

Tour Report Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography 2 – 9 May 2025

Iberian lynx



Little owl



Golden eagle



Griffon vulture



Compiled by Sean Weekly

Friday 2 May 2025

Day 1:

London to Adamuz

The group arrived in sunny Málaga after an early flight from Gatwick, where they were warmly greeted by our local guide. After our guide gathered everyone and loaded the gear, they began the scenic two-hour journey inland, passing through olive groves, rolling hills, and glimpses of traditional Andalusian villages, eventually reaching the charming village of Adamuz in the heart of wild Spain. This will be our base for the next week.

I arrived later that evening due to a later flight and was set to join the group the following morning.

While I was en route, the group wasted no time diving straight into their wildlife experiences. That afternoon, they headed straight to Bonelli's eagle hide, tucked away in the dramatic landscape of Los Conventos—a truly breathtaking location framed by steep, rugged cliffs and towering limestone outcrops.

The session proved to be a memorable one. Guests were treated to extended views of Bonelli's eagles both perched and on the ground and often framed beautifully among carpets of vibrant spring wildflowers. Cameras clicked steadily as the birds displayed natural behaviour in golden afternoon light—an ideal opportunity for photographing this awesome raptor.

Adding to the excitement, flocks of Iberian magpies darted energetically in the front of the hide, challenging the group to capture them mid-flight with their striking blue wings and lively antics. Their constant movement provided both a photographic challenge and great entertainment whilst waiting for more eagle action.

To top it all off, griffon vultures soared overhead in the distance, their vast wingspans silhouetted against the mountains.

It was a spectacular first afternoon that set the tone for the days to come—full of beauty, excitement, and exceptional birdlife.



Image by: Phillip Jennison (Bonelli's eagle)

Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Saturday 3 May 2025

Day 2:

We kicked off the day bright and early in the small town of Adamuz. After a catch-up with the group and a quick coffee, we set off for our first big experience: the Iberian lynx hide, nestled deep within the wild beauty of Andalusia's National Park.

We arrived at the hide around 10:30 am, with plans to stay put until about 4 pm. We kept our fingers crossed in hopes of a glimpse of one of the world's rarest cats.

This trip is centred in the spectacular Sierra Morena mountain range, specifically within the Andújar Natural Park—a vast, forested landscape of rolling hills and dramatic valleys. Spanning over 74,000 hectares, the park is a haven for wildlife and one of the last strongholds for several endangered species.

The terrain is classic Mediterranean forest, rich with holm oak, cork oak, and higher up, gall oak—all creating a patchwork of woodland and open pasture. Rivers and reservoirs wind through the valleys, adding even more life to the region.

This park is home to some real stars: the elusive Iberian lynx, wolves, and the majestic Spanish imperial eagle all still roam these wild hills. Our aim this week? Capture as many subjects as we can on camera and build an unforgettable wildlife portfolio.

Let's be honest, lynx watching isn't for the impatient. These cats are famously shy, so it's all about putting in the hours and hoping for a lucky break. Sadly, the lynx didn't make an appearance this time, but nature still delivered.

We were kept entertained by Iberian magpies, collared doves, Spanish sparrows, and even a golden oriole perched distantly in a tree, always a special sight, even at range. The sweet song of a nightingale followed us throughout the session, and we were lucky to catch a quick glimpse of it moving through the shrubs. A treat for both the ears and the eyes!





In the afternoon, we made our way higher into the hills to spend a few hours in the golden eagle hide. Spirits were high and expectations even higher—and it didn't take long for the action to begin!

Our first visitor was a female golden eagle, gliding in and landing confidently on a large branch overlooking a lush, green valley. Cameras clicked furiously as she posed for a few moments before snatching a meal and disappearing gracefully into the distance. Our guide informed us she likely has two chicks in the nest—so it's safe to say dinner was being delivered.



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Not long after, the male made an appearance, landing on a nearby rock just eight to ten metres away. He fed calmly, giving us great photo opportunities before vanishing with food in his talons. We had one final flyby from him about an hour later—brief, but exciting.



It was a fantastic session, with everyone buzzing from the up-close encounters. One guest, in particular, was over the moon—it was her first-ever sighting of a golden eagle, and she couldn't have asked for a better introduction.

Sunday 4 May 2025

Day 3:

Lynx Hide and Afternoon Road Trip to Monfragüe!

We started the day back in the Iberian lynx hide, full of hope and fresh memory cards. With cameras ready and eyes peeled, we settled in for what we hoped would be a memorable encounter.

Four hours later...
Still no lynx.

