

Summer Butterflies of the Spanish Pyrenees

Mariposa Nature Tours trip report

3rd-10th July 2024



Tour leaders Peter Rich & Paul Selby

Trip report by Paul Selby

Images kindly shared by our guests

(Images above, clockwise from top left: Mountain Alcon Blue (Don), Twin-spot Fritillary (Leo), Esper's Marbled White (Paul B), Purple-shot Copper (Ian))



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Introduction

This was the first Mariposa trip to this incredibly biodiverse and wonderfully scenic part of Spain. It was based in the legendary Casa Sarasa hotel, on the edge of the village of Berdun.

The guests joining us were David C & Barbara, David W, Paul & Gillian, Ian & Sue C, Jim, Leo, Sue W, Roy, and Don.

Day 1, Wednesday 3rd July – Arrivals day

There were a number of different arrival routes for our guests, but we all congregated together at Bilbao airport's arrivals area just before midday. One of the vans was not easy to pick-up, the supply company having suffered an IT failure two days earlier, and we ended up with a smaller than ideal vehicle for all the suitcases. However, with a little bit of a wait, and a bit of suitcase Jenga, we managed to set off at 1pm, stopping briefly for lunch at a good Service Station.

We had one planned stop on the way to our hotel, which was at the Pitillas reservoir. As the only real area of standing water in its surrounding area, it is a magnet for various waterbird species throughout the year. While there wasn't too much around in early July, we did get a fantastic view of a Purple Heron, which flew directly over us, just after we arrived.



It was good to stretch our legs and, over the course of an hour, we managed to rack up 10 butterfly species, including **Mallow Skipper** *Carcharodus alceae*, **Lang's Short-tailed Blue** *Leptotes pirithous* and **Mediterranean Skipper** *Gegenes nostradamus*. This latter species was somewhat unexpected for us all, being so far inland, but not to local guide Peter, who had seen the species at this site before.



Continuing our way through increasingly gorgeous scenery as we drew closer to the foothills of the Pyrenees, we arrived at Casa Sarasa in enough time to freshen up before the first fantastic dinner of the week. Casa Sarasa is a wonderful base for Mariposa in the region, and the food is truly outstanding – worth the visit for this alone, never mind the brilliant butterflies that lay ahead of us!

After dinner, we gathered in the comfortable and well-equipped natural history reference library / lounge area to share our hopes for the week ahead, and to discuss the general outline of the sites we would visit.

Day 2, Thursday 4th July – Veral river, Santa Lucia, and the Fago valley

The morning dawned without a cloud in the sky, and anticipation for the day ahead was palpable for all guests. After an enjoyable breakfast, we had just a short five minute drive to the nearby Veral river.

Here we got our first proper taste of the range of butterfly species we were likely to see at lower altitudes in this area over the course of the week. One of the first exciting species for many was **Spanish Purple Hairstreak** *Laeosopis roboris*, quickly followed by a beautiful fresh **Iberian Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphiclides feisthamelii*. **Chapman's Blue** *Polyommatus*

thersites, **Knapweed Fritillary** *Melitaea phoebe*, **Southern White Admiral** *Limenitis reducta*, **Spanish Gatekeeper** *Pyronia bathseba* and **Great Banded Grayling** *Brintesia circe* were also nice first sightings for the week.

Circling above us were Black Kite and Griffon Vulture. The latter were to prove ever-present all week, making us quite blasé about what had become rather a scarce bird in the region just a few decades ago.

We moved on to the Ermita Santa Lucia. Here there was an abundance of various butterflies, but particularly **Marbled White** *Melanargia galathea*. This included a good number of the form *leucomelas*, which has virtually no underside markings.

Other species included **Chalkhill Blue** *Polyommatus coridon*, **Damon Blue** *Polyommatus damon*, **Berger's Clouded Yellow** *Colias alfacariensis*, **Wood White** *Leptidea sinapsis*, **Grayling** *Hipparchia semele*, and **Woodland Grayling** *Hipparchia fagi*.



Our afternoon was to be spent in the Fago valley, and our lunch stop was at the village of Fago itself. Pretty much as we arrived, we were distracted by a large butterfly that flew up from the ground into one of the trees. A number of us got our binoculars on it – a **Lesser Purple Emperor** *Apatura ilia*! Sadly, it flew away too quickly for most to take photos, and didn't reappear in the hour we spent there.

Also at the lunch site were large numbers of **Ripart's Anomalous Blue** *Polyommatus ripartii*, and our first **Marbled Fritillary** *Brenthis daphne* of the week.

