

# Naturetrek Tour Report

# 11 - 18 April 2017





Top of Samaria Gorge by John & Jenny Willsher



Chukar by Mike Walker

Report compiled by Jenny & John Willsher Images courtesy of Mike Walker & John & Jenny Willsher



Tour participants: Jenny & John Willsher (leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients

## Summary

Crete is the largest of the many islands of the Aegean and has long been famous for its diverse and beautiful flora. Our week here did not disappoint with many flowers just reaching their peak. The abundant flora of Crete is particularly exciting with ten percent of the plants being endemic. The roadside flora was rich and colourful, with sweeps of yellow Crown Daisy, many pink and white cistus species, the lilac thistle Galactites and stately spikes of Giant Fennel. High on the Omalos plateau, where the winter had dropped three metres of snow, the small enclosed fields made for a patchwork of lilac/pink/blue Crown Anenomes and drifts of Tulipa bakeri. The 'Orchid Hill' at Spili and the surrounding hills lived up to their reputation and we totalled 31 species of orchid, including drifts of Jersey Orchids and many tantalising Ophrys species. Many interesting bird species were seen, including some spring migrants on their way north. We started our week in the south of the island, based at Plakias, where we explored the local headlands, valleys and gorges. We travelled east to visit the archaeological site of Festos in its beautiful hilltop location, and then headed west to Chania for the last three nights of the tour. The enthusiasm and good humour of the group contributed enormously to the success of the week, and it proved to be a great week of good company, birds, flowers and food

## Day 1

**Tuesday 11th April** 

## Arrive at Heraklion; transfer to hotel in Plakias

The flight made good time and luggage retrieval was speedy, so the group soon met up with Mike and Anne who were already in Crete, and Nicos from Lykno Tourism who had our minibuses ready for us. Once loaded into the minibuses we were on our way west, with the backdrop of snow-capped Mount Ida (Psiloritis) on our left. Our first stop was unscheduled to check out a raptor which was a Common Buzzard, but the botanists were soon exclaiming at the diversity of small plants at our feet including the unusual tongue orchids: *Serapias vomeracea* and *S. bergonii*. Between the flower spotting we noticed a distant Blue Rock Thrush which was singing from the top of the cliff above the road. We then made a brief stop at Gerapotomas Bridge where we found more orchids: one of the Cretan Bee Orchids, *Ophrys ariadne*, and some faded spikes of *O. cretensis*. Many Balkan Terrapins were sunning themselves at the edge of the small river and Cetti's and Great Reed Warblers made themselves known with their loud songs. A Kingfisher was spotted as it dived into the water from a perch in the Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) that bordered the river, and lower down a Green Sandpiper flew off. Continuing on, we travelled south at Rethymnon, towards our seaside hotel in the small resort of Plakias, on the south coast of the island.

First however, on the road south of the little town of Armeni, we stopped at a cafe overlooking a verdant valley with the southern mountains beyond. We enjoyed a drink but the cloudy cool conditions did not encourage any birds of prey to fly, so we were limited to the Italian Sparrows busy with their nests under the eaves of the café, and a Blackcap together with a fine male Sardinian Warbler in the trees below.

To reach the south coast we passed through the Kourtaliotiki Gorge, at first a narrow cleft in the mountains but opening out into a wide and dramatic rocky landscape. Here we stopped at a viewpoint and managed to see a few Griffon Vultures, but conditions were not good for flight and it was mainly Jackdaws circling the cliff edges. At our feet, amongst the gravel, were the tiny flowers of Burnt Candytuft *(Aetheonema saxatile),* bright pink *Silene colorata*, and tight buds of the endemic *Centaurea raphanina subsp. raphanina* while, amongst the rocks, were bright

green cushions of Greek Spiny Spurge (*Euphorbia acanthothamnos*). Leaving the gorge, it was a short distance to Plakias, along roadsides colourful with Giant Fennel, Crown Daisies and the lilac thistle, Galactites.

Plakias is a delightful small town on a beautiful curved bay with the dramatic backdrop of impressive mountains. Thankfully quiet at this time of the year, we could imagine it in high season thronging with tourists enjoying the beach and bars along the seafront. At our hotel we met up with Paul and Jill who had been in Plakias for a few days. After settling into our rooms with their lovely views across the bay, we walked the short distance to our seaside Gorgona restaurant, where Georgios was waiting to serve us the first of many delicious meals.

# Day 2

# Wednesday 12th April

## Moni Prevelli, Kourtaliotiko Gorge and Spili area

Some took an early morning walk along the shore road to the west where the wayside flowers included banks of the endemic Cretan Ebony (*Ebenus creticus*) with its soft grey-green foliage, clumps of the Yellow Horned Poppy (*Glaucium flavium*), the aromatic Three-leaved Sage (*Salvia fruticosa*) and a few of the many vetches we would see in the next few days. A Nightingale was heard, Sardinian Warblers were active in the scrub, we listened to the secretive Cetti's Warbler's explosively loud song and watched the 200 or so House Martins feeding along the cliffs above us.

After breakfast, which most of us enjoyed on the terrace, we set off, firstly stopping in Plakias for picnic supplies. This allowed some to check out the stream in the town centre where Wood and Common Sandpipers were feeding with Yellow and White Wagtails. Others found a large squid washed up on the beach.

Supplies on board, we set off to explore the area around Moni Preveli, to the east of Plakias. A winding road led us through olive groves, along a lush valley with riverside Plane trees (*Platanas orientalis*). During a short walk through olive orchards near the river, Grey and Purple Herons flew over us and later a Little Egret was seen flying down the valley.

We then drove up through a dry stony landscape to the monastery overlooking the sea. The atmospheric Moni Prevelli, in its splendid isolation overlooking the Libyan Sea, played an important role both in the islanders rebellion against Turkish rule in the 1800's and in the evacuation of allied troops during the last war. Some took a look at its well-maintained complex, while others scanned the hillsides for birds and flowers. A Corn Bunting sang from the power lines and Stonechats were singing from their bush-top song posts. In a scrubby gulley we heard a Nightingale and saw a couple of Collared Flycatchers and a Whitethroat. Up the rocky hillside, a Black-eared Wheatear and Ortolan Bunting were singing.

The hillsides were dotted with the shrubby yellow Jerusalem Sage (*Phlomis fruticosa*) and there were some good spikes of *Verbascum macrurum* along the roadside, with large leafy rosettes of *V. sinuatum* and the pink-flowered Mediterranean Woundwort (*Stachys cretica*) with its grey-woolly foliage. A cleared bank near the monastery car park was festooned with the invasive Hottentot Fig. Much of this habitat was still recovering from a fire a few years ago.

Heading north, we stopped in the Kortaliotiko gorge and saw a singing Blue Rock Thrush, Crag Martin, several Griffon Vultures and Ravens soaring above the mountain. We then headed into the hills behind the little town of

Spili. The focus here was on the botanical riches of this now partially protected area. Firstly we set up our picnic under some magnificent plane trees near a well. The damp ground in front of us was studded with tall dark pink spikes of Jersey Orchids (*Anacamptis/Orchis laxiflora*) and that was just the start of quite a feast of orchids! After our picnic we walked the track that wound through this attractive hilly landscape of mostly scrubby *phrygana* dotted with small fields of arable crops. *Phrygana* is the Greek equivalent to the Western Mediterranean garrigue – the term for the low scrubby and very scratchy plants which orchids manage to grow through. Phrygana plants included *Cystus* species, Thorny Burnet (*Sarcopoterium spinosum*), Savoury (*Satureja spinosa*) and other aromatic plants.

