

Provence in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

21st – 28th April 2022



Wild Tulip by Joy & John Rowley



Swallowtail by Paul Swann



Crossbills feeding young by Neil McMahon



Naturetrek picnic by Joy & John Rowley

Tour report by Neil McMahon and Bruce Middleton



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Summary

Our last trip to Provence was pre-pandemic in April 2019, so with three years elapsing we wondered what may have changed in that time. Actually very little! Our first day was all about heading to the very traditional and historic town of Sault and to our regular accommodation Hotel Le Louvre. This hotel was considered by the occupying Germans in the second world war to be the base for the local resistance - and the historic records indicate that the invaders endured a tough time! However, there was no repelling of ardent Naturetrekkers and we were made to feel very welcome during our four night stay there. En-route we had made a start on the impressive list of over 280 plants and flowers recorded during our time in south France and the best of the birds included Little Bustards and vocal Short-toed Eagles as they migrated over us.

The next couple of days saw us exploring the high area of Mount Serein with its Citril Finches and Black Woodpeckers, the beautiful village of Brantes and the much closer Gorges de la Nesque. A day out to St May was special for a variety of flowering orchids and of course the wonderful vultures with close views of Griffon and Cinereous (Black) but also Egyptian and a Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) with its nine-foot wing-span. Our night drives yielded plenty of sightings of Brown Hares, Red Foxes and Roe Deer and we also encountered a couple of Badgers and heard plenty of Scop's Owls. Singing Western Bonelli's Warblers and plenty of Common and Black Redstarts were daily encounters around the town and neighbouring oak woodlands. One morning we came across a Brown Hare that had become entangled in an electric fence but managed to successfully free the traumatised animal.

Our second part of the trip was based just outside the historic town of Arles and en-route we visited the commune of Les Baux-de-Provence within the Les Alpilles National Park. Officially one of the most beautiful villages in France, this medieval settlement is encompassed within a limestone-based fortification with commanding views over the lands to the south. The song-fighting Blue Rock Thrushes certainly enjoy the views and we enjoyed pottering around the path around the base and the walk through the village to the ramparts above (with a few ice creams sampled along the way)!

The itinerary permitted us two whole days in and around the Camargue and we enjoyed visitations to the stony plain of La Crau and the freshwater marsh reserve of Marais du Vigueirat. The latter site provided us with close views of Ferruginous Duck, Garganey, Squacco Herons and of course the Camargue White Horses! Our second day took us to a Mas d'Agon and the giant saltwater lagoon of Etang de Vaccares where we notched up delights such as Great Spotted Cuckoo, Caspian Tern, Slender-billed Gull and plenty of the Camargue Black Bulls, some of them grazing out on the saltmarsh. Our last afternoon at Parc Ornithologique is always an amazing flamingo experience with hundreds of birds at extreme close range plus many other waterbirds also showing very closely such as Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Glossy Ibis and a host of heron species. We managed views of the cute Coypus, a Ladder Snake and the impossibly green and turquoise Western Green Lizards. Yet again Provence in Spring proved to be both bountiful and beautiful.

Day 1

Thursday 21st April

As a group we gathered at Terminal 3, Heathrow Airport and flew out on time to Marseilles courtesy of British Airways. Marseilles Airport seemed relatively quiet (our aircraft was probably less than half full) and we quickly moved through passport control and baggage reclaim with no fuss. Bruce and Neil went to obtain two hire vehicles from Enterprise (a Renault Traffic minibus and Renault Clio car) and we purchased some take-out lunch for later in the day. The weather was cloudy but with virtually no wind and it felt warm. Yellow-legged Gull, feral pigeon, Collared Dove and House Sparrow were the first birds encountered. Driving north out of Marseilles common birds included Woodpigeon, Starling, Kestrel and Black Kites and a large lagoon held Cormorant and distant Greater Flamingo.

We navigated our way to Aerodrome de Berre, La Fare which initially seemed quiet with just some Magpies and more flyover Yellow-legged Gulls. We moved over to the far side and began to see more – Swallowtail butterfly, Wall Brown and a few orchids which had gone over. A Hoopoe could be heard calling but was never seen. Two flocks of fast-flying, white-winged birds flew past us and joined together before departing – Little Bustards! We also witnessed a big arrival of Common Swift and raptors overhead included several Black Kite and three migrating Short-toed Eagles – they even called to each other whilst directly over us. Two Tawny Pipits gave only poor views, a Crested Lark could be heard and singing individuals of Serin and Sardinian Warbler also remained hidden. We ate our lunch on the hoof here and then took a slow drive to Sault, the two vehicles becoming separated in the process!

A couple of roadside stops provided some gaudy insects in the shape of Cleopatra and Provence (Moroccan) Orange-tipped butterflies and some of the beautiful yellow and black Owl Flies. Birds included Raven, Alpine Swift, Common Buzzard and the first of many Black Redstarts. As we steered up the sloping road into the historical town of Sault a Griffon Vulture could be seen cruising around. We checked in at Le Louvre Hotel at about 5.30pm and were later treated to a white wine/chestnut liqueur and hot nibbles as a welcome by the new proprietors, Christel and Guillaume.

Our evening meal at 7.30pm consisted of pumpkin soup, chicken and rice and tiramisu which we all enjoyed. Following a bit of a briefing session the majority of the party retired for the night after a long day of travelling. A night drive after a period of heavy showers provided plenty of huge Common Toads, vocal frogs, a calling Scops Owl and three Roe Deer.

Day 2

Friday 22nd April

Our first full day in Provence began cloudy and rather still and then became warm and sunny. Our optional 6.30am morning walk from the hotel took us a little way north out of the town. Plenty of singing birds initially remained hidden in grey, cool conditions but became easier to see by the time we had returned to Le Louvre at 7.45am. We saw a Roe Deer cross the road, admired the wonderful big Roman Snails and listened to some of the best songsters in Europe with singing singles of Nightingale, Skylark, Woodlark and many Blackcaps. Other birds included Nuthatch, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Jays, Cirl Bunting and Short-toed Treecreeper.

We had a continental-style breakfast buffet at 8am with freshly squeezed oranges, lovely croissants and locally produced jams and honey plus natural yogurt, cereals and cold meats and cheese.

The local convenience store opposite provided for our picnic rations and at about 9.30am we drove away from Sault on a Provence adventure!

As is usual at this time of year it isn't possible to drive over the summit of Mount Ventoux so in order to visit Mount Serein and the mountain road on the western side of Mount Ventoux we made a fairly slow, steady drive around on the minor roads. After about an hour we took a roadside stop which provided some botanical interest and some birds too. A raptor came into view and proved to be a fine, adult male Goshawk and unusually for this species, it remained in view for a good few minutes before disappearing behind a line of conifers. Three vocal Bee-eaters were unexpected but remained distant as they bounded away. Black Redstart, Sardinian Warbler, Woodlark and plenty of Woodpigeons were also on show. We resumed our journey, passing through the town of Malaucène with its traditional oriental plane tree avenues and began the ascent to Mont Serein. This area is very popular with cyclists and there were many also ascending with ardent pedal power. A roadside stop provided White Rock Rose and some singing birds in the shape of Song and Mistle Thrush, Firecrest, Crested Tits and an elusive Western Subalpine Warbler.

