

THE PO DELTA, A TRUE PARADISE FOR BIRDPATCHERS

Hundreds of species alongside extraordinary wide-ranging
biodiversity can be seen

<https://deltadelpo.eu/it/3-birdwatching>

Almost 350 species reported in the last 50 years make the Po Delta the most **important ornithological area in Italy and one of the most important in Europe**. A biological heritage of an enormous variety, due above all to the differentiation of the environments, in a continuous alternation between land and water.

54,000 hectares ranging from the dune residues of the coastline to the green expanse of the Mesola Woods, from the evocative nature trails along the rivers to the ancient pine forests of the Ravenna area, from the endless expanses of brackish water in the Comacchio valleys and the Sacca di Goro to the freshwater valleys of Argenta and Ostellato, from the flooded forest in the Punta Alberete Oasis to the stretches of water in the Cervia Saltworks. Saltwater lagoons, watercourses, prairies, freshwater marshes, hygrophilous and thermophilous woods and dunes are just some of the many environments that the delta area offers, **creating an extraordinary biodiversity that makes it a true paradise for birdwatchers**.

Many nesting, migratory and wintering species find food and shelter in these areas: **herons, grebes, cormorants, egrets, marsh harriers, flamingos, little terns, black-winged stilts and spoonbills** are just some of the birds that can be seen here, not to mention some species that are now rare and have disappeared from the rest of Italy.

Unfortunately, restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic prevented the International Birdwatching Fair, held every two years in Comacchio, from taking place. However, we would like to take you on **a virtual journey in the Po Delta area by suggesting some itineraries that you can go on in the next few weeks, alone, as a couple, with your family or in small groups**. All of this, of course, in complete safety and in the midst of beautiful nature.

There are **over 30 places in the Po Delta area where it is possible to practice birdwatching**, each of them with unique, well-defined characteristics. Armed with binoculars and spotting scopes, you can silently and stealthily



Gruppo di Azione Locale
*Una strategia per il turismo sostenibile
nel Delta emiliano-romagnolo:
prendiamocene cura!*

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admire the flight of a hawk, the dance of a crane, the courtship ritual of a pair of grebes or the delicate movements of flamingos at dawn. You will be able to travel through the lands of the Este family or to go as far as the reed beds characterising the mouth of the Po di Volano; to take the route crossing the entire Mezzano reclamation area and to reach the Agosta embankment or to lose yourself in the pine forests and flooded woods in the Ravenna area. **Locations where you can spot countless dozens of different species:** the Valli e Saline di Comacchio area, whose jewel in the crown is the permanent presence of the pink flamingo; Val Campotto, which is characterised by the presence of one of the largest colonies of Cormorant in Italy, while in the Ravenna area, a particularly varied and diversified avifauna can be found in the Cervia saltworks and in the Ortazzo and Ortazzino areas.

Among the many possibilities provided by this incredible territory, birdwatching remains the most unique and enjoyable way to come into direct contact with nature and the Po Delta Park, discovering its extraordinary biodiversity and its enormous wealth of ecosystems in a truly suggestive way.

The only thing left to do then, is to do your best to be prepared: **on the new www.deltadelpo.eu website, you can find all the locations where you can best practice birdwatching, descriptions of the species you can see, various proposals for itineraries in the local area**, as well as a selection of the best workshops, tours and initiatives relating to photo tourism and nature photography.

The website has been developed in synergy with Destinazione Romagna and the local tour operators in the Po Delta area, thanks to the LAG-directed project dated 19.2.02.14B DESTINAZIONE TURISTICA DELTA DEL PO (PO DELTA PARK TOURIST DESTINATION) funded through the Emilia-Romagna Region 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme - Measure 19 - Support to Local Leader Development.



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