

# Butterflies of Montes Universales

Mariposa Nature Tours trip report

31<sup>st</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024

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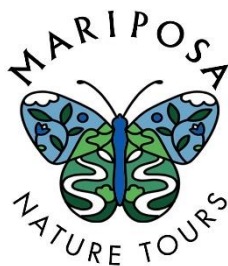
Tour leaders Pau Lucio, David Moore & Jon Dunn

Trip report by David Moore

Images kindly shared by our guests

(Images above, clockwise from top left: Iberian Scarce Swallowtail (Neil), Esper's Marbled White (Gillian),

Zapater's Ringlet (Martin), Azure Chalkhill Blue (Lynn)



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## Introduction

This one-centre tour, based in the historic town of Albarracin in Teruel Province, takes in many of the best butterfly sites in the region, concentrating in particular on areas with permanent water sources in this otherwise relatively arid part of Iberia.

Joining us for this tour were Rod & Lynn, Ian & Evelyn, Neil & Jan, Gillian, Ilija, Richard, Kate, Martin, Arnett, Kirsty, and Andrew.

What follows is a daily diary for the week, followed by gallery and species lists.

## Day 1, 31<sup>st</sup> July

Arrivals day went smoothly, with many of the group having decided to arrive the night before and to stay locally.



There was concern as one of the flights with three guests was cancelled by the airline in question literally on the very morning as they made their way to the airport, and they had to spend most of the day diverting via Madrid, arriving independently in the late afternoon. However, the rest of the group were able to get on the road from Valencia to Albarracin reasonably early in the afternoon.

About 5km prior to reaching Albarracin, a stop was made at a riverside location beside the main road and everyone got out in the hot conditions to begin to familiarise themselves with some of the butterfly species of this region.

One of the first to reveal itself was **Spanish Chalkhill Blue** *Polyommatus albicans*, a large, pale lycaenid which is relatively common in the drier areas of the area. Given the heat, none were settling with wings open, but when in-flight the almost white uppersides could be clearly seen.

Another desirable soon followed, with a splendidly marked **Striped Grayling** *Hipparchia fidia* seen in a shadier area near some young trees. Its close cousin, **Tree Grayling** *Hipparchia statilius*, was also seen nearby.



Both **Swallowtail** *Papilio machaon* and **Iberian Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphiclydes feisthamelii* were present, adding a touch of colourful elegance, but it was mainly the small butterflies that were of greatest interest. **Sage Skipper** *Muschampia proto* was seen on the track whilst **Cinquefoil Skipper** *Pyrgus cirsii* was around in small numbers, its rusty-coloured undersides giving its identity away.

Another small butterfly, rather drab in appearance, was then spotted. It was **Oberthur's Anomalous Blue** *Polyommatus fabressei*, a regional endemic. Rather more eye-catching

were **Long-tailed Blue** *Lampides boeticus* and **Lang's Short-tailed Blue** *Leptotes pirithous*, both seen on the flowers growing near the bank of the River Guadalaviar.

After just over an hour, it was time to head to the hotel, one which commands enviable views across the wooded valley at the southern flank of Albarracin. Happily, Ilija, Martin and Richard had successfully flagged down a taxi to drive them from Madrid, and they soon joined the rest of the group, making short work (along with everybody else) of some welcome chilled beer and ice cream whilst sitting outside the bar in the historic, impossibly picturesque cobbled town square.

A total of 28 butterfly species had been seen with the promise of many more to come the next day.

### Day 2, 1<sup>st</sup> August



Iberian Marbled White © Lynn

It was forecast to be hot on this first full day, so it was decided to spend the morning at a delightful, wooded valley close to the village of Noguera.

The rationale behind this was to ensure that proceedings went as comfortably as possible, as the valley is both narrow and steep-sided meaning there is plenty of shade to be had if things get a little too warm.

Of course, the fact that it is one of the best sites in the area for butterflies was also contributory, and that became evident as soon as the group got out of the vehicles shortly after 10am.

The riverside stretch close to where the vehicles were parked is always highly productive, and even though the sun hadn't long been lighting up the area, dozens of butterflies were active, with **Cleopatra** *Gonepteryx cleopatra* and **Great Banded Grayling** *Brintesia circe* being especially noticeable.

