

# Endemics and seabirds of the Canaries

The seven Canary Islands belong to Spain and can be divided, based on the type of habitat, into two groups. The Western Islands comprise Tenerife, Gomera, La Palma, El Hierro and Gran Canaria. The eastern islands of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura are situated off the African coast. We visit Tenerife, Gomera, and Fuerteventura which hold a good percentage of the endemic species found in the Canary Islands. The islands have been isolated long enough to offer the opportunity to see the highest number of endemics to the region along with a great number of endemic sub-species. Fuerteventura has the endemic Canary Islands Chat and many other desert species including Houbara Bustard. The islands are volcanic in origin and offer some spectacular scenery and an avifauna found nowhere else on Earth.

**Days 1-3:** Morning flight to Fuerteventura. Once on the island, we drive south and make several stops to locate the endemic Canary Islands Chat. Jandida has a variety of habitats to explore. Species we can expect here include Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Eurasian Thick-knee, Cream-coloured Courser and Lesser Short-toed Lark. Las Penitas, Los Molinos and Tindaya are important birding areas on the island. At Las Penitas we can look for Ruddy Shelduck, Barbary Partridge, Egyptian Vulture, Common Buzzard, Eurasian Kestrel, Sardinian and Spectacled Warblers and the recently split Ultramarine Tit. The introduced Barbary Ground Squirrel also occurs in the area. On Day 3 we drive through semi-desert plains looking for Houbara Bustard, Trumpeter Finch, Lesser Short-toed Lark and Southern Grey Shrike.

**Day 4:** Morning flight to Tenerife and transfer to our hotel situated in the centre of the island for a three-night stay. On arrival we can look for the endemic Blue Chaffinch and the recently split Tenerife Blue Tit. Other interesting species present include endemic sub-species of Great Spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Kestrel and Rock Dove. Five of the endemics, Canary Islands Chiffchaff, Canary Islands Kinglet, Plain Swift, Berthelot's Pipit and Atlantic Canary, are quite common in the pine woods and surrounding area.

## Dates

Friday December 21st - Friday  
December 28th 2018

Leader: Mark Finn and local guides

Group Size: 8

Birds: 60-90

**Day 5:** Today we visit Teno National Park looking for Barbary Falcon which can often be seen from the cliff at Teno. On the way to the area, we cross the most spectacular National Park found in the Canary Islands. Teide National Park, in the high mountain zone, offers a superb panorama of lava fields, craters and the highest active volcano in Spain at 12,198 feet. We make a stop for Rock Petronia and Spanish Sparrow on our return journey. In the south of Tenerife, wintering birds often include Eurasian Spoonbill, Common Greenshank, Grey Plover, Whimbrel and Common Ringed Plover.

**Day 6:** Today we explore the island of Gomera. The ferry crossing offers us the opportunity to observe Bulwer's Petrel, Manx, Barolo's, Scopoli's and Cory's Shearwaters. Rarer species include Great and Sandwich Tern. Cetaceans seen on previous tours include Short-finned Pilot Whale and Common and Bottlenose Dolphins and, with luck, we may see Pilot Whales. Our destination on Gomera is



**Canary Islands Chat** Photo: Eduardo Garcia del Rey

Garajonay National Park where the endemic Bolle's and Laurel Pigeons occur. Other species present include Eurasian Sparrowhawk and the Canary Islands race of Common Buzzard. This promises to be an interesting day in a remote and unique area of Gomera. In the afternoon we have further chances of seabirds on the return crossing to Tenerife.

**Day 7:** Today has been set aside for us to revisit areas on Tenerife for birds which we may have missed. Our local contacts may have news of any unusual birds wintering on the island. In the south of Tenerife we can check golf courses for wintering Red-throated Pipit and on occasions rarer waders which have included American Golden Plover and Pectoral Sandpiper. El Medano is one of the better sites for waders on Tenerife and it usually holds Ringed and Kentish Plovers, Dunlin, Greenshank, Ruff and Ruddy Turnstone and sometimes Bar-tailed Godwit and Whimbrel.

**Day 8:** Fly back to the UK where the tour concludes.

## Prices

Ground Price: £1,995

Single room: £100

Deposit: £200

\*Air Fare: £350

This holiday is fully inclusive of accommodation and meals, transport, guidance and taxes.

**Not included:** drinks, insurance, items of a personal nature and any relevant fuel surcharges, baggage and credit card charges and any flight meals to and from the Canary Islands.

*\*Please refer to our terms and conditions relating to flights*