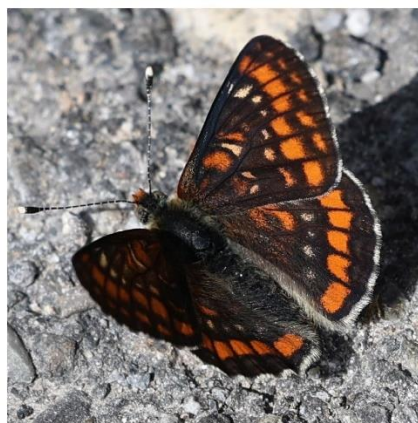
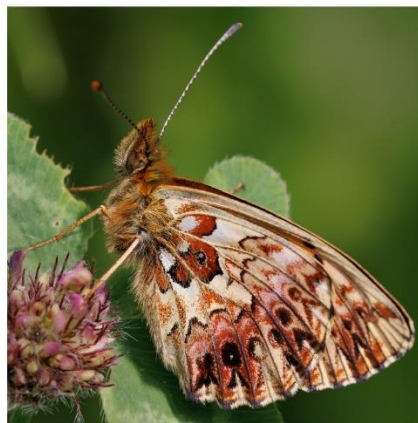
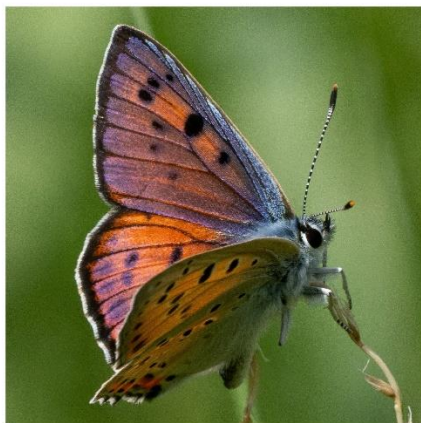


Butterflies of the Italian Alps & French Mercantour

Mariposa Nature Tours trip report

12th-19th June 2025

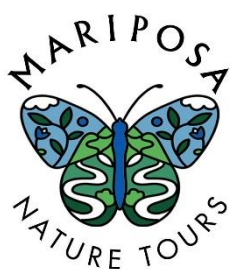


Tour leaders Paul Selby & Emmanuelle Juan

Trip report by Paul Selby

(Images, clockwise from top left: Purple-shot Copper © Ian; Titania's Fritillary © Pete;

Scarce Fritillary © David; Southern Swallowtail © Roderick)



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Butterflies of the Italian Alps & French Mercantour

Introduction

This was the second Mariposa trip to these wonderfully scenic parts of Italy and France. It was based in two beautiful and butterfly-rich locations - firstly in the village of Bagni di Vinadio in the Italian Alps and, secondly, in the village of Rimplas in the French Mercantour.

The guests joining us were Leon, Sue W, Roderick, Ivor, Sue C & Ian, David & Barbara, Pete & Cheryl.

Day 1, Thursday 12th June

Nine guests met guides Paul and Emmanuelle at Nice airport, assembling over the course of the morning. Sadly, one of the flights was delayed, meaning we didn't set off until after 3.30pm. The weather was glorious, and along the way we saw many **Cleopatra** *Gonepteryx cleopatra* fluttering along the roadside verges. Ascending the Col de la Lombarde, we made a short toilet stop just below the ski resort of Isola 2000.



Butterfly numbers were excellent, with **Black-veined White** *Aporia crategi* most common. Also seen were **Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus*, **Dingy Skipper** *Erynnis tages*, a female **Purple-shot Copper** *Lycaena alciphron*, good numbers of **Wood White** *Leptidea sinapsis*, and an **Orange Tip** *Anthocharis cardamines*. Ivor also spotted and identified a **Tufted Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus flocciferus*.

Such was the excitement at seeing such good numbers, the 10-minute break turned to 25 minutes, and it was hard to move on!

Passing over the top of the Col, into Italy, we saw large numbers of Alpine Marmot from the vans, and on the way down an Alpine Chamois crossed the road and gave us excellent views.

We arrived at 6.40pm, quickly unpacking and freshening up, before meeting at the hotel bar at 7.30pm for the formal welcome chat, where we shared our hopes for the week with one other. Soon after, an excellent five course dinner was served, and we relaxed into the evening, before heading to bed.