So our orchid feast included Bory's and Fan-lipped Orchids, (*Anacamptis boryi, A. collina*), the stout Giant Orchid (*Himantoglossum robertianum*), the small-flowered Four-spotted Orchid (*Orchis quadripunctata*), and the first of the masses of Naked Man Orchid (*Orchis italica*) – which caused us amusement due to its name and virility! Ophrys species included Bumblebee, Bishop's, Rainbow, Lion Mane, White and Small Yellow Bee (*Ophrys bombiliflora, O. episcopalis, O. iricolor, O. leochroma, O.andica, O. sicula*). The fields were dotted with the red *Tulipa doefleri*, more Jersey Orchids and the dusky pink Milky Orchid (*Neotinea lactea*).

We drove further down the track and parked behind 'Spili Hill'. This unassuming hillock was rich in a variety of species growing on and amongst its many little rocky ledges. The many orchids included the bright yellow Sparse-flowered Orchid (*Orchis pauciflora*), Man Orchid (*Orchis anthropophora*), *Ophrys herae*, O. creticola, O. creberimma and O. heldreichii.. We also found large leafy clumps of Cretan Iris, low cushions of the compact white *Trifolium uniflorum*, white Turban Buttercups and small drifts of pink *Tulipa bakeri*, sadly past their best. Birds here included Corn Bunting, Woodlark, Raven and Buzzard.

We then made our way down from the hills and returned to Plakias via the Kourtaliotiko Gorge, where we stopped for an obligatory vulture watch but again the poor weather meant only one was on the wing.

We met up later in the hotel to discuss our findings of the day. Jenny talked about the different groups of orchids that we had seen and then we walked to the restaurant where Georgios welcomed us and served us another very good meal.

## Day 3

# **Thursday 13th April**

## Festos and Amari Valley

After breakfast, the usual shop for picnic supplies and a check of the beach where four Dunlin flew along the shore, we headed north through the Kortiliotiki Gorge. We then headed east through the busy little town of Spili. Some way further on we stopped to look at a particularly flowery roadside bank. Amongst the clumps of Wild Gladioli were some impressive spikes of the pyramidal shaped Pale Bugloss (*Echium italicum*), blood red Asparagus Pea (*Tetragonolobus purpureus*), Giant Orchid, Fan-lipped Orchid and Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis collina, A. pyramidalis*).

Before reaching the archaeological site of Festos we had to cross the fertile plain of Mesara, and through the busy town of Timbaki with its unattractive sprawl of plastic greenhouses. Festos is one of four palaces built around 1900 BC by the Minoan civilisation on Crete, and was the second largest and most important – the largest being Knossos. There has been no large scale reconstruction here, as there has been at Knossos. Until

180BC, Festos remained an independent city and minted its own coinage. Its commanding hilltop situation has wonderful views out across the plain to Mount Ida. After exploring the ruins, we gathered in the shade of the attendant cafe to appreciate the view and enjoyed some spectacularly close fly-pasts of Alpine Swifts that seemed to be relishing the windy weather.

By now it was approaching midday and the temperature was rising. We headed down to the coast north of Timbaki and had our picnic near the lagoons at the back of the beach, which proved very productive for birds. This is a rare habitat on Crete and yielded many new birds for our list: Squacco Heron, at least 20 Glossy Ibis, a fleeting glimpse of Water Rail, two Black-winged Stilts, Little Stint and Gull-billed Tern. As we were about to leave, more than 50 Ruff arrived to join the 20 or so Wood Sandpipers already feeding or resting in the shallow water. These were all birds pausing at this valuable wet habitat on their northward migration.

After a welcome coffee and comfort stop (and a paddle in the sea and a bit of beachcombing for some!) we spent the rest of the afternoon meandering through the Amari valley, between Mount Ida and the southern Mount Kedros, enjoying the ever-changing scenery of quiet rural life of inland Crete. There were many small villages set amongst olive groves and almond and cherry orchards, and the occasional Byzantine church. Also some very floristic patches which tempted us to explore! One bank was dotted with buds of Pink Butterfly Orchid and another with various Orchid and Serapias species – mostly *Serapias lingua* and *S. Bergonii*, but Eunah found a white spike which we named *Serapias serapia* -Serapia being one of her names! A stop at the little church of Agios Ioannis in the lush green valley below Kardhaki was enlivened by a distant Golden Eagle gliding along the flank of Mount Kedros to the south, finally settling on a rock.

We eventually reached the little town of Gerakari, famous for its cherries, before heading back to Plakias.

## Day 4

Friday 14th April

## Kotsiphos Gorge; Frangokastello; Imbros Gorge

A pre-breakfast walk, this time into Plakias to check out the stream and beach, produced a Little Ringed Plover, two Common Sandpipers, Wood Sandpiper and a Yellow Wagtail.

Today we set off westwards, for the twisting scenic road that follows the coast to Frangocastello, through the hillside villages of Selia, Rodakino and Skaloti. We stopped at various points to take photographs of Plakias Bay or for opportunistic stops for birds and flowers. The hillsides were dotted with elegant spikes of Common Asphodel. Stopping at the end of the Kotsiphos Gorge we saw Griffon Vultures, a Kestrel and then very high travelling across the gorge a Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier). Sadly it just flew straight on and was a distant binocular view. As we left the gorge a Hoopoe flew into a small conifer plantation then flew out of sight down into the gorge. Along the way there were Black-eared Wheatears, and as we headed back to the vehicle after a roadside flower/photo stop, an Eleanora's Falcon made an all too brief appearance above us. Another stop was again good for Griffon Vultures with a good view of two perched on a rock above us. There were more Black-eared Wheatears and some Crested Larks.

Several migrant Whinchats were perched on the fences as we approached Frangocastello and a Nightingale was spotted. The striking 14th century fortress overlooks a lovely sandy bay. It was built by the Venetians as a defence against pirates and the rebellious Sfakiots. In the 1800s a bloody battle was fought here between the

Cretans and the Turks. It is a shell of a building now, sometimes used for concerts. Some of the group were keen to have a good walk in the Imbros Gorge so John took them to the bottom end and the rest of the group enjoyed coffee and cold drinks at a seaside taverna and explored the local habitat while Jenny set up the picnic on the taverna tables. Ann slipped off for a swim in the shallow sandy bay in front of the castle. Two Purple Herons were seen; one probably just arrived, resting on rocks near the sea. There was also a small flock of migrant Yellow Wagtails. One of these had a very white head and appeared to resemble the White-headed Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava leucocephala*, the most eastern sub-species of Yellow Wagtail normally breeding in Mongolia and China. Could this bird be so far from its normal range? It usually winters in India.

We then spent the afternoon exploring the lowest part of the Imbros Gorge, looking at the *chasmophytes*, the plants that thrive on gorge walls where they cannot be nibbled by the many goats that roam the island. Large clumps of Caper and Wall Lettuce hung off the cliffs. Amongst the bushes of Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus* – so called because in the past it was thought to be an anti-aphrodisiac which the Crusaders gave their wives before they went offl) were a few spikes of the dramatic Dragon Arum (*Dranunculus vulgaris*) with its huge purple red spathe. Other plants included Nettle-leaved Figwort, Fig, Carob, Cretan Gorge Comfrey (*Procopiana cretica*), Cretan Ebony, small clumps of the endemic *Campanula tubulosa*, the aromatic Savory and soft white spikes of *Scutellaria sieberi*. Above the gorge were more Griffon Vultures and a Bonelli's Eagle, and in the gorge Blue Rock Thrush, Jay and Wren.

