Golden Gate Bird Alliance presents

Transylvania Adventure

Day 1 (May 9) Arrival in Miklosvár

Accommodation: Count Kalnoky's Estate Enjoy dinner after your drive from the airport.

Day 2 (May 10)

Homorod Lakes and Miklósvár Owls Accommodation: Count Kalnoky's Estate

Homorod Lakes – Miklósvár Owls	10:15 hrs			
EARLY Breakfast	7:00	8:00		
Milkósvár - Homorod Lakes	8:00	10:00		
Homorod lakes walk	10:00	13:00		
Packed Lunch	13:00	14:00		
Homorod lakes – travel back to Miklósvár	15:00	17:00		
REFRESHING Program	17:00	18:00		
Early Dinner	18:00	19:00		
Miklósvár - Owls	19:00			

After having breakfast at Count Kalnoky's Estate, we'll visit a fishpond lake system, Homorod Lakes, which used to be a natural marshland, 60 kms north of our guesthouses. In the period of first half of May this area is famous for **Red-footed Falcon** spring migration, with sometimes numbers above hundreds of birds. It's also a place **Citrine Wagtail** and **Red-throated Pipit** are regularly seen. A large variety of waders, ducks and herons are present at these fishponds each spring. Birds that might be observed here include all three species of marsh terns, the **Whiskered-**, **Black-** and **White-winged Tern**; **Ferruginous Duck**; **Bee Eater**; **Bittern** and **Little Bitterns**; **Broad-billed Sandpiper** and **Lesser Spotted Eagle**.

After eating our packed lunches we'll return to the guesthouse where we'll enjoy an early refreshing program, followed by dinner. After dinner we'll have an owl walk where we'll hope to hear and see **Tawny Owl**, **Ural Owl**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Scops Owl**, **Little Owl**, **Nightjar**, and **Wood Lark**.

Day 3 (May 11) Zarnesti Gorge

Accommodation: Count Kalnoky's Estate

Zarnesti Gorge	11:15 hrs	
EARLY Breakfast	7:00	7:45
Miklósvár - Zernesti	7:45	9:45
Zernesti Gorge walk	9:45	12:45
Gorge - Magura Watchpoint	12:45	13:00
Packed Lunch with bird observation	13:00	14:30
Magura Watchpoint - Miklósvár	14:30	16:30
REFRESHING Program	16:30	18:00
Bear-watching evening with packed dinner	18:00	21:00

Today we'll have a quick breakfast and leave for Zernyest at 07:45. Zernyest Gorge is located in the Piatra Craiului Mountains, which are part of the <u>Southern Carpathian</u> mountain range. The drive will take 2 hours (75 km), and between 09:45 and 12:45 we will bird in the Gorge of Zernyest. This is a good area for observing the **Alpine Swift**, **Crag Martin**, **Rock Bunting** and the **Wallcreeper**.

After the walk we will go in a nearby watchpoint, where we will have our packed lunch. Birds which may be seen here include the **Short-toed Eagle**, **Honey Buzzard**, **Black Stork**, **Peregrine**, and **Golden Oriole**.

We'll return to the Miklósvár Guesthouses by 16:30. A part of the group, who will visit the bear-watching spot, will have a two-hour break before leaving to the hide at 18:00. They will return to the Guesthouse by 21:00. The other half will have a birdwatching afternoon between 16:30 and 18:00 in the nearby meadows and forests, followed by dinner at 20:00.

Day 4 (May 12) Carpathian Delta Day

Accommodation: Count Kalnoky's Estate

Zarnesti Gorge - Carpathian Delta Day	11:15 hrs	
EARLY Breakfast	7:00	8:00
Miklosvar – Dumbravita	8:00	9:00
Dumbravita Forest walk	9:00	10:30
Dumbravita Lakes walk	10:30	13:00
Packed Lunch with observations	13:00	14:00
Dumbravita Lakes walk	14:00	15:00
travel back to Miklosvar	15:00	16:00
REFRESHING Program	16:00	18:00

After breakfast we'll leave for Dumravita Fishponds, also called The Delta of the Carpathians, which is one of the best birding sites for waterfowl and waders in Transylvania. At the ponds we'll see a mixture of habitats, including fishponds, meadows and oak forests, where we might expect Middle Spotted, Little Spotted and Green Woodpecker; Treecreeper; Golden Oriole; Collared Flycatchers and many others. In the ponds we're likely to spot not only a large variety of herons, ducks, and waders (Ferruginous Duck and Pygmy Cormorant are highlights of the area), but also raptors, including White-tailed Eagle and Lesser Spotted Eagle. During our walk around the fishpond system we'll enjoy our packed lunches.