Many of us were delighted to hear the unmistakeable call of a Scops Owl right outside the hotel, as we fell asleep to thoughts of what awaited over the next seven days.

Day 2, Friday 13th June

Given the long drive the day before, today was all about staying local, so we set off later than normal at 9.30am, after a relaxed breakfast.



The day began with crystal clear skies but with a haze that we believe related to Saharan dust. After a short stop in Demonte to collect water supplies for the week, we made our morning stop at a site nearby, with the hope of Scarce Fritillary. This was one of our main target species for the week, and the colonies in this area are the only place in Italy where this species flies.

The first thing all guests noted was just how common **Heath Fritillary** *Melitaea athalia* are, in effect the default fritillary species. This was a theme that continued all week. There were also very good numbers of **Large Wall Brown** *Lassiommatia maera*. In one of the steeper roadside meadows some of us spotted a tatty **Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys rubi* and our first **Large Blue** *Phengaris arion* of the week.

Another fritillary seen was **Lesser Marbled Fritillary** *Brenthis ino*, giving Paul the chance to give some of the guests a chance to learn the subtle ID differences with the closely related Marbled Fritillary *Brenthis daphne* (seen later in the week).

By midday, it was getting very hot, with few butterflies wanting to settle. So, we headed off to the second nearby site, where we had lunch, and spent a further two hours. Near instantly, we saw what we thought might be our main target species, nectaring on precisely the same flower it been seen on in previous years. But it turned out to be a surprise **Marsh Fritillary** *Euphydryas aurinia*!

Exploring the meadows, David was delighted to see **Almond-eyed Ringlet** *Erebia albertanus*, a brand-new species for him. Paul found a

Nickerl's Fritillary *Melitaea aurelia*, our only confirmed sighting of this species all week. This on top of many of the more common species of the week.

Emmanuelle had been hanging back near the vans, hoping for **Scarce Fritillary** *Euphydryas maturna*, after the "disappointment" of the Marsh Fritillary. Her patience paid off when one landed near her. Soon afterwards, a second individual was seen, and all guests got good sightings and/or photos.





Our final stop for the day were the meadows up the valley from our hotel. Cloud was bubbling up, but we still managed to spend around an hour in the glorious flowers and scenery, where we racked up many more firsts for the week.

Of particular interest to most guests were the numerous **Clouded Apollo** *Parnassius mnemosyne*, a couple of freshly emerged **Titania's Fritillary** *Boloria titania*, and good numbers of highly active **Geranium Argus** *Aricia eumedon*. Paul also found a **Meadow Fritillary** *Melitaea parthenoides*, one of very few of this species we saw all week.

When we gathered back together at the hotel for refreshments and to compare notes that evening, our total butterfly list for the week had already reached a very healthy 69 species.

Day 3, Saturday 14th June

Today, the main target was Poplar Admiral. So, we set off earlier at 9am, to ensure an arrival at the Ponte di Porcera by 10am. Clear blue sunny skies greeted us. The scenery here was stunning, and all guests enjoyed seeing a wide variety of species. Oddly, the most common Blue was **Reverdin's Blue** *Plebejus argyrognomon*, with only very few **Mazarine Blue** *Cyaniris semiargus* seen (which is normally the most common species here). **Turquoise Blue** *Polyommatus dorylas* also showed well for us, as did **Red Underwing Skipper** *Spialia sertorius*, our first **Safflower Skipper** *Pyrgus carthami*, **Osiris Blue** *Cupido osiris*, **Escher's Blue** *Polyommatus escheri*, and **Spotted Fritillary** *Melitaea didyma*.

After an hour, a loud shout from Paul alerted guests that he'd had his first sight of **Poplar Admiral** *Limenitis populi*. All but two of the guests saw this species swoop around before disappearing. We all hoped that this would be the first of many viewings, but sadly it only showed itself one more time, this time for just a brief ten seconds.



We then moved onto a site just north of Entracque for our lunch stop. Cloud was bubbling up, but we still had prolonged sunny spells, which made for good if humid butterflying! Here we saw our first **White Admiral** *Limenitis camilla* for the week, amongst a plethora of other species. Another highlight was a **Reverdin's Blue** *Plebejus argyrognomon* female laying eggs on its larval host plant.

