

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

all our profits are donated to nature conservation



11th to 19th May 2027 (8 nights)

THE DANUBE DELTA

cruise in Europe's largest wilderness

One of the very few holidays to include a week on a 'floating hotel', exploring the spectacular wildlife of the Romanian Danube Delta.

At the end of a 1,700 mile long journey across Europe, the great Danube River reaches the Black Sea. Here, the river splits into numerous channels and canals, creating the second largest delta on the continent (second only to the Volga). Vast expanses of swamps and willow forest, as well as a scattering of lakes surrounded by thick reedbeds, provide a perfect sanctuary for a great diversity of birds.

In the Delta, we stay on a very comfortable travelling houseboat, the Kingfisher, equipped with all the 'mod cons' we might need, along with a lovely open deck for bird-watching and relaxing in the open air as we travel. Our meals are as local as it gets, with Danube Herring, carp, goose and marshland lamb all likely to feature on the menu, along with plenty of good Romania wine.

During our spring visit, Roller and Bee-eater, Red-footed Falcon and Hobby, Golden Oriole and Kingfisher can all be seen from our sun loungers as we pass by, as well as fly-pasts of both White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Pygmy Cormorant, White-tailed Eagle and flocks of all three species of marsh terns. Seasonal local specialities include Pallas's Gull and Paddyfield Warbler.

At the end of the day, we are lulled to sleep by a chorus of Marsh and Tree Frogs, Savi's and Great Reed Warblers and the seemingly ever-present Nightingales.

We are delighted to be returning to the Delta to explore one of the last remaining wilderness areas of Europe, a favourite Wildlife Travel destination for the last two decades.

PRICE £2,390
single room supplement £375

Full Board

TOUR LEADER Philip Precey

PAYMENT

deposit £450
instalment £550
due on confirmation of holiday
balance due 9th February 2027

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1 flight to Bucharest
Day 2 travel to Danube Delta
inc Babadag Forest
Day 3-8 Danube Delta inc
Sfântu Gheorghe and
Sacalin Island
Day 9 return to UK

The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6DH
01954 713575 - wildlifetravel@wildlifebcn.org - www.wildlife-travel.co.uk

Wildlife Travel Limited is registered in England & Wales, no. 2237697. c/o Azets, Westpoint, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FZ



ITINERARY

Please note that the itinerary may be changed to suit the weather or other practicalities or at the discretion of the leaders.

Day 1 Tuesday 11th May. After arrival in Bucharest we transfer to our hotel in Amara, approximately two hours away. We should arrive at our hotel in plenty of time to settle in and have a brief introduction to the holiday before dinner.

Day 2 Wednesday 12th May. An early morning exploration of the nearby lakes will give us our first introduction to the wetland birdlife of Romania, with Little Bittern and Ferruginous Duck likely to be seen. After breakfast, we travel eastwards, stopping along the way to visit the Babadag forest, home to wild flowers including Wild Peony and several orchids. Our next stop will be the salt lakes around Murighiol, before we join our houseboat *Kingfisher* nearby, our home for the next seven nights.

Day 3 Thursday 13th May. Today we will have a leisurely cruise to Sfântu Gheorghe, one of the most beautiful fishing villages in the Danube Delta.

The Danube splits into three main channels before it enters the Black Sea -the Sulina, Chilia and Sfântu Gheorghe Channels. The Sulina Channel is the shortest route to the Sea and carries most of the traffic. Our journey takes us along the southernmost channel, the Sfântu Gheorghe, which is the most attractive of the three and probably the oldest. It meanders gently to the village that shares its name. This is a fishing village and small port, very isolated and surrounded by dunes, woodlands and marshes, adjacent to the Black Sea. Many of the villages in the Delta were settled by previously 'Russian' peoples and the houses and other buildings reflect the continued presence of these cultures.

From the deck of the boat we will see many of the typical birds of the delta such as egrets, pelicans, herons, Bee-eater, Roller and the ever present Marsh Harriers, the peace only disturbed by the occasional White-tailed Eagle hunting overhead. We will keep our eyes peeled for the beautiful Great Black-headed Gulls, a speciality of the area. After arriving in Sfântu Gheorghe in the early afternoon we will visit the village to see the local houses in the Ukrainian style.

Day 4 Friday 14th May. We explore the local area around Sfântu Gheorghe by small boat, including the sandy Sahalin Island, at the mouth of the Black Sea, home to White Pelicans and Fire-bellied Toad. After lunch, we will walk around the Sfântu Gheorghe area, looking for migrating waders, Lesser Grey Shrike, and Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. The beach is home to the Steppe Runner, a lizard that only reaches Europe in this corner of Romania.

Day 5 Saturday 15th May. After an early morning bird walk around Sfântu Gheorghe, we will have a leisurely day on the boat, travelling towards the Dunavat channel, in the company of Whiskered Terns and egrets along the way, giving us the choice of birding from the upper deck or simply indulging in a siesta!

Day 6 Sunday 16th May. The day will be spent exploring some of the more remote areas of the Delta: fingers crossed today will give us excellent opportunities for catching up with some of the shyer animals of the Delta - Wild Boar or even Golden Jackal will be looked for, as well as birds such as Paddyfield Warbler and other north-bound migrants.



Day 7 Monday 17th May. This morning, we transfer to the small boats for a trip to the lakes around the main channel. The reeds will be alive with the song of birds, including Great Reed, Sedge and Savi's warblers. After lunch, we travel on to Uzlina.

Day 8 Tuesday 18th May. Today our explorations may take us to the shallow lagoons hidden amongst the reeds where hundreds of pairs of Whiskered Tern nest amongst the lily pads and Red-necked Grebes and Red-crested Pochard make their homes. After another bird-packed day, we will relax with a glass of wine and a farewell dinner on board.

