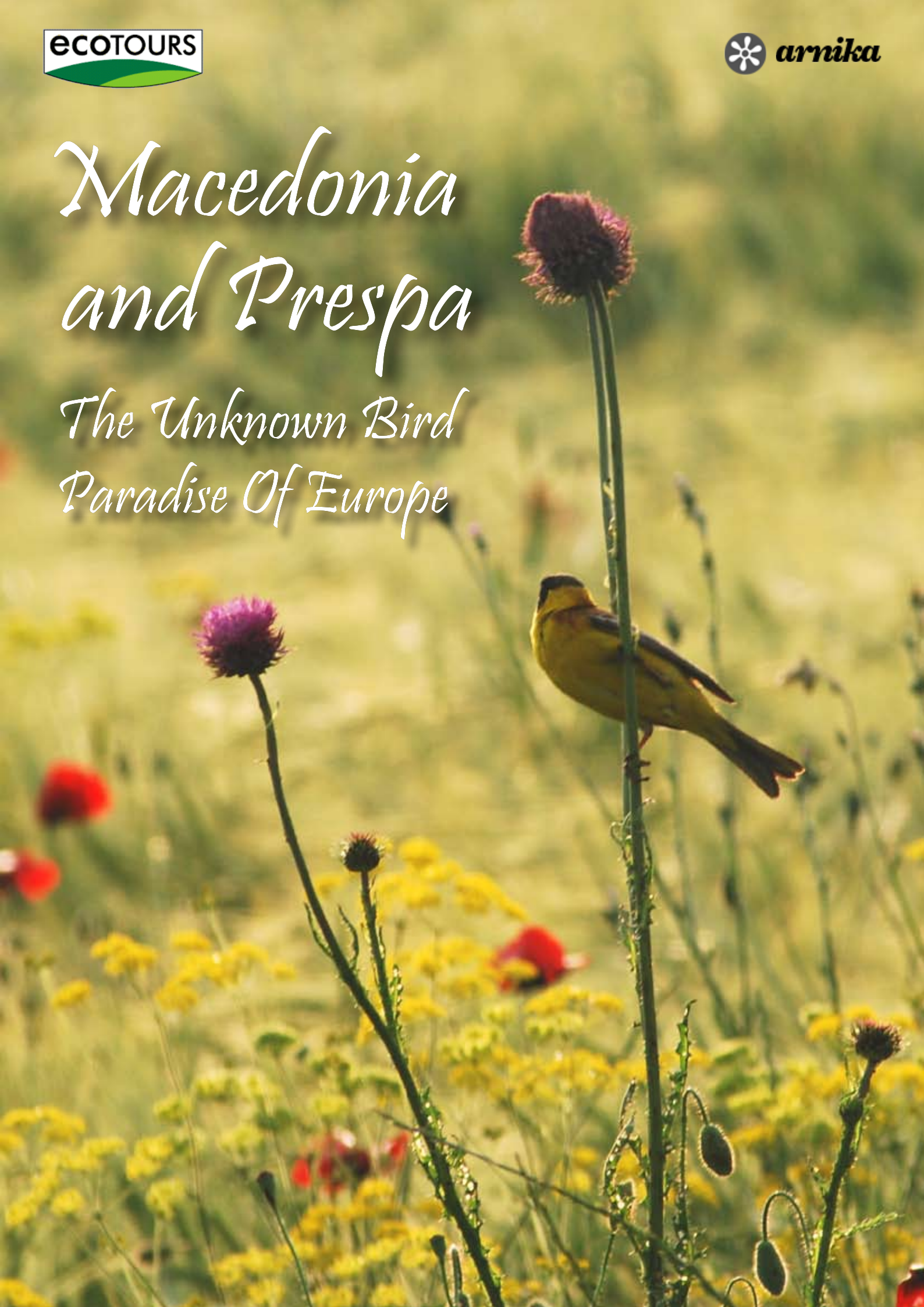
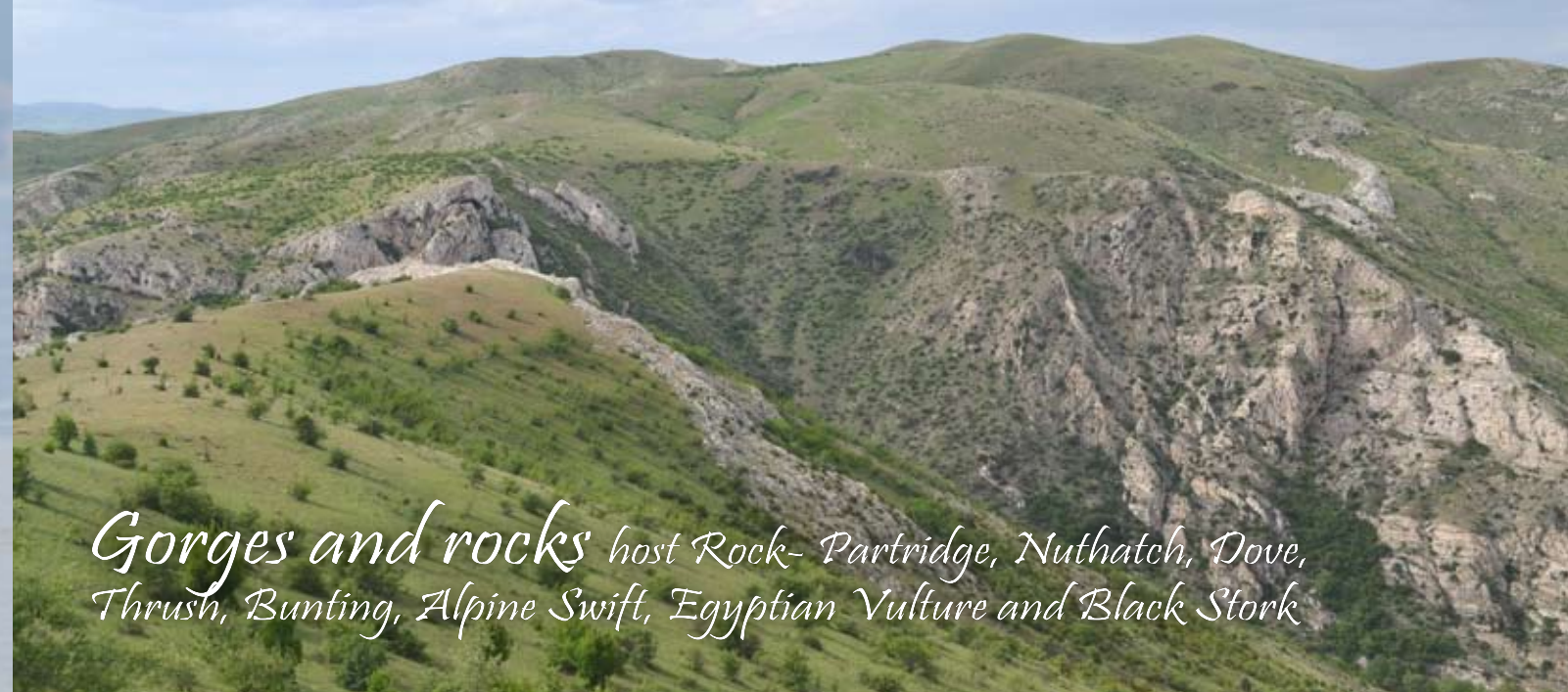


Macedonia and Prespa

*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. 26,000km² 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 hunting 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

