

Ornisun

Birdwatching Holidays
GIBRALTAR AND SOUTH SPAIN



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ONE WEEK HOLIDAYS – 5 DAYS IN THE FIELD

I consider myself very fortunate and privileged to live in a part of the world that still offers so much to those of us who love birds; the residents, summer visitors, winter visitors and especially the pre- and post-breeding migrations between Europe and Africa. The most obvious and spectacular are the soaring birds, the Storks and Raptors. Occasionally, something really exciting happens and a rare bird is seen. It is exhilarating when this occurs and even more satisfying when a good photograph is taken to immortalise the moment (and make the Rarities Panel's job very easy!).

Mario Mosquera
Ornisun Director



This Ruppell's Vulture was seen at Europa Point in Gibraltar in August 2006. It dwarfs the Yellow-legged Gull mobbing it.

Our experience of over 40 years watching birds is invaluable when it comes to knowing where to go and when to do so. We have structured the week holidays so that we will visit five different sites in such a way that if we do not see some birds at one site, the chances are that we might at a second site.

Roughly speaking we have divided the sites with different target birds in mind: Storks and Raptors (including migration for a good 9 months of the year); birds of ocean, shore and estuary; birds of woodland and scrub; birds of lagoons and marshland; birds of hills and mountains. In some cases we will encounter birds from the different categories within the same site and some birds that will only be found in one site.



We will see the Azure-winged Magpie at only one of our five sites...but it is nearly always there!!

Our tours will not involve strenuous trekking and our expert guides will lead you to the best spots efficiently and quickly.



Sometimes, however, the birds save us the work and come to us!

Our aim is to provide a friendly, reliable and rewarding bird-watching holiday for our clients. Our tours are recommended and endorsed and by Professor Clive Finlayson and Dr. Ernest Garcia, both well renowned ornithologists and authors of several authoritative works including the leading guide books on where to watch birds in South Spain and Gibraltar. Indeed, I had the pleasure of co-authoring the “Birds of Gibraltar” with them in 1980. Our principal guide, Paul Rocca, has had over 25 years experience and learned his trade from Clive, Ernest and me.

We have selected two bases for our holidays: Gibraltar and Conil de la Frontera (on the Costa de la Luz) in the province of Cadiz.

After arriving on a Tuesday and settling in, the next six days are for outings including one rest day in which you may choose to go for the optional activities we recommend (please see itinerary sheet). Details of dates, accommodation and prices can be found in our booking section. We recommend you book your own flights as there are many offers available directly to the customer. However, Parodytur Travel Services Group, can assist you if you so wish. Whilst we will concentrate on all matters regarding birding they will be responsible for transport and accommodation, bookings, etc. (please refer to our terms and conditions).



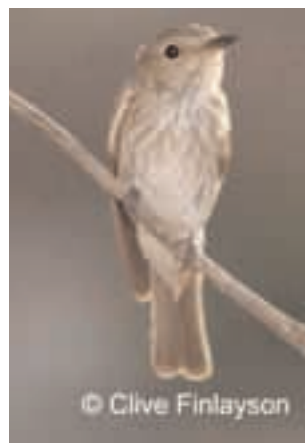
Our team has carried out research in the provinces of Huelva, Sevilla, Cadiz and Malaga (as well as Granada, Cordoba, Almeria, Jaen and Extremadura) for three decades now and have selected sites closer to where you will be staying but ensuring that a large number of birds can still be found.

I am very grateful to my good friend Clive Finlayson for kindly providing the wonderful photographs in this brochure as well as to his son Stewart for the very attractive Azure-winged Magpie.



A beautiful male Montagu's Harrier and a Roller, birds for August.

Each day's tour has a number of target birds. This does not mean that they are the only birds to see, just the more interesting or challenging ones like the beautiful Bee-eater, Blue Rock Thrush together with the lesser exciting but still pretty Spotted Flycatcher.



There have been around 400 bird species recorded in Andalusia alone and Cadiz province can account for a large proportion of that number.

We will provide each one of you with a checklist of all the birds ever recorded in Andalusia. This means that we shall be recording the birds that we see from our tours so that as well as being an enjoyable holiday very important data will be collated. This data will be made available to GONHS (Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society) and SEO (Sociedad Española de Ornitología).



A definite target bird would be the Barbary Partridge, found only on the Rock of Gibraltar whilst the elegant Greater Flamingo is everyone's favourite.

My favourites are the Birds of Prey and on some occasions their migration can be absolutely awesome with upwards of 10,000 and even 15,000 birds being seen in one single day. For those of you who choose to come out during the warmer time of year it may be possible to be sunbathing after a day's birding beside the swimming pool and see migrating birds of prey and storks flying directly overhead. That must be very hard to beat!



