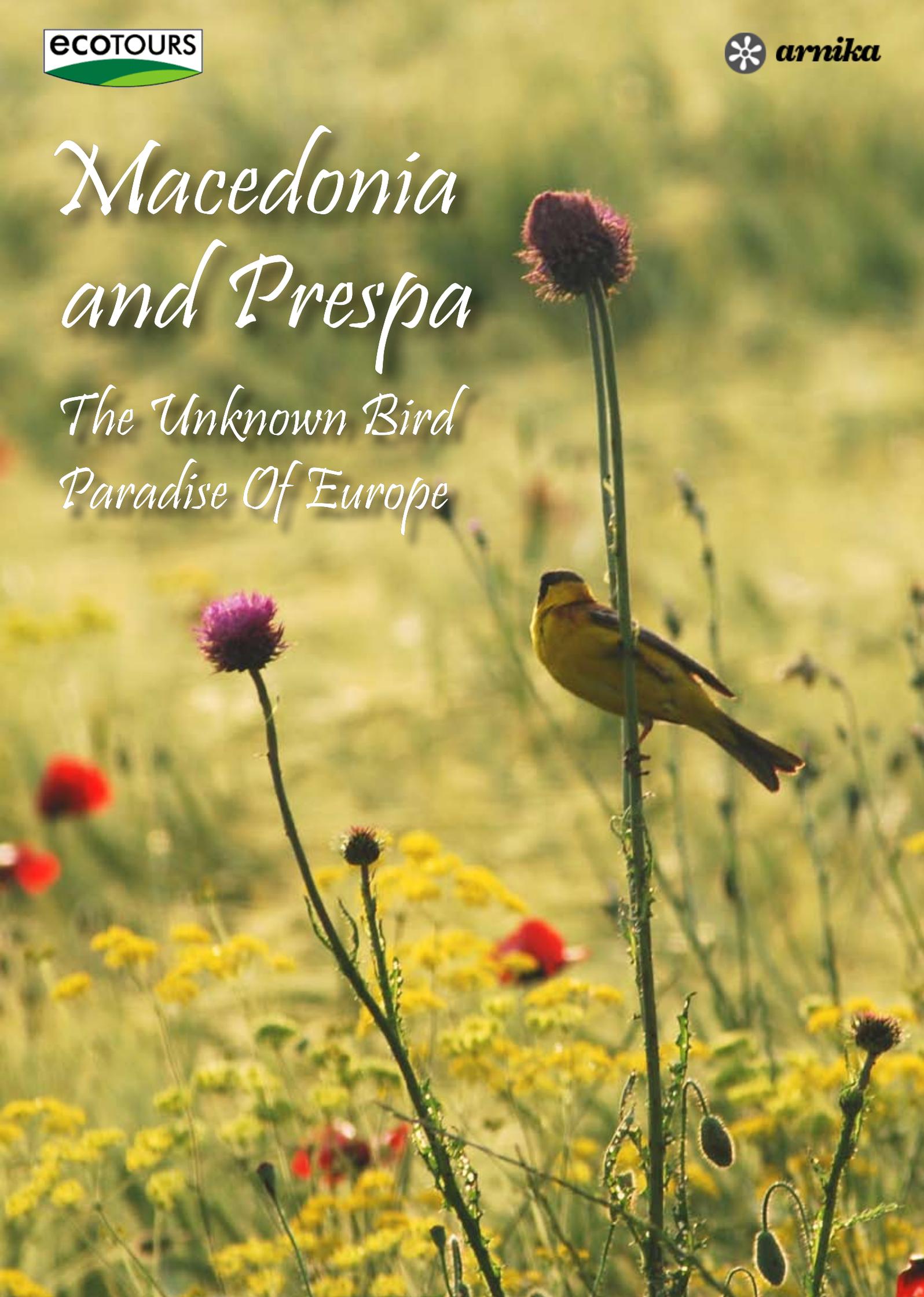
