

Romania in Spring

Mariposa Nature Tours trip report

18th-25th May 2025

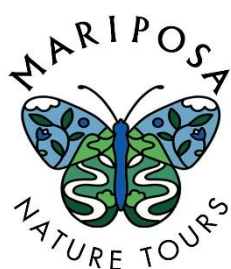


Tour leaders János Oláh & Jon Dunn

Trip report by Jon Dunn

Images kindly shared by our guests

(Images above, clockwise from top left: Large Copper (Rod), Danube Clouded Yellow (Chris), Scarce Fritillary (Barrie), Fenton's Wood White (Sheila))



Tel: +44 (0) 7748 598768

Email: info@mariposanature.com

Website: www.mariposanature.com

Mariposa Nature Tours Ltd

2 Ashtree Cottages

Langrove

Parkmill

Swansea

SA3 2EB, United Kingdom

Introduction

This tour was designed to take in the best of the spring butterflies that Romania has to offer, and included an opportunity to observe wild Carpathian Brown Bears in the latter part of the trip.

There were three bases: near the town of Dej, followed by a spell in the beautiful Rimetea Valley. The location for the bears was in the Harghita Mountains, which also included further wonderful butterfly locations.

Joining us for the tour were Rod & Lynn, Chris & Sheila, Barrie, Dave, Roger, and John.

What follows is a daily diary for the week, followed by the species list, and guest galleries.

Arrivals day, 18th May

Cluj-Napoca airport isn't large, nor was it busy upon our arrival in Romania, so we were processed and setting off into the countryside in short order this afternoon. We were heading towards our first base for the week, on the rural outskirts of Dej, but with a few hours of useful daylight to play with we made a speculative play for our first big potential target of the week, Bavius Blue. These Transylvanian butterflies emerge early in the spring but, with the past fortnight here in Romania having been generally rather cool, damp, and overcast, we had grounds to hope that there might still be some on the wing and in good condition too.



Lesser Fiery Copper © Chris

Those weather conditions had, unfortunately, persisted to our arrival day too, and they had a further annoying side effect – they'd rendered an earth track that led uphill to the Bavius Blue site undriveable by our vehicles. A cautious drive onto the track was soon abandoned when Jon's vehicle began to slowly drift sideways rather than forwards! A gentle push and some judicious reversing saw him safely back onto tarmac,

where we left both vehicles and instead approached the site on foot. (John and Lynn elected to stay near the vehicles, where some puddling blues and fritillaries provided some distraction and, as we would later find, some species the rest of the group wouldn't see further uphill).

The walk uphill was easy enough on foot, and far from unproductive – Sheila and Chris found a Lesser Fiery Copper, while Rod bumped into our first Scarce Swallowtail, and Pale Clouded Yellow passed by on several occasions. A ripe Fox scat was bubbling with butterflies – mainly Silver-studded and Common Blue, but also a fine fresh Glanville Fritillary greedily imbibing. From a



Glanville Fritillary © Barrie

birding perspective, a Tawny Pipit was duly noted and admired.



On the hilltop, where the ground levelled out, views of the surrounding countryside were commanding, but the wind was brisk. Butterfly activity was strictly confined to ground level. Large patches of flowering thyme were particularly busy, with many fresh Silver-studded Blue to be seen.

Dropping off the hilltop into the steep grassy slope upon which the Bavius Blue reside, the wind was stronger still. Despite this, we found half a dozen Eastern Baton Blue, carefully scrutinising them and reminding ourselves of the differentiating features that separate them from the rather similar Bavius.

From our lofty vantage point we could see dark clouds curdling in the distance, and heading our way. It was time to beat a timely retreat to the vehicles and head on to our comfortable hotel. Our timing was impeccable, for the heavens opened just as we got back to the vehicles – we'd avoided a soaking! Reviewing images in the evening after dinner, we discovered that John and Lynn had done well for blues, with both Reverdin's and Zephyr Blue seen and photographed puddling by the roadside.



Day 2 – 19th May

We knew the weather forecast for today was going to be unpleasant, for butterflies and their admirers alike, with low temperatures, strong winds, and heavy rain all on the cards for the day. Staying at our hotel was, of course, simply not an option – and we had a glimmer of hope if some of the local forecasts were to be believed, a window of dry weather and maybe even some sunshine between midday and 2pm. So off we set for a site at which, were this to occur, we would stand the best chance of encountering Violet Copper this week.

The temperature gauges on the vehicles told their own mute story of the journey north from the hotel after breakfast. We started with a balmy 12°C at the hotel but, by the time we were on site, the air temperature, wind-chill notwithstanding, was now a mere 7°C. In late May! Heavy rain was falling, so we stayed indoors at a convenient petrol station that served hot drinks. After an hour the rain had eased. Rod and Roger were our most intrepid scouts, heading into adjacent woodland in advance of the rest of us... while the rest of us followed in due course.



