

Crete

Naturetrek Tour Report

9 - 16 April 2019



Little Crake at Agia



A crowd of Naked Men! (*Orchis italica*)



Samaria Gorge



Marsh Sandpiper at Timbaki

Report by and images by John & Jenny Willsher



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Summary

Crete is the largest of the many islands of the Aegean and has long been famous for its diverse and beautiful flora and our week here did not disappoint. The season was later than last year due to torrential rain and cool winds over winter, continuing well into the previous weeks. The rainfall had produced lush green growth with many flowers just reaching their peak. The abundant flora of Crete is particularly exciting, ten percent of the plants being endemic.

The formation of Crete, a continuous mountain chain with many gorges and plateaus, took place about five million years ago when the Mediterranean basin was flooded and this period of isolation is responsible for the islands high level of endemism in its flora.

The roadsides and hills were colourful, with sweeps of yellow Crown Daisy, many pink and white cistus species, drifts of white Turban Buttercups, masses of yellow Jerusalem Sage, the lilac thistle Galactites and stately spikes of Giant Fennel.

The 'Orchid Hill' at Spili and the surrounding hills lived up to their reputation and we made a very good start on our orchid list on our day there, including drifts of Naked Man orchids and many tantalising Ophrys species. The surrounding fields were dotted with the red *Tulipa doefleri* and lilac iris, Barbary Nut (*Moraea sisyrinchium*). High on the Omalos plateau we found small patches of the pink *Tulipa bakeri* and the unusual Widow Iris (*Iris tuberosus*) and the small enclosed fields were studded with lilac/pink/blue and occasionally red Crown Anemones.

Many interesting bird species were seen. A flock of Purple Herons were seen in Plakias Bay and a Little Bittern and several Little Crakes were seen at Agia Reservoir. Griffon Vultures and Common Buzzard made up most of the raptor sightings although we did see a Red-footed Falcon near Chania.

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 9th April

Arrive at Heraklion, transfer to hotel in Plakias.

Our flight made good time and luggage retrieval was speedy so the group soon met up with Julie and Charlie who were already in Crete. Nicos from Lykno Tourism had our minibuses ready for us and once loaded up we were on our way west. It was quite cloudy so we only had brief glimpses of the snow-capped Mt. Ida (Psiloritis) on our left. We made good time along this busy main road before turning south at Rethymnon, towards our seaside hotel in the small resort of Plakias, on the south coast of the island.

We made a brief stop at Gerapotamus Bridge where we saw Buzzard, Alpine Swifts and Yellow-legged Gulls circling in the sky, Moorhen in the river and heard a Cetti's Warbler's explosive song. Amongst the track side scrub were Prassium, a small white-flowered shrub, Hairy Thorny Broom, Spanish Broom, the endemic Wall lettuce (*Petromarula pinnata*) and the orchids *Serapias bergonii* and *Ophrys gortynia*.

To reach the south coast, we normally pass through the Kourtaliotiki Gorge, but Nicos had warned us that due to torrential winter rains it was closed. We therefore took the alternative route to Plakias via the Kotsiphos Gorge. Though the less dramatic of the two gorges, it meant we had good views of the bright yellow endemic Cretan Arum, which reliably flowers at the top of the Kotsiphos, and we took the opportunity to stop in Myrthios at the Taverna Panorama for a coffee and baklava, and Larisa had spinach pie. As the name suggests the taverna gave us wonderful views across Plakias Bay, by this time bathed in sunshine.

Plakias is a delightful small town on a beautiful curved bay with a 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.

Today the sea was distinctly choppy as a cool breeze blew in across the bay.

After settling into our hotel rooms with their lovely views across the bay, we walked the short distance to the seaside Gorgona restaurant, where Nicos (a different one!) was waiting to serve us the first of many delicious meals. Today it was a substantial *meze* and mousakka

Day 2

Wednesday 10th April

Moni Preveli, Kourtaliotiko Gorge and Spili area

The day began still windy but not too cold and some of the group took an early morning walk along the shore road towards the west end of the bay to check the beach and scrub for birds.

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 flavum*), the aromatic Three-leaved Sage (*Salvia fruticosa*), Branched and Lavender Broomrape (*Orobanche ramosa*, *O. lavendulacea*) and delicate spikes of *Ornithogalum creticum*.

After breakfast, we set off, firstly stopping in Plakias for picnic supplies.

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 (*Platanus orientalis*), that were just coming into leaf. We stopped for short walk down a track through the olives where a Southern Speckled Wood butterfly was active, as were the first of many Painted Ladies seen during the next few days. Greenfinch, Goldfinch and Chaffinch were all singing and Common Buzzards were busy in the sky above.

We continued down the valley and could see that the riverbed and surrounding areas had been deeply scoured by the massive river flows that had occurred overwinter.

We made a stop as we climbed above the valley to get a closer view of several Red-rumped Swallows but quickly noticed that the singing warbler in the scrub was not the usual Sardinian but a Ruppell's Warbler. We watched two males and a female for some time and some of us managed to get photos of the male bird. A Cuckoo flew past us and up the slope where it settled on a small bush enabling us to get the 'scope on it. A new arrival perhaps this morning. While the birders were enjoying the handsome Ruppell's, the botanists scoured the scrub finding many common *phrygana species* such as Greek Spiny Spurge, Purple Vipers Bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*), the diminutive Sideritis and Scarlet and Blue Pimpernel but also Spotted Rockrose, Branched Broomrape, Pyramidal Orchid, Common and Yellow Asphodel.

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 include Cystus species, Thorny Burnet (*Sarcopoterium spinosum*), the aromatic Savoury (*Satureja spinosa*) and other aromatic plants.

Further up the road some of us had a fleeting glimpse of a male Collared Flycatcher as it flew away from its fencepost perch. The memorial garden at the top of the hill had a male Pied Flycatcher and a Northern Wheatear and near the monastery in addition to the Stonechats and Corn Buntings a Subalpine Warbler, Nightingale, Red-billed Chough and Wood Warbler were seen. A very distant Ortolan Bunting was heard and on the way back down a fine male Black-eared Wheatear attracted our attention.

The atmospheric Moni Preveli, 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 of the group took a look at its well-maintained complex, while others checked the trees below the car park for migrants

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.

We retraced our steps, returning to the Turkish Bridge, where the cafe was being prepared for opening. The owners kindly agreed for us to use their tables and chairs for our picnic.

We had been informed that the Kourtilioitiko Gorge was now passable so we headed up into this dramatic landscape. We stopped for a vulture watch at a viewpoint and saw a few of these massive birds circling, and also Crag Martins, Alpine Swifts and a Blue Rock Thrush. At our feet amongst the gravel were the tiny flowers of Burnt Candytuft (*Aetheonoma saxatile*), bright pink *Silene colorata* and tight buds of the endemic *Centaurea raphanina* ssp *raphanina*. Amongst the rocks at the edge of the viewpoint were a few dainty white *Cyclamen creticum* and the tiny lily *Gagea graeca*.

