

Spain's Sierra de Guara - Land of the Lammergeier

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 - 17 May 2010



Western Bonelli's Warbler



Vulture feeding station



La Colegiata - Alquezar



Tozal de Guara

Report and images by Byron Palacios



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051
E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

F: +44 (0)1962 736426
W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader: Byron Palacios (Naturetrek Leader)
Assisted by resident botanist Jules Rutten

Participants David Needham
Sue Needham
Keith Walters
Janet Walters
Geoff Abell
Josephine Jones
Leoni Peploe
Gordon Edgar

Day 1

Monday 10th May

London - Zaragoza

We arrived at Zaragoza airport in the late evening from Stansted. The car was quickly sorted while some members of the group had a quick dinner at the airport café, before the 2-hour drive to Nocito. Once we hit the heart of the Sierra de Guara through the narrow road-tracks, we saw some Red-legged Partridges, dozens of toads (Natterjacks), marsh frogs and even a European Polecat. We arrived at Nocito and after a quick check in our accommodation, we went all to bed for a well deserved rest.

Day 2

Tuesday 11th May

Nocito and surroundings

Some of us managed to take an early look around the village, attracted by the beautiful landscapes and garden birds on this glorious sunny morning. After a delicious breakfast, we went for a walk down a track by the side of Tozal de Guara, where White Wagtail, Black Redstart, Corn, Rock and Cirl Buntings, Short-toed Treecreeper, Firecrest, Orphean Warbler, Common Whitethroat, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Linnet, Iberian Green Woodpecker and others were seen. The highlights of the morning were the stunning views of a single Golden Eagle soaring in the blue sky whilst a pair of Common Buzzards was chasing it away; and also, a pair of Booted Eagles (pale morph), followed by scope views of a bright male Golden Oriole.

Later on, we returned to the lodge in order to drive to Used where we enjoyed our picnic lunch. Then we walked into the abandoned hamlet of Used admiring the buildings still in pristine condition having been abandoned back in the late 1950's. We also had great views of Hoopoe, Chiffchaff, Short-toed Treecreeper, Serin, Rock Bunting, Short-toed Eagle, Eurasian Jay, Cirl and Rock Buntings, and a beautiful Crested Tit nesting in a tree! We drove back to Nocito in the late afternoon where we enjoyed a drink at the local bar, followed by a delicious local-style dinner!

Day 3

Wednesday 12th May

Bara area

Today, the morning looked slightly windy and was still sunny, but the sky wasn't as clear as the previous day. After breakfast, we drove 13km to the hamlet of Bara. The pristine landscape is covered by local pines, elms, oaks and silver birches and a few silver fir. We took bits of the trail towards Nasarre and eventually the track to Otin, crossing parts of the River Alcanadre and overlooking the Mascun Gorge. A variety of birds was seen throughout our walk, such as Orphean Warbler, Tawny Pipit, Stonechat, Common Cuckoo, Subalpine Warbler, Red Kite, Griffon Vulture, Spotless Starling, Cirl Bunting, Garden Warbler, Egyptian Vulture, Raven, Mistle Thrush, Spotted Flycatcher, Serin, Honey Buzzard, amongst others. As the black clouds were getting closer by lunch time, we managed to find some good shelter to have our picnic lunch. The rains arrived but not for long and sunny spells were dominant again.

We took a break after lunch and some of us wandered around the hamlet before we continued our drive back to Nocito making a few stops on the way. We first stopped in an area covered by pines which was productive for the botanists of the group. We kept driving and made a stop nearby the hamlet of Used where Coal and Great Tits were really vocal and active. As the afternoon continued, we drove back to Nocito going through a large flock of local sheep, and saw two Woodlarks which were oddly 'perched' on the track. A heavy rain hit Nocito at our arrival back at the accommodation, just in time to take a break and some hot and cold drinks before another delicious supper and restful night!

Day 4

Thursday 13th May

Nocito - Alquezar

We started the day pretty relaxed enjoying our delicious last breakfast in Nocito. We then packed our belongings and drove out of the northern slope of the Sierra de Guara heading for the ancient village of Alquezar, located in the southern slopes of the park. We made several stops on the way. Firstly, we visited the Santa Maria de Belsue dam, where many interesting birds such as Woodlark, Rock Bunting, Bonelli's Warbler, Serin and a nesting Crested Tit were found. We continued heading south and then diverted to the east until we hit the village of Quicena, right on the outskirts of Huesca, where we targeted some important birds such as Black Wheatear, Rock Thrush, Crested Lark, European Bee-eater, Black Kite, Northern Wheatear, Crag Martin, White Stork and Corn Bunting. All were found right next to the beautiful Castillo de Montearagon.