A Short-toed Eagle having just crossed the Strait of Gibraltar on its journey from its African wintering grounds and a flock of White Storks setting off from La Janda (to the south-east of Conil) on their journey that will take them across the Strait and to their African wintering grounds. In late October the same birds might be going in opposite directions across the Strait of Gibraltar, the Storks timing their arrival in South Spain with the onset of the first rains and the Eagles leaving Iberia for the warmer climes of the continent of Africa! This is the stuff that makes us smitten with the bird-watching and ornithologist "bug"!!!!

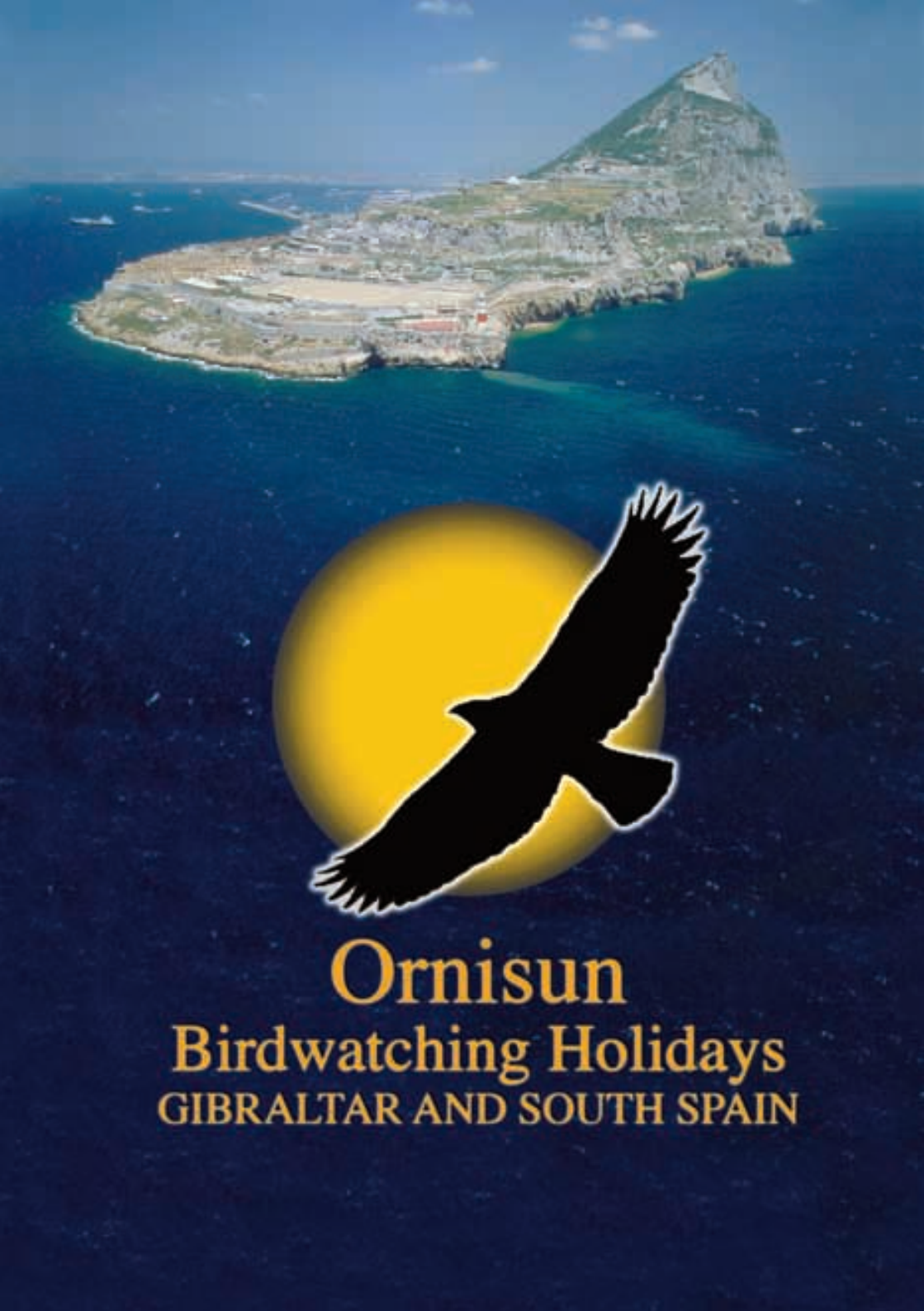
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BOOKINGS

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