The habitat is an interesting mosaic of damp grassland next to the river with trees in the lower area giving way to shrubs higher up, and more arid, rocky landscape beyond. This appeals to a wide variety of butterflies and a real smorgasbord of species were seen.

The attractive **Dusky Heath** *Coenonympha dorus* was busy in the drier areas, with many **Grayling** *Hipparchia semele* flying where the track gave way to the grassland.



Silver-spotted Skipper © Andrew

There were several **Silver-Spotted Skipper** *Hesperia comma* on the wing and a close check of another member of this family revealed it to be a **Rosy Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus onopordi*, evidenced by the strong anvil shape on the hindwing underside.



Iberian Sooty Copper © Lynn

In one of the larger fields, Jon identified an **Oriental Meadow Brown** *Hyponephele lupina* which takes some doing amidst the large numbers of both **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* and **Dusky Meadow Brown** *Hyponephele lycaon*.

The main target, **Iberian Sooty Copper** *Lycaena bleusi* eventually turned up, but the group had dispersed so not everyone saw this first specimen, although thankfully a couple more were seen later on.

Perhaps the most impressive species on display was **Cardinal** *Argynnis pandora*. This largest of the European fritillaries was around in good numbers, dwarfing the **Silver-washed Fritillary** *Argynnis paphia* which were also present.

Other members of this family were **High Brown** *Fabriciana adippe*, **Dark Green** *Speyeria aglaja*, **Queen of Spain** *Issoria lathonia*, and **Spotted Fritillary** *Melitaea didyma*.



Cardinal © Martin

After a thorough combing of the upper part of the valley, some in the group turned their attention to the lower area near the entrance to the site. By late morning, the sun had risen sufficiently to light up the entirety of this section and given that there are two areas where a stream crosses the track, there were excellent numbers of butterflies seeking moisture all around this lush, green area.



Azure Chalkhill Blue © Lynn

The first **Azure Chalkhill Blue** *Polyommatus caelestissima* was a popular arrival, with a subsequent **Mother-of-Pearl Blue** *Polyommatus nivescens* causing even more excitement.

Gillian also managed to find a tiny **Panoptes Blue** *Pseudophilotes panoptes*, nectaring alongside a plethora of skippers and fellow lycaenids on the bank of the stream.

Other notables here were **Chestnut Heath** *Coenonympha glycerion* f. *iphinoides*, **Turquoise Blue** *Polyommatus dorylas*, and **Southern White Admiral** *Limantis reducta*. There was still time in the afternoon to move on to another site. With temperatures rising, the best place was the nearby Sierra Alta, at almost 1,900m the highest point in the area.



Chestnut Heath © Rod

The peak was populated by lots of Swallowtail and Iberian Scarce Swallowtail, merrily hill-topping in company with a few Grayling and **Wall Brown** *Lasiommata megera*.

However, another of the target species was to be found there, with a small number of



Albarracin © Kirsty

**Purple-shot Copper** *Lycaena alciphron* also active amongst the rocks near the summit.

It had been an excellent first full day, with 58 species seen, taking the total including yesterday to 63, more than the UK total of butterfly species. Once back in Albarracin, the lure of a cold beer and / or an ice cream, was irresistible to almost everybody, safe in the knowledge that there would be many more butterflies to come over the next few days.

### Day 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> August

This day was to be devoted to the species that frequent the drier, more arid sites of the region.

First stop was a local rambla a short distance from Albarracin. This is not the prettiest of sites but its proximity to the river and the steep slopes attract a good range of butterflies that prefer the more arid environments.

Within minutes of arriving Jon had managed to find one of them – a **Southern Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus baeticus*, and its close relative **Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus lavatherae* was another soon to follow.



Hermit © Gillian

Shortly after, the first **Bath White** *Pontia daplidice* was added to the list, whilst **Spanish Gatekeeper** *Pyronia bathseba* was another desirable to be seen.