It's the name of the game when it comes to wildlife photography, no guarantees, just good old-fashioned patience. The lynx remained elusive today, but that only added to the suspense for the days ahead!

In the afternoon, we hit the road for a 3.5-hour drive north to the incredible Monfragüe National Park in the region of Extremadura. It's a long one, but the scenery made it fly by—rolling hills, sleepy villages, and wide open skies.

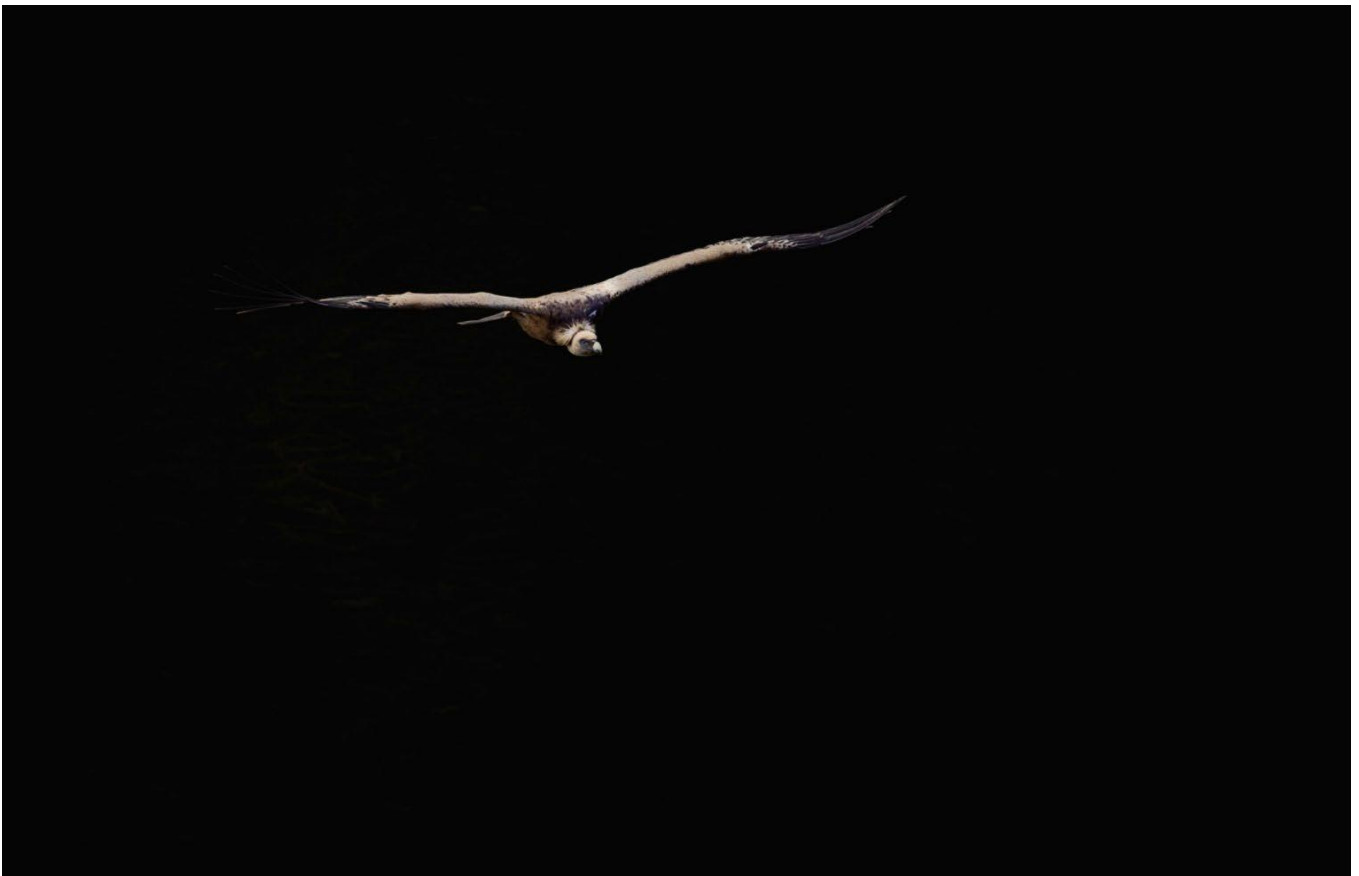
Monfragüe is a bit of a paradise for bird lovers. Tucked between Plasencia, Trujillo, and Cáceres, this national park is shaped by the meeting of the Tajo and Tiétar rivers, carving out valleys filled with holm oaks, cork trees, and dramatic rocky cliffs. It's also home to one of the largest colonies of black vultures in the world—though today, they must've been on a break!