Our return to Plakias included a stop in the attractive little village of Myrthios which has stunning views across Plakias Bay. While some of the group relaxed with drinks in the taverna, others were tempted into the gift shop for quality holiday gifts and souvenirs! Then back to the hotel for our last evening in Plakias.

## Day 5

Saturday 15th April

## Armani, Georgiopolis and Chania

After breakfast we had a final walk out towards the headland at the east end of Plakias Bay, primarily for some special plants and the spectacular view across the bay. We did see a Red-billed Chough flying over and found Kestrel, Blue Rock Thrush and a very secretive Nightingale in a Euphorbia bush. The predominant plant here was Tree Euphorbia, but on the rock walls and amongst the phrygana plants we found the strange *Aristolochia cretica*, many orchid species including Pyramidal Orchid and Kandy's Ophrys (*O. candica*), the rare Cretan Rock Tulip, buds of the endemic *Campanula saxatalis* and Cretan Vipers Grass (*Scorzonera cretica*). The dramatic cliff walls were dotted with clumps of Shrubby Mullein (*Verbascum arcturus*) and the sand dunes below held typical seaside plants such as Sea Spurge (*E. peplus*), Sea Medick (*Medicago marina*), Sea Stock (Mathiola sinuata) and Sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*).

Sadly we then had to leave the now picture postcard blue sea and attractive little town of Plakias. At the southern side of the Kotsiphos gorge we stopped for a last look, but no return of the Bearded Vulture today.

We turned off the main road south of Armeni, taking the back road to Fotinos. The fairly recently concreted road had partly destroyed a bank that had been good for various orchids in the past, but fortunately now allowed access to even better sites further up the valley. We passed a planted crop of prickly pear, but the once flowery meadow which had been a new and very productive site last year had been ploughed and reseeded with a cereal crop!

So we retraced our steps back to the main road and headed for our next stop; north of Armeni at the Late Minoan cemetery site. This peaceful site was canopied by Valonia Oak (*Quercus macrolepsis*), with its large shaggy acorn cups. The galls from the trees were once an important export for the tanning industry. The vegetation around the intriguing grave sites was lush with flowers including many vetches, Common Asphodel (*Asphodelus. aestivus*), Ornithogalum narbonense, Barbary Nut (Moraea sisysrinchium) and a few orchids including good spikes of Giant Orchid, Bishop's and Heldreich's Ophrys, drifts of Naked Man Orchid, Serepias lingua and S. bergonii. Chaffinches and tits were busy in the oaks, and a Wryneck and Pied Flycatcher were seen.

As our usual friendly taverna was closed, we continued north to Rethymnon and then west, turning off at the small beach at Gerani where a covered well provided a good place to set out the picnic. Jenny W. and Ann had a quick swim in the crystal clear sea before we off moved again, continuing west and stopping briefly for a comfort stop before we reached the reservoir at Georgiopolis. Here there were Coot, Moorhen, Little Grebe, Little Egret, two Little Bitterns, a pair of Garganey and a Pygmy Cormorant, plus Common and Wood Sandpipers. Around the shore, basking in the sunshine, were several Balkan (Striped-necked) Terrapins.

It was then on to Chania. We stopped for a short walk through the quiet and peaceful Souda Bay War Cemetery, the burial site for 1500 Allied soldiers who died in the 1941 Battle of Crete – a significant event in Crete's recent history. We then headed for our comfortable hotel which was once the British Consulate, with its imposing colonnaded façade. After discussing the day's sightings with a drink in the hotel garden, we walked into the old city of Chania, skirting the bustling harbour with its many busy bars and restaurants, before reaching the Semiramis restaurant. The open air location meant we could enjoy the spectacle of swifts screaming overhead while we made our choices from a comprehensive menu of traditional dishes.

## Day 6

Sunday 16th April

## Agia Reservoir; Omalos Plateau

After a very comprehensive and satisfying breakfast, we headed southwest, out of Chania, firstly stopping at Agia Reservoir. There were huge stands of Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) and the water was edged with Common Reed. Here we watched Squacco Herons near the dam, Sedge Warblers were singing from the reeds and Cetti's Warblers uttered their loud songs. A Little Bittern disappeared into the reeds and on the far side a Purple Heron perched. On the water there were numerous Coots and Moorhens. We spent a long time trying to get good views of several Little Crakes that were creeping through the vegetation at the water's edge then rapidly running across openings in the vegetation, making themselves very hard to see and photograph. As we left a Marsh Harrier was spotted as it flew towards the lake.

We then made our way up to the Omalos Plateau. We stopped for a welcome coffee and comfort stop at the tiny village of Omalos. The friendly taverna owner reported that the snow this winter had been particularly deep and indeed, the White Mountains were living up to their name. One of the botanical highlights of the stark beauty of the Omalos in early spring is the pink *Tulipa bakeri* and we were soon exclaiming at drifts of this lovely flower, mostly thriving in areas fenced off from the grazing goats and sheep. There were also wonderful carpets of the colourful *Anenome coronaria*, in various shades of blue and pink, and occasionally red. Jenny C. was seen kneeling reverently in an area of short turf which was studded with the tiny purple *Romulea bulbicodium*, and many of us had to also get down for a photograph. The very spiny lemon yellow Cretan Barberry (*Berberis cretica*) was thriving,

obviously too prickly even for the goats! We picnicked amongst this floral carpet with the background of snowy slopes and singing Woodlarks.

Then we moved on to the head of the Samaria Gorge. We sat on the terrace of the cafe enjoying stunning views of the top of the gorge and finding many *Cupressus sempervirens var. horizontalis* in view. There we searched, unfortunately unsuccessfully, for any Kri Kri, the Cretan Wild Goat, on the vast cliffs opposite. The area is a UNESCO Biosphere reserve for this elusive, long-time descendent from ancient Minoan feral goats. There were a few intrepid walkers on the still part snow covered slopes.

We then moved on around the plateau, stopping for more patches of tulips and anemones. One area had lush clumps of the bright yellow lily *Gagea chrysantha* and small groups of the unusual green and brown Widow Iris (*Iris tuberosus*). Unfortunately the pretty Zelkova trees (*Zelkova abelicea*) were not yet in leaf. This attractive small-leaved endemic tree is only found in the mountains of Crete and is the only representative in Europe of an Asiatic genus. It was traditionally used to make shepherd's crooks. Cretan Maple (*Acer sempervirens*) was just in leaf.

We continued anti-clockwise around the plateau seeing Woodchat Shrike, Northern Wheatear and a group of migrant Whinchats. At the edge of a pond was a lone Black-winged Stilt. Later, in the gorge leading down from the plateau, the scenery is quite dramatic – pale grey limestone rocks studded with Cypress trees.

Retracing our steps, we headed back to Chania. After discussing the day over drinks in the hotel garden we walked back into town for another excellent meal at the Semiramis. The local musicians were in action and Diana in particular enjoyed their renditions of some familiar favourites.

# Day 7

# Monday 17th April

## Akrotiri Peninsula

It was our last full day in Crete and today we headed for the Akrotiri peninsula. We took the airport road out of Chania and then the 'Monastery route'. The first of this trio of monasteries is the handsome 17th century Moni Agias Triadas, still an active monastery producing many local products such as oil, wine and raki. It is surrounded by orange and olive groves and a vineyard which can be good for birdwatching for those who prefer not to visit the buildings. Firstly we foraged in some waste ground near the orchards where we found many spikes of *Serapias lingua*, Spotted Rockrose, some stout spikes of Bean Broomrape (*Orobanch crenata*), Naples Garlic, Tassel Hyacinth and *Ophrys cretica*. Here a Honey Buzzard soared overhead and then drifted off to the north. At the monastery several Lesser Kestrels were perching on the vineyard posts and a Marsh Harrier was identified. Later a Cuckoo flew from the vineyard towards the monastery gardens. Numerous noisy Italian Sparrows were nesting in the roof of the building.