After this, we started seeking a nice spot to have our picnic lunch, finding the Embalse de Vadiello to be the perfect place to have our meal, amongst deep canyons and crags, emerald-green water and impressive views of the corrugated cliffs and hills of the surroundings!

We continued towards Alquezar arriving at this medieval village in the mid afternoon, walking around the Colegiata and its stunning natural gardens, which produced high quality views of 'garden birds', such as Lesser Kestrel, Melodious Warbler, Nightingale, Serin, Blue Rock Thrush and Black Redstart. We then retired to our beautiful and luxurious rooms in order to get ready for the high-quality local cuisine at Casa Gervasio's restaurant!

Day 5

Friday 14th May

Santa Cilia

The morning didn't look promising when we went down for breakfast, with concerned us as our visit to Santa Cilia required good weather conditions. The main reason to go to this area was to witness a very unusual and unique experience. We were offered the chance to feed vultures accompanied by local vulture expert and Fondo Amigos del Buitre's co-founder Manu Aguilar. His vast and unparalleled knowledge of these birds has made him a very well respected naturalist and pioneer (together with late colleague David Garcia) on the ethology and ecology of vultures, especially on Lammergeiers. Manu brought with him more than 200 pounds of meat from local farms. As the weather did not look good, we walked down to the visitors centre and finally we were invited to the FAB's interpretation centre in order to see the fantastic results of their hard work through years of effort and also to see videos and a slideshow of their amazing collection.

After the show, the weather improved dramatically so we set off to feed the vultures! Manu also brought a few hen eggs, an Egyptian Vulture's favourite food (they break the eggs using a small rock held with their beaks and hammering it until the eggs split apart!). We drove up to the mountain edge and then walked about 500 metres on a trail towards the feeding point. Over 250 Griffon Vultures landed on the carcasses straight away, while two Egyptian and three Bearded Vultures (Lammergeiers) soared above them waiting for their turn. An Egyptian Vulture was very keen on the eggs and he was confident enough to show Griffon's and a pair of cheeky Ravens his peculiar way of breaking them, but they preferred to steal them instead! It was spectacular!

After this, we all walked down to the village again, getting stunning views of Northern Wheatear, Tawny Pipit, Stonechat, Rock Thrush and Woodchat Shrike. We had our picnic lunch at the mirador which overlooks the vulture's feeding station trying to see if some of the species were around. After lunch, we decided to walk back to the mountain track to see the vulture feeding point just in case Lammergeiers decided to land, and they did indeed!! Three beautiful Bearded Vultures landed in order to take the bones and drop them from the sky making smaller pieces of them so that they could swallow the bones more easily. They also flew right over our heads! After this spectacular wildlife show, we decided to head back to our hotel. What a day we had!

Day 6

Saturday 15th May

Alquezar - Lecina

The weather looked promising, although it was chilly, with clear blue skies. After breakfast, we left Alquezar heading north towards Lecina. Many stops were made en route, but the very windy sunny weather did not make things easy. The impressive canyons and gorges of the River Vero offered us great views of Subalpine Warbler, Griffon and Egyptian Vulture, Alpine Swift, Crag Martin, Honey Buzzard, Kestrel, Short-toed Eagle, and much more.

We had our picnic lunch at the hamlet of Lecina, home of ancient elms and lush trails in the woods, in which we enjoyed an afternoon walk which was pleasant. We found some wildlife on the way such as dozens of Western Bonelli's Warblers and Nightingales all over the place, plus Melodious Warbler, Short-toed Treecreeper, orchids and butterflies. On the way back, we stopped for refreshments at the village of Colungo before reaching our hotel.

