

JOIN MARK CARWARDINE FOR A FUN AND INSPIRATIONAL WEEK OF WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY IN HUNGARY ... and take some of your best pictures ever!

20-27 April 2024; 27 April-4 May 2024
8-15 February 2025; 5-12 July 2025; 12-19 July 2025



If you love photographing wildlife, this is a brilliant opportunity!

A fantastic week of photography from some of the best wildlife photography hides in the world – designed and built by Mark's great friend, multi-award-winning wildlife photographer Bence Mate. We'll be shooting a fabulous variety of species (many very rare in the UK) in some wonderful settings and often from just a few feet away. We'll have exclusive use of the hides, too. And Mark will give advice, help and inspiration throughout.

WHAT WE'LL DO DURING THE WEEK

Our chosen location is a hotspot for strikingly healthy bird populations in Eastern Europe, and species that are largely lost in the UK. We will have unlimited and exclusive use of up to 24 wonderful hides (depending on the season) and each evening everyone can choose which hides they would like to use the following day.

They all offer unparalleled photography opportunities. For example, if you fancy shooting herons, egrets, storks and spoonbills from a few feet away you might choose the Theatre hide (which is partly underwater – you stay perfectly dry but shoot at water level with fantastic perspectives of the birds). If you'd prefer to shoot hawfinches, black woodpeckers or sparrowhawks up-close you might choose one of the Drinking Stations. Or

you might fancy a morning photographing hoopoes or bee-eaters, from one of the specialist hides, or swallows collecting mud for their nests right in front of another sunken hide. You might even prefer a change from birds – otters, for example, or ground squirrels. There are several hundred ground squirrels around our accommodation (it's the largest population in Europe) and two hides specifically to photograph them. Mark will rotate between hides to spend as much time with everyone as possible.

You can start shooting at 4.00am, if you like, or have a lie-in and start much later. It's entirely up to you. Depending on the season, there will even be opportunities to shoot overnight, with natural and artificial lighting. One hide – popular for overnight shoots – has a toilet and even bedrooms.



The hides have been designed and built by Mark's friend, Bence Mate, who won Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year (six times) and Wildlife Photographer of the Year (2010) – with photographs taken from these and his other self-built hides. Mark wrote the Foreword to Bence's wonderful and inspiring book, *The Invisible Wildlife Photographer*. By the end of the week, you will have a stunning collection of new wildlife photographs and you'll leave inspired with lots of thoughts, suggestions and creative ideas. And, of course, it will be a lot of fun in the process. The workshops are open to beginners as well as more experienced photographers – everyone will benefit from the week (see further down for what people say about the trip).

WHERE WE WILL BE STAYING IN HUNGARY

Pusztaszer, which is two hours' drive from Budapest – we'll organise the transfer, which is included.

GROUP SIZE

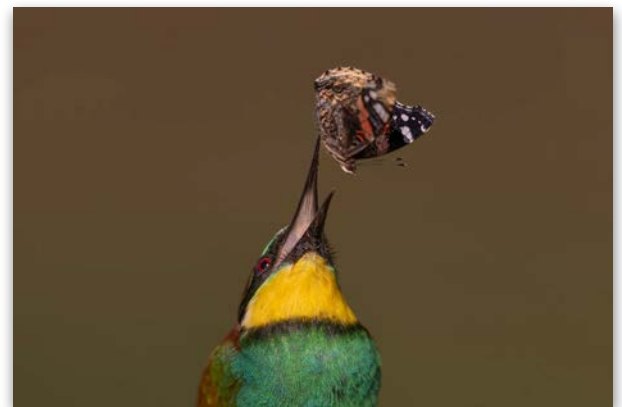
Places are very limited :
6 in February; 9 in April; 14 in July.

SPECIES INCLUDE

WINTER: white-tailed eagle, common buzzard, spoonbill, bittern, water rail, great white egret, grey heron, great cormorant, pygmy cormorant, Caspian gull, black-headed gull, hooded crow, kingfisher, brambling, hawfinch, siskin, song thrush, jay, otter, red fox, roe deer, hare, and a great many others.

