



BIRDING IN SPAIN'S WILD WEST

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Sangusin & Alagon valleys & uplands, Biosphere Reserve.

The little known south-eastern area of the Sierra de Francia harbours a multitude of birds, with its river valleys rich in fauna. We can wander along the wide and sunny Sangusin river valley and, surrounded by wild flowers such as bluebell and wild peony filling the spaces between the shady 'dehesas' of Ash and Holm oak, we can look out for Black Stork, observe European pond turtle basking on rocks, and see Bee-eater dancing in the air to catch insects for their broods. Further west we'll drive over the hill and on the far side look down into the stunning Alagon valley, walking towards the confluence between both rivers now two hundred metres below, a fantastic vantage point for spotting Golden, Short-toed and Booted Eagle as well as Egyptian, Black and Griffon vulture, Goshawk and Sparrowhawk. Here we can come across a variety of fauna prints including stone marten, roe deer and wild boar, along with boar 'bathtubs': muddy basins in which they give themselves the full body treatment to rid themselves of parasites. The vegetation here is a rich mixture of Cistus, Spanish broom, Holm and Cork oak and countless wild herbs all filling the air with their scents.

All year: Serin, Cirl Bunting, Black Redstart, Stonechat, Rock Sparrow, Dipper, Short-toed Treecreeper, Sardinian & Dartford warbler, Griffon & Black vulture, Golden eagle, Goshawk.

Autumn/Winter: Pied flycatcher, Spotted flycatcher, Whinchat, Redstart.

Spring/Summer: Subalpine warbler, Bee-eater, Black Kite, Turtle Dove, Red-rumped swallow, Honey buzzard, Egyptian vulture, Booted eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Black stork.

When booking three or more subsequent tours, 5% discount will be applied to the overall price.