Driving on towards Moni Agia Triada through the old olive orchards, two Woodchat Shrikes were seen plus an obliging Chukar and a fleeting glimpse of a Golden Oriole. The second monastery was the 16th century Moni Gouvernetou, which was not such an appealing building but its enclosed garden can be very productive for birds. Not so many were seen on the way out, but on the return there were Whinchats and flycatchers: a Spotted Flycatcher plus a male Semi-collared Flycatcher and then a female Collared Flycatcher.

For the energetic there was a rocky and sometimes steep track down to the third building – the ruins of Moni Katholikou at the northern tip of the peninsular. The track can be rich in plant life and many of the group enjoyed this exploration amongst the phrygana bushes of Greek Spiny Spurge, the white flowered Prasium and the fragrant Hairy Thorny Broom (*Calicotome villosa*). We found many tiny plants including the delicate *Vicia cretica* scrambling up through the scrub, the curled leaves of *Moraea tripetala* (formerly *Gynadiris monophyllus*), *Allium circinnatum* with its corkscrew leaves, *Ophrys sicula*, Cretan Mallow, the tiny umbellifer Fluffy Thimbleweed (*Lagoecia cuminoides*), Dwarf Spurge (*Euphorbia exigua*), Small Restharrow (*Ononis reclinata*), and as usual, many other vetches. Later we had our picnic amongst the ancient olive groves and handsome Carob trees where another Spotted Flycatcher, Crested Larks and more Woodchat Shrikes were seen.

We then returned early to the hotel so that we could explore part of the ancient city of Chania, before meeting at the restaurant. Chania (Hania) is an atmospheric ancient city with remnants of Venetian walls and townhouses now tastefully turned into hotels or open-air restaurants. The town has a tradition of artisanship which fills the old city with a bewildering choice of craft shops. The prominent former mosque on the harbour-front is evidence of past Turkish rule.

We enjoyed our last evening in Chania in the Semiramis to the accompaniment of the local musicians. We hoped they might strike up a Nana Mouskouri song so that we could sing along, but they were not to be moved from their traditional repertoire!

# Day 8

# **Tuesday 18th April**

## Flight home

Today we left our hotel in Chania and headed for Knossos, and then Iraklion airport and our flight home. It was a beautiful sunny day and the scenic views of the coast, mountains and hills were lovely.

Knossos was once the Minoan capital of Crete and is now the island's major tourist attraction. The ruins were uncovered in 1900 by the British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans. His 'realistic' restoration of the site continues to be controversial. But it is an attractive site, shaded by pine trees. After our cultural interlude we headed for the airport and prepared to leave the lovely friendly island of Crete.

Once back in the UK, another Naturetrek adventure came to an end

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# **Species Lists**

Plants (• = endemic or near endemic to Crete, ‡ = cultivated or naturalised)

Plant classification largely follows the familiar 'old' system, likely to be encountered in current floras of the region.

Recent taxonomic changes have been incorporated, where relevant

For ease of reference, families genera and species are presented in alphabetic order

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
LYCOPODIOPSIDA	CLUBMOSSES	
<b>Selaginellaceae</b> Selaginella denticulata	Lesser Clubmoss Family Mediterranean Clubmoss	Spili and Imbros
EQUISETOPSIDA	HORSETAILS	
Equisetaceae Equisetum ramosissimum Equisetum telmateia PTEROPSIDA	Horsetail Family Branched Horsetail Giant Horsetail FERNS	Spili Agia
Aspleniaceae Asplenium ceterach Dennstaedtiaceae Pteridium aquilinum	<b>Spleenwort Family</b> Rustyback <b>Bracken Family</b> Bracken	Akrotiri Armeni
PINOPSIDA	CONIFERS	
<b>Araucariaceae</b> Araucaria heterophylla ‡	Monkey-puzzle Family Norfolk Island Pine	Planted
Cupressaceae Cupressus sempervirens forma. horizontalis Cupressus sempervirens forma. sempervirens ‡ Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus Juniperus phoenicea subsp. phoenicea	Juniper Family Cypress Italian Cypress Prickly Juniper Phoenicean Juniper	Omalos " Nr Moni Preveli "
<b>Pinaceae</b> Pinus halepensis subsp. brutia Pinus pinea ‡	<b>Pine Family</b> Calabrian Pine Stone Pine	
MAGNOLIIDAE	DICOTYLEDONS	
Acanthaceae Acanthus spinosus	Bear's-breech Family Spiny Bear's-breech	Roadsides
Aceraceae Acer sempervirens	<b>Maple Family</b> Cretan Maple	Omalos

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
Aizoaceae	Downlant Family	
Carpobrotus edulis var. edulis ‡	Dewplant Family Yellow Hottentot-fig	Planted near buildings and beaches
Carpobrotus edulis var. rubescens ‡	Tellow Hotterhot-lig	"
Mesembryanthemum crystallinum	Ice Plant	ű
Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum		ű
wesenbryannen noameran		
Amaranthaceae	Amaranth Family	
Amaranthus retroflexus ‡	Pigweed	
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family	
Pistacia lentiscus	Mastic Tree	Seen widely
Pistacia terebinthus	Turpentine Tree	ű
Schinus molle ‡	Californian Pepper Tree	Agia
Aniaaaaa	Carrot Family	
Apiaceae Crithmum maritimum	Rock Samphire	Gerani
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot	Roadsides
	A Wild Carrot	"
Daucus guttatus	Field Eryngo	"
Eryngium campestre Eryngium maritimum	Sea Holly	Gerani, Frangocastello
Ferula communis	Giant Fennel	Roadsides
Foeniculum vulgare subsp. piperatum	Fennel	Seen occasionally
Lagoecia cuminoides	Fluffy Thimbleweed	Akrotiri
Pseudorlaya pumila	Dune Carrot	Plakias
Scaligeria napiformis	Scaligeria	T lakias
Scangena napionnis Scandix australis	Southern Shepherd's-needle	
Scandix australis Scandix pecten-veneris	Shepherd's-needle	
Smyrnium olusatrum	Alexanders	Seen regularly
Smyrnium perfoliatum subsp.		<b>C</b> <i>Y</i>
perfoliatum	Perfoliate Alexanders	Seen widely
Smyrnium perfoliatum subsp.	Perfoliate Alexanders	"
rotundifolium		
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
Nerium oleander	Oleander	Seen widely – planted
Vinca major ‡	Greater Periwinkle	"
Andiasaa	hu Femilu	
	Ivy Family	
Hedera helix	lvy	Seen regularly
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family	
Aristolochia cretica •	Cretan Birthwort	Plakias headland
Aristolochia sempervirens	Evergreen Birthwort	Agia
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
Achillea cretica	Cretan Sneezewort	Akrotiri
Anthemis arvensis	Corn Chamomile	Seen regularly
Anthemis chia	Greek Chamomile	"
Anthemis rigida	Rayless Chamomile	"

Bird-Cage Thistle

Annual Daisy

Southern Daisy

Daisy

© Naturetrek May 17

Akrotiri Seen regularly

"

"

"