We'll return to the guesthouse by 16:30, where the other half of the group will have a two-hour break before visiting the bear-watching spot. The others will bird in the nearby meadows and forests before dinner.

Day 5 (May 13)

Mikósvár Surroundings – The Horse and Cart Day

Accommodation: Count Kalnoky's Estate

Miklósvár Surroundings – The Horse and Cart		
Day	11:15 hrs	
Breakfast	7:00	8:00
Miklósvár – surroundings	8:30	11:00
Miklósvár Forest walk	11:00	13:00
Packed Lunch with observations	13:00	14:00
Miklósvár – surroundings,	14:00	16:00
REFRESHING Program	16:00	18:00
Roundtable discussions, presentations about		
Romanian Bird conservation. The Milvus Story	18:00	20:00
Dinner	20:00	

Today we'll spend some time traveling locally by horse and cart day; it's a trip in which you'll learn deep knowledge about bird population dynamics related to the surrounding habitats, changes in the landscape, land-use techniques, etc.

We'll visit the nearby marshlands with several stops and walks in the meadows and forests of the area, completing a circle rather than coming back the same way. Species to see include the **Ural Owl**, **Treecreeper**, **Collared**, **Red-breasted** and **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Green**, **Grey-headed** and **Black Woodpecker**, **Wryneck**, **Honey Buzzard**, **Lesser Spotted Eagle** and **Black Stork**. We will have our packed lunch in nice surroundings, then continue our journey and arrive back at the guesthouse. Before dinner, there will be an optional round table, where information about Romanian birds, their conservation, and Milvus Group achievements will be presented.

Day 6 (May 14) Bucegi Mountains

Accommodation: Count Kalnoky's Estate

Bucegi Mountains Day	11 hrs	
Quick Breakfast	6:30	7:30
travel to Sinaia	7:30	10:00
mixed forest walk	10:00	11:30
cable car from 1400 to 2000 m	11:30	12:00
Walk in the alpine meadow of the Bucegi		
Mountains	12:00	13:00
Packed Lunch	13:00	13:30
Walk in the alpine meadow of the Bucegi		
Mountains	13:30	15:00
cable car back to Sinaia	15:00	15:30
travel back to Miklósvár	15:30	18:00
REFRESHING Program	18:00	20:00
Dinner	20:00	

Since we have a long drive, we'll have an early start today on our way to Sinaia, which is known as Romania's most important holiday camp; it's situated in the Bugegi Mountains, part of the Southern Carpathians. Our first stop will be at a beautiful mixed forest where we'll walk for a kilometer on the King's Path. Here we'll have a chance to see Red-breasted, Collared, Pied and Spotted Flycatcher; Serin; Common and Black Redstart; Treecreeper; White-backed, Grey-headed and Black Woodpeckers.

A cable car will take us from Sinaia up to 2000-meter altitude, where we will walk in a beautiful alpine meadow to find high mountain species, such as **Horned Lark**, **Water Pipit**, **Alpine Accentor**, **Nutcracker**, **Ring Ouzel**, **Common** and **Alpine Swifts**. We will have our packed lunch during our stay in the alpine meadows.

The cable car will take us back to town, where the minibus will pick us up and bring us back to the guesthouse where we'll enjoy dinner.

Day 7 (May 15)
Miklósvár Meadows - Zalánpatak Meadows, Zalánpatak Owls
Accomodation: The King's Retreat, Zalánpatak

Miklósvár Meadows - Zalánpatak Meadows, Zalánpatak Owls	16:45 hrs			
Miklósvár - Meadows	7:00	9:00		
LATE Breakfast	9:00	9:30		
Miklósvár Pasturests and Forest	9:30	12:00		

Lunch at Miklósvár Guesthouses	12:00	13:00
packing and traveling to Zalánpatak		
Guesthouses	13:00	14:30
Zalánpatak Meadows walk	14:30	16:30
Early Dinner	17:00	19:00
Zalánpatak- Owls	19:00	

We will start the day with a pre-breakfast early morning walk among the Olt river, in a mosaic of wet meadows, bush lines, pastures and extensive agricultural fields. Here we can see/hear Corncrake, Lesser Grey Shrike, Greater Grey Shrike, Red-backed Shrike, Golden Oriole, Green Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Scops Owl, and Wrynecks. We will have a late breakfast at 9:00, then we will pack our luggage and leave to our next accommodation, The King's Retreat in Zalánpatak.

