

Go Slow in Southern Spain

Naturetrek Tour Report

11th – 18th May 2026



Black-necked Grebe



Nightingale



Firecrest



White-headed Duck

Tour report by Niki Williamson



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Summary

The province of Málaga offers a breathtakingly diverse tapestry of habitats, where vibrant, progressive coastal cities melt into rugged limestone peaks and pristine wetlands. This week, our group immersed themselves in the very best of Andalusia's natural and cultural heritage.

From the screaming swift choruses above our historic city-centre hotel, to the stunning pink haze of a ten-thousand-strong Greater Flamingo nesting colony at Fuente de Piedra, the wildlife spectacles were relentless. We watched displaying Little Bustards, tracked majestic Spanish Ibexes across the karst formations of El Torcal, and enjoyed eye-popping views of rare White-headed and Marbled Ducks.

Combined with world-class local gastronomy, ranging from traditional beachfront *chiringuitos* to private celebrity dining rooms and a spectacular twelve-course tasting menu, this was an unforgettable celebration of Andalusian wildlife, landscape and culture.

Day 1

Monday 11th May

Simon and Niki greeted the group at Málaga Airport, and we immediately headed into the heart of the city. A lively welcoming chorus of screaming Common and Pallid Swifts, alongside noisy Monk Parakeets, echoed through the streets, as a beautiful shower of purple Jacaranda petals drifted down around us.

The group soon settled into their rooms at Hotel Molina Lario, a beautiful four-star abode building positioned right on the edge of the historic town centre. We gathered later that evening for our welcome dinner, experiencing the exceptional à la carte delights of the hotel's renowned restaurant, *Matiz*, where we toasted the week ahead and discussed our upcoming itinerary.

Day 2

Tuesday 12th May

In bright sunshine and a light, cooling breeze, we journeyed north towards the endoreic wetland complex of Fuente de Piedra, a vast saline lake flanked by productive freshwater lagoons. En route, we paused by an area of low-intensity, arable farmland where vibrant wildflowers pushed through the thinly sown crops, blanketing the fields in a rich tapestry of colour. Overhead, the sky held a massive "swift tornado," with hundreds of Common and Pallid Swifts joined by a single, majestic Alpine Swift hunting for insects. The air was thick with the songs of Calandra Larks, Crested Larks, and Corn Buntings, all of which offered superb views. Our excitement intensified when we spotted a juvenile Black-winged Kite perched in a lone tree; as we watched through the scopes, we realised there were actually three recently fledged chicks huddled together!

Moments later, our delight doubled as a Little Bustard was found. Though distant at first, this magnificent male was easily identifiable by his crisp black-and-white breeding plumage. We moved stealthily across the road, set up the scopes and enjoyed spectacular, close-range views of this charismatic bird, performing its eccentric, stamping display. We barely had time to look up as a sleek Montagu's Harrier drifted effortlessly past.

At the main reserve, the group took a stroll past the freshwater lagoons while a sumptuous picnic was prepared. Waterfowl delights abounded: the endangered White-headed Duck, elegant Marbled Ducks and Red-crested Pochards were all noted in good numbers, alongside Black-necked Grebes, Slender-billed Gulls, Avocets, and Black-winged Stilts. Greater Flamingoes stepped through the shallows right in front of the hides, offering unparalleled views.

After lunch, we explored further hides overlooking an adjacent freshwater pool. Here we observed close-up groups of White-headed Ducks (showing off their extraordinary, swollen, bright-blue bills), watched two more Marbled Ducks fly past, and smiled as busy Black-necked Grebes dutifully fed their chicks. A Turtle Dove purred softly from the overhead wires, while Gull-billed Terns drifted over the water. Out across the main lake, we found both Kentish and Common Ringed Plovers, set against a backdrop of miles upon miles of scattered pink: the famous ten-thousand-strong nesting colony of Greater Flamingoes.

Back in Málaga, the group enjoyed a free late afternoon before heading out to *El Pimpi*, a true Málaga institution, part-owned by Antonio Banderas. We received the full celebrity treatment in one of the establishment's historic private rooms, sampling a bespoke tasting menu featuring traditional Andalusian dishes such as *pescaito frito*, *croquetas de puchero*, and locally cured Iberian ham.