The initial signs were not encouraging. The rain might have stopped, but thick cloud still blanketed the sky, and roosting butterflies weren't budging. That said, the habitat for Violet Copper looked supremely good – lovely clearings in the oakwoods with plenty of the larval foodplant, bistort, growing in the open areas. As the cloud began to fragment overhead, birds began to sing – Common Nightingale and, most exotically, Golden Oriole. Glimpses of both, and Hawfinch, were had – these three habitually shy species proving easier to see for now than our butterfly quarry.

Eventually the sun broke through and shone for some 40 minutes. Soon enough, the air temperature and humidity in the clearings rose, and some invertebrates began to stir. From the corner of his eye, János saw a butterfly fly past him and settle – and what should it be but a female Violet Copper! With the temperature still not anything to write home about this was a very torpid and obliging butterfly – she posed beautifully for everyone, allowing time for even the pioneering and by now faraway Roger to re-join us and admire her at leisure.



A late lunch back at the vehicles beckoned, our having made the most of the weather window. Knowing what was coming – more rain – we elected to head back in the direction of Dej and, should the sun put in an appearance, make an impromptu stop at suitable habitat. Disappointingly, though not surprisingly, of the sun there was no sign.



However, as we arrived at Dej the rain at least had stopped again, so we headed a little way out of the village and up a gravel track to a series of open hillside hay meadows. We spent an hour in the late afternoon wandering their margins, and added a handful more species to our depauperate tally for the day, which at 4:30pm stood at just one species, albeit a good one.

Many freshly emerged Silver-studded Blue were roosting in the grass and, in particular, on flowering thyme; while Lynn first a Common Blue and, latterly, a Chapman's Blue; a couple of Small Heath were on the wing; and Jon found a Heath Fritillary. Barred Warbler were seen here too, and Grey-headed Woodpecker calls echoed mournfully from nearby woodland.

All in all, not the day any of us would have hoped for – we'd have liked sunshine and wall-to-wall butterflies of many species – but a better day than we might had, thanks to a sterling team effort and much positivity. With a better forecast promised for the following day, we had plenty still to prove this week!

Day 3 – 20th May

We awoke to find the countryside around our hotel smothered with a blanket of thick fog, and the temperature outside a mere 3°C. This was forbidding stuff indeed. However, once we'd loaded the vehicles for our transfer to Rimetea and hit the road, we soon found the fog dissipating and the temperature rising.

Our first stop was to revisit the roadside site we'd parked at on arrivals day, where John and Lynn had enjoyed Reverdin's and Zephyr Blue. Now bathed in sunshine, butterflies were warming up and on the wing here. Initially just Common and Silver-studded Blue, but Reverdin's duly was found, and also some fine fresh male Adonis Blue. The meadows that sloped uphill from the parking spot were flower-rich, and here we found Glanville and Eastern Knapweed Fritillary, Pale Clouded Yellow, and a single Black-veined White for good measure. A Goshawk circling overhead was a fine sight too.



We had the possibility of a late Bavius Blue very much on our minds this morning, and plotted a route to Rimetea that allowed us to check two more sites for it. The first we elected not to explore when, upon arrival, we could see the hillside in question was heavily grazed by cattle behind an electric fence. The second, however, we knew should be intact – a very steep escarpment that's escaped agricultural activity and retains a fine steppe flora, including the salvias upon which the Bavius Blue depends for

its larval foodplant. The drive up the escarpment on unmade roads passed without incident, and by late morning we were on foot and exploring the hilltop.

Two species of hairstreak were new to us here – Green and Black both being found around the bushes that studded the escarpment. On the slopes below us we encountered Wall Brown, more Adonis Blue, and Eastern Baton Blue again, but alas no Bavius Blue were to be found. Either we were too late for them, or the prolonged cold weather had delayed emergence of later individuals. A couple of Weaver's Fritillary were a fine surprise here though, and our non-butterfly companions included some shy Roe Deer, and a flock of a dozen Bee-eater.

After lunch we headed on towards Rimetea, stopping to walk a track that János knew held a strong population of Scarce Fritillary.





Chequered Skipper © Lynn

Unfortunately by this stage of the day the thick grey clouds that had plagued the past two days were back again in force, suppressing all flight activity. János's sharp eyes were on the case though, and spotted a roosting Scarce Fritillary that showed marvellously well for us. As an added bonus, Jon found a nearby Chequered Skipper which also posed obligingly.

Nonetheless, what we were making up for in quality we were noticeably lacking in quantity. This was starkly reinforced at our final site, a large network of damp meadows on the outskirts of Rimetea that should have been bursting with

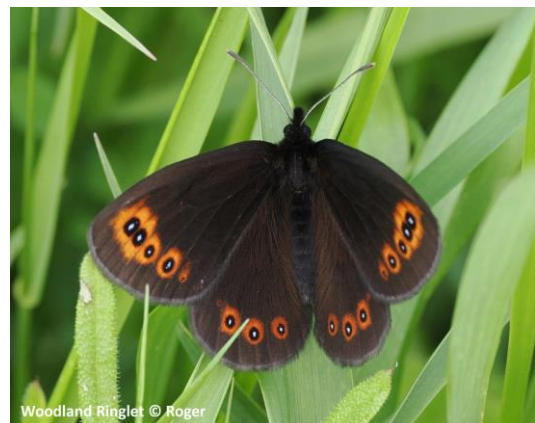
Large Copper, Marsh Fritillary et al. We saw a single Small Heath here. Later, we learned that this was the coldest May in Romania for a century, which explained the absence of insects.

