



Aragon Active

Birds of Northern Spain

See some of Europe's most spectacular birds



Full Itinerary

We will travel from the plains of the migratory Grey Crane to the mountains of the Bearded vulture, seeing some of Europe's most spectacular birds.

We will spend 4 nights in the high Pyrenees, our base being our farmhouse, Casa Allué, in the village of Albella, 2 nights south of Zaragoza and 1 night near Huesca. All accommodation is on a private room basis with bathroom.

This is an inclusive trip with only flights as the added cost. There is no single supplement and no transfer costs.

The itinerary below gives an idea of what we will be doing on our trip

We grade this week as easy walking. [See our walking grades.](#) However, being in the mountains, the terrain can be rocky and uneven.

DAY 1

Arrival

Afternoon arrival in Zaragoza. Collection from the airport and train station. Drive south to Gallocanta. Here we will be staying with Javier at his guesthouse. An ornithologist and expert on the Common grey crane; Javier will accompany us as our guide on our second day.

Gallocanta

The lake at Gallocanta is the best example of a saline wetland in the whole of Spain.

Twice a year this lake provides the backdrop to a true spectacle of nature. Up to 60,000 Common Grey Cranes pause here to rest on their migration to and from Northern and Central Europe. We are very likely to see between 10,000 – 20,000 during our visit!

DAY 2

The spectacle of the Cranes

- As dawn breaks, we visit the lake side to see thousands of Grey Cranes take to the skies, calling as they rise together in the early morning.
- After a late breakfast we will continue to explore the shore of lake Gallocanta.
As well as providing the backdrop to this amazing spectacle, the lake is also home to over 220 other species of birds. This includes Golden Eagles, Hen Harriers, Montagu's Harrier, Great Bustards, Black bellied Sandgrouse, Calandra lark, Thekla's lark, Crested lark and Skylarks. The list goes on.....
- As the morning warms, great skeins of Cranes will soar on the thermals above us, filling the air with incessant chatter.
What a setting to enjoy our picnic!
- After lunch we will continue to explore. By mid-afternoon more Cranes will start to arrive from the south, joining the thousands already at the lake.
- We can stay until the last rays of light have gone enjoying this once in a lifetime experience.
- Evening meal at the guest house.



Grey Cranes



Great Bustard

DAY 3

The shores of Gallocanta to Mallos de Riglos

- After breakfast we pack and load the van. But our trip is not over yet!
- We continue to explore the shore side and surrounding area.
- There is time for the group to explore without a guide, walking from the guesthouse or driving a short distance.
- After a picnic lunch we head North to Los Mallos de Riglos near Huesca.
- This is an iconic landscape and the home of the largest Griffon vulture colony in Europe.
- We will aim to arrive mid-afternoon.
- An off-road track takes us to a spectacular viewpoint for sunset. Here we can take our time to take in the breathtaking landscape and the constant activity around the colony.
- As evening falls, we descend to our country hotel where Lucy and dinner awaits.



Montagu's Harrier



Los Mallos de Riglos

DAY 4

Wallcreeper

- The majestic Mallos de Riglos, which we saw the evening before, are also an excellent winter location for Wallcreepers.
- After breakfast we pack and load the van and then rendezvous with Alberto who will be the guide today.
- We will have a picnic lunch at the base of these towering columns of stone.
- After lunch we transfer to our base in the mountains, and the farmhouse in Albella.



Wallcreeper

DAY 5

Rest day in Al bella

- Today is a chance to catch our breath after all the travelling. We will stay in Al bella and explore the habits around the farmhouse. This is a chance for everyone to do their own thing.
- A walk up the mountain behind the house gives the opportunity to see a variety of birds, including Crested tits, Firecrest, Goldcrest and Long-tailed tits.
- In the garden in the winter we see Hawfinch, Serin, Nuthatch and we have even seen some unexpected visitors, including Common rock thrush, and yes, even Wallcreepers!!!
- A relaxing day in front of the fire is also an option.



Crested Tit

DAY 6

Bearded Vulture

- After breakfast we travel to some mountain hides to see vultures at close quarters. The two hides will accommodate the whole group. They are spacious and have toilet facilities. We anticipate being in the hides from 9am – 4pm.
- It is an amazing opportunity to photograph and observe at close quarters the magnificent Bearded vulture. There will also be Griffon vultures, Red Kites and perhaps even Golden eagles!
- We will take a picnic lunch to have in the hides.



Adult and juvenile Bearded vultures

DAY 7

Wallcreeper Day

- Depending upon our success at Los Mallos de Riglos, we have another opportunity to visit the winter grounds of the Wallcreeper.
- This is a totally different area; we have also seen Black wheatear here. Picnic lunch.



DAY 8

Depart for Zaragoza

- Depart for Zaragoza and onward journeys home.

Make a Reservation

Use our online booking system on the holiday page to reserve your place.

There are only 8 places available on this trip.

Accommodation, transport, guides, meals and drinks are all included. The only additional cost is the optional gratuities for the guides.

We charge no single supplement.

Please be aware space will be a premium in the minibus so travelling light is essential. We will send a kit list nearer the time.

If you have any questions, please contact us using the details below:

Email: holiday@aragonactive.com

Telephone: 0034 679 345 623.

Please note this is strictly a no-smoking holiday.