Day 3

Wednesday 13th May

Today we made the short drive north out of the city, climbing straight up into the fragrant pine and Holm Oak forests of the Montes de Málaga Natural Park. We began our morning's birding at the Mirador de Contadores, and took a peaceful stroll beneath the canopy. A family of Spotted Flycatchers entertained us by flitting between the branches, while the fluid, melancholic song of a Woodlark drifted down from above. The forest was alive with activity, yielding fantastic close encounters with Firecrests, Western Bonelli's Warblers, and Crested and Coal Tits. As the air warmed, raptors began rising from their roosts. We watched a pair of Short-toed Snake Eagles engaging in a dramatic aerial display over a distant ridge, followed closely by a soaring Golden Eagle, a Booted Eagle, and a Eurasian Sparrowhawk which zipped low through the trees.

We moved to the historic Lagar de Torrijos for lunch, where sunny woodland glades proved excellent for tracking down butterflies. We recorded beautiful Marsh Fritillaries, brilliant yellow Cleopatras, Red Admirals, and migratory Painted Ladies, while also finding delicate Early Marsh Orchids growing along the damp paths.

After dropping back down into the city for a brief rest, we met with our energetic local cultural guide, Cristina. She took the group on a fascinating tour of the Alcazaba, a spectacular Moorish fortress rich in multi-layered history, complete with lush gardens, historic courtyards, and tranquil water features.

For dinner, we shifted the culinary pace by heading to *Kraken*, a contemporary tapas bar specializing in traditional Andalusian ingredients with an inventive, modern twist. The group selected a variety of vibrant small plates from the extensive menu, including fried black cod with *allioli* and *jalapeños*, rolled lamb with beetroot yoghurt cream, and slow-cooked Iberian pork cheek.

Day 4

Thursday 14th May

Another beautiful, clear spring morning dawned, and we headed inland to El Torcal de Antequera, a spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its surreal karst limestone formations situated at some 1200m. We made our first stop in a stark, dramatic valley surrounded by characteristic "pancake-stack" rock towers. Hardy mountain flowers pushed out from every crevice, and the limestone pavement was dotted with Spanish Hawthorn and wild Dog Rose.

Almost immediately, we obtained absolutely spectacular views of both male and female Black-eared Wheatears, which flitted incredibly close to our group. A Melodious Warbler sang from a lone bush, snatches of the distinctive songs of Western Orphean and Western Subalpine Warblers echoed from the scrub, and a striking Blue Rock Thrush perched proudly on a jagged pinnacle. All around us, Black Redstarts delivered their unique, electric-sounding songs from the crags. As Griffon Vultures began to soar overhead, we were visited briefly by a migrating female Honey Buzzard, while a glance at a nearby ridge revealed four magnificent Spanish Ibexes resting on the skyline.

Next, we headed up to the visitor centre for a refreshing coffee and to take in the breathtaking views from the cliff-edge viewpoint. Here, the local Rock Buntings and Black Redstarts hopped around our feet, supplementing their wild diet with stray cake crumbs. We dropped down the mountain slightly for our picnic lunch, eating directly beneath the towering cliffs where the morning's vultures made their home. We peered through the scopes to view a large, fluffy vulture chick sitting on its nest ledge, while the parents soared constantly over our heads. Our picnic was a feast of fresh market produce, featuring freshly baked bread, traditional Spanish *tortilla de patatas*, two award-winning regional cheeses, local wines, and an exceptional artisan cake.

The afternoon was spent back in Málaga, allowing the group ample free time to wander through the historic alleyways and shops at their leisure. In the evening, we gathered in the vibrant Plaza de la Merced for a superb meal at *Cañadú*, a gorgeous vegetarian pavement restaurant nestled beneath the vigorously flowering purple Jacaranda trees. The team looked after us wonderfully, serving a series of delicious shared platters which included smoky red pepper hummus, homemade apple, pinenut, mushroom, and spinach croquettes, and a highly praised platter of savoury treats with couscous.