SPRING/SUMMER: marsh harrier, sparrowhawk, goshawk, little owl, red-footed falcon, black stork, European white

stork, great white egret, spoonbill, black-winged stilt, avocet, black-tailed godwit, squacco heron, black-crowned night heron, Mediterranean gull, whiskered tern, hawfinch, hoopoe, European bee-eater, roller, cuckoo, kingfisher, black woodpecker, green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker, collared dove, turtle dove, golden oriole, blackcap, chiffchaff, willow warbler, whitethroat, whinchat, spotted flycatcher, common redstart, tree sparrow, swallow, tree pipit, jay, red-backed shrike, roe deer, hare, red squirrel, ground squirrel, otter (less frequent), and a great many others.



PRICES (excluding flights - see below for flight prices)

There is a choice of accommodation (and prices vary accordingly) **available on a first-come-first-served basis** (all within yards of one another):

The Guesthouse (Ground Floor) £4,595 per person (April/July); £5,495 per person (February). 50% single supplement for a room on your own. A very comfortable smart new property with three twin rooms (each with private bathroom).

The Guesthouse (First Floor) £4,495 per person (April/July); £5,395 per person (February).

The same very comfortable smart new property with one twin room and three single rooms with two shared bathrooms.

The Wooden Lodge £4,095 per person (April/July); £4,995 per person (February).

Two double rooms and two single rooms with a shared bathroom and separate toilet.

Main House £4,095 per person (April/July); £4,995 per person (February).

Two twin rooms sharing one bathroom (this is also where the dining room is – where we eat all our meals).

FLIGHT PACKAGE (with British Airways)

If you prefer us to organise your flights, there are flight packages available from Heathrow to Budapest, subject to availability: economy £375; business £550 (April 2024 only). Do let us know if you wish to fly from other UK airports. 2025 prices are not available yet.

HOW TO BOOK: please call or email Rachel Ashton on 0117-904-8934 or rachel@markcarwardine.com



WHAT PEOPLE SAY ...

“A week spent on Bence Maté’s farm with Mark is one of the best experiences a wildlife photographer can have. The hides are all wonderful, but I particularly enjoyed the woodland drinking stations. The constant anticipation of the next amazing wildlife encounter means that that every session is magical. Mark has a lovely way of making sure everyone comes away a better photographer and very, very happy. Such a lovely week!”

Daphne Lewsley, April 2022 & June 2023



© Daphne Lewsley



© Chris Brain

“A wildlife photographer’s dream, whatever your experience. A whole week immersed in your camera, in fabulously ingenious hides providing unrivalled proximity to brilliant wildlife photo opportunities. I can’t recommend this trip more highly and definitely want to return!”

Chris Brain, June 2023

“Mark’s wildlife photography trip was amazing! Surrounded by national parks, this incredible farm is teeming with wildlife and the opportunity for inspirational photography is second to none. Mark took the time (and patience) to work with all of us to ensure that we got the most out of the week and the shots we wanted. It was a lot of fun as well! I came back feeling that my photography had improved significantly and inspired to do more. I hope to return for the winter season!”

Claire Hilton, June 2023



© Claire Hilton



© Richard Shel Drake

“This is the most amazing wildlife photography trip I have ever been on and I cannot rave about it enough. Fabulous hides, excellent accommodation and beautiful location, photographing with a great group of people. It was incredible photography made perfect by being great fun – and serious without taking ourselves too seriously!”

Richard Shel Drake, January & April 2022, June 2023



© John Spencer

“Mark is the ultimate ‘camera whisperer’; you learn so much from him without ever realising he’s teaching you. From zero to hero. Every day is a new challenge and a new achievement. Easily the best wildlife photographic experience that I’ve ever been on.”

John Spencer, June 2023

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Mark Carwardine



[Your financial protection is guaranteed when you book with us](#)

HOW TO BOOK

Please contact Rachel Ashton

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