

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

A fantastic week of photography from some of the best wildlife photography hides in the world - designed and built by Mark's 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.



DATES

2022

Sat 29 Jan - Sat 5 Feb 2022
Sat 23 Apr - Sat 30 Apr 2022
Sat 30 Apr - Sat 7 May 2022

2023

Sat 28 Jan - Sat 4 Feb 2023
Sat 4 Feb - Sat 11 Feb 2023
Sat 15 Apr - Sat 22 Apr 2023
Sat 24 Jun - Sat 1 Jul 2023

WHERE

Pusztaszer, Hungary (two hours' drive from Budapest – we'll organise the transfer and, of course, it's all included).

GROUP SIZE

Places are very limited – with group sizes of only 6 (Jan-Feb) and 13 (Apr-Jul).

WHAT WE'LL DO DURING THE WEEK

We'll have unlimited and exclusive use of two dozen wonderful hides (summer workshops) and three superb hides (winter workshops).

Our chosen location is a hotspot for strikingly healthy bird populations and species that are largely lost in the UK – such as cuckoos, goshawks and bitterns.

There are no set itineraries. 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 bitterns and egrets from a few feet away you might choose the Cinema 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 or sparrowhawks drinking and bathing up-close you might choose a Drinking Station.



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Plan for some long days. You can start shooting at 4.00am, if you like, or have a lie-in and start later. It's entirely up to you. There will even be opportunities to shoot overnight, with natural and artificial lighting. Some hides have toilets and even small 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 other self-built hides. Mark wrote the Foreword to Bence's book, **The Invisible Wildlife Photographer**. They are among the

best hides in the world. Many have heating, built-in tripods and even WiFi.

Evenings will be spent in the hides or poring over the photos of the day, analysing the successes and failures and chatting about how to improve the following day.

By the end of the week, hopefully, we will all have a stunning collection of new wildlife photographs, a thorough grasp of everything from creative shooting techniques to best use of equipment, and we'll be inspired with lots of thoughts, suggestions and ideas. And we will have a lot of fun in the process.

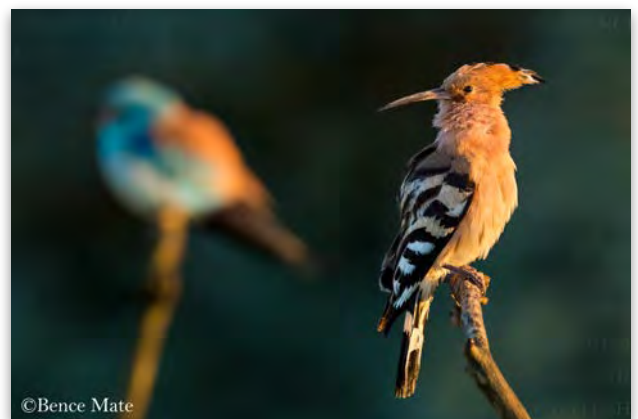
The workshops are open to beginners as well as more experienced photographers – everyone will benefit from the week.



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SPRING-SUMMER AND WINTER WORKSHOPS?

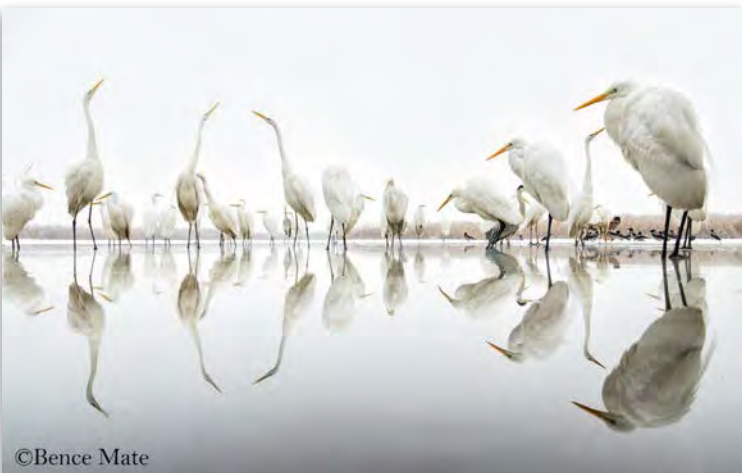
SPRING-SUMMER (mid-April to mid-July)

- Group size 13.
- Use of 24 hides.
- Key species include: otter, ground squirrel (there are about 3,000 in the colony – it's the largest population in Europe – and there are two hides specifically to photograph them), goshawk, sparrowhawk, marsh harrier, spoonbill, great white egret, little egret, squacco heron, grey heron, European bee-eater (from last week of May), hoopoe, European roller (from early May), turtle dove; other likely species include: little owl, black woodpecker, Mediterranean gull.
- Approximate daylight hours: 5.40am-7.40pm in mid-April to 5.00am-8.30pm in mid-July.



WINTER (January and February)

- Group size 6.
- Suitable for 24-hour action photography using both natural and artificial lighting
- Use of 5 hides (Theatre, Cinema, Drinking Station, Hotel and Kingfisher).
- Key species include: otter, white-tailed eagle, common buzzard, bittern, great white egret, grey heron, water rail, kingfisher; other likely species include: red fox, hare, marsh harrier, spoonbill, great cormorant, caspian gull, black-headed gull.
- Approximate daylight hours: 7.30am-4.10pm in early January to 6.20am-5.30pm in late February – but there will be a chance to spend whole nights in the hides.
- Spectacular winter weather – with a good chance of snow and ice. It will probably be COLD! but think of the lovely light and all those misty breaths!





WHERE WILL WE BE STAYING?

The accommodation in Pusztaszer is simple and basic, but everything is nice and clean. There is a lovely, brand new guesthouse, which opened in early 2021, as well as an old farmhouse and two small separate wooden houses, all close to each other. All accommodation is on a first-come first-served basis.

Please bear in mind that we'll spend some nights in the hides, too (ones with heating and toilets). We'll eat all our meals together, in the old farmhouse (and there will be cold food available everywhere we stay).

There are 14 rooms available in total, accommodating a maximum of 16 guests. Our summer groups are a maximum of 13 and winter, just 6, and so we will have plenty of space.

BRAND NEW GUESTHOUSE

X8 single rooms (which can be converted into double rooms). X4 of the rooms have private bathrooms (with shower and toilet);

X4 of the rooms share two bathrooms (with shower and toilet).

BIG OLD FARMHOUSE

X2 twin bedrooms sharing a bathroom (with bathtub, shower and toilet).

SMALL WOODEN HOUSES

HOUSE 1: X2 double rooms

HOUSE 2: X2 single rooms

Shared, small bathroom with a shower and separate toilet, few steps from the door.





PRICE

£3,795 per person (excluding flights).

Book early to get a room to yourself with no single supplement

WHAT'S INCLUDED: seven nights' accommodation in Pusztaszer; all meals and non-alcoholic drinks in Pusztaszer; transfers between Budapest and Pusztaszer; local guide fees; use of three hides (and transportation between hides, where necessary); free wi-fi; guide services of Mark Carwardine.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED: international flights; alcoholic drinks; travel insurance; carbon offsetting; accommodation and meals not in Pusztaszer; airport departure taxes.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE (per person): non-refundable deposit of £500 upon booking; first-stage payment of £1,647.50 six months prior to departure; final balance of £1,647.50 ninety days prior to departure.

HOW TO BOOK

Please call or email Rachel Ashton

T: 0117-904-8934

E: rachel@markcarwardine.com



Your financial protection is guaranteed when you book with Mark Carwardine/ The Whale Watch Company