We retired to our comfortable new base for the next couple of days for a hearty dinner and to lay plans for tomorrow.

Day 4 – 21st May

With the weather forecast set fair for the day ahead, we decided to make our first concerted effort to see one of the stars of the show here in Romania, the achingly rare Danube Clouded Yellow. As we loaded our day bags into the vehicles, a fine Syrian Woodpecker flew into the trees beside the hotel – surely that was a good omen?

The drive east to our first Danube Clouded Yellow site was uneventful and, with a weather eye on the car thermometers, we were pleased to see sunshine elevating the air temperature into the high teens and then, by the time we arrived, driving up a dirt track onto a grassy hillside, into the low twenties Celsius. The stage was very much set.



Woodland Ringlet © Roger



The first insects we saw on the wing were Woodland Ringlet, dark and almost coal-black in flight, but with tangerine wing spots when they obligingly settled. It was not long however before the shout went up for Danube Clouded Yellow. János had warned us that it was unmistakable in flight, being a rich, dark orange, and sure enough the insect in question could be seen with the naked eye from a distance whizzing across the hillside.

Happily, it was still relatively torpid, and settled repeatedly to nectar on dandelions and to bask in the sun on the dry earth paths and tracks that threaded the hillside. With this being such a mobile species it's hard to say with certainty how many we saw that morning – at least four butterflies, all males and newly emerged. Also freshly minted was a fine Sooty Copper, while Scarce Swallowtail optimistically hilltopped as the morning wore on.

This was a major triumph, seeing Danube Clouded Yellow so easily, and it took some pressure off us later in the week when we'd look for it once more in the north at higher elevation. We headed back towards Rimetea, with the intention to walk the same track we'd briefly explored the previous afternoon, but this time in sunnier conditions.

We'd no sooner arrived than we found the first of several Scarce Fritillary basking in the sun in the parking area, at one point settling on the warm black rubber of Jon's vehicle's tyre! Chris spotted a Map nearby, which was swiftly followed by our first, and typically enervated and flighty Common Glider. Chequered Skipper proved ubiquitous, while we saw a number of puddling Wood White – it was useful to look anew at them with Fenton's Wood White in mind, a target for the following day.



Moving into Rimetea itself, we poured some water on the stony track outside our hotel, at the track junction where we'd found Spinose Skipper the previous year. We waited and

watched patiently, while a succession of Grizzled Skipper and Silver-studded Blue came to puddle... but no Spinose.



We decided to try another roadside site at which János had seen Spinose, some miles away on the south of the village. Again, to no avail, though there were some consolation prizes here – magnificently, a fine Chequered Blue that posed beautifully for us... and more prosaically, our first Speckled Wood of the week.

Another check of our watered track in Rimetea in the late afternoon showed little change in the cast of visiting butterflies, so we made for one final site for the day in the late afternoon some miles back outside the village. Here, in a roadside meadow we found Comma and Chequered Skipper, and more posing Wood White; while on the hillside higher above the road János and Chris found a fine Zephyr Blue. Sheila's keen eyes spotted a large *Nymphalid* high in the trees over the meadow that looked like a good candidate for Lesser Purple Emperor, particularly when it dashed down to see off a Scarce Swallowtail, but alas it wouldn't land at ground level and vanished high into the canopy. One that got away!

Day 5 – 22nd May

Having enjoyed more or less wall-to-wall sunshine the previous afternoon in Rimetea, we decided to start today with another visit to the unproductive water meadows of Day 2. This worked well for us, with Dave finding our first newly emerged Marsh Fritillary. A couple more obliging examples were forthcoming, and then an absolute monster of a Geranium Argus – as big as many a *Phengaris* blue!



Heading away from the village, we walked up into the higher reaches of a woodland track, taking ourselves to the elevation and site at which János had seen Fenton's Wood White on previous visits. The weather, inevitably, decided to deteriorate yet again, with grey cloud predominate overhead and, as the walk wore on, the first spits of rain felt too.



Perhaps, for once, this played to our favour, for we spotted a roosting *Pierid* that was as torpid and approachable as one could possibly have hoped it might be. János examined it closely, and pronounced that we'd got a Fenton's Wood White on our hands – the dusky, reticulated underwing weighing heavily in its favour. The walk back down to the vehicles, while damp, was on air for those of us who'd made the trek uphill.