Both **Clouded Yellow** *Colias crocea* and **Berger's Clouded Yellow** *Colias alfacariensis* were flying, often in close proximity, with **Southern Gatekeeper** *Pyronia cecilia* and the ubiquitous **Chapman's Blue** *Polyommatus thersites* also to the fore.



Hermit © Neil

Down by the water's edge, a patch of flowers had attracted several **Southern Brown Argus** *Aricia cramera*, but it was further up the rambla where the biggest find took place...

A handful of **Hermits** *Chazara briseis* had already been seen, flying with numerous other members of the grayling family. But Rod had taken an image of something a bit unusual, and David's

jaw nearly hit the floor when he realised that this was **Southern Hermit** *Chazara prieuri*, one of the rarest butterflies in Europe.

This was the first of this species recorded here for three years and, although none of the others in the group were around to see it, at least it reassured everyone that it had not become locally extinct.

In spite of vigorous searching for the next half hour, no other specimens could be found, so the group moved on to the second site, which is a continuation of the same rambla about 4km up the road towards Pozondon.

Sadly, the local authorities had concreted the area by the tunnel which used to attract dozens of puddling butterflies in the moist area by the run-off section. Even so, there were still several Spanish Chalkhill and Chapman's Blue present and, at the bottom of the roadside bank, there were plenty more butterflies visiting the flowers growing in the ruderal fields.



One in particular attracted great attention – a male **Black Satyr** *Satyrus actaea* was a notable find, until another male was spotted shortly after and then a paler female also arrived.

A few hairstreaks were active in the same area, with **Blue-Spot** *Satyrium spini* and **Sloe Hairstreak** *Satyrium acacia* being identified.

There was sufficient time for one further stop at Monverde de Albarracin. Although by now it was hot, the visit was worthwhile as the group found **Ripart's Anomalous Blue** *Polyommatus ripartii*, meaning that 10 new species had been seen during the day, putting the week's total on 73.

With the remainder of the trip largely to be spent in greener areas, things were looking very good at this point.

#### Day 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> August

There was only one butterfly in everybody's sights this morning – **Spanish Argus** *Aricia morronensis*, a diminutive but attractive lycaenid which can be found at only one site in the region.

The high-altitude site visited is very reliable for them, and indeed Pau managed to find one within minutes, but further searches of the storksbill flowers growing on the steep roadside slopes didn't yield any more.

Some of the group crossed the road and started searching the rocky area down the slope. This proved successful, as Gillian found another fairly quickly, and a handful more were to follow over the next half hour.

Quite a few Azure Chalkhill Blue were also present, along with several Grayling and Clouded Yellow.

It was time to move on, and the next site was a mere 25 minute drive to near the town of Tragacete. The early signs were good when, as soon as the small bridge was crossed to drive up to the road leading to the source of the Rio Jucar, large numbers of butterflies were seen puddling in the damp environs of the roadside.



A few minutes later, the vehicles parked at the end of the road and everybody got out. This is always an enjoyable moment, as everybody admires the impressive, weathered rockfaces and the crystal-clear water of the stream running alongside the track.

Just as impressive are the swathes of thistle flowers growing along the lightly wooded banks next to the stream. These were replete with a large range of butterflies, with fritillaries particularly conspicuous, although a **Brimstone** *Gonepteryx rhamni* added a paler touch along the way.



Perhaps the epicentre of this wonderful place is the area where the small stream crosses the track. This is always a magnet for butterflies, and this year was no exception.

There were myriads of Azure Chalkhill Blue, several Oberthur's Anomalous Blue, and even a couple of Mother-of-Pearl Blue, all imbibing fluids side by side.

Then, suddenly, a black butterfly with orange patches appeared – it was the first **Zapater's Ringlet** *Erebia zapateri*, without doubt the #1 target of the tour. Being a puddler *par excellence*, it allowed those in the group who were nearby to get reasonably close to it before it flew a short distance to the damp, grassy area beyond the wet track, where it continued to attract attention.

However, it was difficult to concentrate on one butterfly, because this small area was utterly alive with coloured wings, with Cardinal once again taking centre stage. Two different fritillaries were also found, with a lively **Lesser Marbled Fritillary** *Brenthis ino* being extremely reluctant to settle for anything longer than a milli-second.