Our final site for the day was just to the west of Entracque. Here we saw one of only two **Provencal Short-tailed Blue** *Cupido alcetas* of the week and our first **Bath White** *Pontia daplidice*. We arrived to sunny spells, but after an hour at the site, it had fully clouded over, and loud rumbles of thunder meant we weren't too disappointed to get into the cars. As we

drove back to the hotel, we drove through a brief but intense rainstorm, ultimately our only rain of the week. Arriving back at the hotel, it was dry!

As we got back to the hotel, our tenth and final guest for the week, Roderick, introduced himself. He'd just arrived after a conference in Nice the previous few days, and had enjoyed his drive (with multiple stops) over the Col de la Lombarde.

Over another five-course dinner, many of us got to know Roderick better. Our butterfly species list had now reached 83 species.

Day 4, Sunday 15th June

The first three quarters of today was spent at three sites in the Val D'Arma. An incorrect stop at a near identical village to the target stop proved unexpectedly fruitful, with a fresh-looking **Marsh Fritillary** *Euphydryas aurinia* spotted.



After 30 minutes we moved on to the correct site, slightly higher up. While we didn't see our hoped-for Camberwell Beauty, we were delighted to see at least three unexpected **Scarse Fritillary** *Euphydryas maturna*. Local wildlife rangers took an interest in us, and we swapped notes about this locally protected species, the surveys they had done, and where we had seen the species ourselves.

After another 30 minutes here, we moved slightly higher again, to some beautiful roadside meadows, where we spent 90 minutes. Sue and Ian spotted **Mountain Green-veined White** *Pieris bryoniae* here, and there were large numbers of **Duke of Burgundy** *Hamearis lucina*. **Small Blue** *Cupido minimus* and **Osiris Blue** *Cupido osiris* were also seen, as was **Amanda's Blue** *Polyommatus amandus*, and our first definitive **Chapman's Blue** *Polyommatus thersites*.

Our lunchtime stop was higher up again, where the conditions were slightly more alpine. Here we saw our only **Mountain Clouded Yellow** *Colias phicomone* and our first **Alcon Blue** *Phengaris alcon* of the week. Also, a bizarrely out of place **Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys rubi*!

While eating sandwiches, both Paul and Cheryl separately saw a small orange and yellow butterfly in the distance. Could it have been a Provence Orange Tip *Anthocharis euphenoides*? Highly unlikely, as this species is not known to have crossed the Alps from France other than extremely sporadically. But what else could it have been? We'll never know.





Roderick was delighted to take good photos of his favourite butterfly species, the **Swallowtail** *Papilio machaon*.

Our afternoon stop was a repeat visit up the valley from our hotel. **Titania's Fritillary** *Boloria titania* were now in slightly larger numbers, as more had freshly emerged. Occasional cloudy spells allowed us to take good photos of these and **Clouded Apollo** *Parnassius mnemosyne*. A

number of us separately saw our first **False Heath Fritillary** *Melitaea diamina* of the week, this species apparently having emerged at this site in only the last day or so.

Our species count had now risen to 88 species.

Day 5, Monday 16th June

The day dawned scorchingly hot and crystal clear. We set off early for the known **Southern Swallowtail** *Papilio alexanor* site near Valdieri. Within five minutes we'd seen our first individual, which wasn't stopping. We also saw **Woodland Grayling** *Hipparchia fagi* and **Great Banded Grayling** *Brintesia circe*. However, just around the corner, Ivan found a slope with a number of **Southern Swallowtail** *Papilio alexanor* landing to nectar on some thistles. This provided some great photo opportunities. In the excitement, guests almost forgot to check for **Chequered Blue** *Scolitantides orion*, which is often seen on this slope. Almost, but not entirely – and they were there!



After 90 minutes here, we headed up to the alpine meadows in the Termini di Valdieri. We spent two hours here, including lunch. This beautiful valley was at its best in the sunshine as we arrived. **Mountain Green-veined White** *Pieris bryoniae* were seen, as were **Alcon Blue** *Phengaris alcon*, good numbers of **Northern Wall Brown** *Lasiommata petropolitana*, **Almond-eyed Ringlet** *Erebia albertanus* and **de Prunner's Ringlet** *Erebia triaria*.

Clouds bubbled up slightly towards the end of our stay, so we moved on to our next site. On the

way, we stopped unexpectedly as some very confident Alpine Ibex licked what we presumed to be salt from the side of the road. Guests took lots of photos!

