

Birdwatching tourism



The perfect destination for birdwatching

The Region of Valencia is the ideal destination for fans of avitourism or birding.

Birdwatching in protected places with stunning scenery, such as the Natura 2000 Network, with 22 Natural Parks and 40 Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPA), can be an incredible experience.

You will find all kinds of landscapes, from inland mountain ranges with wooded areas crossed by rivers and canyons, to extensive wetlands, steppes and semi-arid areas. Not to overlook the coastlines and marine areas that, along with their coastal mountains, have islands that delight with their diversity of birds.



Code of Birding Ethics - (SEO/Birdlife)

- 1/ Bird welfare comes first
- 2/ The habitat must be protected
- 3/ Bird behaviour should not be altered
- 4/ Be cautious about sharing sensitive information about protected species and collaborate if you observe a situation of risk to them
- 5/ Do not stalk wandering species or oddities
- 6/ At all times respect bird protection regulations
- 7/ Respect the rights of land owners and field workers
- 8/ Respect the rights of the people in the observation area and basic safety rules
- 9/ If you want to share your findings, do so prudently, considering whether it actually improves knowledge
- 10/ Be part of a sustainable tourism model that contributes to the maintenance of rural bird-friendly environments.

Hides



The perfect option for visitors who want to combine animal sightings with photography.

Fully integrated into the natural environment, these viewing points make it possible to get high quality, beautiful images taken very close to wildlife, but without disturbing the behaviour of the fauna.

Specialist authorised companies offer this experience to amateurs and photography professionals.



Region of Valencia Birding Guides Association

Birding in the Region of Valencia



key

- Marked paths
- Hides
- Bird watching sites

Wetlands

Mountainous areas

Steppe areas

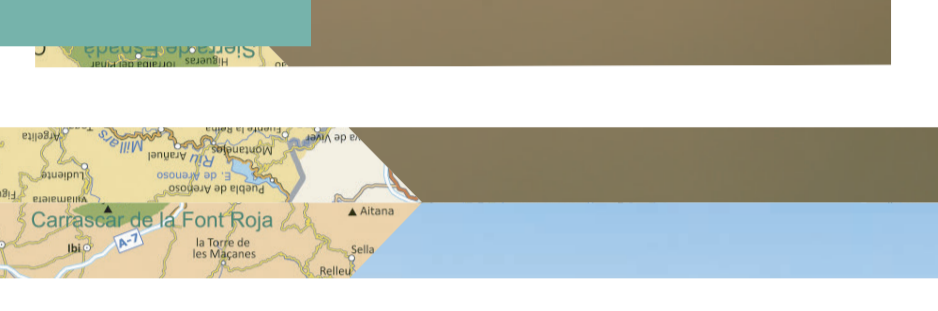
The coast

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birdwatching tourism guide

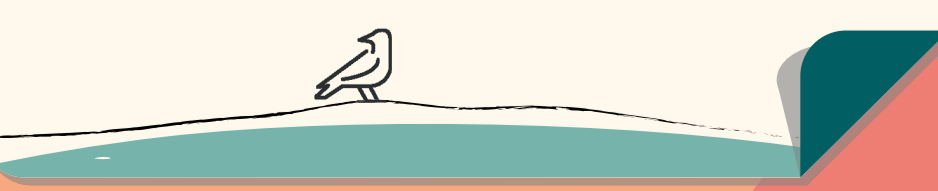


Enjoy a vast variety of birdlife in a fascinating setting

Routes, itineraries and places for birding in the Region of Valencia.

