Winter Wildfowl Tour  (Tour code: WW)
Not a wild goose chase, plus winter warmers! 8 – 15 February
Leader: Tihomir Stefanov  Price: £1,050 - Same as 2019!
Come on our regular winter tour and look for Red-breasted and other wintering geese and ducks. Apart from these main target species, wintering birds on the Black Sea coast include a wide range of raptors, a good selection of woodpeckers, flocks of larks and on the sea, mixed rafts of grebes and divers. To warm you up after a cold day outside we invite you to two complimentary wine-tastings.

Bulgarian Mountains & Greek Wetlands  (Tour code: BMGW)
A tour combining two countries and two distinctive habitats
12 – 22 April Leader: Assen Ignatov  Price: £1,360
In Bulgaria the Pirin mountains will provide pine forest birds and in Greece there will be visits to wetlands including Kerkini lake, Axios river, lakes Volvi and Langada and the Nestos and Evros deltas, the last is an important bottleneck for migratory birds.

Spring Butterfly & Moth Tour  (Tour code: BT)
24 April – 3 May
Leaders: Martin White and Mitko Petrakiev  Price: £1,250
This 10 day tour in the stunning mountain scenery of SW Bulgaria and northern Greece focuses on spring species, such as Southern Festoon, Gruner’s Orange-tip, Eastern Greenish Black-tip, Iolas Blue, Inky Skipper and Mediterranean Skipper among others. We expect to see a wide range of other butterflies which should already be on the wing. Although this is primarily a butterfly tour we shall also run at least one moth trap and take note of other wildlife, for example when we visit Lake Kerkini in northern Greece for pelicans, herons and egrets.

Migrants & Mountain Specialities  (Tour code: MMS)
6 – 16 May
Leader: Miiko Petrakiev  Price: £1,300
Bulgaria’s location where the Balkan Mountains meet the Black Sea, not far north of the border with Asia, makes it one of the Western Palaearctic’s foremost birding destinations. Few other European countries can match its diversity of species and habitats, or its spectacle of mass migration. This tour is an opportunity to see the best of Bulgaria’s birds at carefully selected sites, and at the height of spring migration. It was originally devised by Dominic Mitchell of Birdwatch magazine as a Reader Offer.

Early Summer Butterflies & Flowers  (Tour code: BF)
6 – 18 June
Leaders: Nick Greatorex-Davies and Vladimir Trifonov
Price: £1,490 - Repeating the sell-out tours of 2018 & 2019!
This 13 day tour should provide us with over 100 species of butterfly. We shall visit three very different areas, all with beautiful unspoiled scenery. These are Strandzha in the southeast corner of Bulgaria, the Eastern Rhodopi mountains centred on the Arda river valley, and lastly a marble limestone area in the Western Rhodopi mountains. We expect to see a whole host of scarce, local and interesting butterflies such as Small Bath White, Krueper’s Small White, Grecian Copper, Little Tiger Blue, Blue Argus, Iolas Blue, Freyer’s Purple Emperor, Assman’s Fritillary, Russian Heath, Large Chequered Skipper and many others. For flowers we shall be looking for a range of species endemic to, or characteristic of the Balkans, including Haberlea rhodopensis, Serapias vormeracea, Verbascum bugtifolium and Calystegia soldanella.
Midsummer Butterflies & Moths  6 - 18 July

Leaders: Nick Greatorex-Davies and Zdravko Kolev
Price: £1,490

A wide range of locations for a wide range of species!
This 13 day tour is at the height of summer when butterfly numbers and species are at their highest. We will be amongst some of Bulgaria’s most beautiful and stunning scenery. It begins in SW Bulgaria in the Struma valley and south and central Pirin Mountains, moving on to visit the mountains of the north Pirin and Rila Mountains. Finally we will move to west Bulgaria, visiting the butterfly-rich Zemen Gorge area and the Osogovska Planina near the border with Macedonia. There will be quite a lot of walking at some sites, some of it on rough terrain, but easier alternatives will be available. We expect to see in excess of 130 butterfly species targeting a variety of scarce and local species from lowlands to high altitudes, including Apollo, Balkan Clouded Yellow, Bosnian Blue, Iolas Blue, Higgins Anomalous Blue, Poplar Admiral, Freyer’s Purple Emperor, Cynthia’s, Balkan and Shepherd’s Fritillaries, Bulgarian, Nicholl’s, Dewy and Black Ringlets, White-banded and Freyer’s Grayling and Lesser Lattice Brown. There will be plenty of opportunities for photography. We also run at least one moth trap.

The Great Koprivshtitsa Folklore Festival  6 - 10 August

Price: £1,050

Every five years the beautiful small mountain town of Koprivshtitsa is host to a veritable feast of folklore - costumes, music, singing and dancing. The colourful performances take place on the hills above the town by day, and in the evenings there are often impromptu performances in the cobbled streets and squares. It has been described as a cross between a pop festival and a medieval fair, certainly it’s an experience not to be missed!

Autumn Migration along the Via Pontica  6 - 13 September

Leader: Assen Ignatov  Price: £1,050 - Same price as 2019!

This one week tour visits the migration hotspots on the northern and southern Black Sea coast, where the migration is a truly remarkable spectacle. The southern section in particular is a bottleneck for birds from all of eastern Europe. Flocks of tens of thousands of White Stork, birds of prey and pelicans heading south fill the skies, as well as passerines such as Red-breasted Flycatcher and Pied Wheatear, and a good selection of waders.

A Taste of Bulgaria  12 - 20 September

Price: £1,450

This tour will show you Bulgaria’s unique combination of exceptional natural beauty, abundance of mineral springs, ancient history with a long tradition in wine and culinary art, hospitality and joie de vivre. Meet some locals and do some cooking, try some amazing Bulgarian wines. And mainly enjoy this relaxing gourmet and spa holiday in 5* luxury style.

The Ancient Treasures of Bulgaria Tour  27 September - 4 October

Price: £1,250

This tour gives you the perfect opportunity to visit the remains of the Thracian civilization, which is one of the least known in Europe. Bulgaria has treasures from many different eras, Thracian, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman. We look forward to sharing them with you.

At the time of printing, some of the planned flights have not yet been scheduled by the respective airlines. We may therefore have to adjust some of the itineraries’ dates at a later stage.

Thanks to Nick Greatorex-Davies, Tihomir Stefanov, Mitko Petrakiev, Assen Ignatov, Vladimir Trifonov, Mike Hillman, Brian Dawson and John Cornwall, for permission to use their lovely photographs in this brochure and on our itineraries.
Are you a party organiser? Do you have an idea for a tour? Or would you like any of our tours adjusted to better suit your particular interests? Don’t hesitate to contact us. We’ll be happy to put it together for you! We have a wide experience of specialist tours, for small or large numbers (the larger the number, the smaller the price) and long or short periods of time. Recent topics, in addition to what’s in this brochure, have included mountain walking, wild flowers, wine festivals, culinary tours, folklore festivals, folk dancing, textiles and embroidery, and photography.

Availability, detailed itineraries & booking forms
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