The rest of the afternoon was spent walking down the quiet road in the Fago valley, exploring the verges. Butterfly numbers were huge, probably the greatest number all week, and a welcome change compared to the disastrously low numbers all of us had been experiencing in the UK in the weeks before our holiday.

Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleopatra* and Marbled White were most common. We were also able to separate out both **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* and **Dusky Meadow Brown** *Hyphonephele lycaon*, **Dark Green Fritillary** *Speyeria aglaja* and **High Brown Fritillary** *Fabriciana adippe*, and **Cardinal** *Argynnis pandora* and **Silver-washed Fritillary** *Argynnis paphia*. Some of the group also saw the only **Bath White** *Pontia daplidice*, **Esper's Marbled White** *Melanargia russiae*, and **Scarce Copper** *Lycaena virgaureae* of the week.



It had turned very hot by the end of the day, so we were all glad to return to the hotel for refreshments, despite the brilliant butterfly entertainment we'd been enjoying! Our daily tally was 59 species, taking us to 61 for the week – and only just getting started!

Day 3, Friday 5th July – The Pourtalet valley

The day again dawned perfectly clear. Peter had set a moth trap the night before, and most guests got up early to see what the night had brought in. Of course it wasn't just moths that were the talk of breakfast, it was also the results of the UK General Election the day before... a bad day for blues of the political kind in the UK perhaps, but we were sure of a good day ahead for blues of the butterfly nature!

After breakfast, we took the longest drive of the week to the Col du Pourtalet that straddles the Spanish / French border. The hope was to see a good range of *Erebia* and other higher altitude species. However, it became clear here that, more so than the previous day at lower elevations, the butterfly season was running quite late, probably two to three weeks behind schedule.



Nonetheless, two species of *Erebia* put in an appearance. One lone **Mountain Ringlet** *Erebia epiphron*, and all others were **Piedmont Ringlet** *Erebia meolans*. Also seen here were **Geranium Argus** *Eumedonia eumedon*, **Wall Brown** *Lasiommata megera*, **Small Tortoiseshell** *Aglais urticae*, **Pearly Heath** *Coenonympha arcania*, **Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus*, **Swallowtail** *Papilio machaon*, and the perennially popular **Clouded Apollo** *Parnassius mnemosyne* and **Apollo** *Parnassius apollo*.



After about 90 minutes here, we descended slightly to La Sarra reservoir, where we had lunch, and then spent the afternoon doing a short circular walk along the valley.

An unexpected sighting here was an **Orange Tip** *Anthocharis cardamines*! But we were also glad to see an excellent range of butterflies, including **Red-underwing Skipper** *Spialia sertorius*, **Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus armoricanus*,

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*, a faded **Duke of Burgundy** *Hamearis lucina*, **Sooty Copper** *Lycaena tityrus*, **Purple-edged Copper** *Lycaena hippothoe*, **Small Blue** *Cupido minimus*, **Silver-studded Blue** *Plebejus argus*, **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** *Boloria selene*, and **Glanville Fritillary** *Melitaea cinxia*, amongst others.

Perhaps most unexpected was a **Glandon Blue** *Plebejus glandon*, photographed by Leo.

We were also treated to the quite amazing sight of 40+ **Southern Heath Fritillary** *Melitaea celadussa* puddling together, a spectacle none of us had seen in such high numbers before.



It had been another fantastic day, despite the general lack of *Erebia*, with a total of 57 species seen on the day, taking us to 89 species in total, seen in just over two days.

Day 4, Saturday 6th July – San Felices, near Aguero. Plus, a short walk along the Aragon river

A storm had been forecast to arrive overnight, and it definitely was stormy – there was significant thunder and lightning from around 3am, and the weather forecast for the majority of the day was mixed, with rain forecast for most of the morning at least.

So, after breakfast, Peter suggested a walk around the village of Berdun, which perches on a rock promontory above our hotel. Perhaps we might be forgiven for initially thinking beforehand that it was going to be a bit of a disappointing morning (compared to butterflying), as we waited for the weather to get better. It was quite the opposite, with Peter treating us to an amazingly detailed and entertaining history of the town, its culture, the impact that agriculture has made, past and present, and much more. Of course we came on the trip for the butterflies, but none of us would have missed these 90 minutes of knowledge sharing for the world, and we all came away with a fuller appreciation of ecology of the area.



We then drove south to near Riglos, for a coffee stop, before a short further drive to the tracks around San Felices, near Agüero. The habitat was much drier here, and despite it remaining mostly overcast, it was hot, and butterflies were flying.