Day 5

Friday 15th May

Today was an "independence day" for the group, offering a wonderful opportunity to branch out on individual adventures, or to relax at a personal pace. In the morning, many of the group visited the historical botanic garden of *La Concepción* just north of the city. This tranquil haven of shady greenery features over three thousand tropical and subtropical plant species, set within an exotic woodland landscape. Wandering along the paths, the group successfully located a wealth of resident birds, including Serins, Spotted Flycatchers, Short-toed Treecreepers, Coal Tits, Firecrests and Sardinian Warblers. For the very persistent, a beautiful male Golden Oriole flashed through the canopy, while Black Kites and Buzzards sailed across the open sky.

Back in the city, everyone was free to forage for their own lunch among Málaga's exceptional culinary hotspots, with many sampling local street food at the bustling Atarazanas Market. Later in the afternoon, we regrouped to

explore the fascinating Picasso Museum Málaga. The artist's complex and thought-provoking works were displayed in chronological order, allowing us to trace the incredible growth and evolution of his characteristic style.

In the evening, we reconvened at the hotel's premier restaurant, *Matiz*, for a truly spectacular dining experience: a meticulous, twelve-course, modern Spanish tasting menu. Each beautifully presented course was perfectly paired with a selection of fine regional wines, showcasing modern Andalusian gastronomy at its absolute finest.

Day 6

Saturday 16th May

Our morning began at the Guadalhorce River Estuary Nature Reserve. This impressive block of protected coastal wetlands is located right beside the airport, just fifteen minutes from our hotel. Walking out through the sandy, scrubby habitats and salt-marsh vegetation, we explored a series of well-positioned hides.

The freshwater pools were teeming with life. We recorded Red-crested and Common Pochards, White-headed Ducks, Black-necked Grebes, Greater Flamingoes and Glossy Ibises. A highlight came with views of no fewer than eleven rare Marbled Ducks feeding together. Waders were equally well-represented, with Black-winged Stilts, Avocets, Common Ringed and Kentish Plovers, and a handful of Sanderlings patrolling the mudflats.

Among the gulls, twenty elegant Slender-billed Gulls put on a fine show, alongside Gull-billed, Sandwich and Little Terns. A Kingfisher added a brilliant flash of azure blue, we enjoyed a thrillingly low encounter with a hunting Booted Eagle, and we secured our very first views of the striking, citrus-coloured Iberian Yellow Wagtails of the trip.

After a delicious, fresh lunch of gourmet *quesadillas* and Axarquía salad at the local favourite *Café Veroda*, we returned to the historic centre. Here, the enthusiastic Cristina met us once again for an insightful cultural tour of Málaga's unique cathedral, affectionately known as *La Manquita* ("The One-Armed Lady"), due to its famously unbuilt second tower and several other unfinished architectural adornments.

For our evening meal, we escaped the Saturday bustle of Málaga centre for the more localised bustle of *El Tintero chiringuito* on the eastern waterfront, another true Málaga institution, where tourist voices are seldom heard among the hubbub, as the energetic waiting staff call every order out for auction. We enjoyed a delicious meal of extremely fresh seafood, while hundreds of Scopoli's Shearwaters drifted past far out to sea.

Day 7

Sunday 17th May

We determined to end the birding week on a high, and headed north to the spectacular El Chorro Gorge. This deep, breathtaking gash in the limestone cliffs is home to a marvellous array of mountain birds. Peering down into the sheer abyss from a convenient bridge, we enjoyed sensational eye-level flybys from Alpine Swifts and Crag Martins. The rugged rock faces also gave us sought-after views of Rock Sparrows and Black Wheatears, as well as Blue Rock Thrushes and Rock Buntings, while Short-toed Snake Eagles and Booted Eagles hung in the thermals overhead.

In the surrounding pasturelands and olive groves, Woodchat Shrikes, Hoopoes, Little Owls and Bee-eaters abounded, and we were thrilled to spot several Turtle Doves purring contentedly from exposed bushes. As the day

grew warmer, we descended from the gorge to the nearby Laguna Dulce, on the outskirts of Campillos. In the pleasant, shady picnic area, we enjoyed our final field lunch together, before heading into the main hide. The lagoon saved its best for last: we were treated to absolutely superb, eye-popping views of many Black-necked Grebes swimming really close to the hide windows. We also added Great Crested Grebe and Marsh Harrier to our list, alongside further outstanding views of a hunting Montagu's Harrier.

