
Gredos
Monfragüe NP
Trujillo
Seville
Doñana NP
Bay of Cadiz
Huerta Grande
Tarifa
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Google Earth

Birding sites in detail

Sierra de la Plata. Our drive along the coast to Sierra de la Plata will likely produce our first raptors of the trip in the form of Black Kite, Booted and Short-toed Eagles, Egyptian Vulture, Montagu's Harrier and Eurasian Sparrowhawk, all of which will be arriving back from Africa at this time of the year. Moving along the coast in order to fully enjoy the raptor migration from various vantage points will also afford us the chance for some dramatic views of the African coastline, a mere 14km (8.75 mi) away on the other side of the Strait.



Short-toed Eagle by Yeray Seminario

Sierra de la Plata is a great location and also offers spectacular views of the Spanish coastline and Africa. Here we will look for Griffon Vulture (Eurasian Griffon), Egyptian Vulture, Short-toed Eagle, Iberian Woodpecker, Thekla Lark, Eurasian Crag Martin, Blue Rock Thrush and Sardinian Warbler.

Playa de los Lances. Conveniently close to the town of Tarifa, we'll walk through a network of small fields backing onto the dunes which are great for open ground migrants, such as wheatears, pipits, larks and wagtails. Sandwich and Caspian Terns can often be found sitting on sandbars amongst the Audouin's, Mediterranean, Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls. Among the waders, Grey, Common Ringed, Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers, Sanderling, Dunlin and Curlew Sandpiper are usually around, as well as flocks of European Bee-eater, Pallid Swift, Collared Pratincole, and Barn and Red-rumped Swallows. On the other side of the boardwalk,



Southern Spain scenery and Africa on the other side of the Strait by Yeray Seminario

there are some open grass plains where Greater Short-toed Lark, Zitting Cisticola, European Stonechat, Common Linnet and Corn Bunting are common.



Northern Bald Ibis pair at the breeding colony by Yeray Seminario

Barbate. This marshland area is good for Audouin's Gull and various waders, as well as Caspian, Sandwich, Black and Little Terns, Great Egret, and Mediterranean and Slender-billed Gulls. Ringed, Little Ringed and Kentish Plover can also be seen here; while in the surrounding area, we can look for Calandra and Lesser Short-toed Larks, Western Black-eared Wheatear, Subalpine Warbler and Eurasian Stone-curlew. Thereafter we will visit the newly established breeding colony of Northern Bald Ibis that was created from captive-bred birds released into the wild, and which provides us with the very rare opportunity for up-close studies and photographs of these critically endangered birds without disturbing them.

La Janda. We'll explore the network of rice fields at La Janda, once one of the largest natural freshwater lagoons in Europe that has subsequently been drained and given over to agriculture. The area attracts huge numbers of both resident and migrants alike, and here we can expect to see Montagu's and Western Marsh Harriers, White and Black Storks, Purple and Grey Herons, Black-crowned Night Heron, Western Cattle and Little Egret, Crested and Calandra Larks and Eurasian Reed Warbler. This rich birding region is often a magnet for early migrants and already the beautiful Montagu's Harriers should be displaying. At this time of year, there's even the chance for Little Bustard, and we will scan carefully for this sought-after species. Beyond the rice fields, an area of open country is great for large raptors; in fact, La Janda is among the most important dispersal areas for Bonelli's Eagle and the Iberian endemic, Spanish Imperial Eagle.



Slender-billed Gull by Rob Williams

Huerta Grande. An early morning walk in these Cork Oak Forest should easily produce forest species such as Iberian Chiffchaff, Common Firecrest, Eurasian Wren and European Crested Tit, among others.

Raptor observatory. These observatories in the Strait of Gibraltar are excellent for marvelling at Spring migration. Due to the absence of thermals above the ocean, birds that would normally save their energy by soaring thanks to the ascending air currents instead have to flap and fight against the

wind to make it safe and sound and continue their travels up north. Spending time at these observatories will give us the opportunity to view these splendid birds at eye level, as they struggle to reach the coast.