We saw our first **Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus lavatherae*, **Queen of Spain Fritillary** *Issoria lathonia*, **Dusky Heath** *Coenonympha dorus*, **Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus*, **Lesser Spotted Fritillary** *Melitaea trivia*, and **Rosy Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus onopordi* of the week. We also got some excellent views of **Spanish Chalkhill Blue** *Polyommatus albicans*, and **Blue-spot Hairstreak** *Satyrium spini*.

Peter and Paul S went back to collect the vans, so we could bring the lunch to the lunch spot. However, when driving, Paul spotted the main target for the day, **Two-tailed Pasha** *Charaxes jasius*. We decided to set up lunch near to this spot, with the hope of getting repeat views for all the guests. It was a good decision, as there were at least two, perhaps three individuals that kept giving occasional flybys and then landing on the partially hidden trunk of a nearby tree. It was hard to concentrate on lunch!

Leo also showed us a picture he'd taken a short while earlier of a mosaic gynandromorph Chalkhill Blue. Extremely rare, and an incredible find.



Pleased with what we had seen, despite the forecast bad weather, we drove back to Casa Sarasa, dropping off half the group, who wanted to watch England in the European Championship football. The rest of the group drove the five minutes to the Aragon river, just south of Berdun, for a short circular walk. We saw nothing new, but did get some good photos of a number of butterflies that were beginning to settle down to roost, including Wall Brown and Great Banded Grayling.

Day 5, Sunday 7th July – The Roncal valley



The weather returned to being gloriously clear blue skies this morning, a fine start to what was perhaps the most eagerly anticipated day of the trip.

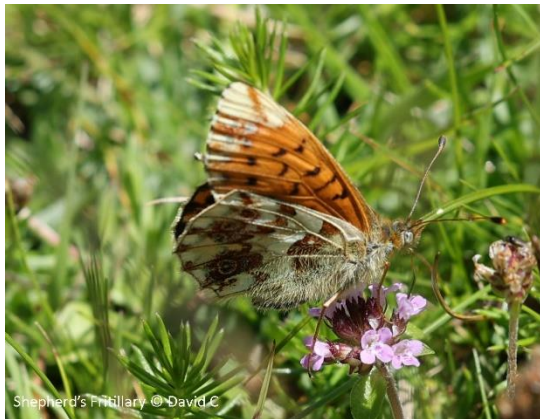
Our first stop was near the village of Isaba. Here we saw Silver-washed Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary, and our first **Comma** *Polygonia c-album* and **Ringlet** *Aphantopus hyperantus* of the week. Peter was quite surprised at how low butterfly

numbers were here, which is often one of the best sites. We later found out that the storms of the previous day had been particularly torrential in this valley, and we suspect this may have been the cause of the suppressed numbers.

We moved on to the Col Pierre Marten, crossing briefly into France. We were hoping for **Lefebvre's Ringlet** *Erebia lefebvrei*, and we were extremely pleasantly surprised to find very large numbers, perhaps over forty individuals, moving up and down the slopes. Even those of us who had seen this species before had never seen so many together. They weren't easy to photograph, but because there were so many, ultimately photos were possible.



There were other *Erebia* species on the wing at this site, and we confirmed Piedmont Ringlet and Mountain Ringlet. There was very little else butterfly wise, however. Nonetheless we were delighted to see Alpine Chough at close range, as well as some of us seeing Citril Finch.



We moved downhill slightly to La Contienda Larra Belagua, where we had lunch before spending a good two hours walking in the wonderful habitat nearby. Here we saw **Shepherd's Fritillary** *Boloria pales*, **Dingy Skipper** *Erynnis tages*, **Mazarine Blue** *Cyaniris semiargus*, **Adonis Blue** *Polyommatus bellargus*, **Large Wall** *Lasiommata maera*, and **de Prunner's Ringlet** *Erebia triaria*, amongst others. But the highlights

in this spot were the birds. Of particular note were Ring Ouzel, specifically an adult feeding a juvenile at close distance, and also a Lammergeier, which showed very well as it flew over twice, spotted by Dave W.

Our final stop was a bit of a gamble, where **Ghost Orchid** *Epipogium aphyllum* had been seen before, and indeed had been seen just one week earlier. Unbelievably, despite the torrential rain 36 hours earlier, the individual plant from a week previous was still there. This species enjoys an almost mythical reputation, being very tricky to see, even if you know where to look. We were all delighted with this amazing find.