Moving further up we arrived at the grassy slopes and conifers of Mont Serein. We took a slow hour long walk and found primroses and Stinking Hellebore amongst other emerging plants. A pair of Black Woodpeckers showed briefly and we quickly located Citril Finches but it took some time before we had all obtained good views. Black Redstarts, Serins, Dunnocks, Firecrest and Coal Tits all showed well and we enjoyed watching Wall Lizards basking in the intermittent sunshine. It was time for a traditional Naturetrek picnic, so we found some benches a little further down the road and tucked in with calling Firecrests, Nuthatches and Crossbills around us.

After our lunch, we drove from Mount Serein down the mountain to the sleepy hamlet of Brantes, a stunningly attractive little village with quaint paths around the houses and plenty of vegetation and plants to attract a multitude of insects in the warm afternoon sunshine. Violaceous Carpenter Bees, Egyptian Grasshoppers and Humming-bird Hawk-moth were seen and butterflies included Red Admiral, Holly Blue, Baton Blue and Cleopatra. Bruce was especially busy identifying a large variety of flowering plants and the birds included Common and Black Redstarts and Blackcaps. A Western Green Lizard disappeared before the majority of the party could see it.

After a genteel potter around the village slopes, we took our leave and drove slowly back to Sault and in doing so we had completed a circular route right round Mount Ventoux. We stopped in a roadside ravine to watch Crag Martins overhead and a perched Short-toed Eagle. We arrived back at Le Louvre for about 6.20pm and enjoyed our evening meal at 7.30pm. Following the completion of the checklist it was time for a short night drive in the minibus, but it was generally quiet apart from a couple of Scop's Owls heard calling.

Day 3

Saturday 23rd April

The weather forecast had always indicated that this was likely to be a difficult day for us with breezy conditions, showers and then steady rain. It was certainly breezy and cloudy on our early morning walk through Sault and to the outskirts of this traditional community. Common and Black Redstarts were still singing and provided us with occasional views. A calling Cuckoo and Short-toed Treecreeper remained hidden so we made do with more common sights ahead of breakfast. We topped up our picnic supplies and artisan bakery produce and left Sault at about 9.30am with the intention of checking out the stony fields and the valley bottom before striking out on a walk along the rustic Gorge de Nesque.

The most obvious birds in and around the fields were a few each of Skylark and Corn Bunting and we had rather poor views of both Meadow and Tawny Pipit too. Stonechat and White Wagtails were seen in the same habitat and we were quite surprised to see a couple of Griffon Vultures lumbering over nearby hills. Unfortunately it wasn't a day for butterflies as the first of the showers found us. We noticed that one of the netted fences around a field had folded over and we realized that a Brown Hare was ensnared within it. It wasn't until we touched the hare and fence that we realized that it was an electric fence, so we redoubled our efforts to free the poor animal. Suffering with stress and some superficial injuries and with a very rapid heartbeat, we succeeded in releasing it and when we returned some twenty minutes later there was no sign of it, so we hoped it had made a full recovery.

One of the plants we hoped to see in this area was Southern Wild Tulip and we found quite a few although they were not in the best condition.

We continued next to the lake and car park at Gorge de Nesque, but not before we made another roadside stop to appreciate verge-side plants and 'agricultural weeds'. The lake held Moorhen, Coot, a Common Sandpiper and a Great Reed Warbler called briefly but wasn't seen. Coruna (Iberian Water) Frogs were active in the shallows. We took a trundle alongside the attractive stream and walked up along a stony path as part of the gorge walk. Firecrests and Western Bonelli's Warbler were vocal and occasionally showed nicely and we found some very young Fire Salamanders at an early stage of their development in a permanent area of water beside the track. Quite a variety of flowering plants were located on our walk but sadly no hoped-for orchids. Several more Griffon Vultures and Short-toed Eagles and some Common Buzzards and Kestrels were the total of the local raptors, a hunting Peregrine went over the gorge but wasn't seen by the majority of the party. A Green Woodpecker could be heard yaffling and we saw a Great Spotted Woodpecker too. After our walk we attempted a picnic from the minivan as the showers had developed into something a little heavier. We just about made it happen, but with hindsight it might have been easier to have found somewhere with shelter!!

After our rather late lunch, we braved a drive to the scenic overview at Roches du Cire but by this time it was raining heavily, so we returned to the hotel for a reprieve. This provided an opportunity for a wet walk around the shops at Sault, a catch up on sleep and all the other things you do when it is raining.

We enjoyed our evening meal and as predicted the rain stopped and there was an opportunity for a night drive. Scop's Owls were again audible but we didn't see any, but night mammals included some Brown Hares, a Badger and a Roe Deer with plenty of the very large local toads were on the move too.

Day 4

Sunday 24th April

With some better weather forecast, we timetabled this as our venture north to the area around St May, a beautiful area of escarpments and a gorge with plenty of wildlife and an area where conservationists have been working to introduce and enhance the habitat for vultures.

Our first mini-expedition of the day was our one-hour pre-breakfast walk with a Red Fox and a Roe Deer seen and quite a variety of birds including Cirl Bunting, Corn Bunting, Cuckoo, Sparrowhawk and Firecrest. Then there was time for breakfast, stocking up on more picnic supplies and fresh bread before we set off just after 9.20am.

The journey is traditionally slow as we navigate along narrow roads through the growing areas for fruit, lavender and wine. The landscape is beautiful and I think everyone enjoyed the limestone buttresses, terraces and escarpments and small fields and tiny villages of this area of Provence. A Wryneck flew across the road in front of the lead vehicle but immediately disappeared. A second did much the same thing a little later, but at least showed long enough for at least some people to get a good view. We took a comfort break and coffee in the village of St Jalle; happily the café was open despite it being a Sunday. From the open-air seating area, we finally enjoyed sustained views of a singing Common Redstart with close Black Kites, White and Grey Wagtails and several common finches. A Willow Warbler sang from a bush in the courtyard too. We tore ourselves away from this lovely setting and continued further north. By the time we reached St May there were quite a few Griffon Vultures in the air. Climbing up the narrow track in our vehicles, a Wryneck flew close to where we were about to park. This bird obligingly flew and sang for quite some time, causing another to respond from not far away. However, neither of them wanted to be particularly showy! At the same time a 'kettle' of vultures on a nearby ridge revealed all four possible species – Griffon, Cinereous (Black), Bearded (Lammergeier) and Egyptian but only the Griffons in any numbers. We watched as they circled up providing an excellent opportunity to compare them in flight side by side. Another distraction was the discovery of orchids – very fetching examples of Man Orchid and Small Spider Orchid. After parking the minibuses in a car park further up the track we walked the rest of the track to its end – at a large wooden cross on top of a ridge which afforded quite amazing scenic views. With some sunshine we began to see some butterflies including Black-eyed Blue, but it still wasn't sunny enough to bring forth a multitude. The birds here included Woodlark and Skylark singing at the same time, Northern Wheatear, Western Subalpine Warbler and Western Bonelli's Warbler. More overhead raptors included Sparrowhawk, Short-toed Eagle and Black Kite. Each year we come here and sadly a little more scrub and undisturbed grassland is ploughed up and lavender beds set.