We then headed into the hills behind the small town of Spili. The focus here was on the botanical riches of this now partially protected area. We parked behind the "Orchid Hill" and Jenny gave a brief description of the various types of orchids that we would find. We then slowly picked our way around this unassuming rocky

mound where we found 20 species of orchids, including drifts of the pink Naked Man Orchid (*Orchis italica*), clumps of the yellow Sparse-flowered Orchid (*O. pauciflora*), Milky and Toothed Orchids (*Orchis lactea*, *O. tridentata*), many spikes of the purple Bory's Orchid (*Anacamptis boryi*), small groups of Bumblebee Orchid (*Ophrys bombyliflora*) and many handsome spikes of Cretan Bee, Bishops and Heildreich's Orchid (*Ophrys ariadne*, *O. episcopalis*, *O. heldreichii*). The surrounding fields were dotted with the red *Tulipa doefleri* and lilac Barbary Nut (*Moraea sisyrinchium*). It was a cool blustery afternoon which didn't encourage us to linger so we moved higher up the road and took a walk to warm up. The botanists were soon examining the banks for more orchids and added *Ophrys creberrima* and *Ophrys herae* to the list. Corn Bunting, Linnet, Crested and Wood Lark were seen.

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, and then were glad to return to the warmth of our hotel.

We met up later in the hotel to discuss our findings of the day before walking to the restaurant where Nicos welcomed us and served us another very good meal.

Day 3

Thursday 11th April

Kotsiphos Gorge, Frangokastello, Imbros Gorge

Today's pre-breakfast walk was a little more productive for birds with a Kingfisher spotted moving between one of the rocky islets just offshore and the mouth of the stream in the village, whilst out above the bay a flock of herons flew by (proved after reference to photos to be Purple Herons with three Black-crowned Night Herons amongst them). After breakfast as we were getting picnic supplies a group of seven Black-winged Stilts circled the bay looking for somewhere to land but sadly there was no-where suitable so they headed out of the bay.

Today we set off westwards, on the twisting, scenic road that follows the coast to Frangokastello through the hillside villages of Selia, Rodakino and Skaloti. We stopped at various points for opportunistic searches for birds and flowers. The hillsides were dotted with elegant spikes of Common Asphodel.

At our first stop at the lower end of the Kotsiphos Gorge we scanned the sky which was difficult as low cloud swirled around the top. Griffin Vultures disappeared into the mist and a possible Golden Eagle was briefly seen before it too disappeared from view – frustrating for the photographers! There was an all too brief view of a Golden Oriole probably just arrived from Africa making its way up the gorge.

Roadside plants included drifts of Greek Chamomile, studded with Common Daisy and Corn Marigold, the tiny pink Kohlrauschia, Common Dodder, forming a pink 'hairnet' over low shrubs, Wild Carrot and many species of vetches, including Pitch Trefoil, with its pungent leaves, Starry, White and Reversed Clover, and the two 'tree' vetches Carob and Judas Tree. Later we saw many bushes of the white flowered Sage-leaved Cistus (*Cistus salvifolius*), the pink flowered *C. creticus* and banks of deep blue Hairy Lupin.

Other stops produced a Pied Flycatcher, Whinchat and a singing Cirl Bunting plus Tawny Pipit, Crested Lark, Black-eared Wheatears and the first of what would be many Woodchat Shrikes for the day.

As we approached the old castle across the low lying plain with its extensive olive plantations, a Bee-eater was spotted by the botanists on the roadside fence but it didn't hang about to be seen by the birdwatchers! There were more Woodchat Shrikes, Crested Larks, Whinchats, a Redstart and a Hoopoe.

At Frangocastello 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 1800's a bloody battle was fought here between the Cretans and the Turks. It is a shell of a building now, sometimes used for concerts.

We had coffee and drinks at a cafe very near the castle and the cafe owners kindly let us use their tables to have our picnic on and some of the group indulged in delicious cakes from the bakery.

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 (though we did see some very nimble goats in the most improbable places on the gorge sides!). 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 off!) were a few spikes of the dramatic Dragon Arum (*Dranunculus vulgaris*) with its huge purple red spathe. Other plants included Nettle-leaved Figwort, Fig and 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*.

A cave in the lower gorge had numerous noisy nesting Italian Sparrows, further up Wrens were heard and one seen along with a female Subalpine Warbler, whilst overhead there was a migrating Marsh Harrier. On the way back some of us had excellent views of another Ruppell's Warbler.

Returning back along the coast road we had to stop for some very bright Yellow Wagtails of the *feldegg* subspecies and several more Woodchat Shrikes.

Day 4

Friday 12th April

Festos

After breakfast, and the usual shop for picnic supplies we headed north through the Kortiliotiki Gorge. We stopped to check out the birds, and despite some low cloud we managed to see several Griffon Vultures, Alpine Swifts, Red-billed Choughs, Raven, Crag Martin and Blue Rock Thrush.

At a particularly floristic roadside bank, amongst the masses of white Turban Buttercups we found the scarlet Asparagus Pea (*Tetragonolobus purpureas*), Bory's, Fan-lipped and Pyramidal Orchids (*Anacamptis boryi*, *A. collina*, *A. pyramidalis*) and Giant Orchid.

More Griffon Vultures and a Pied Flycatcher were seen and a Wryneck was heard

Before reaching the archaeological site of Festos (Phaestos) we had to cross the fertile plain of Mesara, and pass through the busy town of Timbaki with its unattractive sprawl of plastic greenhouses. Festos is one of four palaces built around 1,900 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, although at times the cloud hid the snow-capped peak of Mount Ida

By now it was approaching lunchtime so we headed down to the coast north of Timbaki, having our picnic near the lagoons at the back of the beach. Such wet areas are a rare habitat on Crete. The heavy winter rainfall however meant the lagoon was very full with not as much muddy margin as usual. Numbers of waders were low but made up for with quality with up to five Marsh Sandpipers, Black-winged Stilts and a few Ruff seen. On the sea a flock of distant ducks proved to be Garganey and just as we left two Little Ringed Plovers dropped in. The final highlight, especially for the photographers, was a very amenable Marsh Sandpiper very close to the road.

Our return journey included a short detour through the village of Vatos to an interesting geological site where there were amazing banks of green and black lava. On the roadside just before we reached our target site Jenny spotted a single tall yellow orchid – *Orchis provincialis* – an uncommon orchid on Crete (which Jenny had not seen here before!) While some were photographing this particularly handsome spike others explored further up the bank and found some lovely spikes of Pink Butterfly Orchid (*Anacamptis papilionacea* ssp *heroica*), Dense-flowered Orchid, and many spikes of the endemic *Orchis sitiaca* with its distinctive silvery green foliage.

Our target site was a north-facing meadow which was studded with orchids such as Giant, Fan-lipped and Pyramidal Orchids, more *Orchis sitiaca*, and amongst the rocks at the roadside were a few of the endemic *Tulipa cretica*.

Enough orchids for one day you might think but John had logged one more on his sat-nav from last year! To the amusement of a local man sitting in his car we all piled out of the vans to photograph one more – a single Monkey Orchid (*Orchis simia*) with its dark pink limbs.

We then set off for our hotel with lots of orchids to discuss over this evening's log.