Sperm Whale in the Strait by Yeray Seminario

Tarifa Whale Watching. We will embark on an exciting 2.5-hour whale watching trip off Tarifa. Sightings of Pilot Whales and both Bottlenose and Striped Dolphins are nearly guaranteed, with further possibilities including Sperm Whale, Orca, Fin Whale and Common Dolphin. As for seabirds, the most common species are Scopoli's Shearwater, Northern Gannet, Great Skua and Black Tern, though there is always the chance for additional possibilities. Once back in the port of Tarifa, we will visit a photogenic colony of very confiding Lesser Kestrels in the old part of the town – so best to ensure that you still have some power remaining in your camera batteries! Here we may also hear and see a small family group of Common Bulbul, an unusual species (to put it mildly) on this side of the Strait of Gibraltar, as Tarifa holds the only known European population, following the arrival of a pair a few years ago.

Bay of Cadiz Natural Park. This bird rich series of Atlantic tidal marshes are an excellent site for waders, including Kentish Plover, Common Greenshank, Common Redshank, Ruff, Wood and Curlew Sandpipers, Black-tailed Godwit, Sanderling, Dunlin, Little Stint and Common Snipe.



Juvenile Spanish Imperial Eagle & Western Jackdaws by Yeray Seminario

Some special raptors for the area include Western Osprey and the lovely Red Kite, as well as the possibility of Spanish Imperial Eagle that nests inside the national park. However, the most remarkable sight of the day will probably be the large numbers of Slender-billed Gull, Greater Flamingo and Eurasian Spoonbill that gather on occasions in the saltpans. There is also a chance for Caspian Tern, Purple Heron, Black Stork, Great Egret, Little Bittern and even though it is quite early in the season, we should keep our eyes open for the dainty Little Tern as well.

Isla de Tarifa. W will head to the Island of Tarifa in the El Estrecho National Park. This is the southernmost tip of the European continent and an excellent lookout spot for sea-watching. Here we will view the Mediterranean Sea on the one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, with the African continent right in front of us. Tourist access here is restricted and has only recently been permitted for a few private companies, with the result that we are likely to have the area largely to ourselves; aside perhaps from other birders. Some of the commoner seabirds that can viewed from the island include Scopoli's and Balearic Shearwaters, Northern Gannet and Great Skua, though we will also keep our eyes peeled for anything rare and unusual, which at this time of year is always a possibility!



Eurasian Crag Martin by Rob Williams

Bonanza Salt Pans. This is one of most rewarding birding sites in the Doñana area. En route to the pans, we should encounter several common and widespread species including Common Wood Pigeon, Eurasian Collared Dove, Pallid Swift, White Stork, European Bee-eater, Common Kestrel, Eurasian Magpie, Northern Raven, Crested Lark, Eurasian Blackbird, Spotless Starling, and catch our first glimpses of the abundant water birds we will seek over the following few days.

Near the mouth of the River Guadalquivir is the best place to look for the globally threatened and range-restricted White-headed Duck, as well as the uncommon Marbled Duck in the province of Cadiz. This is also an excellent place for waders, including Kentish Plover, Common Greenshank, Common Redshank, Ruff, Wood and Curlew Sandpipers, Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits, Sanderling, Dunlin, Little Stint and Common Snipe as well as Whiskered and Gull-billed Terns. In addition, the saltpans here are our best place for seeing Lesser Short-toed Lark and Spectacled Warbler.



White-headed Duck by Rob Williams

Some special raptors for the area are Osprey and the lovely Red Kite, as well as the possibility for Spanish Imperial

Eagle that nests inside the national park. However, the most remarkable sight of the day will probably be the large numbers of Slender-billed Gull, Greater Flamingo and Eurasian Spoonbill that gather on occasions in the saltpans. There is also a chance for Caspian Tern, Purple Heron, Black Stork, Great Egret, Little Bittern and even though it is quite early in the season, we should keep our eyes open for the dainty Little Tern as well.