Travel will take us one hour. After arriving, we will have a walk in the nearby meadows, where it's possible to spot White-backed Woodpecker, Honey Buzzard, Goshawk, Sparrowhawk, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Woodlark, Golden Oriole, Hoopoe, Wryneck. After our walk, we'll return for dinner and after dinner we'll look for owls. During this walk we might hear or see Tawny Owl, Ural Owl, Long-eared Owl, Scops Owl, Little Owl, Nightjar, and Woodlark.

Day 8 (May 16)

Vargyas Gorge - Zalánpatak Owls

Accomodation: The King's Retreat, Zalánpatak

Vargyas Gorge Day	10:15	hrs				
EARLY Breakfast	7:00	8:00				
Zalánpatak – Vargyas Gorge	orge 8:00					
Vargyas Gorge walk	11:00	13:00				
Packed Lunch	13:00	14:00				
Vargyas Gorge walk	14:00	15:00				
travel back to Zalánpatak	15:00	17:00				
REFRESHING Program	·					
Dinner	19:00					

Today's one-way walk in the Vargyas Limestone Gorge will begin at the upper entrance of the gorge and proceed downstream where we'll meet the van at the end of the walk. During our walk along the rocky trail we'll cross bridges over the river. We'll enjoy our packed lunches during the walk. At each end of the walk we'll pass through grasslands, pastures and meadows; in the gorge itself we'll see limestone cliffs and beech forest. Expected species are Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Dipper, Collared and Redbreasted Flycatchers, Green, Grey-headed, Black, and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers.

The bus will pick up at 15:00 at the end of the gorge, and the drive back to Zalánpatak will take two hours. Dinner and our final group meeting will be at 19:00.

Day 9 (May 17)
Departure
Transfer to airport after breakfast

	English Name		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
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1	Mute	Swan								
2	Greater	White-fronted								
3	Greylag	Goose								
4	Common	Shelduck								
5	Gadwall									
6	Teal									
7	Mallard									
8	Garganey									
9	Shoveler									
10	Pochard									
11	Ferrugineous	Duck								
12	Hazel	Grouse								
13	Western	Capercaillie								
14	Partridge									
15	Common	Quail								
16	Common	Pheasant								
17	Little	Grebe								
18	Great	Crested								
19	Red-necked	Grebe								
20	Great	Cormorant								
21	Pygmy	Cormorant								
22	Bittern									
23	Little	Bittern								
24	Night	Heron								
25	Squacco	Heron								
26	Little	Egret								
27	Great	Egret								
28	Grey	Heron								
29	Purple	Heron								
30	Black	Stork								
31	White	Stork								
32	Honey	Buzzard								

	English Name			Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
33	White-tailed	Eagle									
34	Griffon	Vulture									
35	Black	Vulture									
36	Short-toed	Eagle									
37	Western	Marsh									
38	Hen	Harrier									
39	Montagu's	Harrier									
40	Northern	Goshawk									
41	Eurasian	Sparrowhawk									
42	Common	Buzzard									
43	Lesser	Spotted	Eagle								
44	Golden	Eagle									
45	Osprey										
46	Common	Kestrel									
47	Red-footed	Falcon									
48	Hobby										
49	Peregrine	Falcon									
50	Water	Rail									
51	Little	Crake									
52	Corncrake										
53	Moorhen										
54	Eurasian	Coot									
55	Little	Ringed	Plover								
56	Ringed	Plover									
57	European	Golden	Plover								
58	Northern	Lapwing									
59	Little	Stint									
60	Temminck's	Stint									
61	Curlew	Sandpiper									
62	Dunlin										
63	Broad-billed	Sandpiper									
64	Ruff										