Marked paths - 17 trails -

1	Navarrés Birding trail	NAVARRÉS
2	Bicorp Birding trail	BICORP
3	Quesa Birding trail	QUESA
4	Els Estanys y Marjal d'Almenara	ALMENARA
5	Pego Birding, Racons Birding route	PEGO
6	Pego Birding, Bullent Birding route	PEGO
7	El cabo del faro de Cullera	CULLERA
8	#AdemuzconlosSentidos. Birding routes	ADEMUZ
9	El Pinet de Santa Pola route	SANTA POLA
10	Santa Pola Salt Museum Route	SANTA POLA
11	Ascent to Montemayor - Ayora Birding trail	AYORA
12	Cofrentes birding routes	COFRENTES
13	Source of the Túrjar River Municipal Natural Landscape	TÚEJAR
14	Los Calderones Municipal Natural Landscape	CHULLILLA
15	La Pilarica-Sierra de Callosa Municipal Natural landscape	CALLOSA DE SEGURA
16	Clot de Galvany Municipal Natural Landscape	ELX
17	Turia Natural park	VILAMARXANT





The Region of Valencia boasts a wide-ranging diversity of environments, from mountainous areas up to 1800 m high with deep river canyons and ancient forests, to coastal wetlands and mosaics of protected cultivated areas, semi-desert and steppe areas, covering 22 natural parks.

You will be surprised by the number and diversity of bird species that breed or winter in this land, some of them threatened and/or endemic to the Iberian peninsula. The region also benefits from a strategic location on the pre- and post-nuptial migratory routes between northern Europe and Africa.



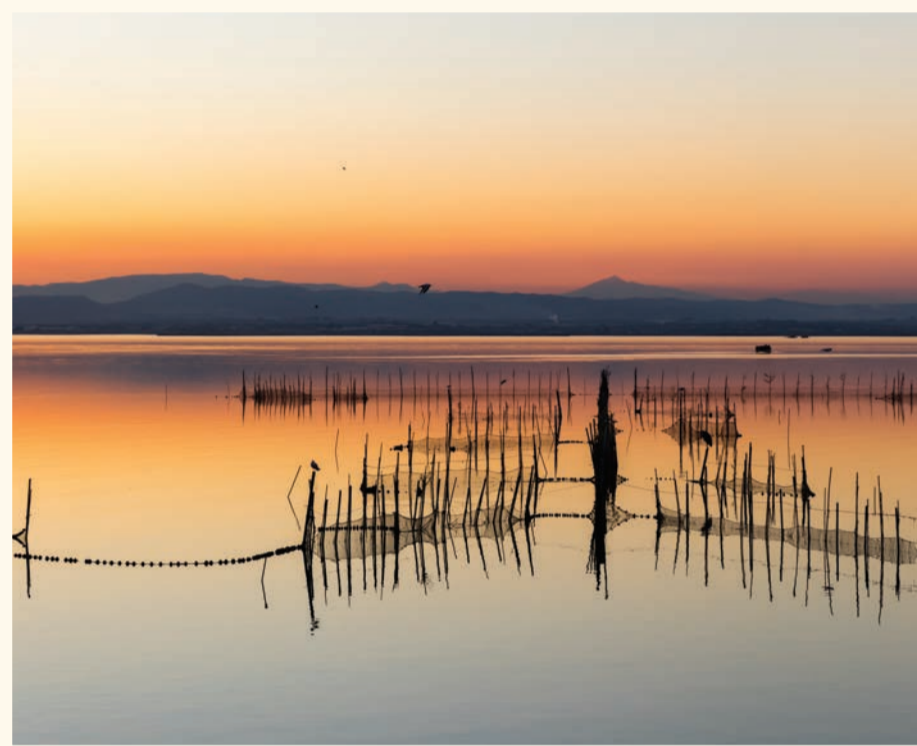
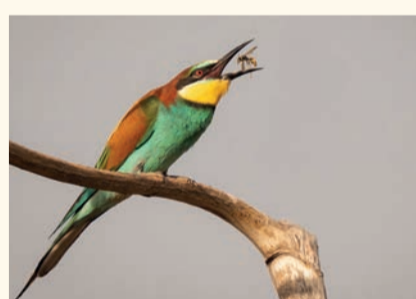
For all these reasons, you will find more than 400 bird species throughout the year, an attraction that is combined with the territory's cultural, historical and gastronomic wealth. Taken together with the accessibility of its infrastructure and accommodation, this region becomes a fascinating destination for fans of ornithological tourism.