Day 6, Monday 8th July – The Canfranc valley. Plus, a short stop near Atares

Our first stop of the day was just north of Canfranc Estacion. The valley sides are narrow and steep here, meaning it was quite damp and humid, despite the sunshine. It also meant there were a number of different species to see. Wood White were numerous, and we saw our



first and only **Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas* of the week. The valley also yielded **Purple-shot Copper** *Lycaena alciphron*, **Purple-edged Copper** *Lycaena hippothoe*, Blue-spot Hairstreak, **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** *Boloria euphrosyne*, **White Admiral** *Limenitis camilla*, and **Southern White Admiral** *Limenitis reducta*.

When we returned to the vans, some butterflies were puddling, including three of the most pristine Swallowtail, and a beautiful tiny moth called *Thyris fenestrella* that none of us had ever seen before.

Our second stop was somewhat speculative. **False Dewy Ringlet** *Erebia sthenyo* is fast declining in the Spanish side of the Pyrenees, but very little surveying is being done, and the species had been seen just 5km away in France, two years earlier. So, we stopped near the ski station in the Astun valley, both for lunch, and for a lovely afternoon walk with False Dewy Ringlet on our minds and in our search radars. The scenery here was amongst the most beautiful of the week.



We inspected every single *Erebia* seen, over a three-hour period. Almost unbelievably, not a single person saw or photographed anything other than Piedmont Ringlet, albeit they rarely settled. Quite incredible really, and it left Paul B half-joking that he'd never go searching for *Erebia* again! That's *Erebia* for you. They can bring some of the best delights in butterflying, but in a late year like this one, it was indeed a bit frustrating, even for the aficionados.

We did, however, see Dingy Skipper, Sooty Copper, Small Blue, and **Southern Mountain Argus** *Aricia montensis*, amongst many others.

We then stopped for refreshments in Canfranc Estacion itself, before having a brief tour of the extremely impressive and recently refurbished huge station. Again, Peter's encyclopaedic local knowledge was entertaining and impressive.



Our final stop for the day was a crossroads near Atares. In a normal year, this was a reliable site for **Forster's Furry Blue** *Polyommatus fulgens*. But in this late year, we were not in luck. That said, the scabious flowers were full of other butterflies, particularly Marbled White in huge numbers, as well as a couple of **Long-tailed Blue** *Lampides boeticus* and **Spanish Chalkhill Blue** *Polyommatus albicans*. Paul S also spotted our first

and only **Purple Hairstreak** *Neozephyrus quercus* of the week in some oak trees, which most of the guests were also able to see, fluttering in the canopy.

This had been an enjoyable, if long day. We were all very grateful to get back to the hotel for refreshments and showers!

Day 7, Tuesday 9th July – The Aisa valley

Peter had set the moth trap again the night before, so it was a slightly earlier alarm call for those who opted to join him for an inspection of what had been caught, before it was released.

Our day today was spent at two sites in the beautiful Aisa valley. Firstly, we visited the very head of the valley, where the road ends. This is a stunningly beautiful place, with the mountains in the background and waterfalls on the river. We spent a good two hours at this location, taking in the views and wildlife watching. This included fantastic views of a Chamois on a nearby rock cliff for Peter and small number of the guests.



On the butterfly front, we were pleased to get our best views of the week of Purple-shot Copper by our vehicle, as well as Apollo. **Meadow Fritillary** *Melitaea parthenoides* was common, as were Southern Heath Fritillary.

Melitaea fritillaries were a highlight here, as the site also delivered our only **Provencal Fritillary** *Melitaea deione* and **False Heath Fritillary**

Melitaea diamina of the week. Silver-studded Blue was present in very large numbers, as were Mazarine Blue, both of which were puddling and hence very approachable. In smaller numbers were **Turquoise Blue** *Polyommatus dorylas*, **Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus*, and a sole **Eros Blue** *Polyommatus eros*, photographed by Paul S, Leo and Gillian.

Lunch was eaten only a short way away, where Silver-washed Fritillary and Large Wall buzzed us as we were eating. After lunch, we walked a short distance to a known spot for the *rebeli* form of **Alcon Blue** *Phengaris alcon*. There were good numbers of male and female alike, and we saw a number of the females laying eggs on their larval food plant.



Here we also saw **Southern Small White** *Pieris mannii*, some very fresh **Amanda's Blue** *Polyommatus amandus*, and the *iphioides* Spanish form of **Chestnut Heath** *Coenonympha glycerion*.



Our final evening meal together was, of course, another tasty one. Dave W, Dave C and Barbara were getting a much earlier flight the following morning, and were therefore taking a pre-breakfast taxi to the airport. We all said our goodbyes to them and thanked them for their good company, as we did our final checklist. Our species total had hit a very satisfactory 112 species for the week.