The smaller fritillaries were very much on everyone's radar, and soon another new species



turned up in the form of **Twin-Spot Fritillary** *Brenthis hecate*. It was rather worn but readily identifiable due, unsurprisingly, to its twin set of underside spots.

Other new finds were **Escher's Blue** *Polyommatus escheri*, found in the drier area where copious lavender was in flower, whilst Kate spotted the only **Peacock** *Inachis io* of the week. This is not a common species in this area and is always a welcome addition to the list.



Twin-spot Fritillary © Rod

David managed to find a tiny **Red-underwing Skipper** *Spialia sertorius*, which behaved impeccably when people approached to take photographs.

It was time to take lunch back in the car park and to further revel in the delights of the butterflies flying amongst the many flowers growing here.

Then, it was just a 2km drive back down the same road to a waterfall, accessed via a

woodland path which provided welcome shade from the sun. Once again, there were good numbers of butterflies flying in the small meadow close to the waterfall, and some benches upon which for some of the group to rest their legs.

One last stop was made a few hundred metres further down the road, but by mid-afternoon butterfly activity was tempered somewhat by the heat. In spite of that, it had been another resoundingly successful day, with 64 species recorded, with the nine new ones bringing the week's total now to 82.

### Day 5, 4<sup>th</sup> August

This was to prove to be another beautiful, sunny day, which the group devoted to an area beyond Terriente, close to the small village of El Vallecillo.

Access to the first site was via a 3km long forest track, which was alive with butterflies even by 10am. At the end of the track is a series of meadows, at the lower end of which is a habitat that is uniquely rare in this region – a bog.

This marshy environment is perfect for thistle growth and there were hundreds of butterflies nectaring from them, the most common undoubtedly being **Iberian Marbled White** *Melanargia lachesis*, although there were large numbers of fritillaries and graylings too.



Sage Skipper © Andrew

Adjacent to this area is a narrow track with woodland on one side and dry rock faces on the other. Walking down this track is always a delight as the wide variety of flowering plants give rise to a similarly wide range of butterflies.

**Ilex Hairstreak** *Satyrrium ilicis* was recorded for the first time in this area, and a couple of Blue-Spot Hairstreak were seen too.

Further along, the week's first **Damon Blue** *Polyommatus damon* were also seen along with **Amanda's Blue** *Polyommatus amandus*.

All the while, there would be distractions due to the large numbers of Azure Chalkhill Blue, the odd Zapater's Ringlet, plus the myriad of other species present here.

In the clearings in the main meadow the group made their first acquaintance with the lovely **False Grayling** *Arethusana arethusana*, although they were easily outnumbered by Great Banded Grayling which were everywhere.

Other notables were Panoptes Blue, Iberian Sooty Copper, Twin-Spot Fritillary, and Ripart's Anomalous Blue.

Following lunch, the group moved up the hill to a drier area where Jon had seen a **Large Blue** *Phengaris arion* earlier in the day. Unfortunately, no further examples could be found although there were multi-dozens of butterflies attracted to the lavender flowers growing all over the upper reaches of this rocky slope.

To finish off the afternoon, an hour was spent at the nearby Cascada del Molino de San Pedro, a highly impressive waterfall with a crystal-clear lake beneath it. The group spent a little time here before wandering into the adjacent meadows, with an Iberian Scarce Swallowtail putting on a particularly impressive display for the gathered audience.

For many in the group, there was an added attraction to round off the day, with a guided tour around Albarracin.



False Grayling © Lynn

## Day 6, 5<sup>th</sup> August

The main site for this final full day was near the village of Moscardon. Travelling into the nearby valley the group arrived at a huge, grassy meadow surrounded by light pine forest.



Esper's Marbled White © Gillian

To say that this is a phenomenal site would be something of an understatement. By the time everyone had got out of the vehicles there were already serious numbers of butterflies active in the sheltered dip beside the road.

**Rock Grayling** *Hipparchia alcyone* were about in almost pestilent numbers, as were Iberian Marbled White, which presented a conundrum as the main target here was another within that latter's family – **Esper's Marbled White** *Melanargia russiae*.