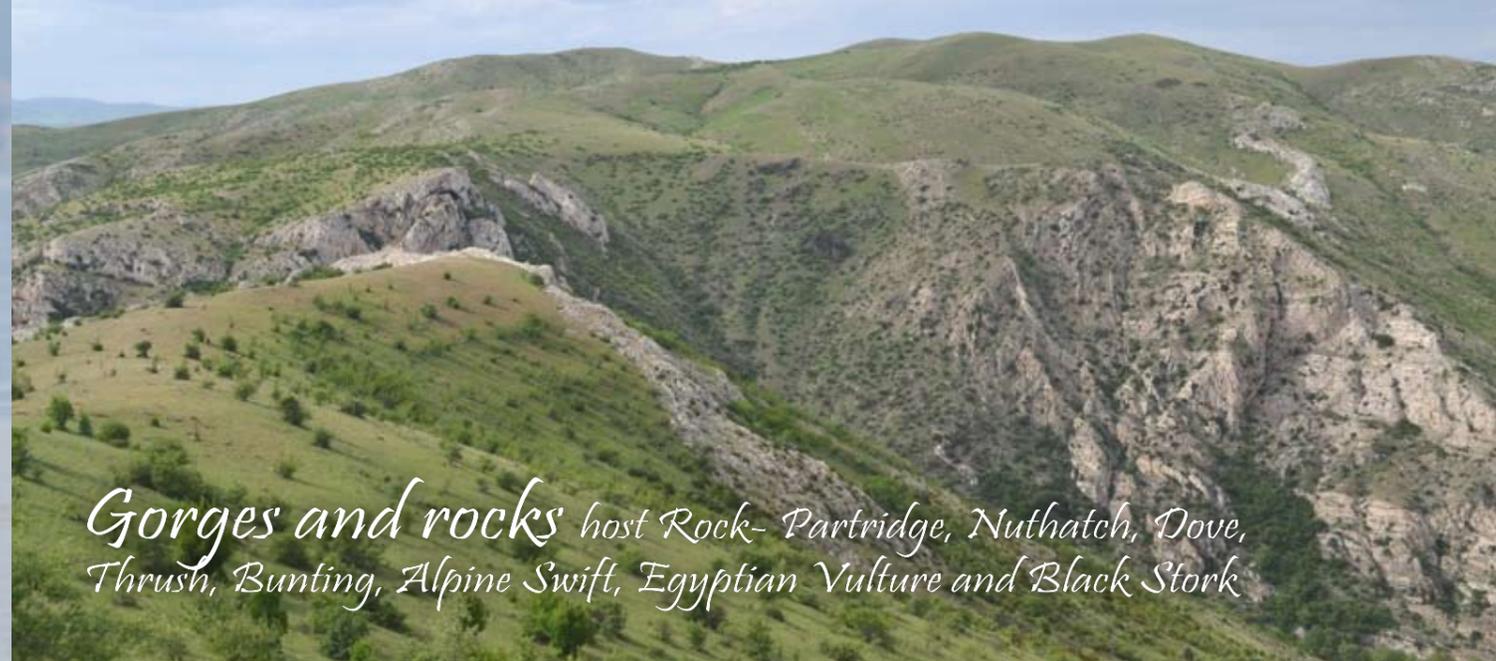