Day 8, Wednesday 19th July – Departure day. Included a few hours in the Fago valley

The remaining guests had just enough time in the morning for three short stops in the Fago valley, ahead of the drive back to Bilbao airport. These well-laid plans were slightly disrupted by a phone call from the hotel – a handbag (including passport) had been left behind! Easily done, and thank goodness it was found when it was!

So, while Paul and one guest drove back to the hotel to collect the handbag, the rest of the guests finally saw **Southern Gatekeeper** *Pyronia cecilia* and **Forster's Furry Blue** *Polyommatus fulgens*, amongst many other species. This took the final tally of butterfly species to 114.

Meanwhile, when Paul arrived back at the group's final stop, he and two guests had fantastic close-up views of Lesser Purple Emperor, a lovely grand finale!

The drive back to the airport was uneventful, and there we said our goodbyes as we all went our separate ways. It had been a fantastic eight days, and there were even a few moist eyes from Sue W, who had thoroughly enjoyed her first group wildlife holiday of this sort.



Footnote and acknowledgements

The total butterfly species count for the trip was 114. This was an excellent number, demonstrating the huge biodiversity of this part of Spain, and particularly good given the season was about a fortnight behind a "normal" year. While this inevitably meant some of the later July species such as **Gavarnie Blue** *Agriades pyrenaicus*, **Gavarnie Ringlet** *Erebia gorgone*, **Western Brassy Ringlet** *Erebia arvernensis*, and **Pyrenean Brassy Ringlet** *Erebia*

rondoui (those pesky *Erebia*!) were missed, we were compensated with huge numbers of Cleopatra and a number of other late spring species.



We were also rewarded with excellent views of Chamois, as well as lots of wonderful plant species, including of course, that very special Ghost Orchid!

As ever with these trips, it isn't just about the wildlife. Our hotel, Casa Sarasa, was superb, providing excellent food at breakfast and dinner, as well as delicious picnic lunches. It was also a fantastic group – not only in terms of the broad

range of knowledge, which all shared generously, but also in terms of the camaraderie and humour, which added to everyone enjoying a good time.



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SUMMER BUTTERFLIES OF THE SPANISH PYRENEES 3-10 JULY 2024

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	Butterflies								
1	Dingy Skipper <i>Erynnis tages</i>			✓		✓	✓		
2	Mallow Skipper <i>Carcharodes alceae</i>	✓	✓						✓
3	Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodes lavatheria</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Tufted Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodes flocciferus</i>								
5	Red-underwing Skipper <i>Spialia sertorius</i>		✓	✓				✓	
6	Safflower Skipper <i>Pyrgus carthami</i>								
7	Southern Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>			✓	✓				
8	Olive Skipper <i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>			✓					
9	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>			✓					
10	Large Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus alveus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
11	Rosy Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus onopordi</i>				✓				
12	Essex Skipper <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
13	Small Skipper <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Lulworth Skipper <i>Thymelicus acteon</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Hesperia comma</i>								
16	Large Skipper <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Mediterranean Skipper <i>Gegenes nostradamus</i>	✓							
18	Clouded Apollo <i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>			✓					
19	Apollo <i>Parnassius apollo</i>			✓				✓	
20	Iberian Scarce Swallowtail <i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
21	Swallowtail <i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Wood White <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Orange Tip <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓		✓			
24	Mountain Dappled White <i>Euchloe simplonia</i>								
25	Black-veined White <i>Aporia crataegi</i>			✓				✓	
26	Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
26	Small White <i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Southern Small White <i>Pieris mannii</i>							✓	
29	Green-veined White <i>Pieris napi</i>	✓		✓				✓	
30	Peak White <i>Pontia callidice</i>								
31	Bath White <i>Pontia daplidice</i>		✓						
32	Mountain Clouded Yellow <i>Colias phicomone</i>								
33	Clouded Yellow <i>Colias crocea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Berger's Clouded Yellow <i>Colias australis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
35	Pale Clouded Yellow <i>Colias hyale</i>								
36	Brimstone <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Cleopatra <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
38	Duke of Burgundy <i>Hamearis Lucina</i>			✓				✓	
39	Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>						✓		
40	Scarce Copper <i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>		✓						
41	Sooty Copper <i>Lycaena tityrus</i>			✓			✓		