Mountainous areas

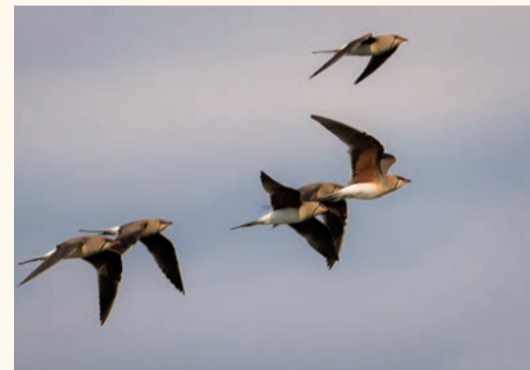
More than 50% of the Valencian territory is made up of mountains between 400 and 1,000 metres high (some reach 1,800 m) with a great variety of ecosystems: pine, holm oak, gall oak, juniper forests etc. Various rivers cross them to form narrow canyons, riverside forests and valleys with a variety of rainfed and irrigated crops.

This is the territory of the threatened Bonelli's eagle, the golden eagle, the Egyptian vulture, the griffon vulture, the eagle owl and the blue rock thrush. In riverside and cultivated areas, species such as the oriole, bee-eater, hoopoe, owl and nightjar are found



Wetlands

The Valencian coastline stands out for its marshes and lagoons. Some are small, such as El Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca in Castelló province, others have a large flooded area, such as L'Albufera in Valencia and El Fondo d'Elx, and there are even salt water lagoons, for example in Santa Pola, and La Mata and Torreveja in Alacant province. The diversity of birds is very wide, you can spot species such as the flamingo, ibis, marbled duck, white-headed duck, swamphen and the pratincole, as well as many others.



Steppe areas

The steppe areas, located in the southwest of the Region of Valencia, are the ideal place to observe species such as the lesser kestrel, little bustard, stone curlew, various species of larks, bustards and the black-bellied sandgrouse.

In some semi-arid areas in inland Alacant province it is also possible to spot rare species such as the trumpeter finch and the scrub robin.

The coast

The Valencian coastline stretches for more than 500 km; as well as coastal wetlands and salt flats, there are coastal mountain ranges with spectacular cliffs and long sandy and pebble beaches. These places are perfect for observing sea birds such as the threatened Balearic shearwater and waders such as the vulnerable Kentish plover, as well as the European shag, Audouin's gull, slender-billed gull, various species of terns and a long list of migrating species.



List of the most important places for birdwatching in the Region of Valencia



- Recommended seasons to visit -



SP-Spring



S-Summer



A-Autumn



W-Winter

AY-All year round

Castellón

- 1 Tinença de Benifassà Natural Park** * *
Birds of prey and woodland species. Vulture feeding station.
- 2 Prat de Cabanes Natural Park** *
Songbirds, aquatic species, Montagu's Harrier, Marsh Harrier, ...
- 3 Desert de les Palmes Natural Park** * * *
20 species of birds of prey on autumn migration..
- 4 Illes Columbretes Natural Park** *
Breeding Eleonora's Falcons preying on migrating songbirds.
- 5 Marjal i Estany d'Almenara SPA** * *
Great numbers of aquatic birds and songbirds.
- 6 Alt Maestrat SPA** * * *
Endemic plant species, virgin forest and a nesting population of 22 bird species.
- 7 Penyagolosa Natural Park** * * * *
Great variety of raptors and owls (1,814 m).
- 8 Serra d'Irta Natural Park** * * * *
Marine and woodland species and raptors. Migration flyway.
- 9 Sierra Espadán Natural Park** *
Eagles, Goshawk, owl species and woodland birds. Forests of cork oaks.

Valencia

- 10 Marjal dels Moros SPA** * *
In a small area, a huge population of aquatic birds. Accesible.
- 11 L'Albufera Natural Park** * * *
The most important wetland area of the Region of Valencia.
- 12 LIC Cap de Cullera** *
Strategic viewing point for sea-watching
- 13 Alto Turia y Sierra del Negrete SPA** *
Woodland birds and birds of prey; Griffon Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, etc.
- 14 Hoces del Cabriel Natural Park** * *
Woodland birds and birds of prey : Golden and Bonelli's Eagles.

