Spain

The Best of Iberian Birding in Spring

Tour Leader: Rob Ripma

April 25 - May 6, 2025
Spain is a country known for its rich culture and for having some of the best birding opportunities in Western Europe. On this tour, we’ll spend time in some of the most incredible birding spots in Spain. We’ll start in Andalucia in the south visiting well-known birding spots such as Tarifa and Doñana National Park. We’ll then continue north to Extremadura, arguably the best birding province in Spain. Here we will visit the Santa Marta Steppes and Monfragüe National Park, both incredible birding locations. We will end the trip by birding in the Gredos Mountains which will provide a much different list of species than our other stops.

**Itinerary Overview:**

April 25: Arrival in Sevilla and Transfer to Hotel  
April 26: Sevilla, Brazo del Este, and Jerez  
April 27: Birding Tarifa  
April 28: Birding Barbate Marshes and La Janda  
April 29: Chipiona, Sanlucar, and Trebujena  
April 30: Doñana National Park  
May 1: Doñana to Extremadura  
May 2: Santa Marta Steppes  
May 3: Monfragüe National Park  
May 4: Arrocampo and Drive to Gredos  
May 5: Gredos Mountains  
May 6: Gredos to Madrid

**Detailed Itinerary:**

April 25: Arrival in Sevilla and Transfer to Hotel

Upon arrival in Sevilla, you'll be transferred to your hotel. On our first evening, we will have a briefing for the tour and a wonderful welcome dinner.  
- *Overnight: Sevilla*

April 26: Sevilla, Brazo del Este, and Jerez

In the early morning, we will drive to Brazo del Este, which is a phenomenal birding spot near Sevilla, that will provide a good list to start the tour, including the possibility of Marbled Teal, Collared Pratincole, Savi's Warbler, Great Reed Warbler, and many more. Depending on the time available, we can visit Los Palacios, the only place in Europe for Laughing Dove. This is also a good spot to look for migrating warblers such as Garden and Western Subalpine Warblers.
Common Reed Warbler, and more. Once we are finished birding, we will make the drive to Tarifa where we will be staying for the next two nights.

- *Overnight: Tarifa*

**April 27: Birding Tarifa**

The Strait of Gibraltar is a raptor hotspot in southern Europe. We will have the chance to get acquainted with Short-toed and Booted Eagles, Black and Black-winged Kites, Montagu’s Harrier, and Eurasian Marsh-Harrier. We will have a full day to explore Sierra de la Plata, Los Lances, and Los Alcornocales looking for Iberian Chiffchaff, Crested Tit, and Hawfinch, among others.

- *Overnight: Tarifa*

**April 28: Birding Barbate Marshes and La Janda**

On our last day in the Strait of Gibraltar, we will explore La Janda, which is known for its abundance of raptors. Here Black-winged Kite will be one of our main targets. We will also have time to bird the Barbate Marshes, which can be excellent for shorebirds, including Kentish Plover and Collared Pratincole. Then, we will visit the nearby Northern Bald Ibis colony. This special species is one of the rarest birds in the world.

- *Overnight: Chipiona*

**April 29: Chipiona, Sanlucar and Trebujena**

Today is devoted to exploring the Bonanza Saltpans and its surroundings. It is another bird-rich area with some scarce European birds, like White-headed Duck, Red-knobbed Coot, and Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin, as well as the only colony of Little Swift on the European continent. In the afternoon, we will drive to Doñana National Park. Depending on timing, we might make our first attempt to see the Iberian Lynx. - *Overnight: Villamanrique de la Condesa*

**April 30: Doñana National Park.**

We will spend a full day in Doñana National Park and its surroundings, visiting some of the lakes and ponds where we will look for Western Swamphen, Purple Heron, Little Bittern, Whiskered Tern, Eurasian Spoonbill, and many other waterbirds. Other species present in the woodlands of Doñana are Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Iberian Magpie, Eurasian Wryneck, and much more.

- *Overnight: Villamanrique de la Condesa*
May 1: Doñana to Extremadura

We will have a last morning to try to see the Iberian Lynx while we enjoy some of the local birds, like Common Cuckoo, and Dartford and Sardinian Warblers. After breakfast, we will visit Dehesa de Abajo for another chance to see some waterbirds including Ferruginous Duck and Red-crested Pochard. Then, we will drive north towards Extremadura, with a couple of stops along the way to look for Black Wheatear and Rock Bunting. This is also a good place to look for Golden Eagle and where we will have our first opportunity to see Spanish Eagle.

- Overnight: Trujillo

May 2: Santa Marta Steppes

Today we will explore the Santa Marta Steppes looking for all the steppe specialists, mainly Great and Little Bustard, and Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. Also, possible here are Greater Spotted Cuckoo, Iberian Shrike, European Bee-eater, and European Roller, among many others.

- Overnight: Monfragüe

May 3: Monfragüe National Park

We will spend most of the day in the Monfragüe National Park. This is a great place for raptors, including Eurasian Griffon, Egyptian and Cinereous Vultures, Spanish Eagle, and, with a bit of luck, Bonelli’s Eagle. We will also look for some passerines, like Western Orphean and Western Subalpine Warblers.

- Overnight: Monfragüe

Spanish Eagle
May 4: Arrocampo and Drive to Gredos

In the morning we will explore some scrubland in search of special warblers in the genus Curruca, including Spectacled and Dartford Warblers, as well as Greater Whitethroat. Then we will drive to Arrocampo Wetlands, where we will have an opportunity for Little and Great Bitterns and much more. After our picnic lunch, we will start heading to the mountains of Gredos.

- Overnight: Navarredonda de Gredos

May 5: Gredos Mountains

We have one full day to explore the mountains of Gredos with a complete change of scenery from the lowlands. Some of our targets here are Bluethroat, Citril Finch, Western Bonelli’s Warbler, and Ortolan Bunting. We will also have a chance to see the impressive Iberian Ibex.

- Overnight: Navarredonda de Gredos

May 6: Gredos to Madrid

We will have one more morning in Gredos to catch up with any species we might have missed. Then, we will drive to Madrid where we conclude our tour.
**Trip Details:**

**Cost:**
Price per person (double occupancy), from Sevilla, Spain: $5,999  
Single Supplement: $550  
Minimum Participants: 4  
Maximum Participants: 6

**Price Includes:**
- Expert Guide
- Ground Transportation in Spain
- All Lodging
- All Meals
- Park Entrance Fees

**Price Does Not Include:**
- Airfare to and from Sevilla, Spain
- Visa and Passport Fees (if applicable)
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Personal Items
- Travel Insurance
- Tips

**Deposit:**
A deposit of $500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (January 25, 2025).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

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