It took about half an hour to find one, with Jon latching onto an individual three-quarters of the way up the meadow. Some while later, another one appeared on a thistle close to David, Evelyn and Ian.

The area close to the pine forest was the best spot for passing Zapater's Ringlets, with double figure numbers of this delightful butterfly being seen. In fact, the narrow strip of land between the road and the trees was the most productive area of the entire site, with it resembling something of a ringlet super-highway.

It was hard to process everything with so many butterflies active; they were literally all over the flowers in this sheltered area, and the water troughs a little further along were attracting yet more, with Grayling, Chestnut Heath, Cardinal, and even a Lesser Marbled Fritillary. Several Damon Blue were also present in this area, both males and females.



Cardinal © Neil

Every so often, a Southern White Admiral would appear, usually basking on a shrub but occasionally nectaring on nearby umbellifers. High Brown Fritillary were also commonplace, with many dozens on the wing, and there was even a **Nettle Tree Butterfly** *Libythea celtis* spotted.

The three hours passed very quickly, with the entire group soaking up the amazing spectacle of being surrounded by thousands of butterflies.

Following lunch, it was only a short drive to the next site, this being about 1km down the road at the Mediana Canyon.



Turquoise Blue © Gillian

The main reason for the visit was to check out the damp area where the stream crosses the path and this proved to be quite some spectacle, with dozens of mainly Spanish and Azure Chalkhill Blue imbibing greedily from this damp oasis in an otherwise arid area.

Several Long-tailed Blue were nectaring on some vetches by the field edges, whilst other species of interest were **Mallow Skipper** *Carcharodus alceae*, Oberthur's Anomalous Blue, Hermit, Cinquefoil Skipper, Swallowtail and Turquoise Blue.

It had been an absolute joy to see so many individual butterflies. A total of 65 species were recorded through the day, with the week's total now standing at 88.

**Day 7, 6<sup>th</sup> August** – Although this was departure day, there were still a couple of site visits to make for those in the group who had evening flights.

First up was another visit to the local rambla in an attempt to track down Southern Hermit again. Sadly, in the hour and a bit available to us, this was unsuccessful although there were plenty of other species present here so the time spent searching was as pleasant as ever.

It was then time to drive to the Valencia coast, just north of the Albufera wetlands at El Saler. This is not an especially good site for butterflies generally, but it notable for having one species that is not present further inland – **Mediterranean Skipper** *Gegenes nostradamus*.

This chunkily-built *Hesperiid* frequents the scabious flowers at the edge of the car park, although given the dry, hot summer in this part of Spain, these flowers were in relatively short supply.

That said, a handful of skippers were buzzing about on those few flowerheads that remained, and everyone was able to take a close look at this unusual butterfly.



Temperatures were near furnace-like at sea-level beside the beach, so it was a good thing that the butterflies were easily found within 20m of the parked vehicles. After 40 minutes or so, everybody was keen to get back into the air-conditioned minibuses and head for the airport to check-in for their flights home.

### Footnote and acknowledgements

This tour was an extremely enjoyable one. The weather is always guaranteed sunny and warm in this region at this time of year, and the town of Albarracin is a wonder in its own right with its fortified walls and medieval buildings.

It is also relatively bereft of tourists which affords extra space and less stress when visiting. The hotel is of good standard, and the evening meals in the local pizzeria are always something to look forward to.

The butterflies, of course, are the focal point and they always deliver the goods at this time of year. The sites visited offer respite from the often hot conditions by being at higher altitude or located in narrow, part-shaded valleys and canyons relatively shielded from the sun.

Mariposa would duly like to thank all guests for their convivial company during the week, and for their efforts in helping to track down the many wonderful butterfly species seen during the tour.