After a very pleasant dawdle with the shadows of Griffon Vultures dancing past us regularly, it was time for an infamous Naturetrek picnic. No skulking in the minibus this time, we took charge of a table – much to the delight of a local dog! Because he was well mannered and polite, he succeeded in sampling some tasty snacks!

With a two-hour journey back to Sault, we packed up our things, enjoyed some more ground-hugging flora and slowly threaded our way back through this beautiful area of France. We arrived back at Le Louvre at about 6pm with an opportunity to recover and freshen up ahead of our checklists and evening meal.

Our night drive and excursion around the courtyard yielded brief views of one Scop's Owl and we heard three others. For the second night running we saw a Badger on our drive and also three Red Fox and four Roe Deer.

Day 5

Monday 25th April

Our last morning walk in Sault prior to breakfast saw us take the lower of the two roads north out of the town. Initially it seemed quiet until a Red Squirrel crossed the road, posed briefly and then it was off; the only one of the tour. We could hear a variety of species without seeing much, but it did include Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Western Bonelli's Warblers trilled from the small oaks but on the way back the far more melodic trill and call of a Wood Warbler could also be heard. We tracked this migrant down and he showed well. There was also a singing Willow Warbler and Long-tailed Tits and Nuthatches on view as we walked back to the hotel for the last bit of packing before breakfast. This was change-over day when we left Sault and travelled south to the Camargue to explore the surrounding area.

So after breakfast, we packed the vehicles and said good-bye and thank-you to Christel and Guillaume and headed gently south-west. We made a roadside stop again just before Roches du Cire which provided a lovely view of an adult Egyptian Vulture and we scanned the massive buttresses of rock on the other side of the gorge where small flocks of Alpine Swifts were whizzing around at great speed. The much warmer and sunnier weather were already bringing out the butterflies and other insects. We retraced our steps slightly, spotting Short-toed Eagle as we did so, and then made a stop in a little meadow which held several interesting plants, some butterflies and an unidentified green frog!!

Moving on, our next stop was at an unlikely looking crossroads with broad verges. Here there was an assortment of flowering plants and insects including more of the yellow and black owl flies and butterflies here included Scarce Swallowtail, Orange-tip and Moroccan Orange-tip and the very special Cleopatra. The warmer conditions had permitted high-up Griffon Vultures to stray from their hilly haunts.

We continued our journey towards and through Ste du Maire and stopped for a picnic lunch in coniferous woodland where there were still a couple of picnic benches available to us. The quality of the lunch was further enhanced by the wildlife on offer which included a pair of Crossbills feeding three recently fledged juveniles at close range, almost above where we were feasting. Butterflies were whizzing around here too including more lovely Swallowtails.

After lunch we moved on to the medieval town of Les Baux, sat atop a crown of limestone rock and after parking we took a clockwise walk around the base of the cliffs and then climbed up into the village itself. Here the flora had changed to tough Mediterranean shrubs and plants with plenty of Kermes Oak dominating. Birds shouting from the vegetation included plenty of Sardinian Warblers, but it wasn't that

easy to see one properly! Jackdaws and feral Rock Doves were breeding on the honey-combed cliffs and a Blue Rock Thrush sang and showed itself to some of the party. We climbed up into the village and it was busy with tourists. After a coffee and/or ice cream there was a little time for browsing in the shops and a walk around the upper ramparts with its wonderful views and medieval siege machines. There were perhaps too many people about for the wildlife, but Serin and Black Redstart provided nice views and a couple of song-fighting Blue Rock Thrushes posed beautifully on our way back to the vehicles.

We took our leave of Les Baux and drove the relatively short distance to Hotel des Granges just outside Arles, seeing a Marsh Harrier, egrets and herons and a Little Owl en-route. We arrived about 5.30pm and had time for room allocation, some relaxation and even a dip in the pool before dinner.

Following our meal, we completed our checklists and had a short briefing on the plans for the days ahead. For those with the energy, a rather short night drive provided two Brown Hares and as many as five Red Foxes active during the dark hours.

Day 6

Tuesday 26th April

The weather for the next two days was warm, sometimes cloudy, but with some sunshine – very pleasant indeed.

We took an early morning walk down the farm track alongside the hotel and wandered as far as the junction with a large canal. Mediterranean Gulls were in mobile flocks, descending onto the fields to feed on insects and then moving on to the next. Many were pristine summer-plumage adults and were very noisy. Crested Larks sang above our heads, and we saw our first Rabbits of the trip. Red-legged Partridge, a calling Quail, Black Kite, Marsh Harrier, Gull-billed Tern, Zitting Cisticola and Nightingale were the best of the rest.

After breakfast, Angela and Mark elected to spend the morning in Arles and the rest of us headed out towards the stony plain of La Crau. Around the village of Dynamite there are some lovely hay fields and areas of non-intensive agriculture mixed in with scrub and broken woodland. We saw a Hoopoe here and our first White Storks plus Cattle Egrets. A Whinchat sat atop a bush but it was quite distant and there were a few distant waterfowl and Common Terns over a fresh water etang. Rooks joined Jackdaws in the fields and at the stony plain itself we disembarked and took a wander. The stream here attracted Banded and Copper Demoiselles and Bath White butterflies were quite numerous. Short-toed Larks were singing along the first section of the track as we walked from the car park, with their Skylark cousins singing from the other side of the track. A flock of migrant Yellow Wagtails remained distant and we heard rather than saw Tawny Pipit – the heat haze not helping to identify more distant birds.

We then moved on to the southern section of La Crau – Lesser Kestrel were hunting along the busy road that intersects this unusual habitat but it wasn't possible to stop for sustained views. However, a walk provided better views plus Roller and a couple of Stone Curlew.

In the meantime, Angela and Mark were picked up from Arles and we all went to the excellent reserve of Marais du Vigueirat. We checked along the entrance track to the reserve but the breeding Bee-eaters were

yet to return. At the car park there are some benches so we had a picnic! Salads, cheeses, cold meats, locally baked bread, wine, fruit juices and much, much more were consumed with relish, all the time with great birds flying overhead including Hobby, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis and Short-toed Eagle.

After our meal we paid our entrance fee and went for a walk around the circuit of managed shallow pools, fragmented reedbed and woodland scrub. This is a good spot for herons, and we quickly saw Grey and Purple Heron, Little and Great White Egrets and a few of the scarcer Squacco Herons. From one of the hides we were extremely lucky to see Garganey, Ferruginous Duck, Greater Flamingo, Kingfisher, Red-crested Pochard and Marsh Harrier. Coypu were busy in the water too – this introduced American rodent is very cute and photogenic.

