

# 5 DAYS IN THE DANUBE DELTA

## THE SPRING MIGRATION



**Explore the remote reaches on the Danube Delta, its waterways and the edge of the Black Sea on this exciting 5 day trip.**

During spring there are hundreds of migratory bird species moving through this region, and the waterways, coastal landscape and extensive marsh lands make this a birding paradise.

The small village of Sfantu Gheorghe is located on one of the main Danube channels and

eastern extremity of the Delta, very close to the entrance to the Black Sea. A combination of marshes, reed beds, waterways & inland lakes provide ideal variety for bird watching.

Explore this area by boat, on foot and possibly by canoe.

There is vast cultural history in this area, combined with great home away from home hospitality.





STEFAN WIDSTRAND / REWILDING EUROPE

**JENICA PENSION** is cozy owner run guesthouse and this is the base for your stay in Sf. Gheorghe, and Jeni & Dumitru will be your hosts. The pension has 3 en suite rooms, wifi in the main area and a great central location within this little waterside fishing village.

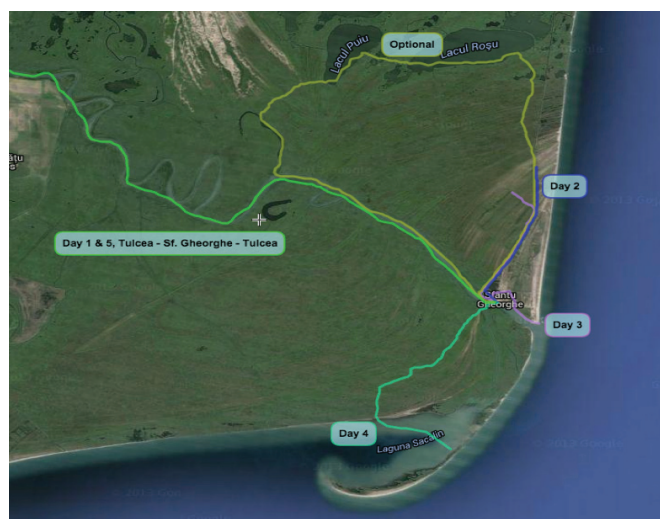
The owners are part of the Rewilding Europe Initiative, aiming to restore conservation to the forefront within Europe utilizing amongst other ways, the success of community operated eco-tourism.



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### KEY BIRDING SPECIES

Dalmatian pelican, white pelican, Eurasian spoonbill, night heron, squacco heron, purple heron, little egret, great white egret, pygmy cormorant, bittern, white-tailed eagle, red-footed falcon, ferruginous duck, common shelduck, great black-headed gull, great-winged stilt, avocet, terns.



### ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Access the link to zoom in the area:

[www.scribblemaps.com/maps/view/5\\_days\\_in\\_Danube\\_Delta/j2rOrxGYXh](http://www.scribblemaps.com/maps/view/5_days_in_Danube_Delta/j2rOrxGYXh)

### DAY 1: TRAVEL TO BUCHAREST – OWN ARRANGEMENT

- Lunchtime road transfer to Tulcea / Murighiol for boat transfer to Sf. Gheorghe (note this is only possible in the late spring & summer months).
- 2 hrs boat transfer on the Danube River to Sf. Gheorghe, check into Jenica Pension.
- Dinner and planning session for activities in the coming days.

### DAY 2: JENICA PENSION, SF. GHEORGHE

- Morning walk to the marsh North of the village or go by boat to the Sf. Gheorghe - Sulina channel to observe the wader, ardeidae and other bird species.
- Enjoy a picnic lunch in the field or back at the pension (dependent on groups decisions & activities).
- In the afternoon enjoy nature's sounds while exploring a very narrow channel that leads to Cruhlic Lake by canoe. This excursion is set to be around 4–5 km or 3 hours in duration. Returning to Sf. Gheorghe just after sunset.
- Enjoy local home cooked dinner at the Pension – Jeni's delights await.

#### Species

*Water birds, marsh species including great and little egret, little bittern, Eurasian teal, gadwall, kingfisher and many others.*

### DAY 3: JENICA PENSION, SF. GHEORGHE

- The morning excursion spent exploring the wild areas around the village. The route includes visits to the surrounding wetlands, the artificial plantation forest, the unique fixed sand dunes, the beach and the mouth of the Danube River flowing into the Black Sea.
- Possible sightings of Golden jackal, Wild boar, Fox, Hedgehog, European hare, Meadow viper, Balkan wall lizard.
- After a hearty 4–5 hours you will return to Sf. Gheorghe for lunch and a chance to wander the streets of the village for a while.
- The afternoon can be spent in the birding blinds on an inland marsh. Variety of birdlife to include with good crossover of sea & fresh water, access by boat with a short walk on the peninsular/ even more remote area south of the village.
- Sunset over the Black Sea, before returning to the hospitality of the pension.