	English Name			Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
65	Common	Snipe									
66	Black-tailed	Godwit									
67	Eurasian	Curlew									
68	Spotted	Redshank									
69	Common	Redshank									
70	Greenshank										
71	Green	Sandpiper									
72	Wood	Sandpiper									
73	Common	Sandpiper									
74	Little	Gull									
75	Black-headed	Gull									
76	Yellow-legged	Gull									
77	Caspian	Gull									
78	Common	Tern									
79	Whiskered	Tern									
80	Black	Tern									
81	White-winged	Tern									
82	Feral	Pigeon									
83	Stock	Dove									
84	Wood	Pigeon									
85	Eurasian	Collared	Dove								
86	European	Turtle	Dove								
87	Common	Cuckoo									
88	Eurasian	Scops	Owl								
89	Eurasian	Eagle	Owl								
90	Eurasian	Pygmy	Owl								
91	Little	Owl									
92	Tawny	Owl									
93	Ural	Owl									
94	Long-eared	Owl									
95	Tengmalm's	Owl									
96	European	Nightjar									

	English Name			Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
97	Common	Swift									
98	Alpine	Swift									
99	Common	Kingfisher									
100	European	Bee-eater									
101	Eurasian	Ноорое									
102	Wryneck	,									
103	Grey-headed	Woodpecker									
104	Green	Woodpecker									
105	Black	Woodpecker									
106	Great	Spotted	Woodpecker								
107	Syrian	Woodpecker	·								
108	Middle	Spotted	Woodpecker								
109	White-backed	Woodpecker	·								
110	Lesser	Spotted	Woodpecker								
111	Three-toed	Woodpecker									
112	Crested	Lark									
113	Woodlark										
114	Common	Skylark									
115	Horned	Lark									
116	Sand	Martin									
117	Crag	Martin									
118	Barn	Swallow									
119	House	Martin									
120	Tawny	Pipit									
121	Tree	Pipit									
122	Meadow	Pipit									
123	Red-throated	Pipit									
124	Water	Pipit									
125	Yellow	Wagtail									
126	Citrine	Wagtail									
127	Grey	Wagtail									
128	White	Wagtail									

	English Name			Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
129	White-throated	Dipper									
130	Winter	Wren									
131	Dunnock										
132	Alpine	Accentor									
133	European	Robin									
134	Thrush	Nightingale									
135	Common	Nightingale									
136	Black	Redstart									
137	Common	Redstart									
138	Whinchat										
139	European	Stonechat									
140	Northern	Wheatear									
141	Ring	Ouzel									
142	Blackbird										
143	Fieldfare										
144	Song	Thrush									
145	Mistle	Thrush									
146	River	Warbler									
147	Savi's	Warbler									
148	Sedge	Warbler									
149	Marsh	Warbler									
150	European	Reed	Warbler								
151	Great	Reed	Warbler								
152	Icterine	Warbler									
153	Blackcap										
154	Garden	Warbler									
155	Barred	Warbler									
156	Lesser	Whitethroat									
157	Common	Whitethroat									
158	Wood	Warbler									
159	Common	Chiffchaff									
160	Willow	Warbler									

	English Name		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
161	Goldcrest									
162	Firecrest									
163	Spotted	Flycatcher								
164	Red-breasted	Flycatcher								
165	Collared	Flycatcher								
166	Bearded	Reedling								
167	Long-tailed	Tit								
168	Marsh	Tit								
169	Willow	Tit								
170	Crested	Tit								
171	Coal	Tit								
172	Blue	Tit								
173	Great	Tit								
174	Eurasian	Nuthatch								
175	Wallcreeper									
176	Eurasian	Treecreeper								
177	Penduline	Tit								
178	Golden	Oriole								
179	Red-backed	Shrike								
180	Lesser	Grey								
181	Great	Grey								
182	Eurasian	Jay								
183	Common	Magpie								
184	Spotted	Nutcracker								
185	Western	Jackdaw								
186	Rook									
187	Hooded	Crow								
188	Common	Raven								
189	Common	Starling								
190	House	Sparrow								
191	Tree	Sparrow								
192	Chaffinch									

	English Name		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
193	European	Serin								
194	Greenfinch									
195	Goldfinch									
196	Eurasian	Siskin								
197	Linnet									
198	Common	Crossbill								
199	Eurasian	Bullfinch								
200	Hawfinch									
201	Yellowhamme									
202	r	B. disc								
202	Rock	Bunting								
203	Reed	Bunting								
204	Corn	Bunting								
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