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
42	Purple-shot Copper <i>Lycaena alciphron</i>			✓			✓	✓	
43	Purple-edged Copper <i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>			✓			✓		
44	Purple Hairstreak <i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>						✓		
45	Spanish Purple Hairstreak <i>Laeosopis roboris</i>		✓				✓		
46	Green Hairstreak <i>Callophrys rubi</i>								
47	White-letter Hairstreak <i>Satyrium w-album</i>								
48	Blue-spot Hairstreak <i>Satyrium spini</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
49	Ilex Hairstreak <i>Satyrium ilicis</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
50	False Ilex hairstreak <i>Satyrium esculi</i>		✓						✓
51	Sloe Hairstreak <i>Satyrium acacia</i>								
52	Long-tailed Blue <i>Lampides boeticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
53	Lang's Short-tailed Blue <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	✓	✓						
54	Small Blue <i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
55	Osiris Blue <i>Cupido Osiris</i>								
56	Short-tailed Blue <i>Cupido argiades</i>								
57	Provencal Short-tailed Blue <i>Cupido alcetas</i>								
58	Holly Blue <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
59	Baton Blue <i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>								
60	Panoptes Blue <i>Pseudophilotes panoptes</i>								
61	Chequered Blue <i>Scolitantides orion</i>								
62	Green-underside Blue <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>								
63	Large Blue <i>Phengaris arion</i>								
64	Mountain Alcon Blue <i>Phengaris rebeli</i>							✓	
65	Silver-studded Blue <i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
66	Idas Blue <i>Plebejus idas</i>								
67	Glandon Blue <i>Plebejus glandon</i>			✓					
68	Gavarnie Blue <i>Agriades pyrenaicus</i>								
69	Geranium Argus <i>Eumedonia eumedon</i>			✓					
70	Southern Brown Argus <i>Aricia cramera</i>			✓	✓		✓		
71	Southern Mountain Argus <i>Aricia montensis</i>			✓			✓	✓	
72	Mazarine Blue <i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
73	Escher's Blue <i>Polyommatus escheri</i>								
74	Turquoise Blue <i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>			✓			✓	✓	
75	Amanda's Blue <i>Polyommatus amandus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
76	Chapman's Blue <i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
77	Common Blue <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Eros Blue <i>Polyommatus eros</i>							✓	
79	Ripart's Anomalous Blue <i>Polyommatus ripartii</i>		✓						✓
80	Forster's Furry Blue <i>Polyommatus fulgens</i>								✓
81	Damon Blue <i>Polyommatus damon</i>		✓						
82	Adonis Blue <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
83	Chalkhill Blue <i>Polyommatus coridon</i>		✓		✓				
84	Provence Chalkhill Blue <i>Polyommatus hispana</i>								
85	Spanish Chalkhill Blue <i>Polyommatus albicans</i>		✓		✓		✓		✓
86	Meleager's Blue <i>Meleageria daphnis</i>								

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
87	Silver-washed Fritillary <i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Cardinal <i>Argynnis Pandora</i>		✓						
89	Dark Green Fritillary <i>Speyeria aglaja</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
90	High Brown Fritillary <i>Fabriciana adippe</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
91	Niobe Fritillary <i>Fabriciana niobe</i>								
92	Queen of Spain Fritillary <i>Issoria lathonia</i>				✓			✓	
93	Lesser Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis ino</i>								
94	Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis daphne</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
95	Twin-spot Fritillary <i>Brenthis hecate</i>							✓	
96	Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>						✓		
97	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria selene</i>			✓	✓	✓			
98	Weaver's Fritillary <i>Boloria dia</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
99	Shepherd's Fritillary <i>Boloria pales</i>					✓			
100	Glanville Fritillary <i>Melitaea cinxia</i>			✓					
101	Knapweed Fritillary <i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
102	Lesser Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea trivia</i>				✓				
103	Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓						
104	False Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea diamina</i>							✓	
105	Southern Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea celadussa</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
106	Provencal Fritillary <i>Melitaea deione</i>							✓	
107	Meadow Fritillary <i>Melitaea perthenoides</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
108	Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
109	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
110	Peacock <i>Inachis io</i>			✓			✓	✓	
111	Small Tortoiseshell <i>Aglais urticae</i>			✓		✓			
112	Comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i>					✓	✓	✓	
113	White Admiral <i>Limenitis camilla</i>						✓		✓
114	Southern White Admiral <i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
115	Two-tailed Pasha <i>Charaxes jasius</i>				✓				
116	Lesser Purple Emperor <i>Apatura ilia</i>		✓						✓
117	Purple Emperor <i>Apatura iris</i>								
118	Speckled Wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Large Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata maera</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
121	Pearly Heath <i>Coenonympha arcania</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
122	Chestnut Heath <i>Coenonympha glycerion</i> ssp. <i>iphioides</i>		✓					✓	
123	Dusky Heath <i>Coenonympha dorus</i>				✓		✓		✓
124	Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
125	Gatekeeper <i>Pyronia tithonus</i>				✓	✓			✓
126	Southern Gatekeeper <i>Pyronia cecilia</i>								✓
127	Spanish Gatekeeper <i>Pyronia bathseba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
128	Ringlet <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>					✓	✓		
129	Meadow Brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
130	Dusky Meadow Brown <i>Hyponephele lycaon</i>		✓					✓	✓