Day 5

Saturday 13th April

Armani, Georgiopolis and Chania

After breakfast we had our final walk in the area out towards the headland at the east end of Plakias Bay. This was primarily for some special plants and the spectacular view across the bay, although we did however have approximately 15 Alpine Swifts chasing each other around the edge of the cliff at high speed. There was also a Little Egret, Kestrel, Blue Rock Thrush and Sardinian Warblers.

The predominant plant here was Tree Euphorbia (*E. dendroides*), but on the rock walls and amongst the phrygana plants we found the strange *Aristolochia cretica*, many spikes of Pyramidal Orchid, the rare Cretan Rock Tulip, buds of the endemic *Campanula saxatilis* and Cretan Vipers Grass (*Scorzonera cretica*). This used to be a reliable site for *Ophrys candida* till a small landslide destroyed the bank, but orchid hunter Charlie found two good spikes. The dramatic cliff walls were dotted with clumps of Shrubby Mullein (*Verbascum arcturus*) and the sand dunes below held typical seaside plants such as the low growing Dune Carrot (*Pseudorhiza pumila*) with its spiny seeds, Sea Spurge (*E. peplus*), Sea Medick (*Medicago marina*), Sea Stock (*Matthiola sinuata*), Sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*) and

the pale blue spikes of *Muscari spreitzenhoferi*. We also found masses of leaves of the autumn flowering Sea Daffodil (*Pancratium maritimum*), which dot the back of the beach under the tamarisk trees.

Sadly we then had to leave the now picture postcard blue sea and attractive little town of Plakias. The only new bird seen in the usual gorge stop was a smart male Collared Flycatcher

So we made our way back to the main road to Rethymnon and headed for our next stop - north of Armeni at the late Minoan cemetery site. This peaceful site is 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 sisyrinchium*) and a few orchids, including good spikes of Giant Orchid, Bishop's and Heildreichs Ophrys, drifts of Naked Man Orchid, *Serepias lingua* and *S. bergonii*.

The oakwood did not provide too much bird interest as it was now quite warm, being around midday, although a Wood Warbler and a couple of Wrens were seen.

Our usual friendly taverna was closed so we moved on, joining the main road west to Chania. At Gerani we turned down towards the beach where an old covered well provided a table of sorts and seating for our picnic.

Our next stop was at the reservoir at Georgiopolis. Here there were Coot, Moorhen, Little Grebe, Little Egret and a Kingfisher. Around the shore basking in the sunshine were lots of Balkan Terrapins.

It was then on to Chania, We stopped at a roadside taverna for refreshments and facilities and enjoyed amazing views across Souda Bay, a large natural deep water harbour, used as a port since ancient times. Further on we stopped for a short walk through the quiet and peaceful Souda Bay War Cemetery, the burial site for 1,500 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 over a drink in the hotel lounge, 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. Our meal was accompanied by traditional Greek laments from a trio of singers and players.

Day 6

Sunday 14th April

Agia Reservoir, Omalos Plateau

After a very substantial and satisfying breakfast, we headed south-west, 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.

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. Just as we were about to leave Norma saw a male Little Bittern disappearing into the Giant

Reed at the far end of the dam and then as we returned to the vans a Wryneck was heard. We vowed to call back later to have another look.

We then made our way up to the Omalos Plateau, the scenic road winding through orange and olive groves and small villages including Lakki which sits dramatically on a ridge with stunning views both below and above. We stopped for a welcome coffee and comfort stop at the tiny village of Omalos.

One of the botanical highlights of the stark beauty of the Omalos in early spring is the pink *Tulipa bakeri*. but as the flowering season was quite late flowers were not easy to find. Eventually we managed to find small groups of this lovely flower, mostly thriving in areas fenced off from the grazing goats and sheep. The small fields were dotted with the colourful *Anemone coronaria*, in various shades of blue and pink, and occasionally red and small patches of the unusual green and brown Widow Iris (*Iris tuberosa*). Jenny encouraged everyone to search the low turf for the diminutive purple Romulea and the locally endemic White Mountain Crocus (*C. sieberi ssp sieberi*) and both were found. The very spiny Cretan Barberry (*Berberis cretica*) was thriving, though not quite in leaf and despite a lot of prickly searching no *Arum idaeum* were found which sometimes grow in the protection of the berberis. A few leaves were found but none of the distinctive white spathe and chocolate brown spadix.

Then we moved on to the head of the Samaria Gorge, where we had our picnic on the cafe tables. Above us the Cretan Maple (*Acer sempervirens*) and the endemic *Zelkova abelica* were just coming into leaf. The latter small-leaved 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 shepherds crooks.

The stunning view into the gorge is across much scree and clumps of *Cupressus sempervirens var. horizontalis*. 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.

We then moved on around the plateau, stopping for more patches of tulips and anemones. One area had lush clumps of the tiny bright yellow lily *Gagea chrysantha* and more groups of Widow Iris.

On the way up to Omalos we had seen Jays in the pine forest and as we made our way around the plateau a few Woodlarks and Cirl Buntings were seen singing. We saw another Woodchat Shrike, Stonechats, Red-billed Choughs, more Griffon Vultures and on a small pool three Wood Sandpipers.

Later in the gorge leading down from the plateau where the scenery is quite dramatic – pale grey limestone rocks studded with Cypress trees – we stopped to look at a few plants. The road has been ‘improved’ in recent years to facilitate the increased high season traffic but we found clumps of the fragrant *Daphne sericea*, the endemic *Bellis longifolia* and a few *Cyclamen cretica*. Retracing our steps we headed back to Chania.

Stopping at Agia again we had another search for the secretive Little Crakes and managed to pick out with the ‘scope’ a distant pair of Garganey roosting under the overhanging vegetation on the far side of the lake. The lakeside cafe was now open so we enjoyed a drink in the somewhat warmer sunshine than we had experienced up at the 1,000+m height at Omalos.

After discussing the day over drinks in the hotel lounge we walked a short way from the hotel to a small restaurant overlooking the bay. The owner was charming and amusing and had us laughing while sorting out our various orders. His efficient staff served us a very good meal.

Day 7

Monday 15th April

Akrotiri Peninsula

On our last full day in Crete we headed for the Akrotiri peninsula, north of the city. 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, Prasium, *Fumana arabica*, Naples Garlic, Tassel Hyacinth and *Ophrys cretica*.

In the olive orchard a Nightingale sang and a Spotted Flycatcher was hunting for insects under the olives. As we returned to the vehicles a Serin was singing and on a distant wire two Turtle Doves were spotted, then passing overhead was a Red-footed Falcon.

Driving on towards Moni Agia Triada we parked so some could visit the monastery while others checked the surroundings. We watched the numerous noisy Italian Sparrows that were nesting in the roof of the building but then we were distracted by the call of a Golden Oriole. We searched the trees and saw two males flying into the top of one of the large Eucalyptus lining the road.

We then searched the well-tended vineyards which can be a favourite area for Red-footed Falcons and sometimes Lesser Kestrels but today it was a White leucistic Hooded Crow that foxed us for a few moments.

The second monastery is the 16th century Moni Gouvernetou, which is not such an appealing building but its enclosed garden can sometimes be very productive for birds. Today's highlights were a Woodchat Shrike and a very black and white male Black-eared Wheatear.

