

Short-eared Owl
Winter visitor



Bearded Reedling
Resident

● **Lesser Spotted Eagle**
Summer visitor

● **Levant Sparrowhawk**
Summer visitor

● **Eastern Imperial Eagle**
Winter visitor

● **Greater Short-toed Lark**
Summer visitor



Broad billed Sandpiper
Passage migrant



Eurasian Penduline Tit
Resident



Bluethroat
Winter visitor



Bar-tailed Godwit
Passage migrant



Dalmatian Pelican is a species of international concern and Greece has a huge responsibility for its protection, since the country hosts around 20% of its global population.

The colony of the Dalmatian Pelicans in Amvrakikos is the oldest colony with a continuous presence in Greece, since the mid-19th century. 160-180 pairs nest in the area every year, highlighting the exceptional importance of Amvrakikos for this iconic species!



Useful contact info

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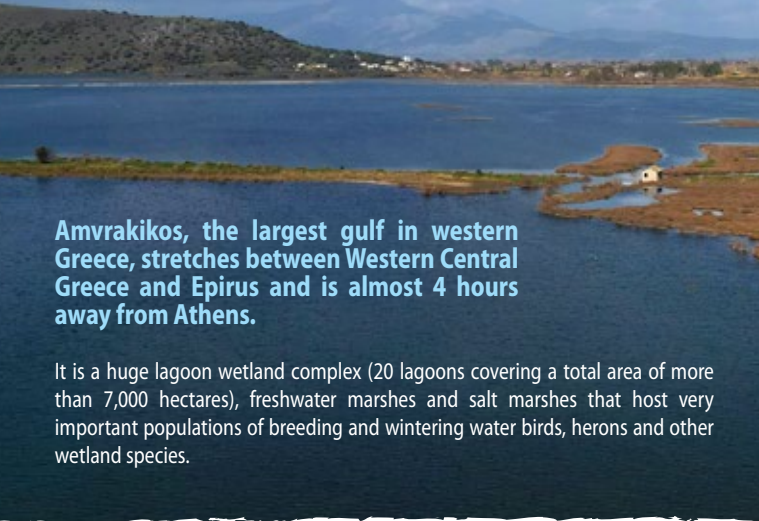


BIRDING in AMVRAKIKOS

A birdwatching guide for the Amvrakikos Gulf protected area in Western Greece



Amvrakikos Gulf



Amvrakikos, the largest gulf in western Greece, stretches between Western Central Greece and Epirus and is almost 4 hours away from Athens.

It is a huge lagoon wetland complex (20 lagoons covering a total area of more than 7,000 hectares), freshwater marshes and salt marshes that host very important populations of breeding and wintering water birds, herons and other wetland species.



PROTECTION STATUS

This is a NATURA 2000 site (SPA & SCI), an Important Bird Area (GR081), a National Park and a Ramsar Convention site.



HOW TO GET THERE

The National Park is most easily accessible from Arta, 350 km from Athens, via the Olympic Road, the Rio-Antirrio Bridge and then the Ionian Road.

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Winter and spring are the best seasons to visit the area. Autumn is also very promising. All seasons offer unique birdwatching experiences. In winter, waterbird concentrations are unique, while during the spring season nests a wide variety of herons and other wetland species.



Highlight bird species

With its numerous lagoons, marshes and salt marshes, Amvrakikos hosts the largest numbers of wintering waterfowl in Greece, while throughout the year we can observe an extremely wide variety of wetland species and raptors, especially during migration and in the winter.

More than 300 species have been recorded, including very rare species for Greece such as the Western reef heron and the Arctic Tern.

Ferruginous Duck

Resident



Pygmy Cormorant

Resident



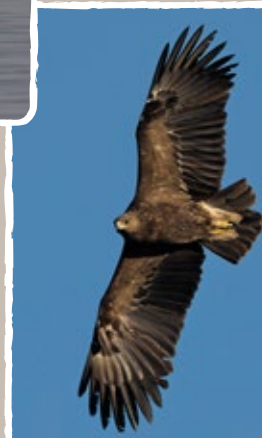
Dalmatian Pelican

Resident



Glossy Ibis

Summer visitor



Greater Spotted Eagle

Winter visitor



Birding Hotspots

Logarou and Tsoukalio Lagoons

These two lagoons hold dozens of thousands of waterfowl in the winter, including very rare species like the Common Scoter and the Common Eider. Dalmatian Pelicans nest in suitable spots and large numbers of Greater Flamingos, herons, Great and Pygmy Cormorants and terns can be seen year-round.



Koronisia

Literally next to the picturesque village of Koronisia, a great number of waders, including Temminck's Stints, Broad-billed Sandpipers and Bar-tailed Godwits, can be seen foraging in the shallows during migration.

Mavrovouni Hill

On this densely vegetated hill, raptors like the Short-toed and the Lesser Spotted Eagle breed, while wintering Eastern Imperial and Greater Spotted Eagles, Black and Red Kites use it as vantage point.

Rodia

The most extensive reedbed in Greece holds breeding pairs of Ferruginous Ducks, Pygmy Cormorants, Purple Herons, Great and Little Bitterns, Glossy Ibises and Spoonbills. It is also ideal for Penduline Tits, Bearded Reedlings and Great Reed Warblers.



Kopraina

The best area to look for the Osprey, year-round. It is also a suitable habitat for wintering Bluethroats. Little Terns, Slender-billed and Mediterranean Gulls can easily be seen, depending on the season.

Arachthos River Estuary - Platanaki

In the extensive saltmarshes, Zitting Cisticolas and Greater Short-toed Larks breed, while the Dotterel is a regular passage migrant. In the winter, this is the best area to look for the Short-eared Owl and the Black Stork.

Louros Riparian Forest

Along Louros River, stands or tracts of riparian trees (Willow, Ash, Oriental Plane etc.) hold breeding Middle and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Levant Sparrowhawks and Eagle Owls.