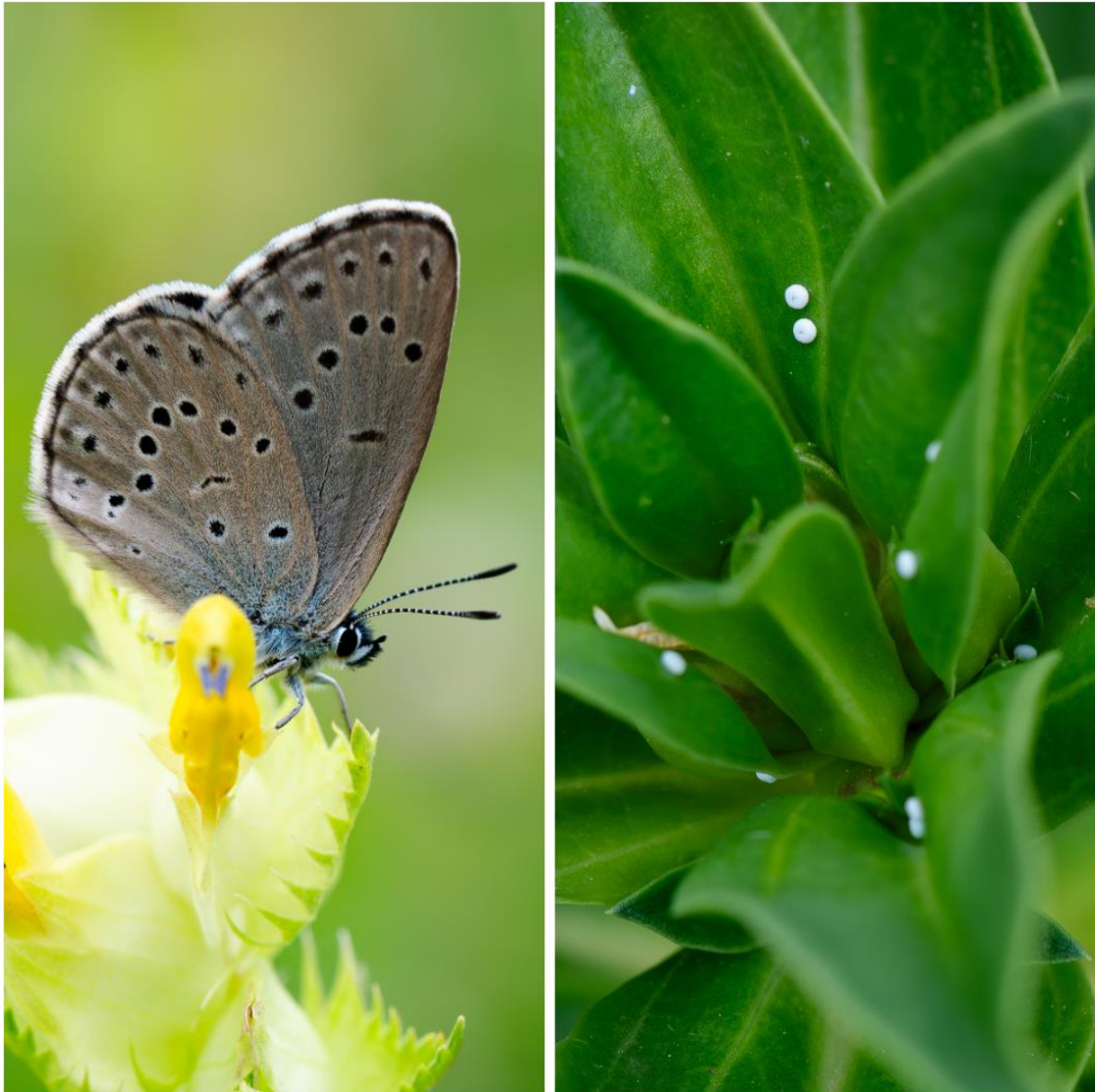
	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
131	Large Ringlet <i>Erebia Euryale</i>								
132	Mountain Ringlet <i>Erebia epiphron</i>			✓		✓	✓		
133	De Prunner's Ringlet <i>Erebia triaria</i>					✓			
134	Silky Ringlet <i>Erebia gorge</i>								
135	Gavarnie Ringlet <i>Erebia gorgone</i>								
136	Western Brassy Ringlet <i>Erebia arvernensis</i>								
137	Pyrenees Brassy Ringlet <i>Erebia rondoui</i>								
138	Water Ringlet <i>Erebia pronoe</i>								
139	Lefebvre's Ringlet <i>Erebia lefebvrei</i>					✓			
140	Bright-eyed Ringlet <i>Erebia oeme</i>								
141	Piedmont Ringlet <i>Erebia meolans</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
142	False Dewy Ringlet <i>Erebia sthenyo</i>								
143	Esper's Marbled White <i>Melanargia russiae</i>		✓						
144	Marbled White <i>Melanargia galathea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Spanish Marbled White <i>Melanargia ines</i>								
146	Great Sooty Satyr <i>Satyrus ferula</i>								
147	Black Satyr <i>Satyrus actaea</i>								
148	Woodland Grayling <i>Hipparchia fagi</i>		✓		✓		✓		
149	Rock Grayling <i>Hipparchia alcyone</i>			✓					
150	Grayling <i>Hipparchia semele</i>		✓						
151	Striped Grayling <i>Hipparchia fidia</i>								
152	Great Banded Grayling <i>Brintesia circe</i>		✓		✓		✓		
	Daily total:	10	59	57	44	47	63	60	31
	Running total:	10	61	89	96	100	103	112	114

