

ULTIMA FRONTIERA

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve
Periprava - Dobrogea - Romania

N° max clients each year

300 people

Opening period

Feb - Nov subject to weather conditions in Winter

Accommodation

4-stars hotel: large rooms with satellite tv and large en-suite bathrooms; a restaurant with outside terrace; free wireless internet connection.

Contacts

reservations@hotelultimafrontiera.com

30
Photo Hides
1000
Hectares



ULTIMA FRONTIERA



LIVING THE WILD DELTA



Reaching Ultima Frontiera is already an adventure on its own; situated at more than 80 kilometres from the city of Tulcea and not connected by any road, you can only reach it by boat along the Danube river.

An exciting trip that will enable you to enter one of the greatest wetlands in Europe, and to discover its flooded woods, small picturesque villages and an astonishing amount of birds. An experience which, differently from the usual cruise tours, we describe as unique because it allows you to explore huge areas both in small boats and in comfortable 4x4 vehicles.

The strategic location of the property means that you are able to visit remote and untouched areas such as the Letea Forest with its old oak trees and its large expanse of dunes, the salty steppes and flooded meadows, the huge system of lakes and ponds virtually untouched, and the Musura lagoon towards the Black Sea.

This is a place where not only you can relax in perfect tranquillity, but where every visitor can explore on his own a vast area using small electric vehicles available at the lodge.

Dedicated areas for birdwatching and dragonflywatching, professional photographic hides of the latest generation, a large set of vehicles and photo and nature excursions in the best places of the Delta will make you go home with only one thought in mind... Coming back!



THE RESERVE

One thousand hectares of lakes, reedbeds, woodland and bushy areas surround a very high-quality lodge.

The lodge at Ultima Frontiera is a real technical challenge which allows you to enjoy your stay in one of the remotest areas in Europe with the very same level of comfort of your home. It has been built renovating an old twentieth century building, and it is situated in the heart of the property.

A unique atmosphere with the comfort of a 4-stars hotel: large rooms with satellite tv and large en-suite bathrooms; a restaurant with outside terrace where you can have dinner enjoying wonderful sunsets; free wireless internet connection available everywhere inside the hotel.

The property around the hotel, during the communist regime, hosted a prison camp, subsequently turned into a fish farm; this troublesome past has given the area a peculiar aspect characterized by polygon shaped water bodies and basins, as well as by the presence of picturesque ruins and old buildings, now immersed in the natural vegetation and offering shelter to little owls, rollers and wildcats. This is one of the peculiar features of this place, the unequivocal predominance of nature, from the howling of the jackals at dinner time, to the frenetic activity of the hoopoes in the yard, from the nocturnal concert of the tree frogs, to the brawls among the grey headed woodpeckers on the thatched roof of the hotel: simply a unique place.

Only 12 visitors at a time are allowed to stay inside the estate, and therefore the network of over 30 kilometres of trails are at their exclusive disposal, to be explored on foot or on board the silent electric cars. These small vehicles are very good for approaching wild animals, and can be used as mobile hides for shooting great images. And there's no need to worry about getting lost, as knowledgeable local guides will help you memorize easy landmarks which, combined with the useful maps (one in every buggy) and the signage, will ensure you enjoy a unique and relaxing experience.



PHOTO HIDES



M. Affini

M. Biasoli



M. Andreini



M. Andreini

A wide range of photo hides of the latest generation

A wide range of photo hides of the latest generation give nature photographers a chance to test themselves with a multitude of different subjects, and perspectives being everytime in a new habitat and setting. From floating hides at water level, to drinking hides for woodpeckers and the dune-hide for white tailed eagles. Wide windows with very high-quality glasses and soundproof walls allow to observe the wildlife in an innovative way, reducing the disturbance to a minimum and ensuring the best naturalness in the animals' behaviour. Additionally, there are excursions on off road vehicles, to explore the surrounding steppes and the Letea forest, a Biosphere Reserve, as well as boat rides on an innovative boat-hide for visiting the big lakes in the heart of the delta.



M. Andreini



P. Dieudonne



M. Biasoli



M. Biasoli

PHOTOGRAPHY



The photo opportunities you can find in Ultima Frontiera are endless: each hide is focused on some target species, but the area is so exceptional that surprises arrive on a daily basis. A wildcat may appear on the edge of a drinking spot, black or grey headed woodpeckers may choose to drum on the trees where white tailed eagles usually perch, or the whiskered face of an otter may emerge close to pigmy cormorants and Ferruginous ducks in front of a waterside hide. The large mirrored windows will ensure you don't miss any action, and allow you to capture inventive flying shots of even the most wary of the raptors.