The next site was near a quarry north of Entracque, not visited since 2019. But what we found wasn't as we expected, as we were hoping for Alcon Blue on gentians. Instead, we found a previously cultivated field that was beginning to go wild again. It did make for a contrast with the alpine species we'd been looking at an hour earlier.

Provencal Short-tailed Blue *Cupido alcetas* was spotted by Paul and Leon, together with **Marbled Fritillary** *Brenthis daphne*, **Escher's Blue** *Polyommatus escheri*, **Green-underside Blue** *Glaucopsyche alexis*, and some good views of **Purple-shot Copper** *Lycaena alciphron*.

Ten new species had been added to our list during the day, taking us to 98 species.

After dinner, we were treated to a display of Glow Worm in the hotel garden. Big thanks to Pete and Cheryl who had spotted these the night before. A magical end to the day.

Day 6, Tuesday 17th June

Today was transit day. We said goodbye to hotel owner Franco and the other hotel staff, thanking them profusely for making us feel so very welcome. Guests universally loved everything about this hotel.

Setting off just after 9am, thankfully the narrow road on the Italian side of the Col de la Lombarde was quiet, and we reached the Col itself by 10am, parking up for a two hour stay.



With the season advancing quickly on the Italian side, we had hoped to see a number of alpine Fritillary species on the Col. But the only Fritillary we saw was **Queen of Spain** *Issoria lathonia*. It seems as though the season was advancing more slowly at high altitude.

We were, however, compensated by four unusual sightings. Firstly, **Mountain Dappled White** *Euchloe simplonia* were in very large numbers, a small number settling for spells of up to 20 seconds on flowers. This gave many guests their first photos of this normally highly active species.

Secondly, Emmanuelle spotted two separate **Alpine Grayling** *Oeneis glacialis*. This is an incredibly difficult species to see, let alone photograph. The second individual she saw, she was able to guide a few guests to, and about half the group saw this special species, including the odd photograph by those willing to scramble on loose scree!

Thirdly, as we neared the end of our stop at the site, Roderick returned down from having climbed to the top of the mountain next to the Col. He showed Paul some photos of a white butterfly he wanted identifying, which he said had been hill-topping and had stopped a few



times. A **Peak White** *Pontia callidice*! This is another incredibly hard butterfly to get close to, let alone photograph, so this was a superb piece of work by him.

And finally, some guests were treated to the current Tour de France champion, Tadej Pogačar and his cycling team, passing by on a practice cycle to the top of the Col.

After all that excitement, we drove a short five minutes below the Col on the French side, where we had a 90-minute lunch. Here we saw **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** *Boloria euphrosyne* and **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** *Boloria selene*, more **Queen of Spain** *Issoria lathonia*, numerous *Pieris* species, and another Alpine Ibex.



Another short 15-minute drive downwards, we stopped at a site known for **Apollo** *Parnassius apollo*. Dutifully, just after stepping out of the car, we saw our first one, followed by a number more. Various butterfly species were in good numbers, including **Black-veined White** *Aporia crataegi* and **Sooty Copper** *Lycaena tityrus* of the *subalpinus* form.



After 90 minutes here, we stopped briefly for 20 minutes at a site Roderick had accidentally stopped at three days earlier, which he said had been filled with butterflies. We saw the potential of this site, but it sadly clouded over, just as we arrived.

We then made the final drive to our second hotel, based in Rimplas, where we were welcomed warmly. Some guests, still full of energy, spent a short time on a small section of the famous Rimplas track. Other guests showered and relaxed, before what was an excellent dinner.

Our list had now reached 104 species.

Day 7, Wednesday 18th June

Today was our only full day in France. It dawned sunny and hot, and we made the hour-long drive north to Saint Dalmas Le Selva. The meadows here are stunning in their floriferous beauty, and we took many photos simply of the scenery.

Butterfly species of note included numerous **Alcon Blue** *Phengaris alcon*, our first and only **Dark Green Fritillary** *Speyeria aglaja* and **Peacock** *Aglais io*, amongst many of the more numerous species. However, the absolute highlight was a relatively good condition **Camberwell Beauty** *Nymphalis antiopa* flying around the river near the car park. This

species was long overdue and was much sought after by many of the guests. Quite incredible that this was our only sighting of this species of the week.