We came across a small herd of Camargue White Horses which are utilized on the reserve to manage vegetation and keep some areas open. A Western Green Lizard posed nicely on the boardwalk and odonata included Black-tailed Skimmer and Blue-tailed Damselfly. Butterflies included Speckled Wood, Wall Brown and Swallowtail. A few each of Common and Gull-billed Terns flew around and Wood Sandpipers were the most noticeable waders here with a Curlew flying in and bathing towards the end of our walk. The second hide provided further views of Kingfisher, Squacco and Purple Herons and more Coypu. Three Rollers posed beautifully alongside the track as we exited the reserve.

After an enjoyable time at Marais du Vigueirat we took a slow drive back to the Hotel de Granges, affording sufficient time to refresh ahead of our evening meal and checklist.

Our last night drive of the tour travelling around the country lanes provided views of Brown Hare and four Red Foxes but little else.

Day 7

Wednesday 27th April

Our last full day of the tour and the pre-breakfast walk started well with the discovery of three Stone Curlews in the ploughed field next to the hotel. Red-legged Partridge, a Northern Wheatear and Crested Larks were all in the same field. Again, calling Mediterranean Gulls were gleaning the fields and the Quail was calling, well hidden in a barley field. We also saw Sparrowhawk, Black Kite, Black Redstart, Roller and Zitting Cisticola.

After breakfast and with most of our picnic supplies in hand from the day before, we popped into the supermarket for some fresh bread and drove around Arles to check the area known as Mas D'Agon. Lots of Camargue Black (and Brown) Bulls are bred here and more White Horses too. We saw a few Tree Sparrows briefly, but they are quicker and more elusive than their House Sparrow relatives. Singing larks were Skylarks and Crested Larks and Zitting Cisticolas zitted along the road verges and over the fields. There were some tantalizing calls of distant Bee-eaters but we didn't see them. Short-toed Eagles were hunting at some distance with their distinctive hovering. The usually vibrant freshwater étang was mostly dry but we still saw some Coypus and a bonus bird was a Great Spotted Cuckoo flying out of some roadside bushes. Five Bearded Tits showed briefly, and we heard Reed and Great Reed Warblers and Cetti's Warblers

broke cover a couple of times. A single Turtle Dove looked a little sad, perched alone up in a tree – very much a forlorn picture of the current status of this declining species.

We moved off to Etang du Vaccares where we connected with fishing Caspian Terns and Slender-billed Gulls and small numbers of Greater Flamingos. Waders included Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Greenshank, Spotted Redshank, Curlew and a single Kentish Plover.

We exploited a shady corner at the small car park at Centre de la Capeliere for our last tour picnic with orders that all must be consumed! Actually we did rather well and there was little that went to waste. A Melodious Warbler was singing here and some unidentified bats were hiding behind a wall-mounted notice board and we enjoyed some close views of nesting White Storks.

Our last venue of the day was the Parc Ornithologique which provides a birdwatchers banquet of very close Greater Flamingos in their hundreds and an excellent array of other water birds typical of the Camargue. A vibrant and noisy heronry contained good numbers of Grey Herons, Little Egrets and Cattle Egrets but with a few pairs of Black-crowned Night Heron and Glossy Ibis too. White Storks were close as were breeding Avocets and the fabulous Black-winged Stilts. Common Terns, Little Terns, Black-headed, Mediterranean and Yellow-legged Gulls all added to the clamour! We took a wander around seeing plenty of Coypus and a posing Western Green Lizard. Less habituated birds included Garganey, Marsh Harrier and the incongruous Western Swamphen.

After our 'pink fix' of flamingos and the supporting cast we drove back to the hotel in time to refresh and pack and enjoy our last evening meal together. The guides cleaned the vehicles and we found time to chat through our tour of Provence and a little taste of the Camargue. Late night viewings around the hotel included observations of Moorish Gecko, Stripeless Tree Frog and a Ladder Snake.

Day 8

Thursday 28th April

Our last day was all about travel and we said goodbye and thank you to Christine and Pascal at about 7.35am after an early breakfast and drove to Marseilles Airport and our respective onward journeys, with the majority returning to Heathrow courtesy of BA.

Bruce and the guests particularly studying botany had amassed an excellent list of flora with many of the highlights found on the earlier part of the tour. The number of butterflies was disappointing and much reliant on local weather conditions which in general were not conducive to Lepidoptera. The birds didn't disappoint though and for those with an appetite for the birds of the Mediterranean region and Southern Europe we managed to achieve a good list. We tried to exploit every opportunity with early morning forays, night drives and of course we factored in the provision of delicious local produce for the famous Naturetrek picnics wherever we could!

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only, I = Introduced)

| Common name | Scientific name | April 2022 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|----|
| | | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Mute Swan | <i>Cygnus olor</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Common Shelduck | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | | | | | | 3 | ✓ | |
| Garganey | <i>Spatula querquedula</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Gadwall | <i>Mareca strepera</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Teal | <i>Anas crecca</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Tufted Duck | <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Ferruginous Duck | <i>Aythya nyoca</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Red-crested Pochard | <i>Netta rufina</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Red-legged Partridge | <i>Alectoris rufa</i> | | | H | | | 4 | H | |
| Common Quail | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | | | | | | H | ✓ | |
| Common Pheasant - I | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> | | H | | | | H | ✓ | |
| Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | | | | | | 2 | ✓ | |
| Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Greater Flamingo | <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> | ✓ | | | | | 3 | 000s | |
| White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Little Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Glossy Ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Squacco Heron | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Western Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | | | | | 20 | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |

| Common name | Scientific name | April 2022 | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----|----|----|----|------|------|----|
| | | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Great Egret | <i>Ardea alba</i> | | | | | | 6 | | |
| Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | 2 | | | | | 2 | | |
| Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) | <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Egyptian Vulture | <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> | | | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Griffon Vulture | <i>Gyps fulvus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | 5 | 50 | 15 | | | |
| Cinereous Vulture | <i>Aegypius monachus</i> | | | | 2 | | | | |
| Short-toed Snake Eagle | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | | | | 2 | | | ✓ | |
| Northern Goshawk | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Western Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | 50 | | | 3 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Water Rail | <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> | | | | | | H | | |
| Little Bustard | <i>Tetrax tetrax</i> | 12 | | | | | | | |
| Common Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | | | 2 | | | ✓ | | |
| Eurasian Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| Western Swamp Hen | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Stone-curlew | <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i> | | | | | | 2 | 3 | |
| Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Pied Avocet | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Northern Lapwing | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Kentish Plover | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Curlew | <i>Numenius arquata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | 3 | |
| Ruff | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> | | | | | | | 3 | |
| Common Snipe | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | | | ✓ | | | | H | |
| Wood Sandpiper | <i>Tringa glareola</i> | | | | | | 20 | | |
| Spotted Redshank | <i>Tringa erythropus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Common Greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Slender-billed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Black-headed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| Mediterranean Gull | <i>Ichthyophaga melanocephala</i> | | | ✓ | | | 100s | 100s | |
| Yellow-legged Gull | <i>Larus michahellis</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Caspian Tern | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> | | | | | | | 3 | |
| Gull-billed Tern | <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> | | | ✓ | | | | 5 | |
| Little Tern | <i>Sterna albifrons</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |

| Common name | Scientific name | April 2022 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Common Tern | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Rock Dove | <i>Columba livia</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| Stock Dove | <i>Columba oenas</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Common Wood Pigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| European Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Great Spotted Cuckoo | <i>Clamator glandarius</i> | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Common Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | H | H | H | 1 | H | H | 3 | |
| Eurasian Scops Owl | <i>Otus scops</i> | H | H | H | 1 | H | | | |
| Little Owl | <i>Athene noctua</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Alpine Swift | <i>Tachymartus melba</i> | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Common Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| European Roller | <i>Coracias garrulus</i> | | | | | | 8 | 4 | |
| Common Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | | | | | | 1 | H | |
| European Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | | 3 | | | | | | |
| Eurasian Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | H | H | | | H | 1 | | |
| Eurasian Wryneck | <i>Jynx torquilla</i> | | | | 4 | | | | |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | | H | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Black Woodpecker | <i>Dryocopus martius</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| European Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i> | ✓ | | H | | | H | H | |
| Lesser Kestrel | <i>Falco naumanni</i> | ✓ | | | | ✓ | 12 | | |
| Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Hobby | <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | | | | | ✓ | 3 | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Eurasian Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Eurasian Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Western Jackdaw | <i>Coloeus monedula</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Rook | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Carrion Crow | <i>Corvus corone</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Northern Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Coal Tit | <i>Parus ater</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| European Crested Tit | <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| Eurasian Blue Tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Bearded Reedling | <i>Panurus biarmicus</i> | | | | | | | 5 | |
| Woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Eurasian Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | H | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

| Common name | Scientific name | April 2022 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Greater Short-toed Lark | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Sand Martin | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Crag Martin | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Common House Martin | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Cetti's Warbler | <i>Cettia cetti</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Long-tailed Tit | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | | H | ✓ | H | H | | H | |
| Wood Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Western Bonelli's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Willow Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Common Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | H | H | | H | ✓ | | | |
| Great Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | | | | | | | H | |
| Eurasian Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | | | | | | | H | |
| Melodious Warbler | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Zitting Cisticola | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Dartford Warbler | <i>Curruca undata</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Eurasian Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | H | H | |
| Subalpine Warbler | <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> | H | ✓ | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Sardinian Warbler | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> | H | ✓ | H | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Common Fire crest | <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | H | H | | | |
| Eurasian Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | | | H | | | | | |
| Eurasian Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | | ✓ | H | | ✓ | | | |
| Short-toed Treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | | ✓ | H | H | ✓ | | | |
| Common Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Common Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Spotted Flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Mistle Thrush | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> | | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| European Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Common Nightingale | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | H | H | H | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Common Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Blue Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> | | | | | 3 | | | |
| Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| European Stonechat | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| Northern Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

| | | April 2022 | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Common name | Scientific name | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Dunnock | <i>Prunella modularis</i> | | ✓ | | | | 40 | | |
| Western Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i> | H | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | H | | |
| Meadow Pipit | <i>Anthus pratensis</i> | | | H | | | | | |
| Tawny Pipit | <i>Anthus campestris</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | H | | |
| Tree Pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | | H | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Water Pipit | <i>Anthus spinoletta</i> | | H | | | | | | |
| Common Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| European Greenfinch | <i>Chloris chloris</i> | ✓ | H | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Common Linnet | <i>Linaria cannabina</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Red Crossbill | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | | 4 | | | 5 | | | |
| European Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Citril Finch | <i>Carduelis citrinella</i> | | 10 | | | | | | |
| European Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Corn Bunting | <i>Emberiza calandra</i> | | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Cirl Bunting | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |

| Mammals | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Common name | Scientific name | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| European Rabbit | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | | | | | 4 | | | |
| Coypu | <i>Myocastor coypus</i> | | | 1 | | | 6 | 5 | |
| European Roe Deer | <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | | | |
| Eurasian Hare | <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | | | 4 | 5 | 3 | | | |
| Red Fox | <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | | | | 3 | 3 | 2 | | |
| Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Red Squirrel | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Mouse sp. | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Bat sp. | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| Camargue White Horse | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Camargue Black Bull | | | | | | | | ✓ | |

| Reptiles & Amphibians | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Common name | Scientific name | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Western Green Lizard | <i>Lacerta bilineata</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Common Wall Lizard | <i>Podarcis muralis</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Fire Salamander | <i>Salamandra salamandra</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Coruna (Iberian water) Frog | <i>Pelophylax perezi</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Stripe less Tree Frog | <i>Hyla meridionalis</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |

| | | April 2022 | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Common name | Scientific name | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Moorish Gecko | <i>Tarentola mauritanica</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Ladder Snake | <i>Zamenis scalaris</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Common Toad | <i>Bufo bufo</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |

| Butterflies | | April 2022 | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Common name | Scientific name | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Scarce Swallowtail | <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Small White | <i>Pieris rapae</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Green-veined White | <i>Pieris napi</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Bath White | <i>Pontia daplidice</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Orange Tip | <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| Provencal Orange Tip | <i>Anthocharis euphonoides</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias croceus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Brimstone | <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Cleopatra | <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| Green Hairstreak | <i>Callophrys rubi</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Holly Blue | <i>Celastrina argiolus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Green-underside Blue | <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Black-eyed Blue | <i>Glaucopsyche melanops</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Baton Blue | <i>Pseudophilotes baton</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| Common Blue | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Brown Argus | <i>Aricia agestis</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Small Tortoiseshell | <i>Aglais urticae</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Spotted Fritillary | <i>Melitaea didyma</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Speckled Wood | <i>Pararge aegeria</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Wall Brown | <i>Lasiommata megera</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| Large Wall Brown | <i>Lasiommata maera</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Small Heath | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

Other Invertebrates

| | |
|--|---|
| Blue-tailed Damselfly, <i>Ischnura elegans</i> | Blue Chaser, <i>Libellula fulva</i> |
| Black-tailed Skimmer, <i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i> | Copper Demoiselle, <i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i> |
| Banded Demoiselle, <i>Calopteryx splendens</i> | Scorpion Fly, <i>Panorpa</i> sp. |
| Egyptian Grasshopper, <i>Anacridium aegyptium</i> | Devil's Coach Horse, <i>Ocypus olens</i> |
| Violaceous Carpenter Bee, <i>Xylocopa violacea</i> | Red-tailed Bumble Bee, <i>Bombus lapidarius</i> |
| Buff-tailed Bumble Bee, <i>Bombus terrestris</i> | White-tailed Bumble Bee, <i>Bombus lucorum</i> |
| Carder Bee, <i>Bombus pascuorum</i> | Honey Bee, <i>Apis mellifera</i> |
| Longhorn Beetle sp. | Large Black Ground Beetle, |
| Hummingbird Hawk-moth, <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i> | Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth, <i>Hemaris fuciformis</i> |
| Weevil sp. | Owl-fly, <i>Ascalaphidae</i> sp. |