Day 7

Sunday 16th May

Morrano and Ermita de La Virgen de las Vinas

After having our breakfast, we drove up and out of Alquezar heading west, stopping in the area of Morrano. We had a beautiful walk down the Hueva de Morrano trail where we had relaxing views of Subalpine, Orphean and Melodious Warblers, beautiful views of a most-wanted Red-backed Shrike, Woodchat Shrike, Corn Bunting, Egyptian and Griffon Vulture, and the most wonderful views of a pair of massive Golden Eagles flying literally right above our heads!

After this pleasant walk, we moved to La Ermita de La Virgen de las Vinas, a lush patch where we enjoyed our picnic lunch as well as the scenery. Some of us decided to walk back to Alquezar from this point. The rest of us drove back to Alquezar in order to spend the last afternoon enjoying the village, shops, bars, etc.

Day 8

Monday 17th May

Alquezar – Belchite – Zaragoza

It was another beautiful morning in Alquezar. Some of us decided to do a pre-breakfast birding morning around the village which produced Alpine Swift, Rock Sparrow, Black Redstart, Serin, Kestrel, Black Kite, Spotless Starling and we had superb views of Blue Rock Thrush, Nightingale and Melodious Warbler. We walked back to the hotel and after a leisurely breakfast, we took plenty of time to sort out our belongings, pack and load up our van by the late morning, and set off heading south towards Belchite.

Once we left the Somontano and watched a Little Owl contemplating the rural roads and fields, the landscape gradually changed until we hit Los Monegros and were soon onto the upper River Ebro basin, where the area of Belchite lies amongst the vast plains, plains and ancient villages. After the three-hour drive, we arrived at El Planeron Reserve at Campo de Belchite. The reserve showed off its impressive table-like mountains and dry clay meadows combined with chalked steppes. Despite the lovely weather, the wind was quite strong, making birding a bit difficult. Nevertheless, moving to the Balsa de El Planeron area within the reserve, we managed to see a great variety of birds including Short-toed, Lesser Short-toed, Thekla, Crested and Calandra Larks, Northern Wheatear, Montagu's Harrier, Bonelli's Eagle, Barn Swallows, Pallid Swift, Turtle Dove, and stunning views of European Bee-eaters hovering in front of our van's windscreen, we had fabulous views of this beautiful bird!! A group of five Pin-tailed Sandgrouse was seen flying away from us in the distance.

After walking short distances on the clay-carpeted heathland, we then started to make our way towards Zaragoza's airport, having a great farewell from a beautiful female Montagu's Harrier. We also had good roadside views of a single Southern Grey Shrike.

After a quick break in Carinena, we continued on the motorway and arrived at the airport with plenty of time to get ready for the flight home. It was a fantastic week around one of the most beautiful areas of Western Europe, the Kingdom of Aragon!

Species Lists

Birds (110 species)

Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Common Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Yellow-legged Herring Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
European Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Chough	<i>Pyrhcorax Pyrrhcorax</i>
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrhcorax graculus</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Carion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>

Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida Theklae</i>	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>

Mammals

Iberian Hare, Red Squirrel

Reptiles

Wall Lizard, Iberian Rock Lizard, Green Lizard, Sand Lizard

Butterflies

Large White, Orange Tip, Moroccan Orange Tip, Clouded Yellow, Brimstone, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Common Blue, Little Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock Butterfly, Painted Lady, Large Wall Brown, Marble White, Cream-spot Tiger Moth

Plants (Compiled by Jules Rutten)

Scientific name	Common name	May						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pinaceae	Pine family							
<i>Pinus silvestre</i>	Scots pine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine					✓	✓	
Cupressaceae	Cypress family							
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common juniper	✓	✓	✓		✓		
<i>Juniperus phoenicia</i>	Phoenician juniper		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly juniper	✓		✓	✓	✓		
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian cypress		✓					
Fagaceae	Oak family							
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes oak				✓	✓	✓	
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm oak		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Quercus faginea</i>	Lusitanian oak		✓					
<i>Quercus ilex rotundifolia</i>			✓					
Santalaceae	Sandelwood family							
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris						✓	
Moraceae	Mulberry family			✓	✓			
<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>	Wild fig			✓	✓			