After just under three hours here, we drove back to Rimplas, to allow us a long afternoon on the famous Rimplas track. We had hoped to see good numbers of Hairstreak, and while we did see four species, namely **Ilex Hairstreak** *Satyrium ilicis*, **Blue-spot Hairstreak** *Satyrium spini*, **Purple Hairstreak** *Favonius quercus* and **Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys rubi*, numbers of this family were low. Emmanuelle and Ivan saw our only **Weaver's Fritillary** *Boloria dia* halfway down the track. Later, Paul, Emmanuelle, Ivor and Roderick were treated to a tame **Oriental Meadow Brown** *Hyponphele lupina*, a single **Great Banded Grayling** *Brintesia circe* and a couple of **Silver-washed Fritillary** *Argynnis paphia*. Sue C was also understandably delighted to have a **Large Tortoiseshell** *Nymphalis polychloros* land on her.



It was incredibly hot, almost too much so for some. So, many of us appreciated the hotel refreshments, before showering, and meeting for our final checklist update of the holiday. As a group we had seen an incredible 86 species of butterfly that day. In totality for the trip, we had reached 115 species at this point.

Another superb dinner awaited, and we toasted a wonderful week of beautiful butterflies, stunning scenery and convivial company.

Day 8, Thursday 19th June

At breakfast, Ivor announced he'd found a dozing **Southern Swallowtail** *Papilio alexanor* the night before, just three minutes' walk from the hotel. Guests bolted down breakfast and made their way to the described location. It was still there! We were treated to wonderful close-range views of this still snoozing butterfly, an experience many of us will remember for a long time.

Different flight times meant some were leaving earlier than others. But a number of us had free time to do our own things, so a few of us visited the Rimplas Fort. Here we saw our 116th species of the week, **Dusky Heath** *Coenonympha dorus*. Emmanuelle, Ivor and Leon were also treated to around six more **Southern Swallowtail** *Papilio alexanor*. After never having been seen before at Rimplas until a Mariposa group found it there in 2024, the species seems to have established itself.

Later that day, Emmanuelle and Roderick visited La Colmiane and saw the 117th and final species of the week, **Chestnut Heath** *Coenonympha glycerion*.

Footnote and acknowledgements

The total butterfly species count for the trip was 117 (23 species higher than the previous year, highlighting the much more advanced season, by perhaps 3 to 4 weeks compared to 2024).

This was a really huge number, and demonstrates the huge biodiversity and variety of habitats visited. The weather also played its part, with hot sunshine for the majority of most days, and no rain while we were actually in the field.



All three “showpiece” butterfly species were seen, namely Southern Swallowtail, Poplar Admiral and Scarce Fritillary.



We were also rewarded with some excellent views of Alpine Ibex and Marmot. The meadows were spectacular throughout, and included many species of orchid.

As ever with these trips, it isn't just about the wildlife. Both hotels were superb, with excellent food at breakfast and dinner. There was also a brilliant group dynamic throughout. Not just in terms of the broad range of knowledge, which all shared generously, but also in terms of laughs and jokes, with none of us taking ourselves too seriously.

The guides would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making this a memorable and highly enjoyable week, and look forward to travelling together again someday soon.