CALENDAR SONDJEFMAMJJA



JACKALS & EAGLES

Ultima Frontiera is the best site in Europe for observing and photographing the Golden Jackal. It's an afro-asiatic species, reaching also eastern Europe, that is expanding towards western and northern Europe, having already reached Italy, Germany and Switzerland. Golden Jackals are regularly seen from our hides, and it's not rare to see them interacting with White tailed Eagles: it's not easy to predict who will win during such battles, and therefore everytime it's a different situation, and witnessing these scenes leaves you open-mouthed. White tailed Eagles have their nests in the nearby Letea forest and regularly come inside the property for hunting, and they can be photographed all year round from our hides.

CALENDAR **S** **O** **N** **D** **J** **F** **M** **A** **M** **J** **J** **A**



BIRDS

230 bird species have been recorded so far inside the property: from Smews, Rough-legged Buzzards and Great Grey Shrikes in winter, to Red-breasted Geese, White-winged Terns and Red-breasted Flycatchers during migration, to 90 breeding species like Red-footed Falcon, Thrush Nightingale and Paddyfield Warbler, an exceptional heritage of ornithological diversity for such a small area. Furthermore, there are colonial breeding species you can observe during excursions in the surrounding areas: Black-necked and Red-breasted Grebes and Black and Whiskered Terns in the Merhei and Matita lakes, Collared Pratincoles and Avocets in salty steppes, Great Black-headed Gulls and Sandwich Terns along the Black Sea shores. Thanks to its geographical position, Ultima Frontiera, not far from the sea and inside the Danube delta, offers to birders an incredible list of potential vagrants and rarities, among which in these last years there are Lesser White-fronted Goose, Great Spotted Eagle, Demoiselle Crane, Terek Sandpiper, Citrine Wagtail, Siberian Stonechat, Little Bunting and so on.

Among the easiest species to find, especially in early spring and late summer, there are the four woodpeckers breeding species: Black, Grey-headed, Lesser Spotted and Great Spotted, with the bonus of Syrian Woodpecker, more common in the villages of Periprava, Letea and Sulina (and only rarely inside the property).

The immense reedbeds expanses support many interesting species, from Bittern, Little Bittern and Little Crane to various passerines perfectly adapted to this environment, from the light brown coloured Savi's, Sedge, Moustached and Paddyfield Warbler, all breeding in Ultima Frontiera, to the more vividly coloured, and searched for by photographers, Bearded Reedlings, a common breeder even more numerous during migrations.

CALENDAR **S O N D J F M A M J J A**



L. Boscan



L. Boscan



B. Gli



T. D'Arcangelo



M. Steinhaut



T. D'Arcangelo



D. Giuliani



M. Biasoli



M. Valentini

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T. D'Arcangelo



L. Boscan



M. Biasoli



M. Biasoli



L. Zunini



M. Biasoli



M. Biasoli



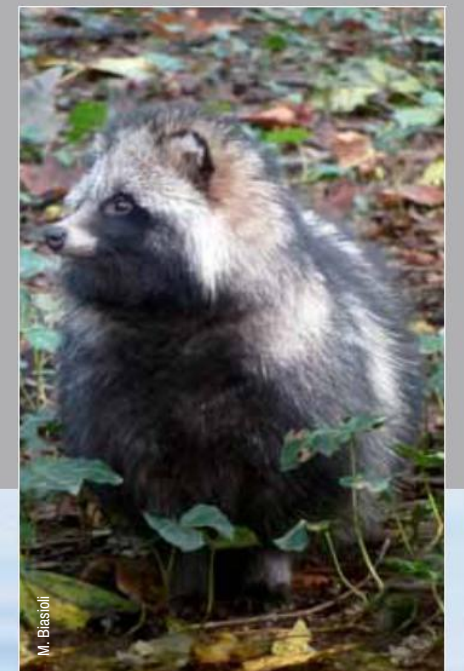
M. Biasoli

MAMMALS

The best place in Europe to observe Golden Jackals



The remoteness of the property is one of the reasons why mammals live undisturbed here, and are often seen even during daylight hours. Not only Jackals, but also Otters and Wildcats can be observed in broad daylight, both from buggies or from the hides. Dedicated night excursions offer the chance to spot the most reserved inhabitants of the property, like Raccoon Dog, Badger, Beech Marten and Wild Boar. Some interesting smaller mammals are present, such as Northern White-breasted Hedgehog, Forest Dormouse and the tiny Harvest Mouse. The nearby Letea forest, where in the last century used to roam the last Romanian Mooses, is a real hotspot for bats, with more than 20 species recorded, beside having good populations of Roe Deers, Jackals and Pine Martens.