For the energetic there was a rocky and sometimes steep track down to the third monastery – the ruins of Moni Katholikou at the northern tip of the peninsular, or a cave and shrine halfway down. 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*). Jenny named some of the unusual plants to look out for and Jim and Jan were off! First they found the unusual fleshy flowers of the parasitic *Cytinus clusii (ruber)* which grows on the roots of *Cystus creticus*, then some of the many tiny plants including the delicate *Vicia cretica*, scrambling up through the scrub, *Ophrys sicula*, Cretan Mallow, the tiny umbellifer Fluffy Thimbleweed (*Lagoecia cuminoides*), Dwarf Spurge (*Euphorbia exigua*), the intriguing Birdcage Thistle (*Atractylis cancellata*), so called as the developing bud is protected by a cage of prickly sepals, the tiny hairy *Allium circinnatum* with its corkscrew leaves, Small Restharrow (*Ononis reclinata*), and as usual, many other vetches.

The return walk through the upper monastery garden was a little more productive for birds than earlier with the Black-eared Wheatear and a very vocal Woodchat Shrike joined by Pied Flycatchers and a male Common Redstart.

Later we had our picnic amongst the ancient olive groves and handsome Carob trees. Dotted around were many plants of the very photogenic Dragon Arum (*Dracunculus vulgaris*) with its malodorous flower spike. Also Yellow Pheasant-eye (*Adonis macrocarpa*), *Convolvulus elegantissimus*, tiny flowers of Variegated Anchusa, *Anthemis rigida*, *Pallenis spinosa*, Sun Spurge and many of the vetches we were already familiar with.

We then returned early to the hotel so that those who chose to could explore part of the ancient city of Chania, before meeting at the restaurant in the evening. Chania (Hania) is an atmospheric ancient city with remnants of Venetian walls and townhouses, many 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.

Some of the group joined Jenny who took them to meet Margarita, a lively and talented artist who practises the ancient Cretan tradition of icon making (very similar to classic Russian icons of religious figures painted on gold). Margarita talked through the lengthy process of layering different mediums on to the wooden blocks, including clay mixed with egg white and then raki to help the gold leaf stick. She then uses traditional earth minerals for the colours. Two of us were tempted to buy one of a range of small icons depicting classic Cretan plants such as olive, lemon, grapes or pomegranate.

Others in the group preferred to accompany John for another look at Agia reservoir with more great views of Little Crake, and another brief view of the Little Bittern before it was disturbed by a noisy school party and flew off into the Giant Reeds again. Cetti's Warblers were singing and a Savi's Warbler seen. The terrapins were augmented by a large Balkan Green Lizard and an Ocellated Skink seen on the dam wall.

We enjoyed our last evening in Chania in the Semiramis restaurant to the accompaniment of doves flapping and the swifts screaming in the sky above us.

Day 8

Tuesday 16th April

Return to Iraklion, Knossos and the flight home

Today we left our hotel in Chania, to head for Knossos and then Iraklion airport and our flight home. Our last views of the White Mountains were a bit cloudy but we enjoyed the scenic views of the coast and made good time on the main road to Iraklion.

Knossos was once the Minoan capital of Crete and is now the islands 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 nevertheless it is an attractive site shaded by pine trees.

After this cultural interlude we headed for the airport, and sadly prepared to leave the lovely friendly island of Crete.

Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	April								
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>							2	2	
2	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				80			2		
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>								1	
4	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>		2						1	
5	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					1		1	2	
6	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>							1	1	
7	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			3						
8	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		1		2	3				
9	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>							2		
10	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			40						
11	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	2	12	✓	✓	✓	✓			
12	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			?						
13	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			1						
14	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1							
16	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		3	2	✓	1			2	
17	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>								1	
18	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>				1					
19	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			1						
20	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>							8	7	
21	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1	2		1	20	✓	✓	✓	
22	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓	✓	✓		
23	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			7	5					
24	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				2					
25	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>							3		
26	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		2							
27	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1	2	1	1				
28	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				5					
29	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				4					
30	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				2					
31	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	4	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
33	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				2	H				
34	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
35	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>								2	
36	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		1						1	
37	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	
38	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	5			✓	15	1			
39	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			1	1					
40	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			1		1				
41	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		25	1						H
42	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>							H	H	
43	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		6	✓	1				3	
44	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		4					4	4	
45	Common Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓							
46	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		6	3	✓	1	1			
47	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	April							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
48	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>		6		2	✓			
49	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓					✓	
50	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>			1					
51	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>						1		
52	Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>			1					
53	Black-headed Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>			7					
54	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		4	H	2			H	
55	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			1				1	
56	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		3	✓			✓	✓	
57	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>		2	✓	1			6	
58	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetta</i>			✓	1				
59	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
60	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	
61	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		1	2	3	5	1		
62	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		1	2	H	✓	2		1
63	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	2	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	
64	Ruppell's Warbler	<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>		3	1					
65	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>		1	1					
66	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					1	2		
67	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>							1	
68	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	
69	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		2			1	5	✓	
70	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			2		2	H		
71	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>							1	
72	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1	2	1			2	
73	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		2			1		1	
74	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	European Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		2	✓	✓	✓	✓		
76	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		1	20			1	1	
77	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>						3		
78	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		2	H	25	✓			
79	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		1		4	✓	4		
80	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
81	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
82	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			1				2	
83	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓						
84	Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
85	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
86	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		6	✓	H	1	✓	✓	
87	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis cardulis</i>		✓	2	6	✓	✓		
88	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		2		H	1		✓	
89	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>						H	4	
90	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>		H						
91	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			H			2		
92	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				

Mammals

1	Beech Marten	<i>Martes foina bunites</i>	?							
2	Least Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis galinthias</i>				1			1	

	Common name	Scientific name	April							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Reptiles

1	Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>								1	
2	Cretan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis cretensis</i>			2				4	✓	
3	Ocellated Skink	<i>Chalcides ocellatus</i>								1	
4	Balkan Whip Snake	<i>Hierophis gemonensis</i>					?				
5	Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	
6	Stripe-necked Terrapin								✓	✓	

Amphibians

1	Cretan Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax cretensis</i>		H							
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Butterflies

1	Cretan Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cretica</i>					✓				
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirus</i>		1		✓					
3	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>					1				
4	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		1			1				
5	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		1	✓	✓	✓			✓	
6	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>					1				
7	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>				✓	1				
8	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>			1						
9	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			1					1	
10	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		6	✓	✓	✓	lots		✓	
11	Southern Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>		1	✓	✓	✓				
12	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			1						
13	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>					1				

Moths

1	Pine Processionary Moth	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>					✓	✓			
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Dragonflies

1	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>				1					
2	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>		✓	✓		✓				

Other Insects

1	Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>			2	1	1			✓	
2	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>				✓	1				
3	Potter Wasp	<i>Odynerus spinipes</i>					1				
4	Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>					1				
5	Soldier Bug	<i>Spilostethus pandurus</i>			1		✓				

Molluscs

1	Cretan Door Snail	<i>Albinaria inflata</i>			✓				✓		
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Plants (• = endemic or near endemic to Crete; ‡ = cultivated or naturalised)