We needed to grit our teeth now for the long transit into our next base near Hargita for the following days. The drive was a long one, albeit to be broken with a stop at a reliable site for Large Copper. The road quality left something to be desired at times, though we were mindful that this very lack of 'development', whether of roads or agriculture, was what also contributed to the famously biodiverse state of Romanian butterflies.

Our final stop before the push on towards our new base was something of a gem, a series of meadows girdled by an extensive oak forest. The drive up the site was a joy, off-tarmac and following a forest track that gradually climbed through the trees and suddenly into the open on an expansive hilltop. Better yet, the sun was finally out!

We were no sooner out of the vehicles than we saw our primary quarry here, a flaming ember of a Large Copper. And he wasn't alone! In the next hour we found many more, some of them startlingly large, and all newly emerged and vibrant. Also newly eclosed were more Heath Fritillary than we'd ever seen before – certainly hundreds, maybe thousands across the meadows. They were landing on us at times and hitching a lift as we wandered in wonder. Flowering mint proved irresistible to dozens of Weaver's Fritillary, while another Sooty Copper was also found near the vehicles, and then a new copper – Small Copper, found by Dave. Our drive back to the main road added a further species to our tally for the week, with our first Red Admiral finally seen.



Day 6 – 23rd May

Our first stop of the day was scheduled to be searching for butterflies in the Gheorgeni Basin but, as we neared the area, we found ourselves looking down onto a flat disc of thick white fog. Clearly nothing would be flying in those conditions! However, with sun forecast for later in the day, we felt we could usefully vary the itinerary, swapping the *en route* butterflying for our late morning destination, the Bicaz Gorge. This dramatic cleft is home to what we consider, given its beauty, to be an honorary butterfly, the Wallcreeper. This shy bird is an iconic montane species, as renowned for its penchant for living in inaccessible, remote places as it is for its unquestioned good looks. Having the opportunity to see such a bird was, we felt, not one to be passed by, and it was a firm fixture on the itinerary for the week,

The very bottom of the Bicaz Gorge is something of a tourist hotspot, lined with small roadside shacks selling a variety of knickknacks of local and imported nature alike. The arrival of two vehicles of wildlife-watchers who were casting their eyes up to the rock-faces above rather than the sheepskins, baskets, fridge magnets and plastic White Stork garden ornaments caused some mild consternation amongst the stallholders... We were, clearly, not their usual clientele!

Fleeting views of a Wallcreeper soon ensued, and we decided to head a little further up the gorge to obtain hopefully better and more prolonged views. Moving the vehicles removed us from the commercial hubbub, and apart from a couple of hikers we had the gorge to ourselves. The first butterflies of the day were soon seen, Wood White, and then Janos and Dave picked up our Wallcreeper flying overhead from one side of the gorge to the other. After a short wait it flew back, and landed on an area of bare rock where it proceeded to preen itself. We were getting binocular views hitherto, but Janos had a scope to hand for better views still. Unfortunately we did not have long to enjoy them, circumstances meaning we had to move on.



We made good time to our first, and now fog-free butterfly site, a long valley that hosts a population of Danube Clouded Yellow. The value of our earlier sightings of the week was now starkly apparent to us, for this much further north and at higher altitude, and in this coldest of springs in living memory, there were none of their kind to be seen. Indeed, we were bumping into numerous Dingy Skipper, traditionally a species of early May here, newly emerged and in pristine condition. This spoke volumes about how

delayed some species must have been locally. A passing rain shower reminded us that the day's sunshine couldn't be taken for granted, and we headed back to the vehicles to move on to a somewhat lower elevation meadow, hopeful of finding False Heath Fritillary and Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper. Alas, there was no sign of them either.

Our fortunes picked up nearer to our Hargita base, with an hour in the late afternoon spent most enjoyably in warm sunshine walking the verges of an abandoned country lane – Chequered Skipper and Duke of Burgundy were present in some numbers here, while Speckled Wood and Brimstone were also seen. Far more pleasing than any of those was a Common Glider that dropped down from the treetops to join us awhile.



We returned to our lodge for a chance to freshen up, and for those who did not wish to join us in the dedicated bear-watching hide to opt out and remain at the lodge. A short drive later and we were heading off-road, up a forest track into the hills. This was a journey with a couple of welcome interruptions – first of all when Jon, in the second vehicle, spotted



another Common Glider; and latterly when Janos stopped in his tracks to announce on the radios that the lead vehicle had a Camberwell Beauty on the track in front of it! We all piled out of the vehicles for that one... and it posed obliging for us before sailing elegantly up into the trees, checking out a couple of our heads en route. These charming butterflies exude personality, and this individual was certainly no exception.

Speaking of personality, there was plenty of that in store for us once we were quietly installed in the comfortable, bespoke bear-watching hide that would house us for the next two hours... The hide overlooks a large woodland clearing, and during the two hours that passed all too quickly, that clearing would at various intervals play host to no fewer than 11

Brown Bears, ranging from a young cub to yearling animals, three adult females, and one awe-inspiring adult male. His arrival caused panic amongst the yearlings, which promptly fled into the surrounding woodland, and prompted the cub to climb the sheer trunk of a tree at great speed, from whence it nervously watched as the male sauntered into the clearing, and at one point approached an adult female – she pointedly rebuffed his advances. These and more social interactions played out before our rapt eyes – this was an incredible experience. It was with great regret that we eventually returned to the lodge for dinner.



