

# Natures Images

## Mediterranean Summer Birdlife

**Day 1** - On arrival at Sofia airport we will transfer to our hide near Bratsigovo (less than 2 hours of driving). We will look to arrive at our drinking pool hide for first photography session before a 25 minute drive to our hotel based accommodation for two nights.

**Day 2** - A full day at or near the drinking pool where we will photograph the whole day. Species could potentially include: Ortolan, Cirl, Black-headed and Corn Buntings, Isabelline and Northern Wheatears, Red-rumped Swallow, Crested, Short-toed, Wood, Calandra and Skylarks, Tree, Rock and Spanish sparrows, Turtle Dove, Linnet, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Red-backed and Woodchat shrikes.

**Day 3** - After deciding if we wish for another morning session at the drinking pool or an early start to our next destination we'll head to Tazha meadows, around 2 hours drive. These are stunning wildflower meadows where we will have options for Wryneck, Hoopoe, Isabelline Wheatear, Red-backed Shrike, Black-headed Yellow Wagtail and Little Ringed Plover. The European ground squirrel - the Sousek is also numerous here and there will be an opportunity to photograph them amongst the wildflowers. We will then transfer to a local hotel for the next 2 nights.

**Day 4** - We will spend the whole day in the same area: Tazha Meadows

**Day 5** - Again deciding between a final morning session here or an afternoon session at our final destination we will head on a lengthy but worthwhile drive (about 5 hours) to Rusenski Lom Park in the north of the country for our final target species - Roller and Bee-eater. Our hotel here will be our base for the final 3 nights.

**Days 6 and 7** - Both days will focus on photographing Rollers and Bee-eaters.

**Day 8** - An early start and 4 and half hours drive to return to Sofia airport and our return flights.

**Recommended Kit:** You will need to provide your own photographic equipment - a 300mm lens (with convertors) should meet your needs (especially on a cropped sensor) but obviously there are also certain advantages of anything longer. A stable tripod is a must. There may be some interesting landscape and other environmental opportunities along the way so bring some alternative options in terms of lenses for this as well.

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