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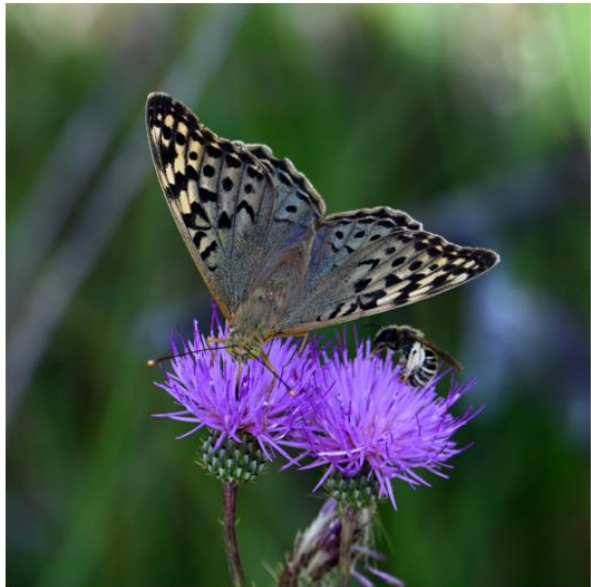
BUTTERFLIES OF MONTES UNIVERSALES								
31 JULY – 6 AUGUST 2024								
	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
	<b>Butterflies</b>							
1	Mediterranean Skipper <i>Gegenes nostradamus</i>							✓
2	Mallow Skipper <i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
3	Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>			✓				
4	Southern Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodus baeticus</i>			✓				
5	Tufted Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>							
6	Red-underwing Skipper <i>Spialia sertorius</i>				✓	✓	✓	
7	Sage Skipper <i>Muschampia proto</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
8	Safflower Skipper <i>Pyrgus carthami</i>	✓						
9	Cinquefoil Skipper <i>Pyrgus cirsii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	Olive Skipper <i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>							
11	Rosy Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus onopordi</i>		✓			✓	✓	
12	Sandy Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus cinarae</i>							
13	Large Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus alveus</i>		✓					
14	Essex Skipper <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		✓					
15	Small Skipper <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
16	Lulworth Skipper <i>Thymelicus acteon</i>				✓	✓	✓	
17	Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Hesperia comma</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Large Skipper <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>		✓		✓		✓	
19	Apollo <i>Parnassius apollo</i>							
20	Iberian Scarce Swallowtail <i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Swallowtail <i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Wood White <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	Black-veined White <i>Aporia crataegi</i>							
24	Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
25	Small White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	Green-veined White <i>Pieris napi</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
27	Southern Small White <i>Pieris mannii</i>							
28	Bath White <i>Pontia daplidice</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Clouded Yellow <i>Colias crocea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Berger's Clouded Yellow <i>Colias alfajariensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	
31	Brimstone <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
32	Cleopatra <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
33	Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
34	Purple-shot Copper <i>Lycaena alciphron</i>		✓					
35	Iberian Sooty Copper <i>Lycaena bleusei</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	
36	Spanish Purple Hairstreak <i>Laeosopis roboris</i>							
37	Purple Hairstreak <i>Favonius quercus</i>							
38	Blue-spot Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium spini</i>			✓	✓	✓		
39	Ilex Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>					✓	✓	
40	False Ilex Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium esculi</i>							
41	Sloe Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium acaciae</i>			✓				