# Macedonia and Prespa

The Unknown Bird  
Paradise Of Europe



*Prespa lakes the largest Dalmatian Pelican colony in the world*



*Gorges and rocks host Rock- Partridge, Nuthatch, Dove, Thrush, Bunting, Alpine Swift, Egyptian Vulture and Black Stork*

**MACEDONIA (FYR)**

Macedonia covers an area of approx. 26,000km<sup>2</sup> with a ring of mountains all around the country. It contains alpine zones, Continental and Submediterranean areas and Pontic steppes. The diversity of plant and animal life is a result of its geographical position, diverse rocks and high altitudinal span (50m to 2784m). It is the cradle of Cyrilic where much of the environment remains unspoilt to date.

**PRESPA LAKES**

Small and Large Prespa lakes with remarkable Byzantine monuments, traditional stone villages and wonderful sceneries are of special value. The Prespa region is rich in history, rather remote and one of the cleanest in the Balkans. Shared by three countries, Greece, Albania and Macedonia, the two lakes lie at an altitude of around 850m, though many of the surrounding peaks exceed 2000m in height.



Sometimes called the “Pearl of the Balkans”, Macedonia has breathtaking landscapes with vast areas grazed by sheep flocks and countryside full of scenic mountains. Birds are plentiful and not too shy. We will be focused on raptors and passerines that include Levant Sparrowhawk, Long-legged Buzzard, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Lesser Kestrel and Lanner, Masked Shrike, Olive-tree and Orphean Warbler and both Rock Thrushes. To make up for the lack of water habitats in Macedonia we will stay at Prespa lake – on it’s Greek side which offers better options for accommodation and also better access to birds. White and Dalmatian Pelicans in thousands will be the highlighted species there. We will be accompanied by two local guides who have specialised knowledge of where raptors breed.

*Masked Shrike*

*elusive but widespread in overgrown areas*



*Vitachevo plateau  
great vistas over vulture feeding site*



*Black-headed Bunting*  
one of the seven bunting species



*Traditional farmland* small scale, great mosaic of habitats  
with myriads of insects, home to Lesser Kestrel, buntings and larks



**FACT FILE**

Macedonia | Greece

8 days | 2 hotels

season: **5 - 12 May 2013**

ground price: £850 / €1055  
single room supplement: £95 / €120

guide: Martin Hrouzek and Danka Uzunova

airport: Thessaloniki

group size: 6-16

number of species: 130 - 160

**ITINERARY IN BRIEF**

D1 Arrival at Thessaloniki

D2 Vardar river valley

D3 Vitachevo Mts.

D4 Demir Kapija and Babuna

D5 Mariovo area

D6-7 Prespa lakes

D8 Departure from Thessaloniki

3% of the tour cost goes to Aquila Conservation NGO  
to help improve breeding possibilities and awareness of  
raptors and to run the vulture feeding sites.



*Slender-billed Gull* our regular sighting at Aegean Sea



*Rock Thrush* still widespread at higher elevations



*Steppes host the largest Balkan population of Eastern Imperial Eagle*



*Easy trails in mountainous terrains*



**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Dalmatian and White Pelican
- Pygmy Cormorant
- Griffon and Egyptian Vulture
- Short-toed and Imperial Eagle
- Long-legged Buzzard
- Levant Sparrowhawk
- Lanner and Lesser Kestrel
- Rock Partridge
- Gull-billed Tern
- Alpine and Pallid Swift
- Lesser Grey and Masked Shrike
- Rosy Starling (some years)
- Sardinian, Orphean and Olive-tree Warbler
- Rufous-tailed and Blue Rock Thrush
- 7 species of bunting
- Scenic Balkan landscapes
- Local cuisine with plenty of vegetables

**GUIDES, HOTELS AND VULTURES**

**Martin Hrouzek**

Full-time wildlife guide and tour leader. Besides guiding he works for an NGO and scouts new destinations across eastern Europe. He has led or co-led over 60 wildlife holidays over the past 18 years.

Hotels in Kavadarci and at Prespa are comfortable with spacious en suite rooms and air-conditioning in the first one and serve tasty local meals.

All four VULTURE species have been long widespread and thriving but they face severe decline now. The country's last Lammergeier and Black Vulture died earlier this century. Current numbers of breeding pairs of Egyptian and Griffon Vulture are at about 25-35 each. A few dozens of birds were poisoned in the past ten years and poisoning remains the biggest threat now.



*Roller  
insect feeders are dependable  
on large-scale grazing*



*Griffon Vulture  
an effort to secure and run  
the feeding sites is needed soon*

# *Lesser Kestrel*

*strong local population  
is now in rapid decline*



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Please don't hesitate to ask  
for a detailed itinerary (also  
found on our web site)



# *Egyptian Vulture*

*around 35 pairs still breed on cliffs*