While the **black vultures** didn't show, **griffon vultures** certainly did! We had loads of them perched proudly on the rocky outcrops, giving us some great photo opportunities.

The landscape here is just made for photography—plenty of chances for **low-key and high-key shots** depending on the light and backdrop. It's a dream for playing with tones and contrast.

At a distance, we also clocked a few other exciting species:





Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Monday 5 May 2025

Day 4:

We kicked off the day with a relaxed breakfast at our hotel—strong coffee, fresh bread, olive oil and that quiet excitement in the air that comes when you know you're about to witness something pretty awesome! After checking out, we didn't have far to go. Just a short drive brought us to one of the most stunning hide locations yet, nestled right on the edge of Monfragüe National Park, with views of distant mountains and a sea of wildflowers dancing in the breeze. Nature was already putting on a show, and we hadn't even stepped inside the hide yet!



The morning was spent inside an incredible vulture hide, and wow—what a session.

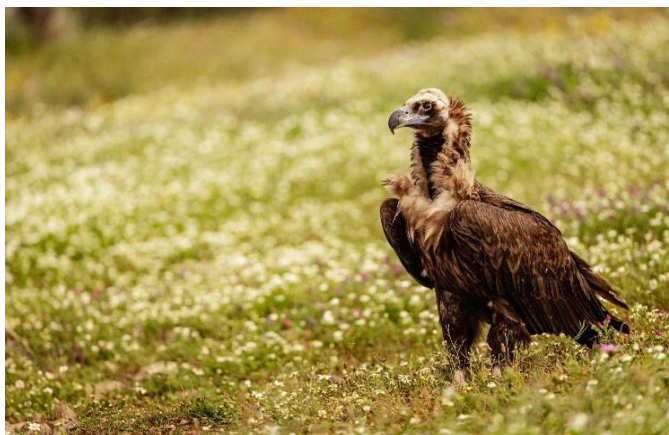
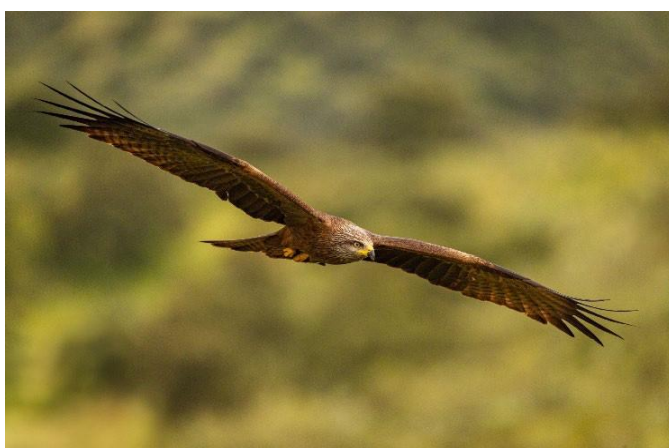
The setting was straight out of a nature documentary. Fields of wildflowers in bloom, with vultures soaring overhead and calling from the cliffs. The hide itself was cosy and perfectly positioned, giving us front-row seats to a proper raptor frenzy.

And the stars of the show? Over 70 griffon vultures came crashing in—big, bold, and not at all shy. Several black vultures joined the scene, imposing and impressive, and the surprise guests were three Egyptian vultures! We even had lots of visits from black and red kites.

At first, it was absolute chaos - so many birds all jostling for position, wings flapping and feet stamping. It was tricky to isolate subjects at first with so much movement and overlap, but eventually, the frenzy settled a little. Once the pace slowed down, we could start picking out individual birds for some solid portraits and a few really nice in-flight shots.

Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Everyone came away smiling and scrolling through memory cards full of gold. A morning to remember, for sure.



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

After the long journey back to Adamuz, we didn't call it a day just yet. The adventure continued after dark as we headed to a nocturnal hide, with high hopes of catching a glimpse of some of the more elusive creatures in the area.

Our targets for the evening? Pine marten, red fox and genet.

It turned out to be a quiet night overall, but we were treated to a few brief but magical appearances from a genet. That flash of spots and sleek movement through the shadows was well worth the wait.

Then, just as we were being picked up around midnight, we had a surprise on the road home, two wild boars dashed across in front of the van, adding a final dose of excitement to wrap up what had already been an awesome day!

It was now around 1 am and it was time for a well-earned sleep. What a day it has been, from high-drama vulture action to quiet nocturnal glimpses, today delivered a perfect blend of chaos and calm all set against the gorgeous backdrop of wild Extremadura.

Tomorrow, the adventure continues...