Plants

| Scientific name | Common name | Location |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| PTERIDOPHYTES | FERNS & ALLIES | |
| Aspleniaceae | Spleenwort Family | |
| <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i> | Maidenhair Spleenwort | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Asplenium ceterach</i> | Rustyback | Gorges de la Nesque |
| Polypodiaceae | Polypody Family | |
| <i>Polypodium cambricum</i> | Southern Polypody | Gorges de la Nesque |
| GYMNOSPERMS | CONIFERS | |
| Cupressaceae | Juniper Family | |
| <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> | Italian Cypress | Arles |
| <i>Juniperus communis</i> | Common Juniper | Mt Ventoux |
| <i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> | Prickly Juniper | Brantes |
| <i>Juniperus phoenicea</i> | Phoenician Juniper | Camargue |
| Pinaceae | Pine Family | |
| <i>Cedrus atlantica</i> | Atlas Cedar | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Cedrus deodara</i> | Deodar | Sault |
| <i>Pinus halepensis</i> | Aleppo Pine | Les Baux-de-Provence |
| <i>Pinus uncinata</i> | Mountain Pine | Mt Ventoux |
| <i>Pinus nigra</i> | Black or Austrian Pine | Mt Ventoux |
| <i>Pinus pinea</i> | Stone or Umbrella Pine | Arles |
| <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> | Scots Pine | Mt Ventoux |
| Taxaceae | Yew Family | |
| <i>Taxus baccata</i> | Yew | Sault |
| ANGIOSPERMS | FLOWERING PLANTS | |
| Dicotyledons | | |
| Adoxaceae | Moschatel Family | |
| <i>Sambucus ebulus</i> | Dwarf Elder | Nr. Sault |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder | Brantes |

| Scientific name | Common name | Location |
|---|--|--|
| <i>Viburnum lantana</i> <i>Viburnum tinus</i> | Wayfaring Tree (in bud) Laurustinus | Gorges de la Nesque Les Baux-de-Provence |
| Amaranthaceae <i>Beta vulgaris maritima</i> <i>Chenopodium album</i> <i>Salicornia europaea</i> <i>Suaeda vera</i> | Amaranth Family Sea Beet Fat-hen a Glasswort Shrubby Sea-blite | Camargue Camargue Camargue Camargue |
| Anacardiaceae <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> <i>Pistacia terebinthus</i> <i>Rhus coriaria</i> | Sumach Family Mastic Tree Turpentine Tree Sumach | Camargue Camargue Les Baux-de-Provence |
| Apiaceae <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> <i>Conium maculatum</i> <i>Daucus carota</i> <i>Eryngium campestre</i> <i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i> <i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i> | Carrot Family Cow Parsley Hemlock Wild Carrot Field Eryngo Shepherd's-needle Alexanders | Brantes Arles Brantes (leaves) Camargue St Hubert Arles |
| Apocynaceae <i>Vinca major</i> <i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i> | Periwinkle Family Greater Periwinkle Swallow-wort | Brantes Gorges de la Nesque |
| Araliaceae <i>Hedera helix</i> | Ivy Family Ivy | Sault |
| Aristolochiaceae <i>Aristolochia clematitis</i> <i>Aristolochia rotunda</i> | Birthwort Family Common Birthwort Round-leaved Birthwort | Arles Arles |
| Asteraceae (Compositae) <i>Anthemis arvensis</i> <i>Bellis annua</i> <i>Diitricha viscosa</i> <i>Galactites tomentosa</i> <i>Hieracium glaucinum</i> <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> <i>Limbarda crithmoides</i> <i>Pallenis spinosa</i> <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> <i>Silybum marianum</i> <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> <i>Taraxacum</i> sp. <i>Tragopogon pratensis</i> <i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i> ssp. <i>australis</i> | Daisy Family Corn Chamomile Annual Daisy Aromatic <i>Inula</i> Purple Milk Thistle a Hawkweed Ox-eye Daisy Golden Samphire (leaves) Spiny Golden Star Groundsel Milk Thistle Smooth Sow-thistle Dandelion Goat's-beard Southern Salsify | near La Crau St May Camargue La Crau Gorges de la Nesque Camargue Camargue Camargue Brantes Les Baux-de-Provence, Arles Camargue Sault Sault Aerodrome de Berre-la-Fare |
| Boraginaceae <i>Borago officinalis</i> <i>Cynoglossum creticum</i> | Borage Family Borage Blue Hound's Tongue | La Crau La Crau |

| Scientific name | Common name | Location |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Echium vulgare</i> | Viper's Bugloss | Les Baux-de-Provence |
| <i>Myosotis ramosissima</i> | Early Forget-me-not | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Pardoglossum cheirifolium</i> | Cynoglossus | La Crau |
| Brassicaceae | Cabbage Family | |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard | Brantes |
| <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> | Thale Cress | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Arabis hirsuta</i> | Hairy Rock-cress | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Barbarea vulgaris</i> | Common Winter-cress | roadsides |
| <i>Biscutella laevigata</i> | Buckler Mustard | Sault |
| <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> | Shepherd's Purse | Camargue |
| <i>Draba aizoides</i> | Yellow Whitlow-grass | Mt Ventoux |
| <i>Erysimum nevadense</i> ssp. <i>collisparisum</i> | Provence Wallflower (leaves) | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Iberis aurosica</i> ssp. <i>nana</i> (<i>candolleana</i>) | an endemic Candytuft | Mt Ventoux |
| <i>Iberis saxatilis</i> | Rock Candytuft | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Isatis tinctoria</i> | Woad | roadsides near Marseille A/P |
| <i>Lepidium draba</i> | Hoary Cress | roadsides around Sault |
| <i>Lobularia maritima</i> | Sweet Alyssum | La Crau |
| <i>Lunaria annua</i> | Honesty | Brantes |
| <i>Sinapis arvensis</i> | Charlock | Camargue |
| Buxaceae | Box Family | |
| <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> | Box | Gorges de la Nesque |
| Cactaceae | Cactus Family | |
| <i>Opuntia</i> sp. | a Prickly Pear Cactus | Brantes |
| Caprifoliaceae | Honeysuckle Family | |
| <i>Centranthus ruber</i> | Red Valerian | Brantes |
| <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> | Teasel | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Lonicera implexa</i> | Mediterranean Honeysuckle | Les Baux de Provence |
| <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> | Small Scabious | La Crau |
| <i>Valeriana tuberosa</i> | Tuberous Valerian | Mt Ventoux |
| Caryophyllaceae | Pink Family | |
| <i>Saponaria ocymoides</i> | Rock Soapwort | Brantes |
| <i>Silene cucubalus</i> | Bladder Campion | Camargue |
| <i>Silene latifolia</i> subsp. <i>alba</i> | White Campion | Le Marais de Vigueirat |
| <i>Silene nutans</i> | Nottingham Catchfly | Brantes |
| <i>Spergularia rubra</i> | Sand Spurrey | La Crau |
| Cistaceae | Rock-rose Family | |
| <i>Cistus albidus</i> | Grey-leaved Cistus | Les Baux-de-Provence |
| <i>Cistus salviifolius</i> | Sage-leaved Cistus | Les Baux-de-Provence |
| <i>Helianthemum apenninum</i> | White Rock-rose | St May |
| <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> | Common Rock-rose | Gorges de la Nesque |
| Cornaceae | Dogwood Family | |
| <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> | Dogwood | Le Marais de Vigueirat |
| Crassulaceae | Stonecrop Family | |
| <i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i> | Thick-leaved Stonecrop | Brantes |