Atractylis cancellata

Bellis annua

Bellis perennis

Bellis sylvestris

Bellium minutum

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
Calendula arvensis	Field Marigold	"
Carlina corymbosa subsp. graeca	A Flat-topped Carline Thistle	
Centaurea calcitrapa	Red Star-thistle	
Centaurea raphanina subsp.		Kartiliatiki Cargo
raphanina•		Kortiliotiki Gorge
Cichorium intybus	Chicory	
Cichorium spinosum	Spiny Chicory	
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	
Crupina crupinastrum	Crupina	Thin stemmed small thistle
Cynara cornigera	Wild Artichoke	
Cynara scolymus ‡	Globe Artichoke	Planted
Dittrichia viscosa	Stink Aster	Leaves only, very pungent
Galactities tomentosa	Galactites	Lilac, 'soft' thistle
Geropogon glaber	Slender Salsify	
Glebionis coronaria var. coronaria	Crown Daisy	Roadsides
Glebionis coronaria var. discolor	Crown Daisy	"
Glebionis segetum	Corn Marigold	ű
Helminthotheca echioides	Bristly Oxtongue	
Hypochaeris achyrophorus	Mediterranean Cat's-ear	
Hypochaeris glabra	Smooth Cat's-ear	
Hypochaeris radicata	Common Cat's-ear	
Lactuca serriola	Prickly Lettuce	
Matricaria recutita	Scented Mayweed	
Notobasis syriaca	Syrian Thistle	Elegant thistle with pink bracts
Otanthus maritimus	Cottonweed	
Pallenis spinosa	Spiny Golden-star	Spiny bracts, yellow flower
Phagnalon graecum	Shrubby Cudweed	
Picnomon acarna	Yellow-spine Thistle	Leaves and spines only
Ptilostemon chamaepeuce	Shrubby Ptilostemon	Just coming into flower
Rhagadiolus stellatus	Star Hawkbit	
Scolymus hispanicus	Spanish Oyster Plant	Leaves only,
Scorzonera cretica •	Cretan Viper's-grass	Plakias headland
Senecio rupestris	Rock Groundsel	
Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel	
Silybum marianum	Milk Thistle	Leaves only,
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle	
Tanacetum parthenium ‡	Feverfew	
Tolpis barbata	Tolpis	
Tragopogon porrifolius	Salsify	
Xanthium spinosum ‡	Spiny Cocklebur	
Berberidaceae	Barberry Family	
Berberis cretica	Cretan Barberry	Omalos
Bignoniaceae	Jacaranda Family	
Jacaranda ovalifolia ‡	Jacaranda	Planted
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
Anchusa hybrida	Wavy-leaved Anchusa	
Anchusa aegyptiaca	Eastern Alkanet	Small plant, white flowers
Anchusa italica	Large Blue Alkanet	Roadsides, tall
Anchusa variegata	Variegated Anchusa	Small plant, pale flowers with purple marks
Borago officinalis	Borage	Seen regularly

	0	Mataa
Scientific name	Common name	Notes
Cerinthe major	Honeywort	"
Cynoglossum columnae	A Hound's-tongue	"
Cynoglossum creticum	Blue Hound's-tongue	ű
Echium angustifolium	Narrow-leaved Bugloss	Seen near Festos, pink flowers
Echium arenarium	Sand Bugloss	Sand dunes, Plakias
Echium italicum subsp. biebersteinii	Pale Bugloss	Roadsides
Echium plantagineum	Purple Viper's Bugloss	Seen widely
Myosotis incrassata	A Forget-me-not	
Neatostema apulum	Yellow Gromwell	
Onosma graecum	A Golden-drops	Late Minoan Cemetery
Symphytum creticum	Cretan Comfrey	Imbros Gorge
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
Aethionema saxatile subsp. creticum	Burnt Candytuft	Kortilioiki Gorge
Arabidopsis thaliana	Thale Cress	Kortinoiki Gorge
Arabis verna	Spring Rock-cress	
Alabis verna Aubrieta deltoidea	Aubretia	Omalos
Ausriela denoidea Aurinia saxatilis	Yellow Alyssum	Onalos
	Buckler Mustard	
Biscutella didyma Brassica cretica	Cretan Cabbage	
Cakile maritima	Sea Rocket	Frangocastello
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse	Frangocastello
Cardamine hirsuta	Hairy Bitter-cress	
Cheiranthus cheiri ‡	Wallflower	
Eruca sativa	Garden Rocket	
	Hoary Cress	
Lepidium draba	-	
Lunaria annua subsp. pachyrhiza Malcolmia chia	Honesty A Malcomia	
Matconna crita Matthiola sinuata	Sea Stock	Francesstella
	Three-horned Stock	Frangocastello
Matthiola tricuspidata Nasturtium officinale		
Nasturium onicinale	Water-cress	
Cactaceae	Cactus Family	
Opuntia ficus-indica ‡	Prickly Pear	Planted widely
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
Campanula erinus	Annual Bellflower	Tiny flowers
Campanula tubulosa •		Imbros, Plakias headland
Legousia hybrida		
Petromarula pinnata •	Petromarula	Seen occasionally
Capparaceae	Caper Family	
Capparis spinosa	Caper	Imbros Gorge
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
Lonicera etrusca	Etruscan Honeysuckle	
Sambucus ebulus	Dwarf Elder	
Sambucus ebulus Sambucus nigra ‡	Elder	
ca.mododo mgra i	2.001	

**Pink Family** 

Cretan Mouse-ear

An Upright Chickweed

A Shrubby Pink

Omalos

Caryophyllaceae

Moenchia graeca

Cerastium scaposum •

Dianthus fruticosus subsp. creticus •

Paronychia macrosepala Petrorhagia velutina Silene colorata Silene gallica Silene sedoides Silene vulgaris Spergula arvensis Spergularia bocconei Stellaria cupaniana Stellaria media

### Chenopodiaceae

Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima Chenopodium album Chenopodium murale Salsola kali Suaeda vera

#### Cistaceae

Cistus creticus Cistus parviflorus Cistus salvifolius Fumana arabica Tuberaria guttata

#### Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus althaeoides Convolvulus arvensis Convolvulus elegantissimus Cuscuta epithymum Ipomea indica‡

#### Crassulaceae

Sedum acre Sedum litoreum Sedum rubens Sedum sediforme Umbilicus horizontalis Umbilicus parviflorus

#### **Cucurbitaceae** Bryonia cretica Ecballium elaterium

## Dipsacaceae Knautia integrifolia Lomelosiabrachiata Ericaceae Arbutus andrachne Arbutus unedo Erica arborea

#### Common name

A Paronychia Kohlrauschia Mediterranean Catchfly Small-flowered Catchfly Hairy Catchfly Bladder Campion Corn Spurrey A Sea Spurrey A Chickweed Common Chickweed

#### **Goosefoot Family**

Sea Beet Fat-hen Nettle-leaved Goosefoot Prickly Saltwort Shrubby Sea-blite

#### **Rock-rose Family**

Pink Cistus Small-flowered Cistus Sage-leaved Cistus Arabian Fumana Spotted Rock-rose

#### **Bindweed Family**

Mallow-leaved Bindweed Field Bindweed Elegant Bindweed Common Dodder A Morning Glory

#### **Stonecrop Family**

Biting Stonecrop Coastal Stonecrop Red Stonecrop Mediterranean Stonecrop A Pennywort Yellow Pennywort

Cucumber Family White Bryony Squirting Cucumber

#### **Teasel Family**

A Scabious Tremastelma **Heather Family** Eastern Strawberry Tree Strawberry Tree Tree Heather

#### Notes

A tiny pink Striped calyx One-sided flower spike

Large pink flowers Small pink flowers, greyish foliage White flowers Warm yellow flowers, Akrotiri Akrotiri