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
PTERIDOPHYTES		
FERNS AND FERN ALLIES		
Aspleniaceae <i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Spleenwort Family Rustyback	Seen regularly
Dennstaedtiaceae <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken Family Bracken	Seen regularly
Equisetaceae <i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i> <i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Horsetail Family Branched Horsetail Giant Horsetail	Agia Reservoir
Polypodiaceae <i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Polypody Family Southern Polypody	Seen occasionally
Pteridaceae <i>Cheilanthes acrosrica</i>	Maidenhair Fern Family A Cheilanthes	Seen occasionally
Selaginellaceae <i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Lesser Clubmoss Family Mediterranean Clubmoss	Seen widely, minute plant
GYMNOSPERMS		
CONIFERS AND ALLIES		
Araucariaceae <i>Araucaria heterophylla</i> ‡	Monkey-puzzle Family Norfolk Island Pine	Planted
Cupressaceae <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> forma. <i>horizontalis</i> <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> forma. <i>sempervirens</i> ‡ <i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> subsp. <i>oxycedrus</i> <i>Juniperus phoenicea</i> subsp. <i>phoenicea</i>	Juniper Family Cypress Italian Cypress Prickly Juniper Phoenicean Juniper	Omalos " Seen occasionally "
Ephedraceae <i>Ephedra foeminea</i>	Joint-pine Family A Joint-pine	Agia reservoir
Pinaceae <i>Pinus halepensis</i> subsp. <i>brutia</i> <i>Pinus pinea</i> ‡	Pine Family Calabrian Pine Stone Pine	Seen widely Seen occasionally, planted
ANGIOSPERMS		
FLOWERING PLANTS		
DICOTYLEDONS		
Acanthaceae <i>Acanthus spinosus</i>	Bear's-breeches Family Spiny Bear's-breeches	Planted
Aceraceae <i>Acer sempervirens</i>	Cretan Maple	Omalos, not quite in leaf
Adoxaceae <i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Moschatel Family Dwarf Elder	Gardens!

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ‡	Elder	Armeni
Aizoaceae	Dewplant Family	
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> var. <i>edulis</i> ‡	Yellow Hottentot-fig	Planted
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> var. <i>rubescens</i> ‡		"
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i> ‡	Ice Plant	"
<i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i> ‡	Slenderleaf Iceplant	"
Amaranthaceae	Goosefoot Family	
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>maritima</i>	Sea Beet	Beach at Tambaki
<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	Nettle-leaved Goosefoot	"
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Prickly Saltwort	"
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Sea-blite	"
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family	
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	Common marquis shrub
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	Seen occasionally
<i>Schinus molle</i> ‡	Californian Pepper Tree	Agia reservoir
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	Plakias
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Roadsides
<i>Daucus guttatus</i>	A Wild Carrot	"
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	"
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly	Plakias
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	Seen widely
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>piperatum</i>	Fennel	Used on our tomato salad!
<i>Lagoecia cuminoides</i>	Fluffy Thimbleweed	Tiny plant, Akrotiri
<i>Orlaya daucooides</i>	An Orlaya	White flowers
<i>Pseudorlaya pumila</i>	Dune Carrot	Plakias
<i>Scandix australis</i>	Southern Shepherd's-needle	Long seeds
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's-needle	"
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	Roadsides
<i>Smyrniolum perfoliatum</i> subsp. <i>perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	Widespread, bright green tops
Apocynaceae	Dogbane Family	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	Planted widely
<i>Vinca major</i> ‡	Greater Periwinkle	Seen widely
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	"
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family	
<i>Aristolochia cretica</i> •	Cretan Birthwort	Plakias
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile	Seen occasionally
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	Greek Chamomile	Seen widely
<i>Anthemis rigida</i>	Rayless Chamomile	
<i>Atractylis cancellata</i>	Cage Thistle	Tiny plant
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	
<i>Bellis longifolia</i> *		Omalos

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	Seen widely
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i> subsp. <i>baeticus</i>	Woolly Safflower	
<i>Centaurea raphanina</i> subsp. <i>raphanina</i> •		Kourtiolatikí Gorge
<i>Centaurea redempta</i> •		
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Star-thistle	Noy in flower
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	Roadsides
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Crupina	Tiny, tall plant
<i>Cynara cornigera</i>	Wild Artichoke	
<i>Cynara scolymus</i> ‡	Globe Artichoke	Planted
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink Aster	Pungent shrub, not in flower
<i>Eupatorium adenophorum</i> ‡	A shrubby Hemp-agrimony	Road to Omalos, invasive weed
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>	Evax	Tiny plant on tracks
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	Lilac thistle, seen widely
<i>Geropogon hybridus</i>	Slender Salsify	Seen occasionally, short petals
<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>	Crown Daisy	Seen extensively
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	Seen widely
<i>Helichrysum microphyllum</i>	A Curry Plant	Seem occasionally
<i>Hypochaeris achyrophorus</i>	Mediterranean Cat's-ear	Widespread
<i>Hypochaeris cretensis</i>	Southern Cat's-ear	"
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth Cat's-ear	"
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	"
<i>Onopordum bracteatum</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i> •	Cretan Cotton Thistle	Leaves only
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Spiny Golden-star	Seen regularly, spine-tipped bracts
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	Shrubby Ptilostemon	Seen regularly, spine-tipped bracts
<i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	Star Hawkbit	Star shaped seeds
<i>Scorzonera cretica</i> •	Cretan Viper's-grass	Plakias, Kotsiphos Gorge
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	Leaves only
<i>Tolpis barbata</i>	Tolpis	Seen regularly
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	"
Berberidaceae	Barberry Family	
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	Cretan Barberry	Omalos, not in flower
Bignoniaceae	Jacaranda Family	
<i>Jacaranda ovalifolia</i> ‡	Jacaranda	Planted
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
<i>Alkanna sieberi</i> *	An Alkanet	Frangocastello
<i>Anchusa italica</i>	Large Blue Alkanet	Seen regularly
<i>Anchusa variegata</i>	Variiegated Anchusa	Small plant, Plakias
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	Seen regularly
<i>Cerintho major</i>	Honeywort	"
<i>Cynoglossum columnae</i>	A Hound's-tongue	"
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue	"
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss	Timbaki, roadsides
<i>Echium arenarium</i>	Sand Bugloss	Plakias
<i>Echium italicum</i> subsp. <i>biebersteinii</i>	Pale Bugloss	Seen regularly
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's Bugloss	Seen widely
<i>Lithospermum incrassatum</i>	A Gromwell	Seen regularly
<i>Onosma graecum</i>	A Golden-drops	"
<i>Symphytum creticum</i>	Cretan Comfrey	Imbros Gorge

