

## TOUR (BIRDS IN THE WETLANDS)

*THE PRICES AND SERVICES PROPOSED IN THIS OFFER WILL COME INTO FORCE BY SIGNING THE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT AND AFTER THE ACCEPTANCE OF TO THE CORE OF THINGS OF THE BOOKING REQUESTS!*

*From the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the salt industry has ensured the preservation of the Salt Lakes, wetlands that have been protected as a natural reserve and declared “European Special Protection Areas of Wild Birds” boasting hundreds of species some of them breeding and some of them endemic to this place and in danger of extinction. In the rear of the former Elche wetland hides as well one of the most unknown chain of mountains home of the largest population of the Eurasean Eagle Owl, the biggest nocturne predator of the country.*

*Discover some of the most astonishing, wild, well preserved and full of life natural spaces and wetlands of the region through a slow tourism excursion with us where we will guide you and introduce you to the world of birding.*

### **BACKGROUND**

The wetlands and Salt marches of Elche spread from Santa Pola to Torrevieja and constitute some of the most important bird reserves in the country and form some of the last vestiges of the extensive marshlands or salt marshes along its coastal strip.

El Hondo, is the natural reserve we are going to visit, a wetland home to some species in danger of extinction like the white headed duck or the Marbled teal. These wetlands are as well the permanent home to thousands of exotic pink flamingos that spend the days filtrating the limo in the search of food.

Through this day we want to discover you some of the most wild and beautiful places of the area introducing you to the world of birding by telling you about the most important and exotic species permanently based or in their migration way to other places, their identification, their biology and their habitats through a local guide knowledgeable of the fauna but also of all the traditions, the culture and their importance to the region.

### **Walk rating**

The visit includes a gentle walking of up to 10km, completely flat. Last for about 3 hours and it is done at a very slow pace and with multiple stops and birding introduction games along the way. Therefore, almost all people whether fit or in the way of being it, will enjoy it as it is not physically demanding.

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## Level of birding

The tour is organised as an introduction to the natural reserves (the Hondo is declared “European Special Protection Areas of Wild Birds”) and specially as an introduction to birding, providing the basic information on what birding is about, basics on the world of birds, how to identify species (watching, listening, etc.). Therefore, the tours will not include binoculars or other materials for bird watching and we consequently encourage medium level and advanced bird watchers to bring their own material or to tell us in advance to request them.

The local guide hosting this tour is a forest management student, bird lover and a traditional craftsman. The local guide will cope the expectations of bird lovers up to a medium level and even those with an advance level interested in endemic species of the area. He has developed several research studies with the staff of the natural park and he is a member of an environmental association focused on the mountains of Orihuela you can visit in other of our activities.

## Average weather conditions (for a month of October)

- Average minimum temperatures: 13.4 °C
- Average maximum temperatures: 24.4 °C
- Average rain mm: 57

## ITINERARY

### TOUR NATURAL PARKS AND BIRDS (timing will be adjusted according to the sunset time of the season)

- **Prepack:** email sent with a detailed map on how to get to the starting point, contact phones and emails.
- **09:00 a.m Welcome at the meeting point (el Hondo natural park):** you will have an informal welcome chat with the local person serving as your host and who will explain you the activities and the philosophy of the initiative “to the core of things”.
- **09:15-9:45 a.m “Introducing the place and the fauna”:** your local hosts will introduce you the natural park you are at and will give you the basics of birding, the world of birds, how to spot species, and a game for recognising some of them together with some information on the biology and habitats of the main species to be seen at that time.
- **9:45-12:00 a.m ”walking in the wetland”:** together with your local hosts you will walk into the natural park wetlands in some of the most spectacular walkways just over the lakes to spot some of the most well known species. During the walk your hosts will provide you with some fiches of the most common species at that time of the year and will also tell you different fishing traditions, cooking recipes and interesting flora of the place and curiosities of birding.
- **Fare well**

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A couple of flamingos in the wetland



A walkway to a hidden lookout



Our local expert



A great egret



#### THINGS GUESTS SHOULD BRING:

- Dark coloured clothes (green, brown, grey, black)
- Hat            - Water            - Appropriate shoes and clothes
- Snack            - sun cream            - Umbrella and rain coat in rainy seasons
- Binoculars, cameras and other materials for birding (if passionate and experienced birdwatchers)

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## **BASIC DATA OF THE EXCURSION**

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- **MAX. SIZE OF GROUP:** groups with more than 15 people shall ask for availability
- **MIN. SIZE OF GROUP:** 5 (*individuals will be grouped to fill the minimum required. If groups do not reach the minimum people all costs will be reimbursed*)
- **NUMBER OF HOSTS ACCOMPANYING THE GROUP:** 2 (1 local fauna and flora expert and 1 local host speaking English)
- **DATES: AVAILABILITY EVERY DAY TO BE CONFIRMED BY BOOKING REQUEST**

## **PRICE S**

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### **SERVICES INCLUDED**

- Visit to the natural park wetland el Hondo
- 2 local guides (one speaking English and one expert on flora and fauna)
- Fiches for identification of birds

### **PRICES PER INDIVIDUALS:**

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**PRICE PER PERSON: 19,5€ (16.1€ + VAT)**

**(ASK FOR OUR SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR GROUPS!)**

### **PRICES FOR POTENTIAL EXTRA SERVICES**

- Extra hour: 5€ per person
- Binoculars rent: 35€
- Any other extras: According to market prices

Prices include: 3 hours guided stroll in the natural park of el Hondo, 1 knowledgeable local host, 1 local expert on fauna and flora and game fiches for birding.

\*extra charge of 5€ per person for trips during regional and national bank holidays

\*\* Other services not mentioned are not included in the price (transportation, etc.)

### **BANK ACCOUNT TO TRANSFER PAYMENTS:**

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**HOLDER:** TO THE CORE OF THINGS S.L.U

**IBAN:** ES20 1465 0716 5119 0047 3109

**Código BIC/SWIFT :** INGDESMMXXX

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