#### Roadsides

"

Timbaki town

Seen regularly Plakias headland

Road to Omalos

#### Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia acanthothamnos Euphorbia characias subsp. characias Euphorbia dendroides Euphorbia exigua Euphorbia helioscopia Euphorbia paralias Mercurialis annua Ricinus communis ‡

#### Fabaceae

Anagyris foetida Anthyllis tetraphylla Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. rubriflora Astragalus angustifolius Bituminaria bituminosa Calicotome villosa Ceratonia siliqua Cercis siliquastrum ‡ Coronilla scorpioides Ebenus cretica • Genista acanthoclada Hymenocarpus circinnatus Lathyrus annuus Lathyrus aphaca Lathyrus clymenum Lathyrus ochrus Lathyrus setifolius Lotus conimbricensis Lotus ornithopodioides Lotus pedunculatus Lotus peregrinus Lupinus angustifolius Lupinus micranthus Medicago arabica Medicago arborea Medicago disciformis Medicago lupulina Medicago marina Medicago murex Medicago orbicularis Medicago polymorpha Onobrychis caput-galli Ononis reclinata Ononis spinosa subsp. diacantha Ornithopus compressus Robinia pseudoacacia ‡ Scorpiurus muricatus Spartium junceum Tetragonolobus purpureus Trifolium angustifolium Trifolium arvense Trifolium campestre

#### Common name

### Spurge Family

Greek Spiny Spurge Large Mediterranean Spurge Tree Spurge Dwarf Spurge Sun Spurge Sea Spurge Annual Mercury Castor-oil-plant

#### Pea Family

Bean Trefoil **Bladder Vetch** A Kidney Vetch A Milk-vetch **Pitch Trefoil** Hairy Thorny Broom Carob Judus Tree Annual Scorpion Vetch Shrubby Sainfoin Spiny Broom **Disc Trefoil** Annual Vetchling Yellow Vetchling Crimson Pea Winged Vetchling Red Vetchling A Bird's-foot Trefoil Clustered Bird's-foot Trefoil Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil A Bird's-foot Trefoil Narrow-leaved Lupin A Hairy Lupin Spotted Medick Tree Medick **Disc Medick** Black Medick Sea Medick A Bur Medick **Disc Medick Toothed Medick** Cock's-comb Sainfoin Small Restharrow Spinv Restharrow Compressed Bird's-foot False Acacia Scorpion Vetch Spanish Broom Asparagus Pea Narrow-leaved Clover Hare's-foot Clover Hop Trefoil

Notes

Bright green 'cushions' Seen regularly

Akrotiri Seen regularly Plakias sand dunes

Blue flowers

Tree with large glossy leaves Pink flowers on the branches

Masses at Plakias

Orange flowers

Plakias sand dunes

Akrotiri

Roadsides, planted

Roadsides, planted Blood red flowers

Trifolium fragiferum Trifolium nigrescens Trifolium repens Trifolium resupinatum Trifolium stellatum Trifolium uniflorum Vicia cretica Vicia hybrida Vicia sativa subsp. sativa ‡ Wisteria sinensis ‡

## Fagaceae

Castanea sativa ‡ Quercus coccifera subsp. calliprinos Quercus ilex Quercus ithaburensis subsp. macrolepis

#### Gentianaceae

Blackstonia perfoliata subsp. intermedia Centaurium erythraea

#### Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium Erodium gruinum Erodium malacoides Geranium dissectum Geranium lucidum Geranium molle Geranium purpureum Geranium robertianum Geranium rotundifolium

#### Juglandaceae

Juglans regia‡

#### Lamiaceae

Lamium amplexicaule Lavandula stoechas Marrubium vulgare Origanum vulgare subsp. hirtum Phlomis cretica Phlomis fruticosa Phlomis lanata • Prasium majus Prunella lacinata Prunella vulgaris Rosmarinus officinalis Salvia fruticosa Salvia verbenaca Salvia viridis Satureja thymbra Scutellaria sieberi •

# Common name Strawberry Clover

Annual White Clover White Clover Reversed Clover Starry Clover One-flowered Clover Cretan Vetch Hairy Yellow Vetchling Common Vetch Wisteria

### **Beech Family**

Sweet Chestnut Kermes Oak Holm Oak Valonia Oak

#### Gentian Family

Yellow-wort Common Centaury

### **Crane's-bill Family**

Common Stork's-bill Long-beaked Stork's-bill Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill Cut-leaved Crane's-bill Shining Crane's-bill Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Little Robin Herb Robert Round-leaved Crane's-bill

Walnut Family

Walnut

#### **Dead-nettle Family**

Henbit Dead-nettle French Lavender White Horehound Marjoram Cretan Jerusalem Sage Jerusalem Sage Wooly Sage Prasium **Cut-leaved Self-heal** Self-heal Rosemary Three-lobed Sage Wild Clary **Red-topped Sage** Satureia/ Summer Savoury A Skullcap

Low, compact cushions Delicate plant, Akrotiri

Notes

#### Planted widely

Late Minoan Cemetery

### Plakias Headland

"

#### Seen regularly

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Seen regularly

"

## Seen widely

Roadsides near Iraklion Seen widely

Seen widely Seen widely, pink flowers

Seen widely, very aromatic Imbros Gorge

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
Stachys creticasubsp. cretica	Mediterranean Woundwort	Leaves only, very woolly
Teucrium microphyllum	Small-leaved Germander	
Thymbra capitata	Mediterranean Thyme	
Lauraceae	Laurel Family	
Laurus nobilis	Вау	
Linaceae	Flax Family	
Linum arboreum	Shrubby Flax	Kotsiphos Gorge, yellow flowers
Linum bienne	Biennial Flax	Small flowers
Linum pubescens	Hairy Flax	
Linum strictum	Upright Yellow Flax	
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
Lavatera arborea	Tree Mallow	Seen regularly
Lavatera cretica	Cretan Hollyhock	"
Malva cretica	Cretan Mallow	"
Malva parviflora	Least Mallow	"
Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow	ű
Meliaceae	Mahogany Family	
Melia azedarach ‡	Persian Lilac	Planted
Moraceae	Mulberry Family	Planted
Ficus carica	Fig	ű
Ficus elastica ‡	Rubber Plant	ű
Morus alba ‡	White Mulberry	
Myoporaceae	Myoporum Family	
Myoporum laetum ‡	Ngaio	Planted
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family	
Callistemon viminalis ‡	Bottlebrush	Planted
Eucalyptus camaldulensis ‡	River Red Gum	u
Myrtus communis	Common Myrtle	и
Nyctaginaceae	Bougainvillea Family	
Bougainvillea glabra ‡	Bougainvillea	Planted
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
Olea europaea subsp. oleaster	Wild Olive	Seen regularly
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
Orobanche crenata	Bean Broomrape	Akrotiri
Orobanche pubescens	Downy Broomrape	Seen occasionally
Orobanche ramosa	Branched Broomrape	Lilac flowers, short spike
Orobanche schultzii	Purple Broomrape	Nr Moni Prevelli
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family	
Oxalis pes-caprae ‡	Bermuda Buttercup	Invasive, pernicious weed!!