Day 7 – 24th May

We transferred today from Hargita back to Rimetea, taking a different route to that which had brought us there two days beforehand. We'd made a stop en route to enjoy Large Copper that day, but today we had a far rarer butterfly target in mind – Lesser Clouded Yellow.



This, however, was not before we'd made another essential pit-stop – to try *kürtös kalács* or chimney cakes, a delicious local sweet delicacy made and sold at a roadside stall. We tried *kürtös kalács* with cinnamon and walnut coatings – both were extremely moreish and swiftly torn apart and devoured, Lynn carrying the last ring of our chimney cakes back into Jon's vehicle worn as an edible bracelet to save for later!

Our Lesser Clouded Yellow site certainly looked the part – a large upland area with rippling ridges that rose above us, and a commanding view over the plains below. Those ridges were studded with patches of thyme, and many other flowering plants. This felt promising... the fly in the ointment being the gathering cloud overhead. Nonetheless, we devoted almost two hours to searching the area – we were there during the butterfly's flight period, and *Colias* are tough cookies, after all. Once more, though, we found precious few butterflies of any description on the wing, apart from the ubiquitous Silver-studded Blue.

Our only *Colias* were a couple of fleeting Pale Clouded Yellow. We did a little better for fritillaries, with some smart Eastern Knapweed and Glanville being seen – one of the latter being



a remarkable green-hued aberration, almost like the *valesina* form of Silver-washed Fritillary. Wandering shepherds and cowherds were our only human companions in this remote place, as curious about the strangers in their midst as we were in the subtleties of the local butterflies.



Scarce Fritillary © Barrie

We dropped into the Rimetea valley, our usual woodland track being an irresistible brief stop – the usual desired suspects – Scarce Fritillary and Map – were both present still, with nearby sightings of Peacock and Queen of Spain Fritillary too and, pleasingly, our first Large Skipper of the week found by Barrie in an adjoining meadow. It was telling that it had taken us this long to see this usually common species.

Our final stop for the day was a new site for us, where in the previous year our group had enjoyed good sightings of Spinose Skipper. Once again, the site's potential was immediately apparent, a steep sided valley with herb-rich slopes on one side, and a track and small river running along the bottom of it. Another new species for the week was swiftly forthcoming, a rather tatty Short-tailed Blue; and we also bumped into further Sooty Copper and Green-underside Blue here.

However, with the temperature now falling rapidly, many butterflies were going to roost in the low vegetation. We counted at least two dozen Osiris Blue in this way, and a great many Wood White. Jon and Lynn both found examples of a scarce orchid for Romania, *Neotinea tridentata*. By late afternoon, and with the temperature now positively cool, we called it a day and headed back to our comfortable lodgings for our final evening in Romania.



Neotinea tridentata © Lynn

Day 8, Departures day, 25th May

With a little time in hand before we needed to hit the road mid-morning, we made the best of the time available to us – some electing to pack and enjoy a slightly more leisurely start to the day, and some heading back to the meadows near the village to see what, if anything, we might find.

This was, to be honest, more in hope than any great expectation. The overnight temperature had once again been stubbornly and miserably cold, and the morning was yet again a cold and grey one. The long grass of the meadow was absolutely sopping wet – all we could find for our troubles was an admittedly very fine fresh Poplar Hawkmoth roosting in the low vegetation. Worth getting wet feet for...



One final roll of the dice at a nearby roadside site finally yielded two butterfly species – neither new, but both testament to how determined we'd remained all week despite the weather's persistent provocation. Woodland Ringlet and Small Heath were duly seen again one last time on Romanian territory.

With that, we returned to our lodge, collected our bags, and made our way back towards Cluj, stopping for lunch before heading in to the airport. And, with a certain grim inevitability, the Wizz Air flight back to London Luton was duly delayed for no apparent reason.

Given how magnificent this tour had been in 2024, our run of poor fortune here in Romania in 2025 due to factors beyond anyone's control, be it airline delays or, most significantly, the coldest wettest spring in Romania for over a century, was very disappointing indeed. That said, it's testament to the group's heart and determination that we kept our spirits up, and still managed to find most of the main targets of the tour. That the overall butterfly numbers were so low and, hence, the anticipated spectacle of butterflying here in Romania was diminished was a bitter pill to swallow, but we made for a good team, and all benefited from one another's sharp eyes and willingness to share their finds immediately. János and Jon would like to thank the group for being such a great team under these trying climatic circumstances.

Newsletter – if you'd like to join our mailing list and be the first to hear of new tours and special offers, you can join the Mariposa Nature Tours family on www.mariposanature.com

Social media - For the most up to the minute news of what we're seeing, give us a follow on Bluesky, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or YouTube, and see live sightings from the field, photos and videos, and all the very latest Mariposa Nature Tours news.