Tuesday 6 May 2025

Day 5:

Today we were up and out early again, arriving at the lynx hide just before 8:30 am, full of hope, snacks, and the kind of quiet excitement that only a wildlife photographer understands.

This was our third session in the Iberian lynx hide, and while we've been giving it our all (and sitting very, very patiently), the elusive cat continued to live up to its reputation: no show today either. However, we did have some more Iberian lynx, a little Spanish sparrow family and a collared dove.

Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Disappointing? A little. But spirits were still high. That's wildlife for you—no guarantees, only possibilities—and we've still got one more shot tomorrow morning. So, fingers crossed, memory cards at the ready, and patience still intact!

After a relaxing break and some much-needed lunch, we headed to the passerine hide for the afternoon. And honestly? It was a completely different kind of treat.

From the moment we settled in, the birds came thick and fast—the hide was buzzing with activity. It felt like a feathered fashion show out there, with new visitors swooping in every few minutes to show off their plumage.

Here's who dropped by, Iberian magpies, zipping in and out and always looking for a snack, a beautiful pair of hawfinches both male and female, a turtle dove, bringing some elegance to the scene, lots of Spanish sparrows and finally a handful of greenfinches.

We even had a distant sighting of a green woodpecker, perched high in a tree, and a few fast fly-bys from a hoopoe who was clearly on a mission beak loaded with food and headed straight back to its nest. That distinctive flutter and those zebra-striped wings are always a joy to spot.

Photographically, the afternoon was fantastic—the variety of species, the soft light, and the chance to get creative with compositions made it a really enjoyable session. There were plenty of “oohs” and “did you get that?!” moments echoing through the hide between us all. There were even some opportunities to practice some low-key photography, using light to great dark and rich backgrounds.

While the lynx kept us waiting once again, the passerines came through with nonstop action, colour and personality. It was a brilliant contrast to the stillness of the morning and gave us loads of opportunities to build out our birding portfolios.

Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Here's hoping tomorrow morning brings us that long-awaited lynx moment—but if not, we've already captured so much beauty from this incredible region.



Wednesday 7 May 2025

Day 6:
Final lynx hide session

WOW.

Just when we were starting to believe that the Iberian lynx was going to remain a mythical creature for this trip... *bam!* Nature delivered. And when I say it delivered, I mean front-row, six-feet-away, straight-into-your-soul eye-contact kind of delivered.

Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

We arrived at the lynx hide around 8:30 am, still feeling tired and cracking open our camera bags... when there she was!

The local female lynx was already there, sitting calmly behind a rock, peering out at us like *she'd* been the one waiting. Honestly, we hadn't even unzipped our bags, let alone set up a tripod! Cue a mad, silent scramble to get cameras out without making a sound (easier said than done when your hands aren't shaking with excitement).

Of course, by the time we were ready, she'd disappeared. And I won't lie, there was some serious collective breath-holding going on wondering if she would return or not. But it wasn't long before she reappeared, this time emerging from the back left of the hide like some feline apparition.



And what followed was just... *epic*.

She hadn't been spotted in nearly six days, but today she made up for lost time. She moved confidently through the open area in front of the hide, scent-marking the rocks and grass, rubbing her chin and cheeks like it was her personal catwalk. She came and went several times, posing like a pro.



At one point, she even walked straight toward the hide, eyes locked, giving us those dreamy, head-on portrait shots we'd all been fantasizing about since day one. And just when we thought we'd maxed out our luck...



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

She jumped up onto the reflection pool just a few feet away. Rubbing, sniffing, scent-marking—and then she paused and looked straight at us. Honestly, it felt like time stood still. It was one of those rare, goosebumps-all-over moments in wildlife photography where everything just *clicks*—the light, the subject, the proximity, the *magic*.



After more than 20 hours in the hide over several days, with a whole lot of waiting and wondering, this moment made every second worth it. The elusive Iberian lynx, our main reason for coming to Spain, finally gave us a session we'll never forget!

Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Still buzzing, we packed up and headed off to a nearby village to grab some well-earned lunch. The food was simple, local, and delicious—and it felt good to be back in the sunshine, reliving the magic of the morning

Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

over plates of good food.

With a few hours off before the next hide session, one of the guests and I took a stroll around the village. We swapped telephotos for macro lenses and had a bit of fun photographing insects, flowers, and little details that often go unnoticed when you're chasing big wildlife moments.

It was the perfect wind-down, a chance to breathe, reflect, and just enjoy the slower pace after such an adrenaline-fueled morning. Sometimes it's those in-between moments, the quiet walks and shared laughs, that make these trips even more special.



