



*life shines in*  
**CALPE**

*Do you join us for life?*

ORNITHOLOGICAL ROUTES



## Ornithological tourism in Calpe

The **ornithological tourism** or **birdwatching** is a form of nature tourism in which bird watching is the main motivation, although not necessarily the only one.

Some will be simply satisfied watching the birds or adding new species to their lists while others will seek to immortalize it in a photograph.

However everyone is interested in the birds and habitats where they are, as well as the knowledge of the traditional activities that shaped the landscape allowing the maintenance of these habitats and its biodiversity.

And **Calpe** preserves some of the best habitats for birdwatching: the wetlands, along with others of notable interest such as the sea cliffs and coastal mountains, all of them full of history.

**Las Salinas (the salt flats)**, the rock **Peñón de Ifach** or the mountain **Morro de Toix**, the end of the mountain range **Sierra de Bernia** that borders the sea, as well as the **Sierra de Oltà** will allow any “bird lover” to contemplate a great diversity of species some of great interest for foreign birdwatchers because they are species exclusive to the Mediterranean area.

We emphasize typical species of the salt flats like the emblematic **Flamingo**, **Black-winged Stilts**, **Avocets** or several seagulls along with seabirds such as the **European Shag** or the **Balearic Shearwater** with other equally interesting such as the **blue Rock Thrush** or the **Black Wheatear**.

Due to its location on the eastern migratory route between Europe and Africa, the diversity of species that use these natural spaces for nesting, wintering or migratory stop increases the possibilities of birdwatching all year round.

*Grab your binoculars and... come to Calpe!*



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# Decalogue of the Birdwatcher

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## **1 Welfare of birds should come first.**

Whether you are a birdwatcher, a photographer or simply a nature lover, you must keep in mind that the welfare of the birds is ALWAYS the first.

## **2 Habitat must be protected.**

Habitat is vital for birds, so all our activities should be respectful and not cause any damage. We must leave everything as we find it.

## **3 Not to alter the behaviour of the birds at all.**

The tolerance of the birds to the annoyances of the humans is different depending on the species in question and the season. We must try not to disturb them at any time, but especially in the breeding season, since we could cause abandonment of the nest, with the consequent loss of the eggs. The same happens in winter, when the adverse conditions cause a loss of energy which results very difficult to counteract. We must also take special care during the migration, whether in autumn or spring.

## **4 If you find a species of bird in danger, inform, but carefully.**

If you find an endangered species breeding and you think it needs protection, inform SEO / BirdLife as quickly as possible, at any of their offices. It is the best way to protect and preserve it, but avoid divulging the exact location in other circles that can be used by egg collectors or other collectives that may cause discomfort. In addition, it would constitute very important information for the knowledge and protection of this species. The place where the species raise should not be visited during this period.

**5 You should not bother the rare species or vagrants.**

Rare and vagrant birds should not be disturbed. If you see any, you must inform SEO/BirdLife by email to [rarezas@seo.org](mailto:rarezas@seo.org) and our Rarity Committee will assess the specimen. However, try not to tell everyone, the influx of birdwatchers in that area can cause troubles. Likewise, if you think that it is an exotic bird you can communicate it to our Group of Exotic Birds to [exoticas@seo.org](mailto:exoticas@seo.org).

**6 Respect the rights of landowners.**

The rights of the owners of the land where we want to walk to observe birds must always be respected. Not entering these properties without prior permission and not leaving the authorized routes is essential for the conservation of species.

**7 Respect always the regulations on the protection of birds.**

Many birds (birds of prey, insectivorous ...) are protected by law (Law 42/2007 on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity). This is the result of the efforts of several generations of birdwatchers, scientists and bird lovers.

**8 Respect the rights of people in the observation area.**

When you meet other visitors in the observation area, you must bear in mind that they have the same rights as you to enjoy the natural environment and its birdlife.

**9 Share your comments with other local observers.**

Many of the knowledge about the species that we have today is the result of the sum of the quotations voluntarily shared by many birdwatchers. For this reason it would be advisable that you add your quotations to the previous ones to obtain a better knowledge and a greater protection and conservation of the birds.

You can use different platforms such as e-bird.

**10 Behave as you would like others to behave in your area.**

Good behaviour and the follow-up of these simple rules, make observers the best ambassadors for the conservation of birds and their habitats.

## 1 THE SALT FLATS

The salt flats of Calpe are in the urban nucleus of the town and next to the Natural Park of the rock Peñón de Ifach. Its importance for the birds is evident, up to 173 species both nesting and migrating have been detected in its surroundings, and the **Flamingo** is the most striking one.

