

# Honeyguide

## WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX

Telephone: 01603 300552

www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: honeyguide@tesco.net

## Lesvos 23 September – 30 September 2010

### Itinerary

#### **Thursday 23 September: Gatwick – Vatera**

Thompson charter flight TOM4400, departs London Gatwick (North Terminal) 06:55, arrives Mytilini 12:30.

*Local times: Greece is two hours ahead of the UK. Flight times subject to confirmation.*

Transfer to Vatera – about an hour. A relaxing introduction to Vatera, with a local walk to the Almiropotamos river mouth and surrounding olive groves and scrub for resident and migrant birds, wild flowers and stripe-necked Balkan terrapins.

#### **Day 1 – Friday 24 September**

A short drive to Skala Polichnitos Salt Pans and Alikoudi Pool on the eastern side of Kalloni Bay, for wading, wetland and migrant birds.

Pine forest near Achladeri, home to Krüper's nuthatch, one of Lesvos's specialities, as well as a variety of more familiar woodland birds.

#### **Day 2 – Saturday 25 September**

The rugged west coast of the island. A roadside stop at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, on route to the west of the island. Picnic lunch and early afternoon at the Petrified Forest Park near Sigri. Afternoon visit could include Ipsilou Monastery

#### **Day 3 – Sunday 26 September**

Morning walk at the eastern end of Vatera Bay.

Lunch in pinewoods between Kato Stavros & Ambeliko.

Afternoon birding at Kalloni Salt Pans & Achladeri. The salt pans are noted for their large flock of greater flamingos and, depending on water levels, they can be a haven for migrant wading birds, including rarities such as marsh and broad-billed sandpipers.

#### **Day 4 – Monday 27 September**

Morning drive to the north coast and birding around Petra Reservoir. The rugged northern coastline has exposed cliffs and views over to nearby Turkey. We'll stop *en route* looking for raptors and other species in the sparse, *Cistus* dominated hillsides. The north coast offers suitable habitat for scrub birds and with luck we'll see Audouin's gull and Cory's shearwater over the sea. Lunch at Skala

Sikaminias & afternoon walk to Kagia. Return to Vatera via the Napi Valley, which could hold sombre tit and middle spotted woodpecker

**Day 5 – Tuesday 28 September**

A place not to be missed is the mountain village of Agiassos with its bakery and pottery shops. The market square shaded by a centuries old *Wisteria* is a delight. Agiassos is also the start of a marvellous circular walk through meadows and sweet chestnut woodland.

Taverna lunch at Agiassos and return to Vatera, perhaps via Polichnitos Salt Pans.

**Day 6 – Wednesday 29 September**

Morning birding at Polichnitos Salt Pans

Lunch at Monasteraki & afternoon birding below Panaghias Damandriou Monastery

**Thursday 30 September : Vatera – Mytilini – Gatwick**

Transfer to Mytilini for return flights home, possibly via the Roman aqueduct at Moria, as follows:

Thompson charter flight TOM4401 departs Mytilini 13:30, arrives London Gatwick 15:25

*Local times. Flight times subject to confirmation.*

Because of the unpredictable nature bird migration, the itinerary for this holiday will be flexible to allow us to react to local conditions. Minibuses, driven by your holiday leaders, maximise this flexibility. We will however make time to visit all the major habitats on the island. Lunch will be a mixture of tavernas and packed lunches, again, depending on weather conditions. Most days will begin with some pre-breakfast natural history around Vatera.

07/10