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i>	Burnt Candytuft	Kourtliotiki Gorge
<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring Rock-cress	Tiny purple flower
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Aubretia	Omalos
<i>Brassica nigra</i> ‡	Black Mustard	
<i>Bunias erucago</i>	Bunias	
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	Plakias
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	
<i>Eruca sativa</i>	Garden Rocket	
<i>Erucaria hispanica</i>	Spanish Mustard	
<i>Erysimum candicum</i> •	A Treacle-mustard	
<i>Erysimum raulinii</i> •	A Treacle-mustard	
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Hoary Mustard	
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary Cress	
<i>Lunaria annua</i> subsp. <i>pachyrhiza</i>	Honesty	
<i>Malcolmia chia</i>	A Malcomia	Small, pale flowers
<i>Malcolmia flexuosa</i> subsp. <i>naxensis</i>	A Malcomia	Seen regularly
<i>Matthiola sinuata</i>	Sea Stock	Plakias
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned Stock	"
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Water-cress	"
Cactaceae	Cactus Family	
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> ‡	Prickly Pear	Planted
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Campanula erinus</i>	Annual Bellflower	Tiny flower
<i>Campanula saxatilis</i> subsp. <i>saxatilis</i> •		Plakias, not in flower
<i>Campanula tubulosa</i> •		
<i>Petromarula pinnata</i> •	Petromarula	Seen regularly
Cannabaceae	Hackberry and Hemp Family	
<i>Celtis tournefortii</i>	Oriental Hackberry	
Capparaceae	Caper Family	
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	Plakias
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Centranthus calcitrapa</i>	Annual Valerian	Small plant
<i>Centranthus ruber</i> ‡	Red Valerian	Leaves
<i>Fedia cornucopiae</i>	Fedia	
<i>Lomelosia brachiata</i>	Tremastelma	Asymmetrical flowers, Plakais
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	Leaves only
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>	A Scabious	Seen occasionally
<i>Valeriana asarifolia</i> •	Cretan Valerian	
<i>Valerianella coronata</i>	A Corn Salad	
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corn-cockle	
<i>Cerastium scaposum</i> •	Cretan Mouse-ear	Widespread on Omalos
<i>Moenchia graeca</i>	An Upright Chickweed	
<i>Petrorhagia velutina</i>	Kohlrauschia	Small flowers
<i>Sagina apetala</i>	Annual Pearlwort	
<i>Silene behen</i>	Hairless Catchfly	Seen occasionally

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	Corn Spurrey	
<i>Spergularia bocconeii</i>	A Sea Spurrey	
<i>Stellaria cupaniana</i>	A Chickweed	
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Pink Cistus	Seen widely
<i>Cistus parviflorus</i>	Small-flowered Cistus	Grey foliage
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Seen widely
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	Mediterranean Rock-rose	Goldenyellow flowers
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted Rock-rose	
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Roadsides
<i>Convolvulus elegantissimus</i>	Elegant Bindweed	Very fine leaved
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common Dodder	Widely seen
<i>Ipomea indica</i> †	A Morning Glory	Timbaki
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop	Seen occasionally
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	A Pennywort	Seen regularly
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family	
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony	Leaves only
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	Not ripe enough to play with!
Cytinaceae	Cytinus Family	
<i>Cytinus hypocistis</i> subsp. <i>clusii</i>	Cytinus	Akrotiri, parasitic on <i>Cistus creticus</i>
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	Eastern Strawberry Tree	Seen occasionally
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	Common maquis shrub
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	On road to the Omalos
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnos</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge	Bright green mounds
<i>Euphorbia chamaesyce</i>	Small Spurge	
<i>Euphorbia characias</i> subsp. <i>characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	Common roadside plant
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	"
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	Dwarf Spurge	Tiny plant
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	Common roadside plant
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	Plakias
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	Small plant
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	Seen widely
<i>Ricinus communis</i> †	Castor-oil-plant	"
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Acacia cyanophylla</i> †	Blue-leaved Wattle	
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i> †	Golden Wattle	Planted widely
<i>Acacia retinoides</i> †	Swamp Wattle	"
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Blue flower, pungent foliage

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	Seen widely
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob	Tree with large pods and glossy leaves
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> ‡	Judus Tree	Pink flowers, emerging from the bark
<i>Chamaecytisus creticus</i>	Cretan Dwarf Broom	Seen widely
<i>Ebenus cretica</i> •	Shrubby Sainfoin	Pink, silky blooms, Plakias
<i>Hippocrepis biflora</i>	A Horseshoe Vetch	
<i>Hymenocarpus circinnatus</i>	Disc Trefoil	
<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>	Fodder Pea	
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling	
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	Red Vetchling	
<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>	Crimson Pea	
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Red Vetchling	
<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>	A Bird's-foot Trefoil	
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	
<i>Lotus peregrinus</i>	A Bird's-foot Trefoil	
<i>Lupinus albus</i> ‡	White Lupin	
<i>Lupinus pilosus</i>	A Hairy Lupin	Road to Frangocastello
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	
<i>Medicago arborea</i>	Tree Medick	Orange-flowered shrub, planted
<i>Medicago disciformis</i>	Disc Medick	
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick	Plakias, grey-woolly foliage
<i>Medicago murex</i>	A Bur Medick	
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Disc Medick	
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Toothed Medick	
<i>Medicago truncatula</i>	A Medick	
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot	
<i>Onobrychis aequidentata</i>	A Sainfoin	
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cock's-comb Sainfoin	
<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Compressed Bird's-foot	
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> ‡	False Acacia	Roadsides, planted
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpion Vetch	Entire-leaved
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Roadsides, common
<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Asparagus Pea	Red-floweres
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Clover	
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	Fluffy seed heads
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	Annual White Clover	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	Tiny upside-down flowers
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	
<i>Trifolium uniflorum</i>	One-flowered Clover	Flat cushions of white flowers
<i>Tripodion tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder Vetch	
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow Vetchling	Pale yellow flowers
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>sativa</i> ‡	Common Vetch	
<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> ‡	Wisteria	Planted
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Castanea sativa</i> ‡	Sweet Chestnut	
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> subsp. <i>calliprinos</i>	Kermes Oak	Late Minoan Cemetery, Armeni
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Quercus ithaburensis</i> subsp. <i>macrolepis</i> <i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Valonia Oak Downy Oak	
Frankeniaceae <i>Frankenia hirsuta</i>	Sea-heath Family Hairy Sea-heath	Beach at Timbaki
Fumariaceae <i>Fumaria capreolata</i> <i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Fumitory Family White Ramping Fumitory Common Fumitory	Common "
Gentianaceae <i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i> subsp. <i>intermedia</i> <i>Centaurium erythraea</i> <i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Gentian Family Yellow-wort Common Centaury Lesser Centaury	Seen occasionally " "
Geraniaceae <i>Erodium cicutarium</i> <i>Erodium gruinum</i> <i>Erodium malacoides</i> <i>Geranium columbinum</i> <i>Geranium dissectum</i> <i>Geranium lucidum</i> <i>Geranium molle</i> <i>Geranium purpureum</i> <i>Geranium robertianum</i> <i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Crane's-bill Family Common Stork's-bill Long-beaked Stork's-bill Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill Long-stalked Crane'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	Seen regularly " " " " " " " " "
Hypericaceae <i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i> subsp. <i>empetrifolium</i> <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St John's-wort Family Crowberry-leaved St John's-wort Perfoliate St John's-wort	Seen occasionally "
Juglandaceae <i>Juglans regia</i> †	Walnut Family Walnut	Seen regularly
Lamiaceae <i>Ballota acetabulosa</i> <i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> <i>Lavandula stoechas</i> <i>Origanum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>hirtum</i> <i>Phlomis cretica</i> <i>Phlomis fruticosa</i> <i>Prasium majus</i> <i>Salvia fruticosa</i> <i>Salvia verbenaca</i> <i>Salvia viridis</i> <i>Satureja spinosa</i> <i>Satureja thymbra</i> <i>Sideritis syriaca</i> subsp. <i>syriaca</i> • <i>Thymbra capitata</i> <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Dead-nettle Family Garden Horehound Henbit Dead-nettle French Lavender Marjoram Cretan Jerusalem Sage Jerusalem Sage Prasium Greek Sage/Three-leaved Sage Wild Clary Red-topped Sage Savoury A Savoury Mountain Tea Mediterranean Thyme Chaste Tree	Seen regularly Seen regularly, small plant Seen regularly Widespread " Small shrub, white flowers Seen regularly, pink flowers Not in flower Small plant Common " Small white flowers Not in flower Not in flower
Lauraceae	Laurel Family	