Red-necked Nightjar by Glen Valentine

Doñana National Park. we will bird a number of sites within the Doñana National Park complex and surrounds. The acres and acres of marshland on the mouth of the Rio Guadalquivir form one of the largest wetland complexes in Europe with much of the area protected within the Doñana National Park. The national park was established in 1969 and is recognized as a Ramsar Convention "Wetland of International Importance," an Audubon "Important Bird Area" (IBA), and a UNESCO "World Heritage Site" with a site list of no less than 300 bird species. The park harbours several species that are rare or absent in much of Western Europe and we will seek out notable species like White-headed Duck, Marbled Duck, Eurasian Spoonbill, Greater Flamingo, Western Swamphen, Yellow-legged Gull, the rare Ferruginous Duck, Red-necked Nightjar, and the lovely Iberian Magpie. More common breeding species here include Squacco and Purple Herons, Red-crested Pochard, Booted Eagle, Western Marsh Harrier, Pied Avocet, Short-toed and Lesser Short-toed Larks, Western Olivaceous Warbler, Common Nightingale, and European Serin. The flooded fields attract a variety of migrating shorebirds that could include Ruff, Sanderling and Black-tailed Godwit. The national park is vast and some sections are difficult to access, but we will bird the most productive sites by following dirt tracks around the marshy areas, moving further inland to bird areas of cork oaks and umbrella pines. The wilderness at the heart of the park is home to a variety of mammals, including Red Fox, Red Deer, Fallow Deer, endemic Iberian Hare, European Rabbit and Wild Boar.



Western Swamphen by Rob Williams

In the evenings, we'll venture out after dark to look for the Red-necked Nightjar, which is relatively common here. Doñana is also one of the last refuges for the Iberian Lynx, one of the most threatened cats in the world.

Extremadura region. As we journey north, the route passes through unspoiled countryside where the unique dehesa, a magnificent park-like habitat of cork and evergreen oaks dominates and this habitat is frequented by Melodious, Dartford, Sardinian, Subalpine, and shy Western Orphean Warblers. The entire Extremadura region is fantastic for raptors with a dozen species possible and we will keep an eye to the sky for Red and Black Kites, Common Buzzard, Short-toed Snake, Booted, and Spanish Imperial Eagles, Peregrine Falcon, Common Kestrel, and plenty of Cinereous and Griffon Vultures.



White-throated Dipper by Rob Williams

Alange Reservoir. Here we will look for Alpine and Pallid Swifts, Eurasian Crag Martin, Thekla's and Wood Larks, Blue Rock Thrush, Black Redstart, Black Wheatear, Rock Sparrow and Rock Bunting.

Monfragüe National Park. The Monfragüe National Park, covering 18,000 hectares, was protected as a Natural Park from 1979 but only recently declared a National Park in 2007. There is an additional 11,700-hectare buffer zone, culminating in a vast area that is rich in wildlife. This fabulous region of mountains, gorges, forest and woodland holds Spain's major breeding sites for the rare Spanish Imperial Eagle and during our stay here, we will hope for daily sightings of this impressive species. The area is also home to the world's largest breeding colony of Cinereous Vulture. These huge birds are often visible throughout the region and can often be seen attending to goat or sheep carcasses, along with the more numerous Griffon and Egyptian Vultures.

Other birds that we'll be searching for during our time here include Black Stork, the impressive Eurasian Eagle-Owl, Bonelli's Eagle, smartly plumaged Iberian Magpie, Black-winged Kite, European Roller, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Long-tailed Tits, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Red-rumped Swallow, White-rumped (rare) and Pallid Swifts, Sardinian and Spectacled Warblers, and Ortolan Bunting. The liquid calls of stunningly plumaged European Bee-eaters will no doubt attract our attention to these newly arrived flocks from their wintering grounds in Africa.



Bluethroat by Rob Williams



Bearded Vulture by Adam Riley

Trujillo. We'll make a quick visit to this ancient, fortified town where Lesser Kestrels and Eurasian Scops Own have often be found.

Trujillo to Gredos. We'll make our way to towards the Sierra de Gredos, birding the many farms and tracks en route. We have good chances for various lark species, including Calandra, Thekla's, Crested and Greater Short-toed Larks. The area also holds good numbers of Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouse, best seen as they commute between water holes and feeding sites, as well as populations of Great and Little Bustards. Other species we seek on these vast steppes include Great Spotted Cuckoo, Iberian Grey Shrike, Northern Raven, Western Black-eared Wheatear, and Corn Bunting, while Eurasian Stone-curlews are present in small numbers. The edge habitats in these steppes are home to Eurasian Hoopoe and Spanish Sparrow. We will also increase our raptor tally here with Montagu's and possibly Hen Harriers, and Little Owl. The open landscape and great number of birds will make for a very enjoyable and productive day.