| Scientific name | Common name | Location |
|---|--|---|
| <i>Sempervivum</i> sp. <i>Umbilicus rupestris</i> | a Houseleek (leaves) Wall Pennywort | Mt Ventoux Sault |
| Cucurbitaceae <i>Bryonia cretica</i> subsp. <i>dioica</i> | Cucumber family White Bryony | Arles |
| Elaeagnaceae <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> | Oleaster Family Oleaster | Camargue |
| Euphorbiaceae <i>Euphorbia characias</i> <i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i> <i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> <i>Euphorbia peplus</i> | Spurge Family Mediterranean Spurge Cypress Spurge Sun Spurge Petty Spurge | Brantes Brantes Arles Brantes |
| Fabaceae <i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i> <i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i> <i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> <i>Coronilla juncea</i> <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> <i>Genista hispanica</i> <i>Hippocrepis comosa</i> <i>Hippocrepis emerus</i> <i>Lathyrus pannonicus</i> <i>Lathyrus setifolius</i> <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> <i>Medicago arabica</i> <i>Medicago sativa</i> <i>Onobrychis saxatilis</i> <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> <i>Spartium junceum</i> <i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i> <i>Trifolium dubium</i> <i>Trifolium pratense</i> <i>Trifolium repens</i> <i>Trifolium tomentosum</i> <i>Vicia cracca</i> <i>Vicia sativa</i> | Pea Family Montpellier Milkvetch Pitch Trefoil (leaves) Judas Tree Rush-like Scorpion Vetch Common Broom Spanish Gorse (leaves) Horseshoe Vetch Scorpion Vetch Felted Vetch Brown Vetch Bird's-foot Trefoil Spotted Medick Lucerne Rock Sainfoin False Acacia Spanish Broom (leaves) Dragon's-teeth Lesser Trefoil Red Clover White Clover Woolly Clover Tufted Vetch Common Vetch | St May Brantes Brantes Les Baux-de-Provence Brantes St May Brantes Mt Ventoux St May Brantes St May Sault Camargue St May Camargue Brantes Camargue Camargue Sault Brantes Camargue Camargue en route to St May St May |
| Fagaceae <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> <i>Quercus coccifera</i> <i>Quercus pubescens</i> | Oak & Beech Family Beech Kermes Oak Downy Oak | Mt Ventoux Brantes Brantes |
| Geraniaceae <i>Erodium ciconium</i> <i>Erodium cicutarium</i> <i>Geranium molle</i> | Geranium Family Round-leaved Stork's-bill Common Stork's-bill Dove's-foot Crane's-bill (leaves) | La Crau Aerodrome de Berre-la-Fare Gorges de la Nesque |
| Lamiaceae <i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i> | Dead-nettle Family Ground Pine | en route to Les Baux-de-Provence |

| Scientific name | Common name | Location |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Ajuga reptans</i> | Bugle | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> | Henbit Dead-nettle | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Lamium maculatum</i> | Spotted Dead-nettle | Sault |
| <i>Lamium purpureum</i> | Red Dead-nettle | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> | Common Lavender (leaves) | Sault, St May |
| <i>Lavandula latifolia</i> | Spike Lavender (leaves) | La Crau |
| <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> | White Horehound | Camargue |
| <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> | Rosemary | St May |
| <i>Salvia pratensis</i> | Meadow Clary | Brantes |
| <i>Teucrium polium</i> | Felty Germander | St May |
| <i>Thymus polytrichis</i> | Wild Thyme | La Crau |
| <i>Thymus vulgaris</i> | Common Thyme | roadsides |
| Lythraceae | Loosestrife Family | |
| <i>Lysimachia punctata</i> | Dotted Loosestrife | Nr. Sault |
| Malvaceae | Mallow Family | |
| <i>Malva nicaeensis</i> | Nice Mallow | Camargue |
| <i>Malva sylvestris</i> | Common Mallow | en route to Les Baux-de-Provence |
| Moraceae | Fig Family | |
| <i>Ficus carica</i> | Fig | Brantes |
| Oleaceae | Olive Family | |
| <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> | Narrow-leaved Ash | Le Marais de Vigueirat |
| <i>Flaxinus ornus</i> | Manna or Flowering Ash | en route to Les Baux-de-Provence |
| <i>Olea europaea</i> | Olive | St May |
| <i>Syringa vulgaris</i> | Lilac | Brantes |
| Papaveraceae | Poppy Family | |
| <i>Chelidonium majus</i> | Greater Celandine | Sault, Brantes |
| <i>Fumaria capreolata</i> | a white Fumitory | La Crau |
| <i>Fumaria officinalis</i> | Common Fumitory | Brantes |
| <i>Papver rhoeas</i> | Common Poppy | roadsides |
| <i>Papaver dubium</i> | Pale Poppy | Les Baux-de-Provence |
| Plantaginaceae | Plantain Family | |
| <i>Antirrhinum latifolium</i> | Snapdragon | Sault, Brantes |
| <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> | Ivy-leaved Toadflax | Sault |
| <i>Globularia cordifolia</i> | Matted Globularia | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Globularia punctata</i> | Common Globularia | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Plantago coronopus</i> | Buckshorn Plantain | Camargue |
| <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | Ribwort Plantain | Camargue |
| <i>Plantago major</i> | Greater Plantain | Sault |
| <i>Plantago maritima agg</i> | Sea Plantain | Camargue |
| <i>Plantago media</i> | Hoary Plantain | Camargue |
| <i>Veronica anagalis aquaticus</i> | Water Speedwell | Camargue |
| <i>Veronica arvensis</i> | Wall Speedwell | Camargue |
| <i>Veronica persica</i> | Common Field Speedwell | Camargue |
| Platanaceae | Plane Family | |
| <i>Platanus × hispanica</i> | London Plane | Cavallion |