Day 9 Wednesday 19th May. We bid farewell to the boat and head back towards Bucharest, stopping along the way for one last spot of birdwatching before we finally return to Bucharest for our journey home.

TOUR LEADERS

Philip Precey will be familiar to many of our travellers: he is an expert birder and all-round naturalist and Director of Wildlife Travel, who has led more than 100 previous holidays, including 6 previous visits to Romania.

Our local guides, **EuroDelta Travel**, know the Delta intimately. They have organised and led our previous trips to the area and we are pleased to be travelling with them again.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Our first night is spent in the Hotel Diamant in Amara.

On the delta, our home is the Kingfisher, a comfortable house boat, with panoramic views from the dining room and the viewing/sun deck, from where we will watch the wildlife along the waterways as we travel between moorings. The nine cabins are all on the same deck, with twin or double beds, en-suite shower room/WC and a window.

Our meals will be a mixture of Romanian and International dishes, with an emphasis on local cuisine, including local game (boar and goose) and plenty of local fish.

TRANSPORT

On our way to/from the Delta, we will travel by small coach.

On the Delta, we will take excursions in small boats.

FLIGHTS

The group flights will be from London Heathrow with British Airways.

11 th May	depart London Heathrow 12.00, arrive Bucharest Otopeni 17.20
19 th May	depart Bucharest Otopeni 16.15, arrive London Heathrow 17.40

It is also possible to fly from Manchester or Edinburgh, connecting with the group flights at Heathrow. Contact us for price details.

Romania is two hours ahead of UK time.

WEATHER

The weather should be pleasant, mostly warm, even hot, although rain is possible, as is cooler weather. We will not be walking long in the sun. There is no major problem from mosquitoes at this time of year in the Delta.



HEALTH AND FITNESS

You will need to be able to climb in and out of small boats, sometimes directly onto the bank. We will spend quite a bit of time sitting in the small boats: the seats have cushions and back rests. As this tour involves considerable moving around in boats, it may not be suitable for people with limited mobility. The longest walk will be about three miles, over flat terrain.

PASSPORT AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your passport must be issued less than 10 years before the date you enter the country and valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave.

If you hold a British passport, you are able to travel to the Schengen area (including Romania) for up to 90 days in total in any 180-day period without a visa.

From 2027 (exact date yet to be confirmed), UK passport holders will need to apply for the ETIAS European Travel Authorisation to visit Schengen countries. This must be applied for online prior to travel. Once granted, your ETIAS will be valid for 3 years.

For up-to-date information, check www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/romania where you can also sign up for email alerts for your destination.

PRICE

£2,390 per person, £375 single room supplement, full board

INCLUDED: Return flights from London Heathrow, as above. Local transport and entry fees on excursions as specified in the itinerary. Eight nights' accommodation, all meals from dinner day 1 to lunch day 9. Services of leaders and guides.

NOT INCLUDED: Refreshments. Travel insurance. Gratuities. ETIAS costs.

PAYMENTS

Deposit amounts are shown on page 1 of the holiday information pack. **Payments should be made by bank transfer to Sunvil**, using the details given on the booking form, or by posting a cheque made payable to Sunvil Holidays, to the address given on the booking form. Please **DO NOT post any payments to our Cambourne address**.



BOOKING YOUR HOLIDAY

If you have any queries about your holiday or need to talk to someone about your booking, please contact us here at Wildlife Travel. We can make sure that you are given the correct the information and get your questions answered more quickly. We would ask that you **please DO NOT contact Sunvil direct**, to avoid confusion.

COMPLETING THE BOOKING FORM

We do sometimes have more than one set of dates for the same destination, so please make sure you fill in the 'destination' and 'dates' for the holiday you wish to book on.

Please also make sure you complete the section concerning health and fitness: write 'none' if this is the case, but please don't leave that section blank.

If possible, **please fill in the booking form electronically**, by typing directly into the pdf form, save your changes, and then **email the form back to us at wildlifetravel@wildlifebcn.org**. Alternatively, you can post a paper copy to Sunvil Holidays, using the address given on the booking form. Please **DO NOT post bookings to our Cambourne address**.

SUNVIL HOLIDAYS

This holiday is booked through our tour operator, Sunvil Holidays, CAA-ATOL Licence 808, a member of ABTA (V6218), IATA and AITO. All payments are made to them, and your money and booking are protected accordingly.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please ensure you have read all the information given in the holiday leaflet and booking pack, paying particular attention to the entry requirements, health and fitness information, and details of what is and isn't included in the holiday price.

In order to ensure that this holiday suits you, it is imperative that you read the information on health and fitness in the holiday leaflet, and in the 'general information' section of the booking pack, and **let us know of any issues that may affect your participation in the holiday PRIOR TO BOOKING**.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory for our trips outside the UK. You should ensure that any pre-existing medical conditions are covered. We recommend having insurance in place as soon as your booking is confirmed, in the event of your cancellation.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Your booking should be acknowledged with a week, usually sooner. **If you have not heard back from us within a week of sending your booking form, please let us know:** emails and post both go astray, and we wouldn't want you to lose your place on a trip.

You will receive a welcome letter from us, which will tell you if the holiday has already reached minimum numbers or not. Please **DO NOT arrange any additional travel or accommodation that you may need** until the holiday has been confirmed as going ahead.

When the holiday reaches the minimum numbers to be confirmed, we will send you a confirmation letter, including a confirmation invoice from Sunvil, with details of payments due, flights or trains included in your booking, and an ATOL certificate where appropriate.



thank you for travelling with us

www.wildlife-travel.co.uk

01954 713575

wildlifetravel@wildlifebcn.org



/WildlifeTravel.UK



@wildlifetraveller



@wildlifetraveller

The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6DH