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BUTTERFLIES OF THE ITALIAN ALPS & FRENCH MERCANTOUR 12 th -19 th JUNE 2025									
	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	Butterflies								
1	Dingy Skipper <i>Erynnis tages</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Mallow Skipper <i>Carcharodus alceae</i>		✓		✓				
3	Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Tufted Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>	✓			✓			✓	
5	Red-underwing Skipper <i>Spialia sertorius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Safflower Skipper <i>Pyrgus carthami</i>			✓	✓	✓			
7	Alpine Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus andromedae</i>						✓		
8	Southern Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	Olive Skipper <i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>								
10	Rosy Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus onopordi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
11	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>					✓	✓		
12	Large Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus alveus</i>							✓	
13	Essex Skipper <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>			✓		✓	✓		
14	Small Skipper <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Lulworth Skipper <i>Thymelicus acteon</i>			✓			✓	✓	
16	Large Skipper <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Clouded Apollo <i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
18	Apollo <i>Parnassius apollo</i>						✓	✓	
19	Scarce Swallowtail <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
20	Swallowtail <i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Southern Swallowtail <i>Papilio alexanor</i>					✓	✓		✓
22	Wood White <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	Orange-tip <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Mountain Dappled White <i>Euchloe simplonia</i>						✓		
25	Black-veined White <i>Aporia crategi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	Southern Small White <i>Pieris mannii</i>					✓	✓		
28	Small White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Green-veined White <i>Pieris napae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Mountain Green-veined White <i>Pieris byroniae</i>				✓	✓			
31	Peak White <i>Pontia callidice</i>						✓		
32	Bath White <i>Pontia daplidice</i>			✓				✓	
33	Mountain Clouded Yellow <i>Colias phicomone</i>				✓				
34	Clouded Yellow <i>Colias crocea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Berger's Clouded Yellow <i>Colias alfacariensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Brimstone <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Cleopatra <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
38	Duke of Burgundy <i>Hamearis lucina</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
39	Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
40	Scarce Copper <i>Lycaena virgureae</i>								
41	Sooty Copper <i>Lycaena tityrus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
42	Purple-shot Copper <i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
43	Purple-edged Copper <i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
44	Purple Hairstreak <i>Favonius quercus</i>							✓	
45	Green Hairstreak <i>Callophrys rubi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
46	White-letter Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium w-album</i>								
47	Blue-spot Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium spini</i>					✓	✓	✓	
48	Ilex Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>							✓	✓
49	False Ilex Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium esculi</i>								
50	Sloe Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium acacia</i>							✓	
51	Long-tailed Blue <i>Lampides boeticus</i>							✓	
52	Lang's Short-tailed Blue <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>							✓	
53	Small Blue <i>Cupido minimus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
54	Osiris Blue <i>Cupido osiris</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
55	Short-tailed Blue <i>Cupido argiades</i>								
56	Provençal Short-tailed Blue <i>Cupido alcetas</i>			✓		✓			
57	Holly Blue <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
58	Baton Blue <i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>		✓						
59	Chequered Blue <i>Scolitantides orion</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
60	Green-underside Blue <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Large Blue <i>Phengaris arion</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
62	Alcon Blue <i>Phengaris alcon</i>				✓	✓		✓	
63	Silver-studded Blue <i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
64	Idas Blue <i>Plebejus idas</i>			✓				✓	
65	Reverdin's Blue <i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>			✓					
66	Geranium Argus <i>Aricia eumedon</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
67	Brown Argus <i>Aricia agestis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
68	Mountain Argus <i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
69	Silvery Argus <i>Aricia Nicias</i>								
70	Mazarine Blue <i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	Escher's Blue <i>Polyommatus escheri</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
72	Turquoise Blue <i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
73	Amanda's Blue <i>Polyommatus amandus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
74	Chapman's Blue <i>Polyommatus thersites</i>				✓		✓	✓	
75	Common Blue <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
76	Eros Blue <i>Polyommatus eros</i>								
77	Meleager's Blue <i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>								
78	Adonis Blue <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
79	Chalkhill Blue <i>Polyommatus coridon</i>								
80	Silver-washed Fritillary <i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓			✓		✓	
81	Dark Green Fritillary <i>Speyeria aglaja</i>							✓	
82	High Brown Fritillary <i>Fabriciana adippe</i>		✓			✓			
83	Niobe Fritillary <i>Fabriciana niobe</i>								
84	Queen of Spain Fritillary <i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
85	Lesser Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis ino</i>		✓	✓					
86	Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis daphne</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
88	Titania's Fritillary <i>Boloria titania</i>		✓		✓	✓			