CALENDAR **S O N D J F M A M J J A**



AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

Amphibians provide an unforgettable night time sound track during your stay at Ultima Frontiera: thousands of Marsh Frogs, Fire-bellied Toads and Oriental Tree Frogs seemingly never lose their will to challenge one another in loud races. More discreet are Common Toad and Green Toad, pretty rare, and, moreover, the two newt species: Smooth and Danube Crested Newts. The cool summer nights hide the movements of the most searched for amphibian of the area, the Common Spadefoot: its underwater song is almost impossible to hear, but it's not rare to find solitary individuals exploring the hotel garden, while the big tadpoles are regularly eaten by Squacco Herons.



One of the most common preys of egrets, ibis and storks are snakes: the two more common species being Dice Snake and Grass Snake. The latter has often a peculiar colour pattern, with longitudinal stripes or melanic forms, with some individuals entirely black and without the typical collar. Regularly seen are also the native European Pond Turtles, with individuals crossing the trails or sunbathing in front of the hides. Much rarer are Smooth Snake and Sand Lizard, while two very interesting species have been recorded in the nearby Letea forest, Meadow Viper and Steppe-runner.



CALENDAR S O N D J F M A M J J A

INSECTS & PLANTS



The property hosts damselflies and dragonflies belonging to over 30 different species: particularly rare and interesting are Dark Spreadwing, River Clubtail and Black Pennant, but more common ones are stunningly abundant, especially during the days when adults emerge and start flying. Less numerous are the butterflies, with around 35 species recorded so far, among which Large Copper, Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell and Large Chequered Skipper. Some large moths are present, like Giant Peacock Moth and French Red Underwing, as well as large beetles like Rhinoceros Beetle and Anoxia orientalis, while the praying mantis *Empusa pennicornis* is a real gem.

CALENDAR **S** **O** **N** **D** **J** **F** **M** **A** **M** **J** **J** **A**



The huge expanses of freshwaters in the delta, beside obvious species like Yellow and White water-lilies, also host a multitude of other interesting aquatic plants: from Floating fern, to the Arrowhead, to the extremely delicate yellow flowers of the Greater bladderwort, a carnivore plant. May is the best month in order to appreciate all the extraordinary bloomings of Marsh orchid which paint in fuchsia the wet meadows, as well as for visiting the Letea forest, a veritable flowering garden with 10 orchid species, the splendid Hungarian iris and interesting species like Silk vine.

CALENDAR **S** **O** **N** **D** **J** **F** **M** **A** **M** **J** **J** **A**



A WILD LAND

To the west of the estate lies the Letea forest: 2825 hectares of Biosphere Reserve, and one of the most ancient and well preserved biocoenosis in Romania. Age-old oaks, ashes, elms and lime trees, refuge for 5 species of woodpeckers, roe deers and wild boars, where various White tailed eagles have their nests, together with Booted and Lesser spotted eagles. Dry meadows are also present, with 10 species of orchids, as well as unexpected sand dunes, abandoned by the sea which once reached here, and now surrounded by flat expanses of river sediments. Very interesting are also the scattered small villages in the steppes to the south of Ultima Frontiera: people living here belong to various ethnic groups: romanian, russian-lipovan and ukrainian, which have resulted in cultural and achitectural peculiarities, making unique each different community. Among these, the village of Letea stands out as arguably the most beautiful, with its vividly coloured houses, fences and gates, its traditional fishing boats and nets, and its thatched roofs, made with local reeds.



It's seems to be back to the last century



The island between the Danube branches of Chilia and Sulina hosts a population of wild horses, whose ancestors were brought here by the Tartars over 400 hundred years ago, and subsequently became wild. Nowadays a few thousands stallions and dams roam freely here, with their bay or black mantle, among sand dunes and meadows. They have no natural predators here, and therefore, in order to minimize the risks of overgrazing, it has been necessary to control their number and sterilise many of them, but still these beautiful animals are among the most longed for subjects by photographers, especially when they gallop freely in the steppe.