- 15 Meca-Mugrón-San Benito (Casas de Madrona) SPA** *
Steppe species : Little Bustard, Great Bustard, Lesser Kestrel...
- 16 Puebla de San Miguel Natural Park** * * *
Dupont's Lark and raptors including Golden Eagle. Forests of Juniper and Scots Pin
- 17 Calderona Natural Park** *
Diverse forest environments with 70 nesting species, including raptors and owl species.
- 18 Túria Natural Park** *
More than 100 species are present in this highland Mediterranean forest.
- 19 Chera-Sot de Chera Natural Park** *
A dramatic mountainous region that provides habitat for breeding raptors and Griffon Vulture.

Alicante

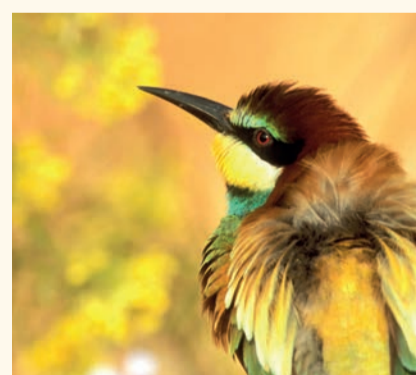
- 20 Moratillas-Almela y Els Alforins SPAs** * *
Steppe species and large raptors.
- 21 Font Roja y Serra de Mariola Natural Park** *
Diversity of birds of prey and woodland birds.
- 22 Marjal de Pego-Oliva Natural Park** *
Huge populations of aquatic species. Variety of habitats.
- 23 Penyal d'Ífac Natural Park** *
Seabirds on the peñon. Aquatic birds on the salt lagoons. .
- 24 El Fondó Natural Park** * * * *
Wetlands with huge populations of aquatic birds.
- 25 Les Salines de Santa Pola Natural Park** * * * *
Wetlands, salt lagoons, dunes and coastal pines.
- 26 Lagunas de La Mata y Torrevieja Natural Park** * * * *
Huge populations of aquatic birds and songbirds.
- 27 Clot de Galvany SPA** * * *
A small wetland where it's very easy to watch aquatic species
- 28 Sierra Escalona y Dehesa de Campoamor SPA** * * *
High population density of birds of prey : Bonelli's Eagle, Eagle Owl, ...
- 29 Serra Gelada Natural Park** * * * *
Sea cliffs and small marine islands. Breeding ground for Storm Petrel (600 pairs).
- 30 Montgó Natural Park** * * * *
A coastal mountain in one of Europe's most biodiverse areas. Marine species.

The most emblematic species



/01

European Bee-eater
Merops apiaster



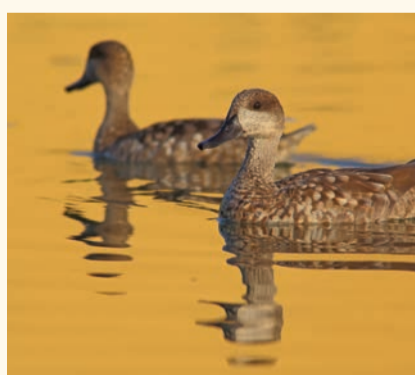
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Egyptian vulture
Neophron percnopterus



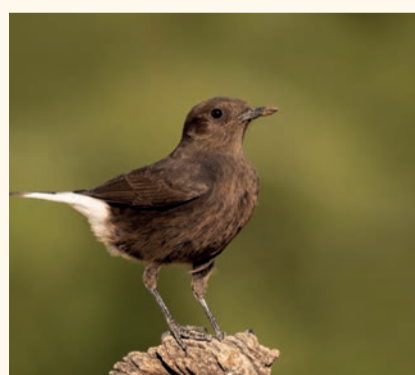
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Marbled duck
Marmaronetta angustirostris



