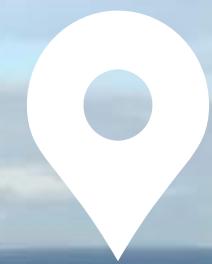


BIRDWATCHING IN THE SOUTH OF PORTUGAL



Algarve and Alentejo



PROACTIVETUR
TURISMO RESPONSÁVEL • RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

ABOUT US

An **Algarve-based company** with a strong commitment to responsible tourism development, focusing on ecotourism, cultural and creative tourism.

We **actively support environmental, cultural and social causes**, partnering in regional and national projects and organising recognised initiatives in the region.

Fully authorized to visit protected areas and to explore the best birding spots. Long experienced guides in birdwatching and bird conservation.



MISSION

“What we do, we give back to the territory”.

Responsible tourism is much more than just a part of nature tourism. It's not just about birdwatching or walking in the hills. It's about **engaging with the environment**. It's about **sharing with people**. It's about balancing the exchange between visitors, the **ecosystem** and the **local community**.

We raise awareness of the culture and biodiversity of southern Portugal, **helping to preserve this rich heritage** and the way of life of local communities.



OUR TEAM



Joao Ministro

Founder, CEO, bird guide and a passionate about Algarve's nature. Birdwatcher for more than 25 years. Author of some birds books of Algarve.



Rui Eufrásia

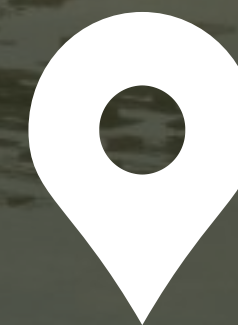
Great birdwatcher and very active nature defender. Volunteer in NGO's for bird conservation and always helpfull in showing the best places to see them!



Georg Schreier

Living in Algarve for more than 20 years. Bird expert and top bird guide. A bird photographer enthusiast and also very committed with bird conservation!

THE SOUTH OF PORTUGAL



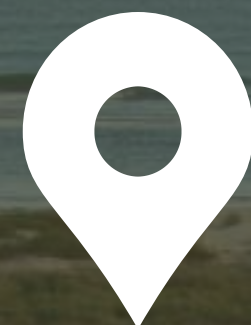
In the South of Portugal we have two special regions for birds: **Algarve and Alentejo**. Each has particular species, places and extras for great tours and trips.

In Algarve we can go **from the seashore to the mountains** in one morning! It means we can visit salt marshes, salt pans, coastal lagoons, cork oak woods and rocky cliffs in a very easy and accessible trip. And in each landscape, we can get **many different birds, from dozens of species**.

Its just the best place in Portugal for birdwatching!

Alentejo is an **amazing area for the big steppe birds and raptors!** Many unique ones can easily be seen here: **Great Bustard, Little Bustard, Spanish Imperial Eagle or Black Vulture**. Also some exclusive, such as Roller or the Lesser Kestrel. And with some luck, also Iberian Lynx can be seen here!



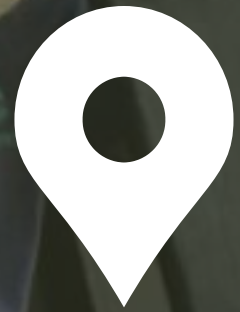


THE SOUTH OF PORTUGAL



OUR TOURS





Ria Formosa's Natural Park

Ria Formosa is one of the most important wetlands in Portugal. Thousands of birds breed, feed, rest and pass by this amazing area, including **waders, ducks, herons, passerines or raptors.**

The area has several landscapes, including salt pans, marshes, woods, where many different birds can be seen all year. Some resident birds are the **Red-crested Pochard, Purple Swamphen, Little Bittern, Booted Eagle or Audouin's Gull.**

Also the exotic **Black-headed Weaver** can be easily spotted. In spring, the **Little Tern, Collared Pranticole** or the **Purple Heron** are common and in Autumn, many migrants visit the place, some also spending the winter, like the **Wryneck, Osprey or the common White Stork.** Great place for **half day or full day tours.** Also a great place for bird **photography!**





Salgados Lagoon (or Pera's Marsh)

Placed by the **coastline near Albufeira**, this special lagoon gathers an important bird fauna all year.