Sierra de Gredos. The dramatic Pico Almanzor and verdant pine forests serve as a splendid backdrop as we search for Iberian Green Woodpecker, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Eurasian Nuthatch, Goldcrest, Common Firecrest, Northern Wheatear, Rock and Cirl Buntings, Dunnock and Citril Finch. At higher elevations White-throated Dipper, Grey Wagtail, European Crested Tit, European Pied Flycatcher and Red Crossbill are possible. In alpine meadows breeding species include Western Yellow Wagtails and Ortolan Buntings and thickly vegetated hillsides are home to the rare Bluethroat. The highest reaches of the beautiful Reserva Natural de Gredos, play host to Golden Eagle, Water Pipit and the distinctive



Dupont's Lark by Rob Williams

Common Rock Thrush. The park also harbours several large mammals, including Red Fox and the rare, spectacular, Spanish Ibex.



Alpine Accentor by Clayton Burne

Tudela. Here we will focus on one of the main targets of the site, the elusive and scarce Dupont's Lark that breeds in the area. This is a very range-restricted bird so we will try our best to find this enigmatic species and we will carefully listen for its distinctive song among the more numerous Calandra, Wood, Thekla's and Crested Larks.

Tudela to Hecho Valley. We will travel to higher Pyrenean mountain passes at 1 800 – 2 100m (6 – 7 000ft) elevations, amidst spectacular scenery. Targets at these heights, from just below the tree line to the open alpine zone above, include the very attractive Red Kite, Alpine Accentor, Ring Ouzel, Citril Finch, Water Pipit, Eurasian Crag Martin, Yellowhammer, Red-billed and Alpine Choughs and, depending on weather conditions and snow cover, perhaps a chance encounter with White-winged Snowfinch. At higher elevations the rocky summits host breeding Bearded Vultures. In the afternoon, after getting our first morning of birding in the Pyrenees, we will traverse the Hecho Valley.

Hecho Valley. The Hecho Valley near the village of Siresa holds a variety of habitats. One of our main targets is the unique Wallcreeper. This stunning crimson, grey and black species is a regular breeding bird in the deep, rocky gorges just minutes away from our accommodation, and we have several sites to try for this gem. Other target species at these mid-elevations are Alpine Swift, Black Woodpecker, Blue and Common Rock Thrushes, Eurasian Treecreeper, Red-backed Shrike, European Crested Tit and Mistle Thrush. This whole area is prime raptor country with more chances for Bearded Vulture along with Golden, Short-toed Snake and Booted Eagles, many Eurasian Griffons and migrating European Honey Buzzards.



Ortolan Bunting by Rob Williams

Ordesa National Park. The community of Torla sits in the glacial valley of the River Ara and is surrounded by stupendous mountains. It offers access to the Ordesa Valley and Ordesa National Park. The world-famous Ordesa National Park was one of the first declared in Spain and the park protects large swaths of raging rivers, waterfalls, gorges, vertical rock faces, coniferous and deciduous woodland, and mountain pastures. Trails and paths offer chances to seek additional high elevation species that we may have missed at earlier sites. Here we will again seek Alpine Accentor, Red-billed and Alpine Choughs, White-throated Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Water Pipit, Alpine Swift, Citril Finch, Black Woodpecker and the fabulous Wallcreeper, plus with great luck White-winged Snowfinch.



Wallcreeper by Clayton Burne

Ordesa to Lleida. After we enjoy the fine vistas of the magnificent mountain scenery one last time we will travel south out of the mountains towards the city of Lleida. Along the way we will make several birding stops. We have many options, including some great alternative sites for species still missing on our lists, or to obtain better views for anyone who may have missed out earlier. We can also visit further mountain areas if necessary, as well as some very scenic cliffs where we have a good possibility for Black Wheatear. We will, in addition, call in to wetland reserves for chances of Black Tern, Eurasian Bittern, Bearded Reedling and Common Kingfisher.