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
89	Weaver's Fritillary <i>Boloria dia</i>							✓	
90	Scarce Fritillary <i>Euphydryas maturna</i>		✓		✓				
91	Marsh Fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
92	Glanville Fritillary <i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
93	Knapweed Fritillary <i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
94	Lesser Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea trivia</i>						✓	✓	
95	Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
96	False Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea diamina</i>			✓	✓		✓		
97	Provençal Fritillary <i>Melitaea deione</i>								
98	Grisons Fritillary <i>Melitaea varia</i>								
99	Meadow Fritillary <i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
100	Nickerl's Fritillary <i>Melitaea aurelia</i>		✓						
101	Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea athalia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
102	Nettle-tree Butterfly <i>Libythea celtis</i>								
103	Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
104	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Peacock <i>Aglais io</i>							✓	
106	Small Tortoiseshell <i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
107	Comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
108	Camberwell Beauty <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>							✓	
109	Large Tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Poplar Admiral <i>Limenitis populi</i>			✓					
111	White Admiral <i>Limenitis camilla</i>			✓				✓	
112	Southern White Admiral <i>Limenitis reducta</i>					✓	✓	✓	
113	Lesser Purple Emperor <i>Apatura ilia</i>								
114	Speckled Wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
115	Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
116	Northern Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>					✓		✓	
117	Large Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata maera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
118	Pearly Heath <i>Coenonympha arcania</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
119	Chestnut Heath <i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>								✓
120	Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
121	Ringlet <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>								
122	Meadow Brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
123	Large Ringlet <i>Erebia euryale</i>								
124	Mountain Ringlet <i>Erebia epiphron</i>								
125	Almond-eyed Ringlet <i>Erebia alberganus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
126	Common Brassy Ringlet <i>Erebia cassioides</i>								
127	Bright-eyed Ringlet <i>Erebia oeme</i>								
128	Piedmont Ringlet <i>Erebia meolans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
129	Marbled White <i>Melanargia galathea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
130	Great Sooty Satyr <i>Satyrus ferula</i>								
131	Woodland Grayling <i>Hipparchia fagi</i>					✓			
132	Grayling <i>Hipparchia semele</i>								
133	Great Banded Grayling <i>Brintesia circe</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
	OTHER SPECIES								
135	Cynthia's Fritillary <i>Euphydryas Cynthia</i>								

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
136	Damon Blue <i>Polyommatus damon</i>								
#	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria selene</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
#	Dusky Heath <i>Coenonympha dorus</i>								✓
#	Oriental Meadow Brown <i>Hyphonephele lupine</i>							✓	
#	De Prunner's Ringlet <i>Erebia triaria</i>					✓	✓	✓	
#	Alpine Grayling <i>Oeneis glacialis</i>						✓		
	Daily total:	18	66	68	64	73	79	85	15
	Running total:								