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Bay	Planted
Linaceae	Flax Family	
<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Shrubby Flax	Kotsiphos Gorge
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Biennial Flax	Single blue flowers
<i>Linum strictum</i>	Upright Yellow Flax	Tiny yellow flowers
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> ‡	Hibiscus	Planted
<i>Malva arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	Seen regularly
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	"
Meliaceae	Mahogany Family	
<i>Melia azedarach</i> ‡	Persian Lilac/Indian Bead Tree	Planted
Moraceae	Mulberry Family	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Planted
<i>Ficus elastica</i> ‡	Rubber Plant	"
<i>Morus alba</i> ‡	White Mulberry	"
Myoporaceae	Myoporum Family	
<i>Myoporum laetum</i> ‡	Ngaio	Planted
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family	
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> ‡	Bottlebrush	Planted
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> ‡	River Red Gum	"
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Common Myrtle	"
Nyctaginaceae	Bougainvillea Family	
<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i> ‡	Bougainvillea	"
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
<i>Olea europaea</i> var. <i>sylvestris</i>	Wild Olive	Common marquis shrub
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	Mock Privet	"
Onagraceae	Willowherb Family	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Greater Willowherb	
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia	Pink and white flowers
<i>Orobanche alba</i>	Thyme Broomrape	pink/yellow flowers, small plant
<i>Orobanche crenata</i>	Bean Broomrape	Large flower spike, frilly flowers, Akrotiri
<i>Orobanche purpurea</i>	Purple Broomrape	Plakias
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched Broomrape	Small lilac flowers, seen widely
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern Red Bartsia	Small flowers
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia	Seen occasionally
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family	
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> ‡	Bermuda Buttercup	Pernicious weed!!
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned Poppy	Seen widely
<i>Papaver dubium</i> subsp. <i>dubium</i>	Long-headed Poppy	Common
<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	Rough Poppy	2

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Papaver purpureomarginatum</i> <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	Small orange/red flowers
Pittosporaceae <i>Pittosporum tobira</i> ‡	Pittosporum Family A Pittosporum	Planted
Plantaginaceae <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> ‡ <i>Linaria pelisseriana</i> <i>Misopates orontium</i> <i>Plantago afra</i> <i>Plantago bellardii</i> <i>Plantago cretica</i> <i>Plantago lagopus</i> <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> <i>Plantago major</i> <i>Plantago weldenii</i> <i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i> <i>Veronica arvensis</i> <i>Veronica cymbalaria</i> <i>Veronica persica</i> ‡	Plantain and Speedwell Family Ivy-leaved Toadflax Jersey Toadflax Weasel's-snout Glandular Plantain Hairy Plantain A Plantain Hare's-foot Plantain Ribwort Plantain Greater Plantain A Buck's-horn Plantain Water Speedwell Wall Speedwell Cymbalaria-leaved Speedwell Common Field Speedwell	Common Tiny purple flowers Small pink flowers Common " " " Common " Leaves only White flowers
Platanaceae <i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Plane Family Oriental Plane	Widespread
Polygalaceae <i>Polygala monspeliaca</i> <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> ‡ <i>Polygala venulosa</i>	Milk-wort Family Mediterranean Milkwort Myrtle-leaved Milkwort Eastern Milkwort	
Primulaceae <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> subsp. <i>arvensis</i> <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> subsp. <i>foemina</i> <i>Cyclemen creticum</i> •	Primrose Family Scarlet Pimpernel Blue Pimpernel Cretan Sowbread	Seen widely " Seen occasionally
Punicaceae <i>Punica granatum</i> ‡	Pomegranate Family Pomegranate	Planted
Ranunculaceae <i>Adonis microcarpa</i> subsp. <i>cretica</i> • <i>Anemone coronaria</i> <i>Anemone hortensis</i> subsp. <i>heldreichii</i> <i>Ficaria verna</i> subsp. <i>chrysocephala</i> <i>Nigella damascena</i> <i>Ranunculus arvensis</i> <i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i> <i>Ranunculus creticus</i> • <i>Ranunculus gracilis</i> <i>Ranunculus muricatus</i> <i>Ranunculus paludosus</i>	Buttercup Family Yellow Pheasant's-eye Crown Anemone Heldreich's Anemone A Lesser Celandine Love-in-a-Mist Corn Buttercup Turban Buttercup Cretan Buttercup Rough-fruited Buttercup Jersey Buttercup	Akrotiri Omalos, pink, lilac, blue and red Grey blue flowers Not in flower Widely seen, white flowers ?
Resedaceae <i>Reseda alba</i>	Mignonette Family White Mignonette	

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Mignonette	
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld	
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family	
<i>Rhamnus lycioides</i> subsp. <i>oleoides</i>	A Buckthorn	
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i> subsp. <i>cretica</i> •	Cretan Juneberry	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i> ‡	Quince	Planted
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> ‡	Japanese Loquat	"
<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i> subsp. <i>verrucosa</i>	Salad Burnet	
<i>Prunus dulcis</i> ‡	Almond	Planted
<i>Prunus persica</i> ‡	Peach	"
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Almond-leaved Pear	
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog-rose	
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	A Bramble	
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet	Widespread
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder	
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	Tiny lilac flowers
Rutaceae	Rue Family	
<i>Citrus limon</i> ‡	Lemon	Planted
<i>Citrus sinensis</i> ‡	Orange	"
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i> subsp. <i>chalepensis</i>	Fringed Rue	
Salicaceae	Willow Family	
<i>Populus alba</i> ‡	White Poplar	
<i>Salix alba</i> ‡	White Willow	
Santalaceae	Bastard-toadflax Family	
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	
Sapindaceae	Maple Family	
<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	Cretan Maple	Just in leaf, Omalos
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort	
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining Figwort	
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved Figwort	
<i>Verbascum arcturus</i> •	Shrubby Mullein	Plakias, Imbros Gorge
<i>Verbascum macrurum</i>	A Mullein	
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullien	Not in flower
<i>Verbascum spinosum</i> •	Spiny Mullein	Grey leaved compact shrub, not in flower
Simaroubaceae	Tree-of-heaven Family	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> ‡	Tree-of-heaven	Planted, Knossos
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	White Henbane	