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
42	Long-tailed Blue <i>Lampides boeticus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
43	Geranium Bronze <i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>							
44	Lang's Short-tailed Blue <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
45	Short-tailed Blue <i>Cupido argiades</i>							
46	Holly Blue <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
47	Chequered Blue <i>Scolitantides orion</i>							
48	Green-underside Blue <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>							
49	Silver-studded Blue <i>Plebejus argus</i>							
50	Idas Blue <i>Plebejus idas</i>							
51	Southern Brown Argus <i>Aricia cramera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
52	Mountain Argus <i>Aricia montensis</i>				✓			
53	Spanish Argus <i>Aricia morronensis</i>				✓			
54	Turquoise Blue <i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>		✓				✓	
55	Mother-of-Pearl Blue <i>Polyommatus nivescens</i>		✓		✓	✓		
56	Amanda's Blue <i>Polyommatus amandus</i>					✓		
57	Escher's Blue <i>Polyommatus escheri</i>				✓			
58	Chapman's Blue <i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
59	Comman Blue <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
60	Adonis Blue <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Azure Chalkhill Blue <i>Polyommatus caelestissimus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
62	Spanish Chalkhill Blue <i>Polyommatus albicans</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	Oberthur's Anomalous Blue <i>Polyommatus fabressei</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
64	Ripart's Anomalous Blue <i>Polyommatus ripartii</i>			✓		✓		
65	Damon Blue <i>Polyommatus damon</i>					✓	✓	
66	Silver-washed Fritillary <i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
67	Cardinal <i>Argynnis pandora</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
68	Dark Green Fritillary <i>Speyeria aglaja</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
69	High Brown Fritillary <i>Fabriciana adippe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	Niobe Fritillary <i>Fabriciana niobe</i>							
71	Queen of Spain Fritillary <i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Lesser Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis ino</i>				✓		✓	
73	Twin-spot Fritillary <i>Brenthis hecate</i>				✓	✓		
74	Knapweed Fritillary <i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	Lesser Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea trivia</i>							
76	Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓	✓			✓	
77	Provençal Fritillary <i>Melitaea deione</i>		✓			✓		
78	Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓		✓		✓	
79	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	
80	Peacock <i>Aglais io</i>				✓			
81	Small Tortoiseshell <i>Aglais urticae</i>							
82	Comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
83	Large Tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>							
84	Southern White Admiral <i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
85	Speckled Wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
86	Wall Brown <i>Lassiomata megera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	Large Wall Brown <i>Lassiomata maera</i>		✓					
88	Pearly Heath <i>Coenonympha arcania</i>							
89	Chestnut Heath <i>Coenonympha glycerion f. iphioides</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
90	Dusky Heath <i>Coenonympha dorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
91	Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
92	Gatekeeper <i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
93	Southern Gatekeeper <i>Pyronia cecilia</i>			✓	✓			
94	Spanish Gatekeeper <i>Pyronia bathsheba</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
95	Meadow Brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
96	Dusky Meadow Brown <i>Hypnophrys lycaon</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
97	Oriental Meadow Brown <i>Hypnophrys lupina</i>		✓			✓	✓	
98	Zapater's Ringlet <i>Erebia zapateri</i>				✓	✓	✓	
99	Esper's Marbled White <i>Melanargia russiae</i>						✓	
100	Iberian Marbled White <i>Melanargia lachesis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
101	Black Satyr <i>Satyrus actaea</i>			✓	✓			
102	Rock Grayling <i>Hipparchia alcyone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
103	Grayling <i>Hipparchia semele</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Tree Grayling <i>Hipparchia statilinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
105	Striped Grayling <i>Hipparchia fidia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
106	False Grayling <i>Arethusana arethusia</i>					✓	✓	
107	Great Banded Grayling <i>Brintesia circe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
108	Hermit <i>Chazara briseis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	
109	Southern Hermit <i>Chazara priouri</i>			✓				
	<b>Other possibilities</b>							
1	Mazarine Blue <i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>							
2	Nettle-tree Butterfly <i>Libythea celtis</i>						✓	
3	Panoptes Blue <i>Pseudophilotes panoptes</i>		✓			✓		
4	Large Blue <i>Phengaris arion</i>							
5	Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>							
6	Meleager's Blue <i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>							
7	Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis daphne</i>							
8	Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea athalia</i>							
9	Glanville Fritillary <i>Melitaea cinxia</i>							
	<b>Daily total:</b>	28	57	47	64	65	65	1
	<b>Running total:</b>	28	63	73	82	86	88	89

## Guests' Galleries

All images that follow were kindly shared by tour participants.