[BLUESKY](#)



[FACEBOOK](#)



[TWITTER](#)



[INSTAGRAM](#)



[YOUTUBE](#)

ROMANIA IN SPRING 18 th -25 th MAY 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 floccifera</i>				✓				
5	Hungarian Skipper <i>Spialia orbifer</i>								
6	Spinose Skipper <i>Muschampia cribrellum</i>								
7	Safflower Skipper <i>Pyrgus carthami</i>								
8	Yellow-banded Skipper <i>Pyrgus sidae</i>								
9	Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>								
11	Large Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus alveus</i>								
12	Large Chequered Skipper <i>Heteropterus morpheus</i>								
13	Chequered Skipper <i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
14	Essex Skipper <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>								
15	Small Skipper <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>								
16	Lulworth Skipper <i>Thymelicus action</i>								
17	Large Skipper <i>Ochlodes Sylvanus</i>							✓	
18	Southern Festoon <i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>								
19	Clouded Apollo <i>Parnassius Mnemosyne</i>					✓			
20	Scarce Swallowtail <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓			✓				
21	Swallowtail <i>Papilio Machaon</i>				✓	✓			
22	Wood White <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	Fenton's Wood White <i>Leptidea morsei</i>					✓			
24	Orange-tip <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
25	Black-veined White <i>Aporia crataegi</i>			✓	✓				
26	Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>				✓				
27	Small White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
28	Green-veined White <i>Pieris napi</i>				✓	✓	✓		
29	Eastern Bath White <i>Pontia edusa</i>								
30	Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow <i>Colias erate</i>								
31	Clouded Yellow <i>Colias crocea</i>				✓	✓			
32	Danube Clouded Yellow <i>Colias myrmidone</i>				✓				
33	Lesser Clouded Yellow <i>Colias chrysotheme</i>								
34	Pale Clouded Yellow <i>Colias hyale</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
35	Berger's Clouded Yellow <i>Colias alfacariensis</i>								
36	Brimstone <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				✓		✓		
37	Duke of Burgundy <i>Hamearis Lucina</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
38	Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>					✓			
39	Violet Copper <i>Lycaena helle</i>		✓						
40	Large Copper <i>Lycaena dispar</i>					✓			
41	Scarce Copper <i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>								
42	Sooty Copper <i>Lycaena tityrus</i>				✓	✓		✓	
43	Purple-shot Copper <i>Lycaena alciphron</i>								
44	Purple-edged Copper <i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>								
45	Lesser Fiery Copper <i>Lycaena thersamon</i>	✓							
46	Green Hairstreak <i>Callophrys rubi</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
47	Black Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium pruni</i>			✓					
48	Ilex Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>								
49	Sloe Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium acacia</i>								
50	Small Blue <i>Cupido minimus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
51	Osiris Blue <i>Cupido Osiris</i>				✓	✓		✓	
52	Short-tailed Blue <i>Cupido argiades</i>							✓	
53	Eastern Short-tailed Blue <i>Cupido decoloratus</i>								
54	Provençal Short-tailed Blue <i>Cupido alcetas</i>								
55	Holly Blue <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>								
56	Eastern Baton Blue <i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>	✓		✓	✓				
57	Bavius Blue <i>Pseudophilotes bavius</i>								
58	Chequered Blue <i>Scolitantides orion</i>				✓	✓			
59	Green-underside Blue <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>			✓	✓			✓	
60	Large Blue <i>Phengaris arion</i>								
61	Alcon Blue <i>Phengaris alcon</i>								
62	Zephyr Blue <i>Kretania sephirus</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	Brown Argus <i>Aricia agestis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
67	Mountain Argus <i>Aricia artaxerces</i>								
68	Geranium Argus <i>Eumedonia eumedon</i>					✓		✓	
69	Mazarine Blue <i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>			✓	✓			✓	
70	Turquoise Blue <i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>								
71	Chapman's Blue <i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
72	Common Blue <i>Polyommatus Icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Adonis Blue <i>Lysandra bellargus</i>			✓				✓	
74	Nettle-tree Butterfly <i>Libythea celtis</i>								
75	Silver-washed Fritillary <i>Argynnis paphia</i>								
76	Cardinal <i>Argynnis pandora</i>								
77	High Brown Fritillary <i>Fabriciana adippe</i>								
78	Queen of Spain Fritillary <i>Issoria lathonia</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
79	Lesser Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis ino</i>								
80	Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis daphne</i>								
81	Twin-spot Fritillary <i>Brenthis Hecate</i>								
82	Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>				✓	✓			
83	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria selene</i>								
84	Weaver's Fritillary <i>Boloria dia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
85	Silver-washed Fritillary <i>Argynnis paphia</i>								
86	Scarce Fritillary <i>Euphydryas maturna</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
87	Marsh Fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>					✓			
88	Glanville Fritillary <i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
89	Knapweed Fritillary <i>Melitaea phoebe</i>			✓				✓	
90	Lesser Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea trivia</i>								
91	Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea didyma</i>								
92	False Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea diamina</i>								
93	Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea athalia</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
94	Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>					✓			
95	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>				✓		✓	✓	
96	Peacock <i>Inachis io</i>				✓			✓	
97	Small Tortoiseshell <i>Aglais urticae</i>								
98	Comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i>				✓		✓		
99	Map <i>Araschnia Levana</i>				✓			✓	
100	Camberwell Beauty <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>						✓		
101	Common Glider <i>Neptis sappho</i>				✓		✓		
102	Hungarian Glider <i>Neptis rivularis</i>								
103	Poplar Admiral <i>Limenitis populi</i>								
104	Lesser Purple Emperor <i>Apatura ilia</i>								
105	Speckled Wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓		✓	✓	
106	Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓				✓	
107	Large Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata maera</i>				✓				
108	Woodland Brown <i>Lopinga achine</i>								
109	Pearly Heath <i>Coenonympha arcania</i>								

