



Tico Tours

Cyprus: Winter Birding

Duration- 10 Days

Expect around 100+ species

Dates to be confirmed through December-January

For 6-8 participants (+Tour Leader/Guide/Driver)

Introduction: Winter can be an excellent time for birdwatching in Cyprus with thousands of *Greater Flamingo* and a broad assortment of wildfowl, gulls and waders too. However more impressive highlights may include *Wallcreeper* on coastal cliffs and inland gorges, *Moustached Warbler* and *Bluethroat* in the reedbeds, *Finsch's Wheatear* in the lowlands and *Little Gull* and *Armenian Gull* along the coasts and in the wetlands.

This 10-day winter birding tour has one central base allowing a full and thorough exploration of the countries habitats and associated avifauna. We will spend time birding at the various winter birding hotspots and will also spend time birding in the mountains, where, in stunning scenery we will seek out the many endemic sub-species.

Key species we will target include a great range of resident species such as *Griffon Vulture*, *Black Francolin*, *Shag*, *Ferruginous Duck*, *Long-legged Buzzard*, *Bonelli's Eagle*, *Common Kestrel*, *Peregrine Falcon*, *Chukar*, *Common Quail*, *Stone Curlew*, *Kentish Plover*, *Spur-winged Plover*, *Yellow-legged Gull*, *Rock Dove*, *Common Wood Pigeon*, *Barn Owl*, *Little Owl*, *Scops-Owl*, *Calandra Lark*, *Crested Lark*, *Woodlark*, *Crag Martin*, *Blue Rock Thrush*, *Common Blackbird*, *Cetti's Warbler*, *Fan-tailed Warbler*, *Spectacled Warbler*, *Sardinian Warbler*, *Wren*, *Great Tit*, *Coal Tit*, *Short-toed Treecreeper*, *Magpie*, *Eurasian Jay*, *Jackdaw*, *Hooded Crow*, *House Sparrow*, *Spanish Sparrow*, *Common Chaffinch*, *European Serin*, *European Greenfinch*, *Eurasian Goldfinch*, *Common Linnet*, *Common Crossbill* and *Corn Bunting*.

Amongst the above we will search for the following wintering passerines such as: *Greater Short-toed Lark*, *Skylark*, *Red-throated Pipit*, *Grey Wagtail*, *White*

Wagtail, Dunnock, Stonechat, Ring Ouzel, Common Blackbird, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Redwing, Mistle Thrush, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Bearded Tit, Penduline Tit, Rook, Starling, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Brambling, Siskin, Hawfinch, and Common Reed Bunting and a wide range of non-passerines such as *Common Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher and Wryneck*, and a wide range of raptors, waders, wildfowl, gulls and tern, highlights including *Little Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Great Cormorant, Pygmy Cormorant, White Pelican, Great Bittern, Little Egret, Great White Egret, Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Common Shelduck, Eurasian Wigeon, Common Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Red-crested Pochard, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Western Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier, Pallid Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Common Buzzard, Merlin, Water Rail, Ringed Plover, European Golden Plover, Northern Lapwing, Jack Snipe, Common Redshank, Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Mediterranean Gull, Black-headed Gull, Slender-billed Gull, Audouin's Gull, Common Gull, Sandwich Tern and Stock Dove* amongst others.

Further highlights of the trip are likely to include the ancient archaeological sites that are dotted around the country such as Paphos Headland, Kourion, Baths of Aphrodite's etc, the beautiful scenic views and landscapes along the varied coastline and the stunning mountain valleys, furthermore the hospitality of the Greek Cypriots and their food will further delight.

Note that the endemic Cyprus Wheatear and Cyprus Warbler will not be possible on this tours as they will be out of the country at this time of year.

Price: £2,700.00/\$4,210.00 (based on 6 people) or £2,350.00/\$3,660.00 (based 8 people)
Single Supplement: £600.00/\$935.00

Price includes: All accommodation, breakfast and boxed lunch, all guiding, all transport (and fuel) when in Cyprus, all reserve entrance fees.

Price does not include: International flights to/from Paphos (Cyprus), evening meals (allow Euro 40 - 60.00 per night), items of personal nature, travel insurance, optional extra drinks, gratuities.