/07

Black Wheatear
Oenanthe leucura



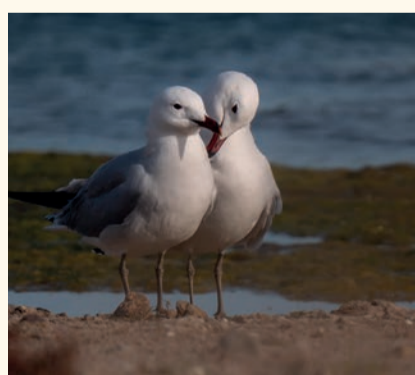
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Red-knobbed Coot
Fulica cristata



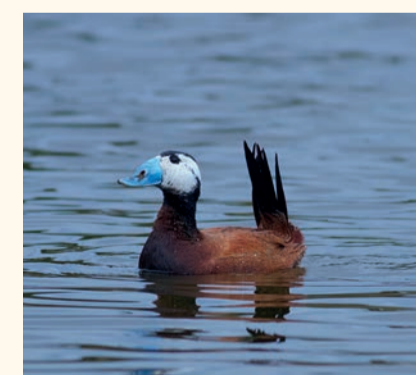
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Audouin's gull
Ichthyophaga audouinii



/13

White-headed Duck
Oxyura leucocephala



/02

Bonelli's eagle
Aquila fasciata



/04

Great bustard
Otis tarda



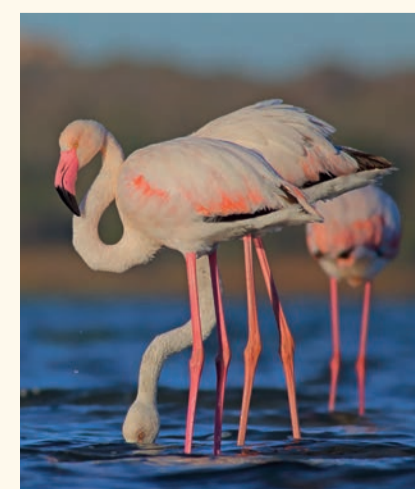
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Kentish plover
Charadrius alexandrinus



/08

Greater flamingo
Phoenicopterus roseus



/10

Squacco Heron
Ardeola ralloides



/12

Eleonora's Falcon
Falco eleonora



/14

Blue rock thrush
Monticola solitarius



Combine tastings with sightings

The 'pairing' of wine and birds is another option that will help you discover the region's different wine-producing areas. As well as enjoying watching different bird species in their natural environment, you will visit wineries that produce their wines there. Some companies offer craft beer tastings in combination with the observation of birds.

Not to overlook the options for tastings of olive oil from ancient groves, truffles in Els Ports Maestrazgo, honey of the Valle de Ayora or apple 'esperiega' of Ademuz.

Les Salines in Santa Pola and the Guardamar dunes

One of the most surprising times to visit these salt flats is in spring, when there are a large number of terns, gulls, slender-billed gulls and little terns. This experience includes specialist ornithology guides and a picnic lunch



Ornithological route through l'Albufera, El Fondo d'Elx and Marjal de Pego-Oliva

You can choose a visit to l'Albufera Natural Park with a stay at the Parador de El Saler, which you can combine with watching endemic and migratory birds and a boat ride. Another choice could be to follow an ornithological route through El Fondo d'Elx Natural Park, a bird reserve of outstanding natural beauty. Or the trail in Marjal de Pego-Oliva Natural Park, which goes through the Riu Bullet, with an incredible variety of birdlife.



Discover the Els Ports and Maestrat comarcas, the land of birds of prey

In the mountains, ravines and forests of these comarcas in the north of Castelló province you can regularly sight more than 20 species of birds of prey throughout the year.

From its privileged enclaves (Tinença de Benifassà, Rambla de Celumbres, Bergantes river et .) you will be sure to be captivated by the largest species, such as the reintroduced bearded vulture, the omnipresent griffon vulture and the imposing golden eagle, to the fastest such as the peregrine falcon and the elusive goshawk, the phantom of the forest.

The night will be conducive to listening to the hooting of wood owls and the deep call of the Eurasian eagle-owl.



Semi-desert landscape in Rambla del Monnegre

Around Monnegre river there is a semi-arid environment of great beauty that will at times make you think you are in Africa. You can observe species such as the trumpeter finch, western black-eared wheatear and the black wheatear.