Guests' Galleries

All images that follow were kindly shared by tour participants.



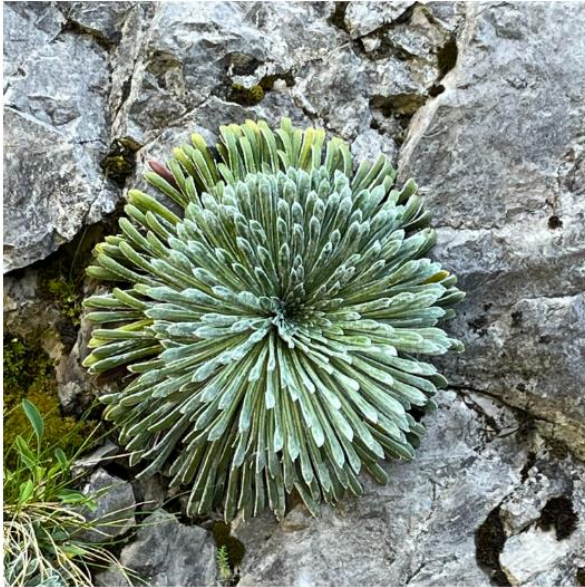
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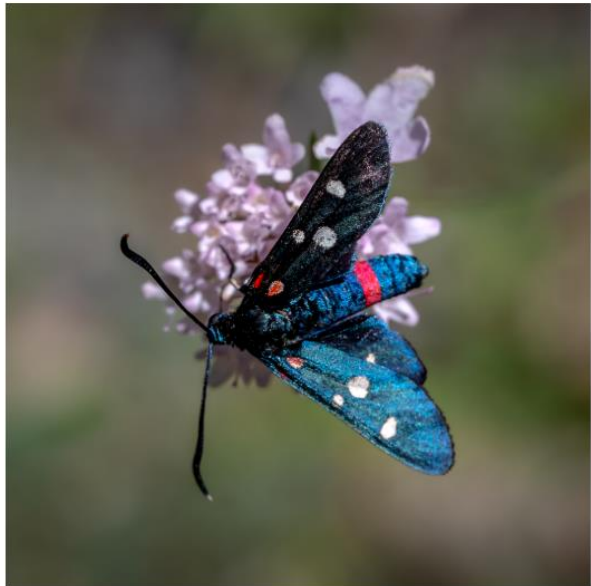
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And finally... If you like the sound of Summer Butterflies of the Spanish Pyrenees, next year's tour is available to book on our website:

[Summer Butterflies of the Spanish Pyrenees](#)

Alternatively, we have other butterfly tours with remaining availability in 2025 that explore other wonderful areas of Spain!

[Butterflies of the Picos de Europa](#)

[Butterflies of Montes Universales](#)

[Autumn Exotica in Andalusia](#)