Galleries

All images that follow were kindly shared by tour participants



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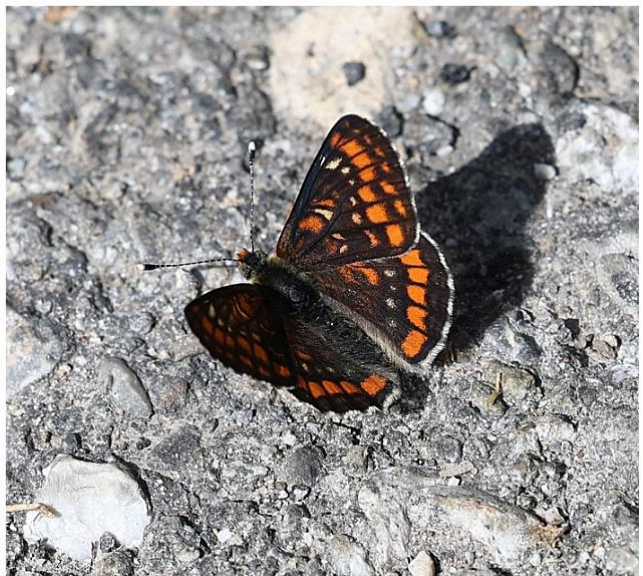
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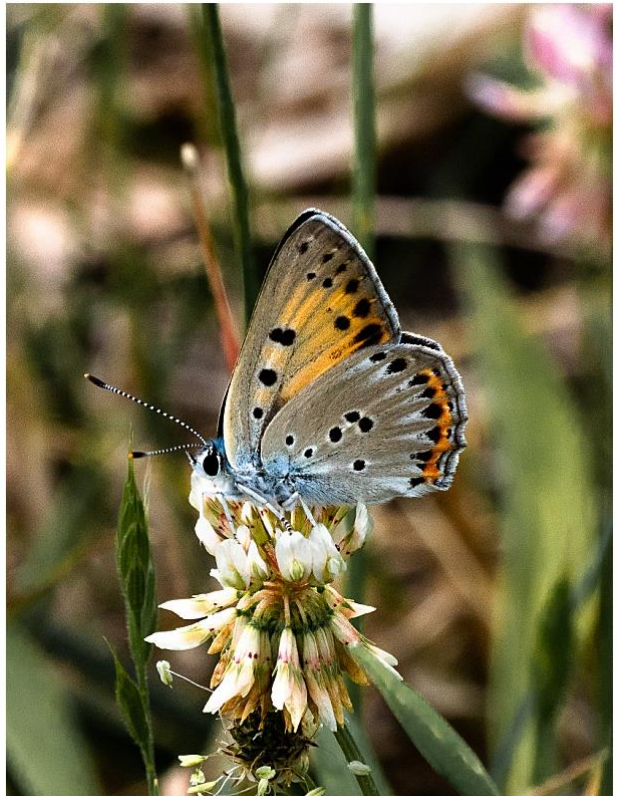
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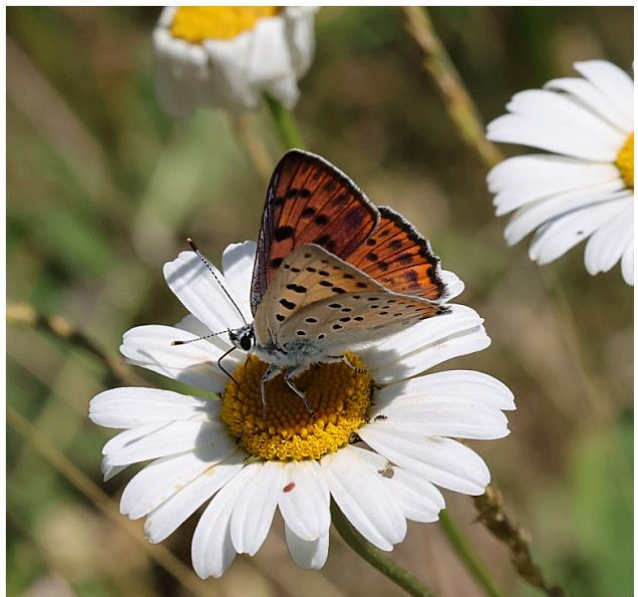
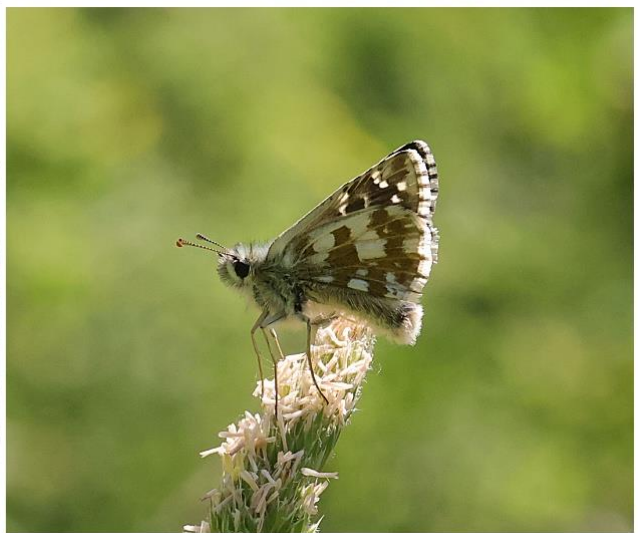
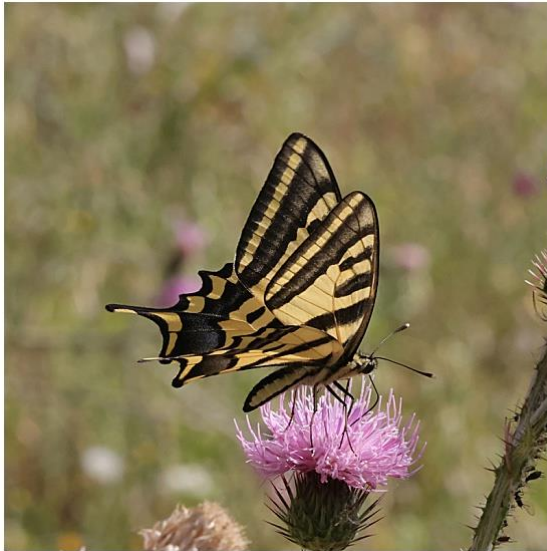
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And finally... If you like the sound of Butterflies of the Italian Alps & French Mercantour, next year's tour is available to book on our website:

[Butterflies of the Italian Alps & French Mercantour](#)

Alternatively, we have other butterfly tours that promise a feast of fritillaries and a bonanza of blues, and many more besides!

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