#### Species

*Gray heron, purple heron, great and little egret, glossy ibis, black-tailed godwit, black-winged stilt, pied avocet, hoopoe, roller, red-footed falcon, bee-eaters & grey-headed woodpeckers, skimmers, gulls, pelicans and possibly white-tailed eagle.*

### DAY 4: JENICA PENSION, SF. GHEORGHE

- In the Morning visit Sahalin Island and Melea lagoon. The route is very spectacular because of the large number of species of birds and of flora diversity. The route includes the channels, Turkish Brook, Melea lagoon, Sahalin Island and Ciotica channel. This is explored by boat either on the Delta's inner channels or by Sea (weather dependent).
- A variety of marine life including large schools of fish and dolphins can be seen on this outing and will keep us busy for about 5 hours.
- Late lunch in the village and a chance to relax and put your feet up or go for a leisurely stroll.
- In the afternoon visit the cormorant colony initially by boat and then a short walk into this limited access area. There are large quantities of nesting cormorants, spend time observing their behavior around sunset.
- Dinner outside in the garden under the stars.

#### Possible species

*Water birds to look out for could include pelicans, cormorants, common terns, great and little egrets, gray herons, night herons, geese, ducks, Eurasian spoonbills, mute swans, white-tailed eagles, bitterns and a large number of waders.*

### DAY 5: BUCHAREST / OUTWARD FLIGHT

- Early departure from Sf. Gheorghe by boat to Murighiol & onward road transfer to Bucharest (6hrs 30mins).
- Onward plans either overnight in Bucharest or early evening international flight connection.

#### OPTIONAL DAY FOR INCLUSION OR ADDITION TO THIS ITINERARY

**Morning activity:** visit the major lakes around Sf. Gheorghe. Route: Central channel – Tatarciuc Lake – Tataru Lake – Rosu Lake – Puiu Lake – Mocanu Channel – Erenciuc Lake.

We will travel through different ecosystems, medium and small lakes (backwaters) to narrow channels that can become almost impassable at certain times of the year. Duration 6–7 hours.

#### Species

*This is the route with the richest, natural beauties of the Delta, because of the great number of birds and animals in general, but also due to the great diversity of plants. Red-necked grebe, squacco heron, glossy ibis, white and Dalmatian pelican, ferruginous duck, white-tailed eagle, white-winged black tern, golden oriole.*

**In the afternoon** demonstration of traditional fishing by boat – with fish species focus on the time of year. Fishing for Danube herring (spring), golden gray mullet at the Black Sea coast (summer), pike (autumn).

All these trails in the Delta can be adapted to the customer's requirements and other routes could be set up on the map, depending on the group's size, the possibilities of transport and, of course, the customer's availability for other activities according to his/her interests.





MIRELA CRISTIAN

## PRICES

### Accommodation and meals

€43/day – accommodation in single room, incl. breakfast and dinner  
€32/day – accommodation in double room, incl. breakfast and dinner

### Trips in the area

€30/day – for the Days 2, 3, 4  
€40/day – optional trip to the Lakes

## TRANSPORT

### Bucharest – Tulcea/Murighiol

- private or rented car, if from Otopeni airport:  
[www.airportrentacar.ro](http://www.airportrentacar.ro),  
[www.hertz.ro/en](http://www.hertz.ro/en)
- public transport from Bucharest,  
[www.autogari.ro/Transport/Bucuresti-Tulcea](http://www.autogari.ro/Transport/Bucuresti-Tulcea)

### Public transport

**Tulcea – Sfantu Gheorghe, 2h30'–4h,**  
[www.navromdelta.ro/program-nave/](http://www.navromdelta.ro/program-nave/)

- June–September, daily 13<sup>30</sup>–17<sup>00</sup>, return the next day at 7<sup>00</sup>
- October–May, 3 boats a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) 13<sup>30</sup>–17<sup>00</sup>, return next day at 7<sup>00</sup>

### Private transport

**Murighiol – Sfantu Gheorghe, 1h30'**

- Murighiol pier is located near a spacious, secured parking space
- €45/person, both ways: Murighiol – Sfantu Gheorghe – Murighiol
- €25/person, one way

## CONTACT

### Jenica Pension

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