Scientific name	Common name	May						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Urticaceae	Nettle familie							
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	✓	✓	✓				
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small nettle		✓					
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall		✓	✓			✓	
Polygonaceae	Dock family							
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	French sorrel		✓	✓				
Carophyllaceae	Pink family							
<i>Petrocoptis Guarensis</i>	catchfly type					✓		
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion					✓		
<i>Silene nutans</i>						✓		
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed		✓	✓		✓		
<i>Paronychia capitata</i>		✓	✓			✓		
Ranunculceae	Buttercup family							
<i>Helleboris foetidus</i>	Stinking hellebore	✓	✓					
<i>Thalictrum tuberosum</i>					✓	✓		
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	✓	✓					
<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Common monkshood L.		✓					
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's joy		✓			✓		
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	✓	✓			✓		
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Common columbine		✓					
Papaveraceae	Poppy family							
<i>papaver rhoeas</i>	Field poppy			✓	✓			
Fumariaceae	Fumitory family							
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i> L.	Common fumitory		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Crucifereae	Cress family							
<i>Biscutella laevigata</i>				✓	✓			
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Sheperds purse					✓	✓	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	✓	✓					
<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	Hairy rockcress	✓						
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary pepperwort	✓				✓		
Resedaceae	Mignonette family							
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Weld			✓	✓			
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop family							
<i>Sedum album</i>	White stonecrop			✓		✓		
<i>Sedum dasphyllum</i>	Thick-leved stonecrop			✓				
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting stonecrop					✓		
<i>Jovibarba globifera</i>	Hen and chickens houseleek		✓					
<i>Umbelicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort					✓		
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	Pale stonecrop					✓	✓	
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage family							
<i>Saxifraga longifolia</i>	Pyrenean saxifrage			✓		✓		
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved saxifraga	✓	✓					
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow saxifrage		✓					
Rosaceae	Rose family							
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	✓						
<i>Rubus fruticosum</i> agg.	Bramble	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Geum montanum</i>	Alpine avens	✓						
<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>	Alpine cinquefoil	✓	✓					
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild strawberry		✓					
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Amelanchier		✓	✓	✓	✓		

Scientific name	Common name	May						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>Sangisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet		✓					
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose							
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Common hawthorn			✓		✓		
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Common quince	✓						
<i>Pyrus pyraister</i>	Wild pear					✓		
<i>Sorbus aucupario</i>	Rowan					✓		
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam					✓		
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	✓	✓					
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Cherry		✓					
<i>Prunus Dulcis</i>	Almond				✓	✓	✓	
Leguminosae	Pea family							
<i>Genista scorpius</i>	Divel's claw					✓		
<i>Echinospartum horridum</i>	Echinospartum	✓	✓	✓		✓		
<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>	Wild liquorice		✓	✓				
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>				✓		✓		
<i>Lathyrus apaca</i>	Yellow vetch				✓	✓		
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Broad-leaved everlasting pea					✓		
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch trefoil				✓		✓	
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	scorpion vetch		✓	✓		✓		
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Bur clover						✓	
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Button medic						✓	
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin				✓	✓		
Geraniaceae	Geranium family							
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert			✓	✓			
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge family							
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	Dwarf spurge					✓		
<i>Euphorbia serrata</i>				✓	✓	✓		
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large mediterranean spurge			✓		✓	✓	
Linaceae	Flax family							
<i>Linum narbnense</i>	beautiful flax				✓	✓		
Polygalaceae	Milkwort family							
<i>Polygala nicaeensis</i>	Nice milkwort	✓			✓	✓		
Anacardiceae								
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic tree						✓	
<i>Pistacia terebintus</i>	Turpentine tree						✓	
Buxaceae	Box family							
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn family							
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean buckthorn			✓		✓		
Vitaceae	Vine family							
<i>vitis vinifera</i>	Wild grape vine					✓		
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber family							
<i>Bryonia cretica ssp dioica</i>	White bryony	✓		✓				
Cistaceae	Rockrose family							
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common rockrose					✓		
<i>Helianthemum apininum</i>	White rockrose	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cornaceae	Dogwood family							
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Common dogwood	✓				✓		
Araliaceae	Ivy family							
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Scientific name	Common name	May						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Umbellifereae	Carrot family							
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo				✓			
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel					✓		
<i>Bupleurum rigidum</i>	Hares ear					✓		
Ericaceae	Heath family							
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	strawberrytree			✓				
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry			✓				
Primulaceae	Primrose family							
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	✓	✓	✓				
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Common primrose		✓					
<i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i>	Tufted loosestrife	✓						
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel		✓				✓	
Plumbagnaceae	Thrift family							
<i>Armeria maritima</i> ssp <i>alpina</i>	Mountain thrift				✓			
Oleaceae	Olive family							
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash				✓			
<i>Jasminum fricans</i>	Wild Jasmin				✓			
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Privet	✓				✓		
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive				✓	✓	✓	
Apocynaceae	Dogbane family							
<i>Vinca mayor</i>	Greater periwinkle					✓		
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw family							
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Common bedstraw		✓					
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Madder		✓			✓		
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed family							
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder				✓			
Boraginaceae	Borage family							
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	Tuberous comfrey	✓						
<i>Lithodora fruticosa</i>	Shrubby gromwell			✓				
<i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i>	Purple gromwell					✓		
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Vipers bugloss			✓	✓			
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage			✓		✓		
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Evergreen bugloss			✓				
Labiataeae	Mint family							
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground pine		✓					
<i>Teucrium chamaepitys</i>	Wall germander			✓				
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary			✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Lavendula angustifolia</i>	Lavender	✓		✓	✓			
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White whorehound		✓	✓				
<i>Phlomis lychnitis</i>					✓			
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Hen-bit							
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black whorehound	✓						
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	meadow clary	✓		✓	✓			
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Clary				✓			
<i>Satureja montana</i>	Winter savory	✓		✓		✓		
<i>Calamintha nepeta</i>	Lesser calamint						✓	
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Thyme	✓		✓	✓		✓	
<i>Mentha piperita</i>	Peppermint					✓		
Solanaceae	Nightshade family							
<i>Hyocymus niger</i>	Henbane			✓				