### Most frequent birds

- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 12
- Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) 12
- Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) 12
- Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) 12
- Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) 12
- Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) 12
- Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) 12
- Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) 🌿
- Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) 🌿
- White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) 🌿
- Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) 🌿
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) 🍂
- Audouin's Gull (*Ichthyaetus audouinii*) 🍂
- Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) 🍂
- Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) 🍂

\* We only mention those related to the wetland, although many other species can be observed in the environment such as the hoopoe, the little owl, or the southern grey shrike...

When can you see these birds:

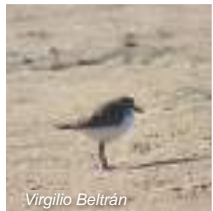
- 12 All year   🌿 March / September   🍂 October / February



Virgilio Beltrán



J.I. Ballester










## 2 THE ROCK: PEÑÓN DE IFACH AND SEA AREA

This calcareous mass provides on its cliffs a nesting site for rupicolous birds such as the Peregrine Falcon, Swifts... and shelter to the scarce **European shag**.








The areas with vegetation cover can also bring us some surprises among nesting, migratory or vagrant passerines. It is also worth taking a look at the sea when the ships return to port with a trail of seabirds behind them.

### Most frequent birds

#### Sea birds

- Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) 
- European Sshag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) 
- Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michaellis*) 
- Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) 
- Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) 
- Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) 
- Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*) 

#### Land birds

- Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) 
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) 
- Common Swift (*Apus apus*) 
- Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*) 
- Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) 
- Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) 
- Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) 

When can you see these birds:



All year



March / September



October / February



Virgilio Beltrán



Virgilio Beltrán



Victor Paris





### 3 MORRO DE TOIX

The Morro de Toix is the end of the Sierra de Bernia just in the sea. In the high part of its cliffs, with more than 200 meters above sea level, we find species as particular as the Alpine swift, the blue rock thrush or the black wheatear in addition to the typical species of the Mediterranean scrubland in its north slope and the marine species that we will observe over the bay.

#### Most frequent birds

Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*)



Great Tit (*Parus major*)



Black Wheatear (*Oenanthe leucura*)



Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*)



Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*)



Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michaellis*)



Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)



Blue rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)



Serin (*Serinus serinus*)



Scops Owl (*Otus scops*)



Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)



Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*)



Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*)



Common Swift (*Apus apus*)



Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*)



Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)



Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)



When can you see these birds:



All year



March / September



October / February



J.I. Ballester



J.I. Ballester



Rafa Muñoz



Salvador García



Virgilio Beltrán



Rafa Muñoz



Salvador García

## 4 SIERRA DE OLTÀ

The Sierra de Oltà is a small mountainous elevation near Calpe covered with pinewoods and Mediterranean bushes in which there are some rocky cliffs. Walking along its marked paths you can observe a great diversity of forest, rupicolous and even raptors species.



### Most frequent birds

- Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*)
- Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)
- Great Tit (*Parus major*)
- Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
- Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*)
- Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)
- Crested Tit (*Lophophanes cristatus*)
- Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)
- Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
- Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)
- Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)
- Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)
- Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)
- Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)
- Serin (*Serinus serinus*)
- Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)
- European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)
- Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*)
- Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*)
- Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)
- Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
- Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)

When can you see these birds:



All year



March / September



October / February





*Rafa Torralba*



*Virgilio Beltrán*



*J.I. Ballester*



*J.I. Ballester*



*J.I. Ballester*



*Virgilio Beltrán*

## GENERAL MAP

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SIERRA  
DE OLTA

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Ava. Diputación

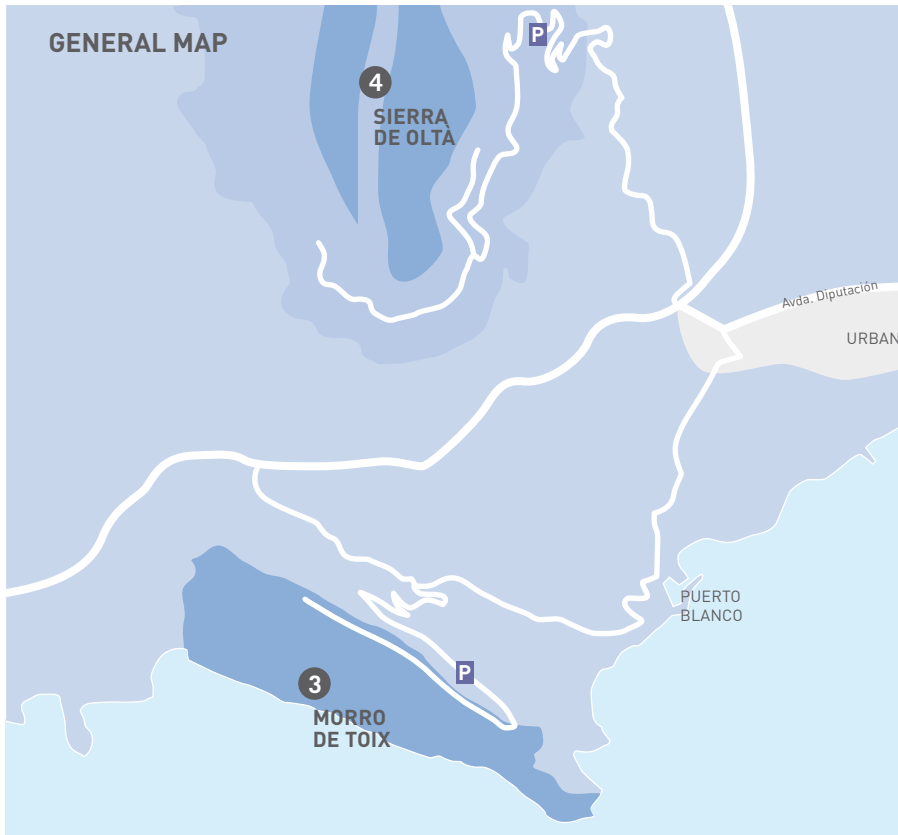
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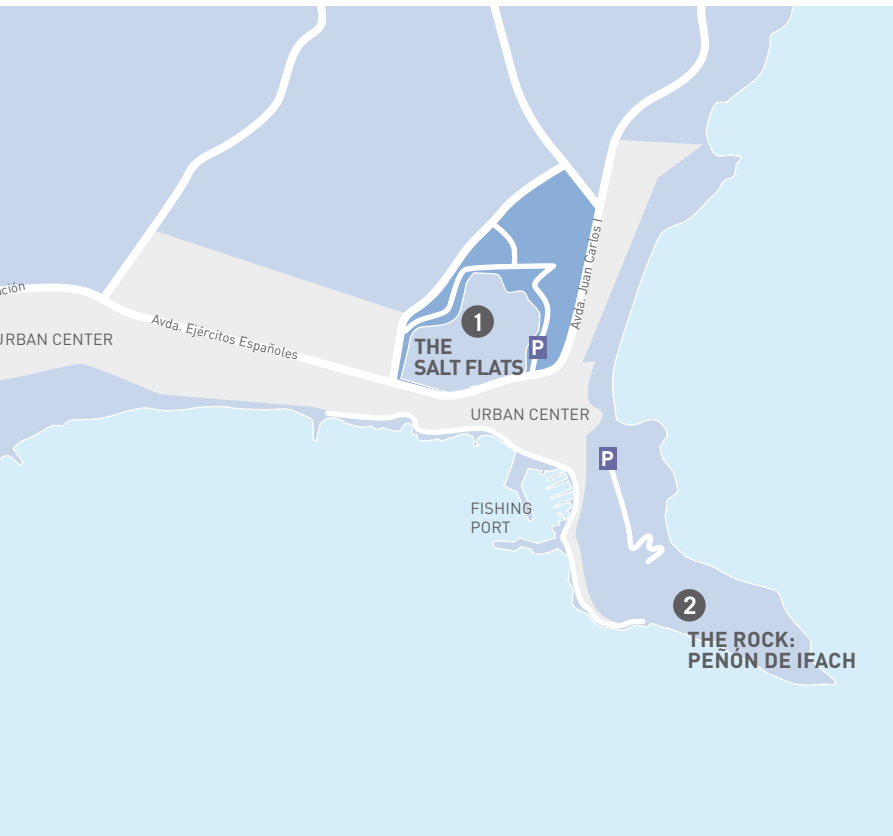
PUERTO  
BLANCO

3

MORRO  
DE TOIX

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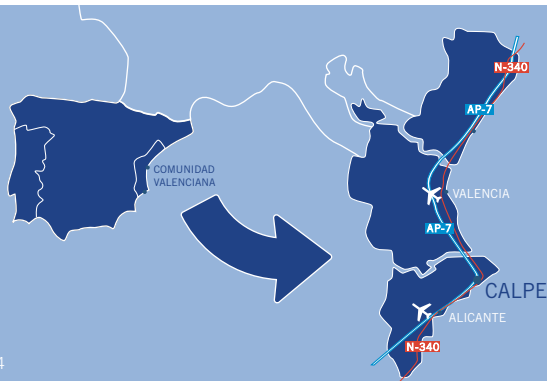




[www.calpe.es](http://www.calpe.es)



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