Back in Málaga, there was time to prepare and scrub up for our final dinner, where we celebrated our trip at *La Malagueña* with *cava*, *paella*, and stunning views of the evening swift chorus around the cathedral opposite.

Day 8

Monday 18th May

The group had a free morning to enjoy beautiful Málaga and to shop for delicacies and souvenirs, before being escorted in a timely fashion to the airport to say our goodbyes: this had been a truly unique and thoroughly enjoyable cast of travelling companions!

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

I = introduced		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>						4	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		1				2	1
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		1				6	1
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>		1					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		6			2	2	4
Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>		3				11	
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		4				10	3
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		8				15	✓
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>							1
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>		11				7	1
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				1	1	2	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		1					20
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>		1					
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		4					7
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		10				4	1
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		20				30	✓
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		4				✓	✓
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>							8
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		6				4	✓
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		10k				12	20
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicanus</i>		1					
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		15				15	2
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		20				10	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		1				10	
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>							3
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>		1				6	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1				✓	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						2	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>						1	
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>						7	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		2				2	1
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>						6	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>						3	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>		12				20	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		1				2	3
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scopoli's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>						2	
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>						100	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		5					
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						2	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		6				4	8
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						2	3

I = introduced		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>						6	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>						2	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		3					
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		7		1			
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		4		12			20
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			7	1			1
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>			1	1		1	1
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			1				
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1				
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		1					5
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		1					2
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					1		
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		1			1		
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>							2
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				1			2
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						1	
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		1					4
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓				
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>						1	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	2		1		1	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1			
Monk Parakeet - I	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rose-ringed Parakeet - I	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>					1		
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>					3		
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>				1			2
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>						2	1
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>				1			4
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓				✓	2
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		1	1				
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>			✓		✓		
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			4				
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓	1	✓	2	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		1	✓	1	✓	4	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			2				
Thekla's Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>				8			
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓				✓	✓
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>		30					
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		1					
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>							4
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>		2			2	4	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		1				2	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			4		✓		
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			10				
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			1		1		
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		5				✓	
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		3	1	2		3	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		1				8	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			✓		✓	3	
Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca hortensis</i>				1			

I = introduced		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>				1			
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			6		✓		
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			1	2	✓		
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			2				
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			6		✓	1	
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			2				
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		1	8		✓	4	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			✓		✓		
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		2		1		2	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				6			
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				1			3
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		3		3		✓	3
Western Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>				3			
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>							2
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>							4
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				✓			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>						2	1
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>						1	1
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓	4	✓	✓	✓
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		2	✓	4	✓	✓	✓
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			1				
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				4			1
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>			1				

Mammals

		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓				✓	✓
Iberian Ibex	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>			10				9

Amphibians & reptiles

		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Moroccan Toad	<i>Sclerophrys mauritanica</i>		✓					
Iberian Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax perezi</i>			✓			✓	✓
Large Psammodromus	<i>Psammodromus algirus</i>			✓				
Spanish Psammodromus	<i>Psammodromus hispanicus</i>			✓			✓	
Spanish Terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>		✓			✓	✓	

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>			✓		✓		
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>				✓	✓	✓	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓				
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>					✓		
Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>					✓		
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>			✓				
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>			✓				
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>			✓				
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>					✓	✓	
Spanish Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>			✓				

Moths

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>			✓				
Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>							✓

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>			✓				
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>							✓
Vagrant Emperor	<i>Anax ephippiger</i>						✓	
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>		✓				✓	✓
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>							✓

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Egyptian Locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>						✓	
Violet Ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>							✓
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>			✓				

Selected plants

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026						
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Rock Toadflax	<i>Linaria antecaria</i>				✓			
Early Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>			✓				
Sawfly Orchid	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>				✓			
Sombre Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys fusca</i>				✓			