**Poppy Family** 

Yellow Horned Poppy

Papaveraceae Glaucium flavum

Seen widely

- · · ··	_	
Scientific name	Common name	Notes
Papaver argemone subsp. nigrotinctum	Prickly Poppy	
Papaver dubium subsp. dubium	Long-headed Poppy	
Papaver hybridum	Rough Poppy	
Papaver purpureomarginatum		Small delicate, orange flowers
Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy	
Pittosporaceae	Pittosporum Family	
Pittosporum tobira ‡	A Pittosporum	Halepo Hotel garden
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
Plantago afra	Glandular Plantain	Seen regularly
Plantago bellardii	Hairy Plantain	ű
Plantago cretica	A Plantain	ű
Plantago lagopus	Hare's-foot Plantain	ű
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	"
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	ű
Plantago weldenii	A Buck's-horn Plantain	ű
Platanaceae	Plane Family	
Platanus orientalis	Oriental Plane	Seen widely
Polygalaceae	Milk-wort Family	
Polygala myrtifolia ‡	Myrtle-leaved Milkwort	Planted, Agia
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
Anagallis arvensis var. arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel	
Anagallis arvensis subsp. foemina	Blue Pimpernel	
Anagallis foemina	A Pimpernel	
Cyclemen creticum •	Cretan Sowbread	See near Gerakari
Punicaceae	Pomegranate Family	
Punica granatum ‡	Pomegranate	Planted
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
Anemone coronaria	Crown Anomone	Masses on Omalos
Anemone hortensis subsp. heldreichii	Heldreich's Anemone	Spili
Ranunculus arvensis	Corn Buttercup	
Ranunculus asiaticus	Turban Buttercup	Seen widely -mostly white
Ranunculus creticus •	Cretan Buttercup	Spili – large leaves
Ranunculus peltatus subsp. fucoides	Pond Water-crowfoot	
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family	
Reseda alba	White Mignonette	
Reseda lutea	Mignonette	
Rosaceae	Rose Family	<b>6</b>
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Seen widely
Eriobotrya japonica ‡	Japanese Loquat	Planted
Poterium sanguisorba subsp. verrucosa	Salad Burnet	
Prunus dulcis ‡	Almond	
Prunus persica ‡	Peach	
Pyrus spinosa	Almond-leaved Pear	

#### **Tour Report**

#### Scientific name

Rosa canina Rubus sanctus Sarcopoterium spinosum

#### Rubiaceae

Galium aparine Rubia peregrina Sherardia arvensis

### Rutaceae

Citrus limon ‡ Citrus sinensis ‡ Ruta chalpensis subsp. chalepensis

#### Salicaceae

Populus alba ‡ Salix alba ‡

#### Scrophulariaceae

Bellardia trixago Cymbalaria muralis ‡ Linaria pelisseriana Misopates orontium Parentucellia latifolia Parentucellia viscosa Scrophularia lucida Scrophularia peregrina Verbascum arcturus • Verbascum macrurum Verbascum sinuatum Veronica cymbalaria Veronica persica‡

Simaroubaceae Ailanthus altissima‡

#### Solanaceae

Hyoscyamus albus Mandragora autumnalis Nicotiana glauca ‡

Styracaceae Styrax officinalis

**Tamaricaceae** Tamariix parviflora Tamarix smyrnensis ‡

Ulmaceae Zelkova abelicea •

Urticaceae Parietaria cretica

#### Common name

Dog-rose A Bramble Thorny Burnet

#### Bedstraw Family Cleavers

Wild Madder Field Madder

### **Rue Family**

Lemon Orange Fringed Rue

## **Willow Family**

White Poplar White Willow

## **Figwort Family**

Bellardia Ivy-leaved Toadflax Jersey Toadflax Weasel's-snout Southern Red Bartsia Yellow Bartsia Shining Figwort Nettle-leaved Figwort Shrubby Mullein A Mullein Wavy-leaved Mullien Cymbalaria-leaved Speedwell Common Field Speedwell

Tree-of-heaven Family Tree-of-heaven

### Nightshade Family White Henbane Mandrake Shrub Tobacco

Storax Family Mediterranean Storax

Tamarisk Family Small-flowered Tamarisk A Tamarisk

Elm Family Cretan Zelkova

Nettle Family Cretan Pellitory

#### Notes

Chicken wire plant

Tiny plant - lilac flowers

Seen regularly - pink and white flowers

Tiny purple flowers Small pink flowers Small plant – red flowers

> Imbros Gorge Plakias, Imbros Tall plant Leaves only,

Prolific at Knossos

Akrotiri Leaves only, Planted – roadsides

Georgeopolis

Not in leaf - Omalos

Parietaria judaica Urtica membranacea Urtica pilulifera

#### Valerianaceae

Centranthus calcitrapa Centranthus ruber ‡ Valeriana asarifolia • Valerianella coronata

Verbenaceae Vitex agnus-castus

#### Vitaceae

Vitis vinifera subsp. sylvestris Vitis vinifera subsp. vinifera ‡

#### LILIIDAE

Amaryllidaceae Allium circinnatum subsp. circinnatum • Allium neapolitanum Pancratium maritimum

#### Araceae

Arisarum vulgare Arum concinnatum Arum creticum Dracunculus vulgaris

#### Asparagaceae

Agave americana ‡ Drimia maritima Leopoldia comosa Muscari spreitzenhoferi • Ornithogalum creticum • Ruscus aculeatus

Dioscoreaceae Tamus communis

#### Iridaceae

Crocus sieberi subsp. sieberi • Gladiolus italicus Iris pseudacorus Iris tuberosa Iris unguicularis subsp.cretensis • Moraea mediterranea Moraea sisyrinchium Romulea bulbocodium Romulea linaresii subsp. graeca

# Common name

Pellitory-of-the-Wall Membranous Nettle Roman Nettle

### Valerian Family Annual Valerian Red Valerian Cretan Valerian A Corn Salad

Vervain Family Chaste Tree

Vine Family Wild Vine Grape Vine

### MONOCOTYLEDONS

## Daffodil Family

Naples Garlic Sea Daffodil

## Arum Family

Friar's Cowl An Arum Cretan Arum Dragon Arum

#### **Asparagus Family**

Centuryplant Sea Squill Tassel Hyacinth A Tassel Hyacinth A Star-of-Bethlehem Butcher's-broom

Yam Family Black Bryony

## Iris Family

A Crocus Field Gladiolus Yellow Flag Snake's-head Iris Cretan Iris One-leaved Barbary Nut Barbary Nut A Sand-crocus A Sand-crocus

#### Notes

Imbros Gorge - in leaf only

Akrotiri - tiny plant with corkscrew leaves

Late Minoan Cemetery Leaves only – Plakias

Spili Seen regularly Kotsiphos Gorge, yellow flowers Akrotiri

> Roadsides – planted Bulbs only Seen regularly Plakias

> > Spili, Omalos Seen widely

> > Spili, Omalos Spili Akrotiri Spili Omalos

#### Liliaceae

Gagea chrysantha Gagea graeca Tulipa bakeri • Tulipa doerfleri • Tulipa saxatilis

#### Orchidaceae

Anacamptis boryi Anacamptis collina Anacamptis laxiflora Anacamptis papilionacea subsp. alibertis • Anacamptis pyramidalis Himantoglossum robertianum Neotinea lactea Neotinea maculata Ophrys ariadnae Ophrys bombyliflora Ophrys candica Ophrys creberrima **Ophrys** cretensis Ophrys cretica Ophrys creticola • Ophrys episcopalis Ophrys gortynia Ophrys heldreichii Ophrys herae Ophrys iricolor **Ophrys** leochroma Ophrys phryganae Ophrys sicula Ophrys spruneri Ophrys villosa Orchis anthropophora Orchis italica Orchis pauciflora Orchis quadripunctata Serapias bergonii Serapias lingua Serapias parviflora Serapias vomeracea