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
110	Chestnut Heath <i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>								
111	Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Meadow Brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i>								
113	Woodland Ringlet <i>Erebia medusa</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Black Ringlet <i>Erebia melas</i>								
115	Marbled White <i>Melanargia galathea</i>								
	Daily total:	13	6	19	45	33	24	35	1
	Running total:	13	14	26	52	59	62	64	64
	Birds seen – list kindly compiled by Barrie								
1	Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>								
2	Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>								
3	Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>								
4	Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>								
5	Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>								
6	White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>								
7	Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>								
8	Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>								
9	Lesser Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i>								
10	Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>								
11	Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>								
12	Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>								
13	Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>								
14	Rock Dove (F) <i>Columba livia</i>								
15	Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>								
16	Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>								
17	Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>								
18	Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>								
19	Scops Owl <i>Otus scops</i>								
20	Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>								
21	Swift <i>Apus apus</i>								
22	European Bee-eater <i>Coracias garrulus</i>								
23	Grey-headed Woodpecker <i>Picus canus</i>								
24	Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>								
25	Black Woodpecker <i>Dryocopus martius</i>								
26	Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>								
27	Syrian Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>								
28	Middle Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>								
29	Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>								
30	Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>								
31	Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>								
32	Crag Martin <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>								

33	Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>								
34	House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>								
35	Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i>								
36	Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>								
37	Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>								
38	White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>								
39	Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>								
40	Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>								
41	Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>								
42	Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>								
43	Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>								
44	Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>								
45	Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>								
46	Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>								
47	Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>								
48	Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>								
49	Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>								
50	Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>								
51	Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>								
52	Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>								
53	Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>								
54	Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>								
55	Wallcreeper <i>Tichodroma muraria</i>								
56	Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>								
57	Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>								
58	Lesser Grey Shrike <i>Lanius minor</i>								
59	Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>								
60	Magpie <i>Pica mauritanica</i>								
61	Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>								
62	Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>								
63	Hooded Crow <i>Corvus cornix</i>								
64	Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>								
65	Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>								
66	House Sparrow <i>Parus domesticus</i>								
67	Tree Sparrow <i>Parus montanus</i>								
68	Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>								
69	Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>								
70	Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>								

Guests' Galleries

All images that follow were kindly shared by tour participants.