Lleida. The arid areas around the town of Lleida represent the largest, non-irrigated lowlands in the Ebro Valley. Many species typical of the Spanish steppes are at their easternmost limits here and we have a full day to explore the varied habitats. While the area is relatively quiet in summer and winter, during the spring it erupts with life and species like Great Spotted Cuckoo, European Roller and Little Bustard reach some of their highest densities here. We will seek any species we may have missed earlier in the tour and species typical of the open steppe habitats include Black Kites, Montagu's Harrier, Lesser Kestrel, Eurasian Hobby, Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Calandra Lark, Black Wheatear, Sardinian Warbler and Red-footed Falcon is possible as a passage migrant. The area will also offer us another chance to study the diversity of larks found in Spain. The riparian copses could hold Eurasian Penduline Tit and even Lesser Grey Shrikes occur. Although the shrike population here is small, a captive breeding project is currently carried out to reinforce its numbers. Black-winged Kites are recent colonists and breed in small numbers.



Little Bustard by Rob Williams

Delta del Llobregat. The Delta del Llobregat is located on the outskirts of Barcelona. Although the reserve here is relatively small and surrounded by the city, a system of short walking trails and well-placed hides offer access to productive wetland habitats. The area can be teeming with waterfowl, including Common Shelduck, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Red-crested and Common Pochards. A variety of terns, gulls (Mediterranean and Audouin's) and shorebirds are also present. Migrants can include Black-winged Stilt, Pied Avocet, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, European Golden Plover, Northern Lapwing, Kentish, Common Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Dunlin, Little Stint, Common Snipe, Common and Green Sandpipers, Spotted and Common Redshank, Common Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper and even Moustached Warbler and Collared Pratincole are possible.



Spectacled Warbler by David Hoddinott

We will also have another chance for the active Eurasian Penduline Tit, which shares the reedbeds with Fan-tailed, Great Reed and Cetti's Warblers here. With luck and patience, we may glimpse Little Bittern and Water Rail. Time and weather permitting a sea-watch nearby could produce distant views of Scopoli's and Balearic Shearwaters. After what is sure to be a productive final birding session, we will transfer to the airport where the tour ends.



European Honey Buzzards by Rob Williams

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Suitable for all birding / wildlife interest levels.
Birding Ease		Undemanding. Most species provide good visuals in open conditions.
Accommodation		Comfortable.
Walking / Trails		Moderate. Mostly short walks on flat ground, with some areas of uneven/rocky ground. Some hiking with a few steep sections in the mountainous areas around Gredos.
Vehicles / Roads		Good quality sealed roads & unsealed dirt roads. Some long drives broken up with birding stops.
Photography		Worthwhile to good.
Annoyances		Some bright sunny days, rain is possible.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 5 of the Strait of Gibraltar Extension;
- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 15 on the Best of Birding tour;
- All lodgings;
- Bottled water & wine on some evenings with meals;
- Ground and boat transportation;
- Reserve and historical site entrance fees;
- All local guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (**including bottled water** and mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 18kg (40 lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18 lb) for hand luggage.
- Fitness: this tour does not require a high level of fitness, but participants should be in good general health. Should you have any physical limitations, please notify us in advance of departure.
- Accommodation throughout the trip is of a generally high standard and the hotels and resorts that we make use of are very comfortable. There is no camping on this trip.
- Some hiking, particularly in the mountainous areas is involved. These are easy hikes on clean trails, but they can take a few hours each. These will be done in an easy and comfortable pace, as we will be birding along the route.
- We will change the order of days and locations on the extension depending on weather conditions at the time, to take advantage of the best opportunities for viewing the area's many migrants. For instance, if the wind is strong the migrants don't cross The Strait, we will then take the opportunity to visit some other areas, heading back to the observatories once the wind drops and the birds commence with their crossing.

Arrival and Departure Details

The Strait of Gibraltar Extension will depart from Seville Airport on day 1 by midday and conclude by mid-afternoon at Seville Airport on day 5.

The Best of Birding departs from Seville on the morning of day 1 (Do arrive the day before if you are not participating on the extension) and will conclude around mid-day at Barcelona International Airport on day 15.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Seville International Airport, Seville (IATA: SVQ) is the main port of entry and exit for this tour.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.