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Platanus orientalis</i> | Oriental Plane | Camargue |
| Polygonaceae | Knotweed Family | |
| <i>Rumex crispus</i> | Curled Dock | Camargue |
| Primulaceae | Primrose Family | |
| <i>Primula veris</i> | Cowslip | Brantes |
| <i>Primula vulgaris</i> | Primrose | Brantes |
| Ranunculaceae | Buttercup Family | |
| <i>Clematis vitalba</i> | Old Man's Beard | St May |
| <i>Ficaria verna</i> | Lesser Celandine | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Hepatica nobilis</i> | Hepatica | Mt Ventoux, G. de la Nesque |
| <i>Helleborus foetidus</i> | Stinking Hellebore | Brantes |
| <i>Ranunculus acris</i> | Meadow Buttercup | Le Marais de Vigueirat |
| <i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i> | Bulbous Buttercup | St May |
| <i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i> | Celery-leaved Buttercup | Le Marais de Vigueirat |
| <i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i> | Thread-leaved Water Crowfoot | Le Marais de Vigueirat |
| Resedaceae | Mignonette Family | |
| <i>Reseda lutea</i> | Wild Mignonette | Gorges de la Nesque |
| Rhamnaceae | Buckthorn Family | |
| <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> | Mediterranean Buckthorn | Les Baux-de-Provence |
| Rosaceae | Rose Family | |
| <i>Amelanchier ovalis</i> | Snowy Mespilus | Mt Ventoux |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn | St May |
| <i>Potentilla cinerea</i> | Grey Cinquefoil | Mt Ventoux |
| <i>Potentilla neumanniana</i> | Spring Cinquefoil | Mt Ventoux |
| <i>Prunus armeniaca</i> | Apricot | en route to St May |
| <i>Prunus mahaleb</i> | St Lucie's Cherry | Brantes |
| <i>Prunus spinosa</i> | Blackthorn | Brantes |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg | Bramble (leaves) | St May |
| <i>Rosa canina</i> agg | Dog Rose | St May |
| Rubiaceae | Bedstraw Family | |
| <i>Cruciata laevipes</i> | Crosswort | Brantes |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers | Brantes |
| <i>Galium mollugo</i> | Hedge Bedstraw | Camargue |
| <i>Galium verum</i> | Lady's Bedstraw | St Mary |
| <i>Rubia peregrina</i> | Wild Madder (leaves) | Brantes |
| <i>Sherardia arvensis</i> | Field Madder | St Hubert |
| Saliaceae | Willow Family | |
| <i>Populus alba</i> | White Poplar | La Crau |
| <i>Populus nigra</i> | Black Poplar | La Crau |
| <i>Populus tremula</i> | Aspen | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Salix alba</i> | White Willow | Le Marais de Vigueirat |
| Santalaceae | Sandalwood Family | |
| <i>Osyris alba</i> | Osyris | Les Baux-de-Provence |

| Scientific name | Common name | Location |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Viscum album</i> | Mistletoe | Sault |
| Sapindaceae <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> | Maple family Horse Chestnut | Sault |
| Scrophulariaceae <i>Scrophularia auriculata</i> | Figwort Family Water Figwort | Camargue |
| Saxifragaceae <i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i> | Saxifrage Family Rue-leaved Saxifrage | St Hubert |
| Solanaceae <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> | Nightshade Family Bittersweet | Arles |
| Tamaricaceae <i>Tamarix gallica</i> | Tamarisk family French Tamarisk | Camargue |
| Urticaceae <i>Parietaria officinalis</i> <i>Urtica dioica</i> <i>Urtica pilulifera</i> | Nettle Family Large Pellitory-of-the-wall (leaves) Stinging Nettle Roman Nettle | Brantes Gorges de la Nesque Les Baux-de-Provence |
| Violaceae <i>Viola reichenbachiana</i> | Violet Family Early Dog Violet | Brantes |
| Monocotyledons | | |
| Amaryllidaceae <i>Leucojum aestivum</i> <i>Narcissus assoanus</i> (= <i>N. requienii</i>) <i>Narcissus poeticus</i> | Amaryllis Family Summer Snowflake Rush-leaved Narcissus Pheasant's Eye (Poet's) N. | Le Marais de Vigueirat St Hubert Gorges de la Nesque |
| Asparagaceae <i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i> <i>Asparagus acutifolius</i> <i>Leopoldia comosa</i> <i>Muscari neglectum</i> <i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i> <i>Ruscus aculeatus</i> | Asparagus Family Blue Aphyllanthes Spiny Asparagus Tassel Hyacinth Grape Hyacinth Common Star-of-Bethlehem Butcher's Broom | St May, Les Baux-de-Provence Les Baux-de-Provence Les Baux-de-Provence Sault near Lioux Le Marais de Vigueirat |
| Colchicaceae <i>Colchicum autumnale</i> | Autumn Crocus Family Meadow Saffron (leaves) | Gorges de la Nesque |
| Iridaceae <i>Crocus vernus</i> <i>Crocus versicolor</i> <i>Iris foetidissima</i> <i>Iris lutescens</i> <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | Iris Family Spring Crocus Riviera Crocus Stinking Iris Crimean Iris Yellow Flag Iris | Mt Serere Mt Ventoux Camargue Brantes, Sault Le Marais de Vigueirat |
| Juncaceae <i>Juncus acutus</i> | Rush Family Spiny Rush | Camargue |

| Scientific name | Common name | Location |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Juncus inflexus</i> | Hard Rush | Gorges de la Nesque |
| <i>Juncus maritimus</i> | Sea Rush | Camargue |
| <i>Scirpoides holstloenus</i> | Round-headed Club-rush | Nr. Sault |
| Liliaceae | Lily Family | |
| <i>Tulipa sylvestris</i> subsp. <i>australis</i> | Southern Wild Tulip | Le Petit Moulin (nr. Sault) |
| Orchidaceae | Orchid Family | |
| <i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i> | Giant Orchid | Les Baux-de-Provence |
| <i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> | Early Spider Orchid | Aerodrome de Berre-la-Fare |
| <i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>araneola</i> | Small Spider Orchid | St May |
| <i>Orchis anthropophora</i> | Man Orchid | St May |
| <i>Orchis purpurea</i> | Lady Orchid | Les Baux-de-Provence |
| Poaceae | Grass Family | |
| <i>Arundo donax</i> | Giant Reed | Camargue |
| <i>Avena fatua</i> | Wild Oat | Camargue |
| <i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i> | Small Wood-reed | Nr. Sault |
| <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | Cock's-foot | Sault |
| <i>Elymus repens</i> | Common Couch | Camargue |
| <i>Hordeum murinum</i> | Wall Barley | Camargue |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Common Reed | Camargue |
| <i>Poa annua</i> | Annual Meadow-grass | Sault |
| <i>Poa pratensis</i> | Smooth Meadow-grass | Sault |
| <i>Poa trivialis</i> | Rough Meadow-grass | Sault |
| Cyperaceae | Sedge Family | |
| <i>Carex acutiformis</i> | Lesser Pond-sedge | Camargue |
| <i>Carex leporina</i> | Oval Sedge | Camargue |
| <i>Carex nigra</i> | Common Sedge | Camargue |
| <i>Carex obtrubae</i> | False-fox Sedge | Camargue |
| <i>Carex remota</i> | Remote Sedge | Camargue |
| <i>Carex riparia</i> | Greater Pond-sedge | Camargue |
| <i>Carex vesicaria</i> | Bladder Sedge | Camargue |
| Smilacaceae | Greenbriar Family | |
| <i>Smilax aspera</i> | Common Smilax | Les Baux-de-Provence |
| Xanthorrhoeaceae | Asphodel Family | |
| <i>Asphodelus ayardii</i> | an Asphodel | La Crau |