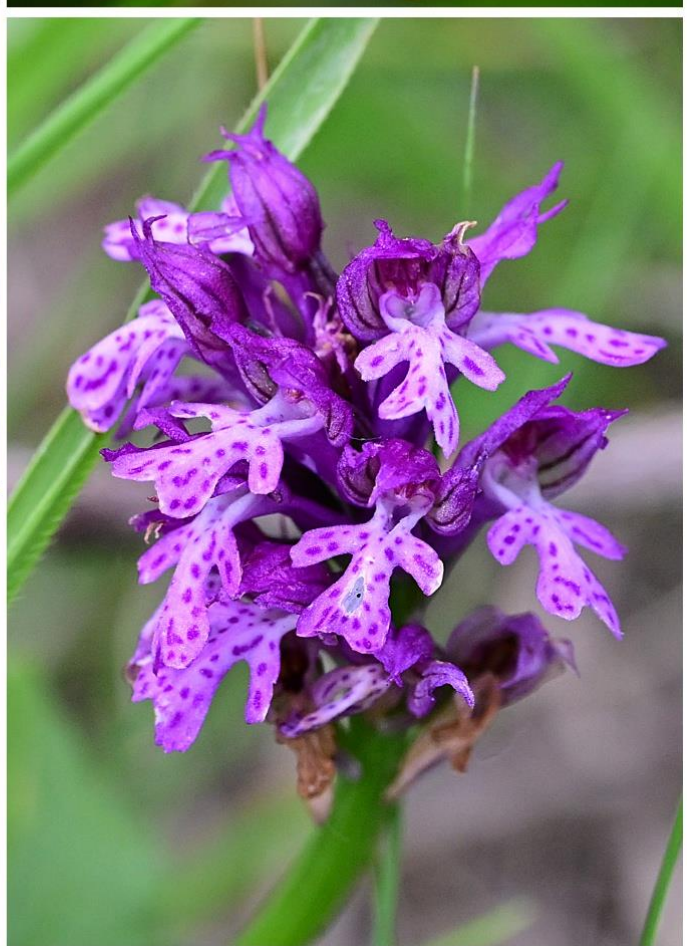
Images © Roger



Images © Roger



Images © Lynn



Images © Lynn



Images © Rod



Images © Rod



Images © Sheila



Images © Chris



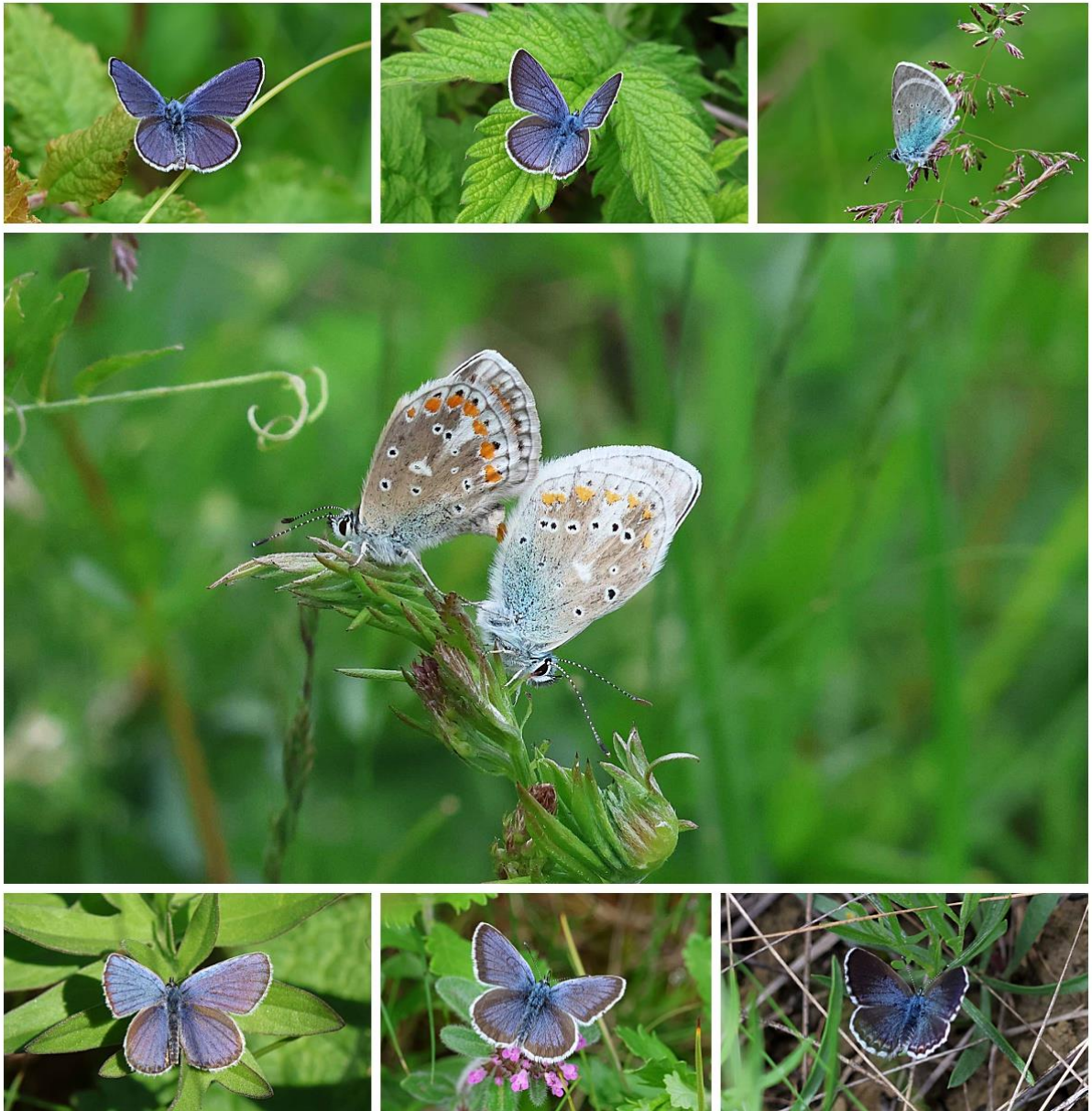
Images © John



Images © Dave



Images © Barrie



Images © Barrie



Images © Barrie

And finally... If you like the sound of Romania in Spring, we're afraid next year's tour is already fully booked, but we'll be announcing the dates for this deservedly popular tour for 2027 soon... If you'd like to reserve a place in the meantime, please drop us a line on info@mariposanature.com

In the meantime, we have other butterfly tours operating in 2026 that explore other wonderful parts of Europe! Our full calendar is available to peruse on our website:

<https://www.mariposanature.com/calendar>

