



# Bison of Bialowieza

## Winter in Poland

February 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2012

Led by Robert Canis and Marek Kosinski

Price: £995

Group size of 4 (Just 2 places left)

**Day 1.** Depart London Heathrow 10.35 hrs. Arrive Warsaw 14.10 hrs. (flight = 2 hrs 45 mins)

Pick up by Marek, drive to guest house in Bialowieza. Drive time approximately 4 hours.

**Day 2.** Bison Safari.

For this and day 3, we head out early in two vehicles looking for Bison. Each winter their feeding is supplemented and Marek knows exactly where to go to find them. Of course, these animals are free to come and go as they please so immediate sightings are not guaranteed though Marek has almost 100% success each winter.

**Day 3.** Bison Safari. As above.

**Day 4.** Protected Area / Garden Bird hide

The group will be split in 2 and while one half is in the Protected Area the other will be photographing from the hide. Either myself, Marek or Park Guide will accompany you.

**Day 5.** Protected Area / garden Bird hide

**Day 6.** Depart Warsaw 14.50 hrs. Arrive London Heathrow 16.40 hrs.

### Price includes:

- All transport within Poland
- Return flights to London Heathrow
- Full board accommodation which will be in a simple but very comfortable guest house.
- Single room occupancy
- Guide fees

**Price excludes:**

- At this time, fee into Protected Area which could be approximately £40 per person. You will be notified nearer the time if this is the case, as Polish bureaucracy dictates! It will not be more.
- Items of a personal nature
- Food and beverages at airports
- Alcoholic drinks at meal and leisure times

**Equipment required**

- SLR and one as backup.
- Wide-angle for landscapes and forest scenes
- Telephoto-zoom for bison in their habitat
- 300mm upwards with possibly a tele-converter for portraits and for birds from the hide.
- Tripod
- Polarising filter

**Fitness level**

Moderate. Depending on the bison's movements, there may be times when walking of at least 1 mile, is required. Also, within Protected Area. No hill walking as the landscape is flat.

**Clothing**

Winters in Poland can vary. More often than not, they have a lot of snow and temperatures can range from +5 to -20 degrees Celsius. When I was there it was minus 10 with over a foot of snow. **Due to climate change, however, "winter-wonderland" conditions cannot be guaranteed.** Warm, lined wellington boots or walking boots will be needed as is a layering system of thermal base layer and wind/waterproof outer shall. More precise details will be given nearer the time when conditions can be more closely predicted.

**Accommodation**

We will be staying in a simple yet comfortable guest house in the village of Bialowieza. This is rural Poland. Small wooden houses and quiet streets add to the atmosphere of this location. Each person will have their own single room with en-suite where there will be at least one power point for battery re-charging, laptop use etc.

**Food**

As with most other Central and Eastern European countries, the food will be quite basic and hearty. Perfect for those long, cold days! Meat, including game and plenty of vegetables.