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake	Not in flower
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> ‡	Shrub Tobacco	Planted
Styracaceae	Storax Family	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Mediterranean Storax	Turkish Bridge, Georgeopolis
Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family	
<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tamarisk	
<i>Tamarix smyrnensis</i> ‡	A Tamarisk	
Thymelaeaceae	Mezereon Family	
<i>Daphne sericea</i>	A Daphne	Omalos
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>	Hairy Thymelaea	Roadsides
<i>Thymelaea tartonraria</i>	A Thymelaea	"
Ulmaceae	Elm Family	
<i>Ulmus minor</i> ‡	Small-leaved Elm	
<i>Zelkova abelicea</i> •	Cretan Zelkova	Not in leaf, Omalos
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria cretica</i>	Cretan Pellitory	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-Wall	
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Membranous Nettle	
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman Nettle	
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small Nettle	
Vitaceae	Vine Family	
<i>Vitis vinifera</i> subsp. <i>sylvestris</i>	Wild Vine	
<i>Vitis vinifera</i> subsp. <i>vinifera</i> ‡	Grape Vine	
MONOCOTYLEDONS		
Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family	
<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Naples Garlic	Small white flowers
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	Leaves only, Plakias
Araceae	Arum Family	
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	Spili
<i>Arum concinatum</i>	An Arum	
<i>Arum creticum</i>	Cretan Arum	Yellow, top of Kotsiphos Gorge
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon Arum	Large red spathe, foul smelling
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i> ‡	Arum Lily	Naturalised
Arecaceae	Palm Family	
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i> ‡	Canary Palm	Planted
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i> ‡	Date Palm	"
<i>Phoenix theophrasti</i>	Cretan Palm	"
<i>Washingtonia filifera</i> ‡	Californian Fan-palm	"
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
<i>Agave americana</i> ‡	Centuryplant	Planted
<i>Drimia maritima</i>	Sea Squill	Leaves and bulbs only
<i>Leopoldia comosa</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	Seen widely

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	A Grape Hyacinth	
<i>Muscari spreitzenhoferi</i> •	A Tassel Hyacinth	Plakias
<i>Ornithogalum exscapum</i> var. <i>collinum</i>	A Star-of-Bethlehem	
<i>Ornithogalum creticum</i> •	A Star-of-Bethlehem	Plakias, pale green flowers
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	Southern Star-of-Bethlehem	Tall spike of white flowers
Dioscoreaceae	Yam Family	
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
<i>Crocus sieberi</i> sps <i>sieberi</i> •	White Mountain Crocus	Omalos
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus	Widespread
<i>Iris albicans</i> ‡	White Iris	Naturalised
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	
<i>Iris tuberosa</i>	Snake's-head Iris	Omalos
<i>Iris unguicularis</i> subsp. <i>cretensis</i> •	Cretan Iris	Spili
<i>Moraea mediterranea</i>	One-leaved Barbary Nut	Leaves only Akrotiri
<i>Moraea sisyrinchium</i>	Barbary Nut	Spili
<i>Romulea linaresii</i> subsp. <i>graeca</i>	A Sand-crocus	Tiny purple flowers, Omalos
Liliaceae	Lily Family	
<i>Gagea chrysantha</i>	A Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem	Omalos
<i>Gagea graeca</i>	Greek Lloydia	Small white flowers, widespread
<i>Tulipa bakeri</i> •	Baker's Tulip	Omalos, just in flower!
<i>Tulipa cretica</i> •	Cretan Tulip	Plakias
<i>Tulipa doerfleri</i> •	Doerfler's Tulip	Spili
<i>Tulipa saxatilis</i>	Rock Tulip	Vatos
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Anacamptis boryi</i>	Bory's Orchid	Spili
<i>Anacamptis collina</i>	Fan-lipped Orchid	Vatos
<i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i>	Jersey Orchid	
<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i> subsp. <i>heroica</i>	Heroic Pink Butterfly-orchid	Vatos
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	Seen frequently
<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	Giant Orchid	Seen regularly, almost over
<i>Neotinea lactea</i>	Milky Orchid	Spili
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	Vatos
<i>Neotinea tridentata</i>	Toothed Orchid	Spili
<i>Ophrys ariadnae</i>	Ariadne's Orchid	Seen regularly
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Orchid	Spili
<i>Ophrys candica</i>	Candia Orchid	Plakias
<i>Ophrys creberrima</i>	Creberrima Orchid	Spili
<i>Ophrys cretica</i>	Common Cretan Bee Orchid	Spili
<i>Ophrys episcopalis</i>	Large-flowered Bee Orchid	Vatos
<i>Ophrys fleischmannii</i>	Fleischman's Orchid	
<i>Ophrys gortynia</i>	Gortys Orchid	Spili
<i>Ophrys heldreichii</i>	Heldreich's Orchid	Spili, and widely elsewhere
<i>Ophrys herae</i>	Hera's Orchid	Spili
<i>Ophrys iricolor</i>	Rainbow Orchid	"
<i>Ophrys leochroma</i>	Lion Mane Orchid	
<i>Ophrys phryganae</i>	Phrygana Orchid	Seen regularly
<i>Ophrys sicula</i>	Small Yellow Bee Orchid	"
<i>Ophrys villosa</i>	Hairy Orchid	"

Scientific name	Common name	Notes
<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	Man Orchid	Spili and Vatos
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked Man Orchid	Seen widely
<i>Orchis pauciflora</i>	Sparse-flowered Orchid	Spili and Vatos
<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	Provence Orchid	Vatos, one spike
<i>Orchis quadripunctata</i>	Four-spotted Orchid	Spili and Vatos
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid	Vatos
<i>Orchis sitiaca</i> •	Sitia Orchid	"
<i>Serapias bergonii</i>	Bergoni's Tongue-orchid	Seen widely
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue-orchid	Late Minoan Cemetery
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue-orchid	"
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Ploughshare serapias	"
Poaceae	Grass Family	
<i>Arundo donax</i> ‡	Giant Reed	Seen widely
<i>Avena barbata</i>	Slender Oat	
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Winter Wild-oat	
<i>Brachypodium retusum</i>	Mediterranean False-brome	
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Large Quaking-grass	
<i>Briza minor</i>	Lesser Quaking-grass	
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda Grass	
<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>	Rough Dog's-tail	
<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>	Wall Barley	
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail Grass	
<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>	Golden Dog's-tail	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	
<i>Melica ciliata</i>	Hairy Melick	
<i>Parapholis incurva</i>	Curved Hard-grass	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Agia
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Annual Beard-grass	
<i>Vulpia ciliata</i>	Bearded Fescue	
Posidoniaceae	Neptune-grass Family	
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Neptune-grass	
Smilacaceae	Smilax Family	
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common Smilax	
Typhaceae	Reedmace Family	
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	Southern Reedmace	
Xanthorrhoeaceae	Asphodel Family	
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel	Seen widely
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common Asphodel	"
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-stemmed Asphodel	

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Ophrys candida



Widow Iris



Woodchat Shrike



Ruppell's Warbler near Preveli