Posidoniacae Posidonia oceanica

Smilacaceae Smilax aspera

**Typhaceae** Typha domingensis

# Lily Family A Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem Greek Lloydia

Common name

Baker's Tulip Doerfler's Tulip Rock Tulip

### **Orchid Family**

Bory's Orchid Fan-lipped Orchid Jersey Orchid Alibertis' Pink Butterfly-orchid Pyramidal Orchid **Giant Orchid** Milky Orchid **Dense-flowered Orchid** Ariadne's Orchid **Bumblebee Orchid** Candia Orchid Creberrima Orchid Cretan Early Spider-orchid Common Cretan Bee Orchid Creticola Orchid Large-flowered (Bishops)Bee Orchid Gortys Orchid Heldreich's Orchid Hera's Orchid Rainbow Orchid Lion Mane Orchid Phrygana Orchid Small Yellow Bee Orchid Spruner's Orchid Hairy Orchid Man Orchid Naked Man Orchid Sparse-flowered Orchid Four-spotted Orchid Bergoni's Tongue-orchid Tongue-orchid Small-flowered Tongue-orchid Ploughshare Tongue-orchid

Neptune-grass Family Neptune-grass

Smilax Family Common Smilax

Reedmace Family Southern Reedmace Notes

Omalos Seen widely – tiny plant Omalos Spili Plakias headland

Spili Spili - picnic site Amari Valley Plakias Headland Seen regularly Spili Seen regularly Spili Seen occasionally Spili Seen widely Seen widely Spili Seen regularly Spili Spili Spili Seen widely Spili Spili Seen regularly

> Late Minoan Cemetery Roadside nr Bali

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
Xanthorrhoeaceae	Asphodel Family	
Asphodeline lutea	Yellow Asphodel	Seen widely
Asphodelus aestivus	Common Asphodel	"
Asphodelus fistulosus	Hollow-stemmed Asphodel	Roadsides
Zosteraceae	Eelgrass Family	
Zostera marina	Eelgrass	
Zostera noltii	Dwarf Eelgrass	

# Birds ( $\checkmark$ =recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

							April										
	Common name	Latin name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
1	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	✓					4									
2	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos						2									
3	Garganey	Anas querquedula				2											
4	Chukar	Alectoris chukar							3								
5	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis					✓	✓									
6	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	2														
7	Pygmy Cormorant	Phalacrocorax pygmeus					1										
8	Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus					2	1									
9	Squacco Heron	Aedeola ralloides			2			3									
10	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta		1	1		✓	✓									
11	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea		2	1			1									
12	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea		1		2		1									
13	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		20													
14	Bearded Vulture	Gypaetus barbatus				1											
15	Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			<u> </u>							
16	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos			1		1			<u> </u>							
17	Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciata				1				<u> </u>							
18	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus					1	1									
19	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<u> </u>							
20	Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus							1	<u> </u>							
21	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus						1									
22	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus		2	2	✓	✓			<u> </u>							
23	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni							5	<u> </u>							
24	Eleonora's Falcon	Falco eleonorae				1				<u> </u>							
25	Water Rail	Rallus aquaticus			1												
26	Little Crake	Porzana parva						5		<u> </u>							
27	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>		✓		✓	✓									
28	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra			1		✓	✓		<u> </u>							
29	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus			2			1		<u> </u>							
30	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius				1											
31	Dunlin	Calidris alpina			4												
32	Little Stint	Calidris minuta			1												
33	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola		1	20	1	1			-							
34	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	1							<u> </u>							
35	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos		1	1	✓	✓			<u> </u>							
36	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia			1					-							
37	Ruff	Philomachus pugnax			50+					-							
38	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	✓	✓	✓	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	~	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	✓	-							
39	Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica			1												

						Apr	il			
	Common name	Latin name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
40	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
41	Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	✓	✓	✓	✓				
42	Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	European Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur			2					
44	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus							1	
45	Common Swift	Apus apus					✓	✓	✓	
46	Alpine Swift	Apus melba			✓	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>		✓	✓	
47	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops				1				
48	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	1							
49	Eurasian Wryneck	Jynx torquilla					1			
50	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata		Н	2	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	✓		2	
51	Woodlark	Lullula arborea		3				✓		
52	Common Sand Martin	Riparia riparia			1	1				
53	Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris		✓			✓	1		
54	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	✓	✓	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	~	✓	
55	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	✓	250	✓	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	
56	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis				1			1	
57	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba		1	1	· ·		~	1	
58a	Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava flava		1	•	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>		
004	Black-headed Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava feldegg			✓	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>			
59	Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos		Н		1	1			
60	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe		1		· ·		<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>		
61	Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica		2		<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>		1	1	
62	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetta		2		· •		 ✓	 ✓	
63	Common Stonechat	Saxicola torquata		$\checkmark$	✓	· •		· •	· •	
64	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos			-		Н		-	
65	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	 ✓	~	1	
66	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius	1	2		✓	· ✓		-	
67	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	1	∠ ✓	Н		H	1		
68	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	1	2	 ✓		11	1		
69	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	∠ ✓	• •	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	н	
70	Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans			•				H	
71	Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus					<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>		11	
72	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	н	Н	Н	Н	н Н	Н		
73	Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	H	11	11	11	11	- 11		
74	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	11					1		
75	Wood Warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix			1			1		
76	Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		Н	1	Н				
70				п	1				2	
	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata			-		1		2	
78	Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca		4	<u> </u>		I		4	
79	Collared Flycatcher	Ficedula albicollis		1	2				1	
80	Semi-collared Flycatcher	Ficedula semitorquata							1	
81	Great Tit	Parus major	✓	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	✓	
82	European Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		<ul> <li>✓</li> <li>0</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓ ▲	-	
83	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator		2		-		1	5	
84	Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	<u> </u>			2				
85	Western Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>			
86	Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax					1	✓ ✓		
87	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	L
88	Common Raven	Corvus corax	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<u> </u>
89	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus							1	

						Apr	il			
	Common name	Latin name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
90	Italian Sparrow	Passer italiae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
91	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs		$\checkmark$	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
92	Common Linnet	Linaria cannabina		$\checkmark$				✓		
93	European Goldfinch	Carduelis cardulis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
94	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
95	European Serin	Serinus serinus					✓		Н	
96	Ortolan Bunting	Emberiza hortulana		2						
97	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus						✓		
98	Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra		✓		✓				

## Mammals

1	Eastern Hedgehog	Erinaceus concolor					D			D
2	Beech Marten	Martes foina bunites	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
3	Cretan Badger	Meles meles arkalus					D			

# Reptiles

1	Balkan Green Lizard	Lacerta trilineata				1			
2	Cretan Wall Lizard	Podarcis cretensis			✓		✓		
3	Balkan Terrapin	Mauremys rivulata	✓				✓	✓	

# Amphibians

1	Green Toad	Bufo viridis	E				
2	Cretan Water Frog	Pelophylax cretensis			✓		

# Butterflies

1	Cretan Festoon	Zerynthia cretica				2			
2	Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalinus		$\checkmark$			✓		
3	Large White	Pieris brassicae						1	
4	Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea		✓	✓				
5	Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus		✓					
6	Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus	✓	✓			✓		
7	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta			✓	✓	✓		
8	Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui	✓						
9	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera						1	

# Dragonflies

1   Blue Emperor   Anax imperator   ✓
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# Other Insects

1	Violet Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea		1		✓	
2	Beefly sp.			1			

## Molluscs

	1		 		 	 
1	Cretan Door Snail	Albinaria inflata		✓		