Scientific name	Common name	May						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort family							
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon		✓	✓				
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Aaron's rod					✓		
<i>Veronica prostrata</i> L.	speedwell		✓			✓		
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Persian speedwell			✓		✓		
Globulariaceae	Globularia family							
<i>Globularia vulgare</i>	Common globularia	✓	✓	✓				
Gesneriaceae,	Gloxinia family							
<i>Ramonda myconi</i>	Ramonda			✓				
Orobanchaceae,	Broomrape family							
<i>Orobanche gracilis</i>	slender broomrape						✓	
<i>Orobanche Latisquama</i>							✓	
Plantaginaceae,	Plantain family							
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain	✓	✓					
<i>Plantago sempervirens</i>	shrubby plantain		✓		✓		✓	
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn plantain			✓				
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle family							
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan honeysuckle				✓			
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	✓	✓	✓				
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder					✓		
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring tree					✓		
valerianaceae	Valerian family							
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red valerian					✓	✓	
<i>Centranthus angustifolius</i> Mill DC						✓		
<i>Valeriana longiflora</i>				✓				
Dipsacaceae	Teasel family							
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	✓	✓					
<i>Sixalix atropurpurea</i> L. Greuter						✓		
Campanulaceae	Bellflower family							
<i>Jasione montana</i>	Mountain sheepsbit				✓			
Compositae	Daisy family							
<i>Artemisia campestris</i>	Fieldsagewort			✓				
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common cutweed				✓			
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	✓	✓	✓				
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot		✓					
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle		✓	✓				
<i>Tragopogon Pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard						✓	
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curryplant			✓			✓	
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Lavender cotton				✓		✓	
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock	✓		✓				
Liliaceae	Lily family							
<i>Aphyllanthes monspelienses</i>	Blue aphyllanthes	✓			✓			
<i>Allium molly</i>	Yellow onion					✓		
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy garlic			✓				
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White asphodel			✓				
<i>Tulipa australis</i>	Wild tulip					✓		
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth		✓	✓				
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>		✓						
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's broom			✓				

Scientific name	Common name	May						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Asparagus			✓				
Dioscoreaceae	Yam family							
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony					✓		
Iridaceae	Iris family							
<i>Iris xiphioides</i>	English iris				✓			
Orchidaceae	Orchid family							
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly orchid		✓					
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early spider orchid	✓						
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock orchid						✓	
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady orchid	✓						
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved helleborine					✓		
Agavaceae								
<i>Agave americana</i>								✓
Gramineae								
<i>Poa bulbosum</i>		✓	✓	✓				
<i>Bromus rubens</i>				✓				

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!