Spoonbill, Avocet, Marsh Harrier, Glossy Ibis are some examples. In spring or Autumn many others can be seen, such as **Purple Heron, Bluethroat, Wood Sandpiper or Garganey**.

It's a **small wetland**, surrounded by old rural fields, also interesting for passerines, including Spanish sparrow or the shy **Little Owl**. Also one the best place for rarities!

Easy place to visit, **very accessible** and better at the afternoon period, when the sunlight is favorable and allows beautiful views of birds, enhancing all colors.

Ideal for half day tour





The Birds of Castro Marim Nature Reserve

By the **border with Spain, in Castro Marim**, its placed the first **Natural Reserve born in Portugal!** It was created in 1945 with the main purpose of protecting the amazing natural values of this area, namely its birds.

This salty wetland is an bird sanctuary, mostly for aquatic species, namely the **Greater Flamingo, Spoonbill or the Avocet**. But there are many others worth seing, including the rare **Lesser Short-toed Lark, the Osprey, the Stone Curlew** or the **Slender-Billed Gull**.

In this tour we will visit the nature reserve, explore the different landscapes, including the traditional salt pans, the farm fields, and look for those many different birds that make this place so special!

Possible for **half day of full day tour**.





The amazing Castro Verde and Mertola area

This is for sure one of the **best places in Portugal for birdwatching!** The region of the **great raptors and steppe** birds habitat, including the **Great Bustard**.

This beautiful open field region, surrounded by oak tree woods and some rocky hills, allows a diverse presence of special birds all year: **Spanish Imperial Eagle, Golden Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Black Vulture, Griffon Vulture, Callandra Lark, Black-bellied Sandgrouse** or the **Little Bustard**.

In spring we can get also the beautiful **Roller, Lesser Kestrel, Great Spotted Cuckoo or Bee-eater**. And with some luck, the **Iberian Lynx** can also be seen, since this is the place where they have been released back in nature! All great reason to visit this amazing place! **Full day tour or several days** are possible here.

Verde





The mountain of the Algarve: Monchique

The highest place in Algarve is in **Monchique**. It's a Natura 2000 site because of its great diversity of landscape: dense cork woods, riverine valleys and also rocky hills.

Foia is the highest point, with 902 m and here some nice and easy birds can be seen, namely **Rock Bunting, Cirl Bunting or the Dartford Warbler**.

When the heat gets stronger, also some raptors, including **Bonelli's Eagle or the Short-toed Snake Eagle**.

The traditional farm areas are also nice spots to see many passerines, including the **Green Woodpecker**, several finches and tits. Monchique is a beautiful area, with old and monumental trees, many flowers and some endemic species, such as the Monchique Oak tree. Ideal for a **half day tour**.





Sagres Peninsula The great migratory corridor

The southwest **corner of Europe** is a great place for birdwatching! **The Sagres Peninsula**, has it's known, is mostly popular during Autumn migration, since its the best place in Portugal to watch raptor in migration to south: **Booted Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Black Kite, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Egyptian Vulture** and many others. Its also a amazing place for pelagic tours to look for seabirds, namely **Skuas, Shearwaters and Petrels**.

This is also the best place to see **Red-billed Chough, Spectable Warbler** and **Thekla Lark**.

The area includes coastal rocky cliffs, steppe farm area, pine woods and also small coastal wetlands.

A great place for a **full day tour**.



TAILOR-MADE TOURS

Many other places can be visited in order to combine with the main ones previously described or to look for specific bird species. We are quite well prepared to respond to specific interests regarding birdwatching and other nature tours (ex. observation of wild flowers).

OUR SERVICES

- We are a **local tour operator and guiding expert** company. We can organise one of several day programs, including all support services: **transfers, accommodations or meals.**
- We work with a big **local network of different accommodations**, mostly **small and high quality hotels and guesthouses all over Algarve and Alentejo.**
- In our tours **we can include traditional pic nics or local meals** in order to support the local economy;
- And we always take our scope 10x50 (Leica)!





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www.facebook.com/birdwatchings



<http://www.birdwatching-algarve.com>



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