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Today was one of those days. The kind that reminds you why you get up before dawn, why you sit in silence for hours, why you keep going even when the sightings are slow. Because every now and then, nature gives you a gift. And this morning was exactly that.

We've got more sessions ahead, but it's going to be hard to top this one.

After the absolute high of our lynx encounter this morning, we cruised into the afternoon feeling pretty optimistic. Next on the agenda: a couple of quiet hours tucked away in Bonelli's eagle hide, hoping to catch a glimpse of one of these striking raptors in action.

We settled in, cameras prepped, eyes on the sky... and sure enough, we were treated to a brief visit from one of the Bonelli's eagles. It swooped in and landed briefly just long enough for us to gasp, admire, and take one image.

Unfortunately, it didn't stick around for long. It was there, and then gone. Still, seeing it glide past in the warm afternoon light was a treat in itself. Sometimes you take what you can get and this time the eagle was playing hard to get.



After a bit of rest and a quick bite to eat, we were back at it for the final stretch of the day—our evening session in the nocturnal hide. These night hides always feel like a bit of a lucky dip... you never quite know what's going to show up when the lights go down.

It started off quietly, with a red deer making a cautious appearance in the distance. Unfortunately, it stayed just a bit too far from the spotlight, so it was more of a shadowy silhouette moment than anything you'd frame on your wall.

But then came our main event, a few visits from a genet, clearly hungry and curious. This little carnivore is such a treat to watch—slinky, agile, and full of character. It darted in and out a few times, grabbing snacks

Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

and giving us just enough time for some low-light shots.



After a long day full of highs, close calls, and unexpected visitors, we wrapped up around midnight and headed back to our beds. Camera cards full, batteries on charge, and we're ready to see what tomorrow brings.

Thursday 8 May 2025

Day 7:

We kicked things off bright and early in the Little owl hide, where we were greeted by the unmistakable stare of one of the most expressive birds in the avian world. If you've never locked eyes with a little owl, let me tell you it's like being judged by a pint-sized professor.

The setting was perfect: a rustic perch framed by wildflowers, soft golden light creeping in as the sun rose, and that iconic owl doing its best "what are you looking at?" pose. While the action was relatively calm, the character of this tiny bird more than made up for the quiet moments. And when it did move, it gave us a few brilliant photo ops as it shifted around, bobbing its head in that classic curious fashion.



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Just when we thought the session couldn't get any better, a charming little Iberian lizard stole the spotlight—poking its curious head out of a tree hole like nature's surprise guest star!



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

From one hide to the next—we rolled straight into the common buzzard hide, and wow... What a setting. Perched on a gentle hillside, this hide gave us spectacular views over the rolling landscape, which looked like something out of a painting. Seriously, even without the birds, we could've sat there happily for hours just soaking it all in.

But of course, the buzzards didn't disappoint. We were treated to multiple visits from a local pair, each one bringing a bit of drama. They arrived cautiously at first, circling above before dropping in for closer looks—and some solid feeding. The changing light gave us the chance to capture a variety of moods: soft morning glow, some harsher midday brightness, and everything in between.

It was a great chance to play with composition and shutter speeds, and everyone walked away with a handful of keepers (and maybe a few blurry "almosts" ... but that's all part of the game...)



As the sun started dipping lower, we headed to the Golden Eagle Hide for our second and final time and the excitement levels ramped up again.

There's just something different about waiting for a golden eagle. You can feel the tension, the anticipation, the tension in the air. Every shadow, every distant movement across the valley makes your heart jump just a little.

And then—*boom*. A golden eagle swooped in, majestic as ever, and landed on a perch right in view. It stayed long enough for everyone to get shots, preened a little, and then took off again in that signature slow, powerful glide. Even better, the backdrop was insane: layers of green hills, soft evening light, and just the faintest breeze to keep things cool. It was the perfect way to wrap up the day.



Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Friday 9 May 2025

Day 8:

Adamuz back to London

Today we leave beautiful Spain. As the week draws to a close, we can't help but reflect on what an incredible journey it has been, filled with unforgettable moments, beautiful landscapes, and a fantastic variety of wildlife encounters. From golden eagles soaring overhead to a magical session with the Iberian lynx, each day brought its own highlights, challenges, and plenty of laughter along the way. Most importantly, we all walk away not only with memory cards full of stunning imagery, but with shared experiences, new friendships, and a renewed appreciation for the stunning and diverse wildlife of Andalusia.

Sign up to our e-news

Sign up to our e-news to find out more about our tours, events, late availability, offers and tour reports at <https://www.wildlifeworldwide.com/subscribe>

Find out more about our [Iberian Lynx & Raptor Photography](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com