Images © Lynn



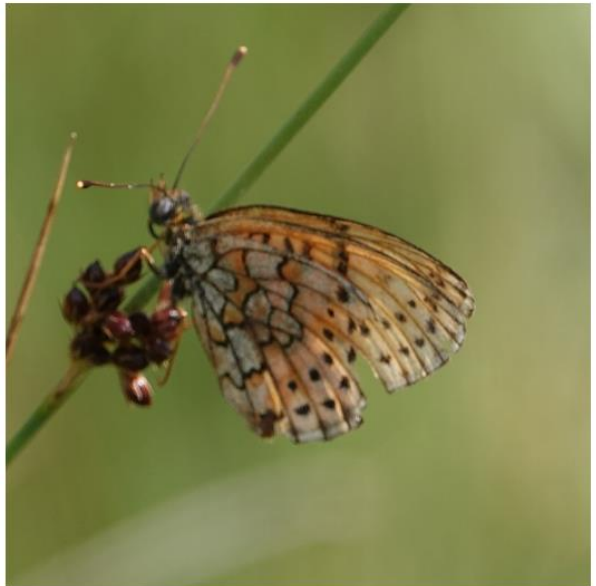
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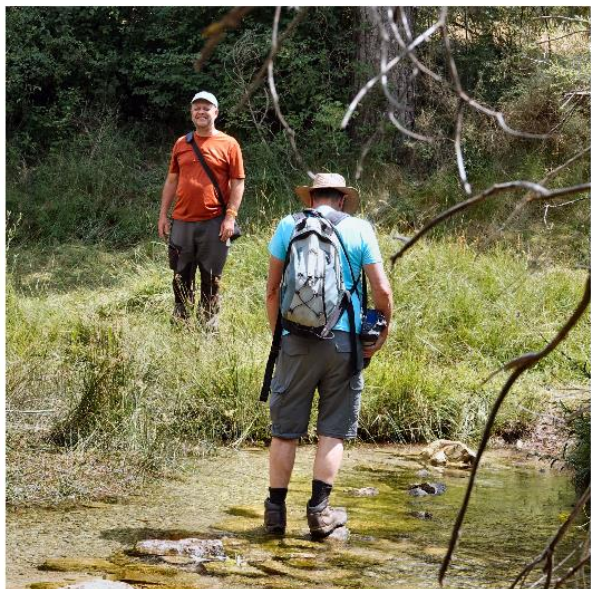
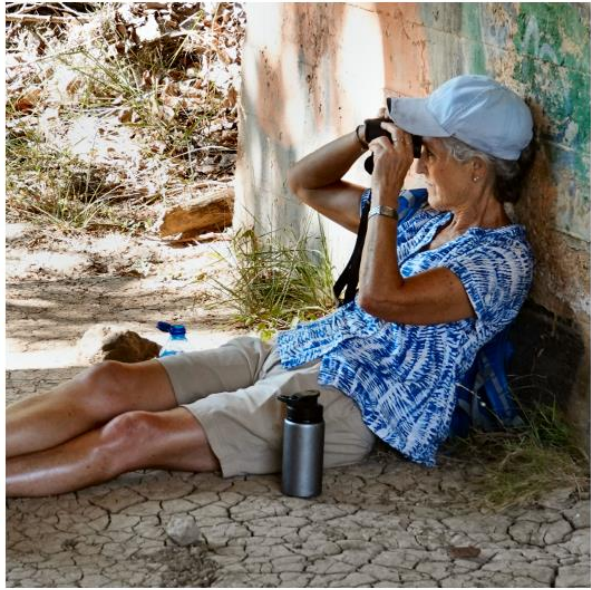
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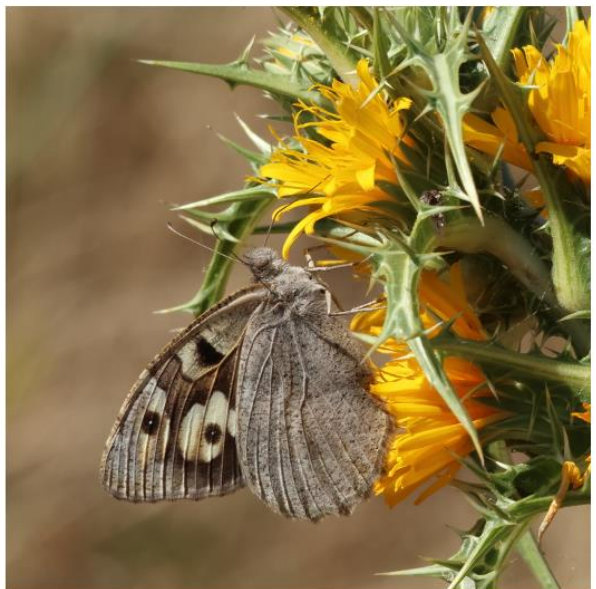
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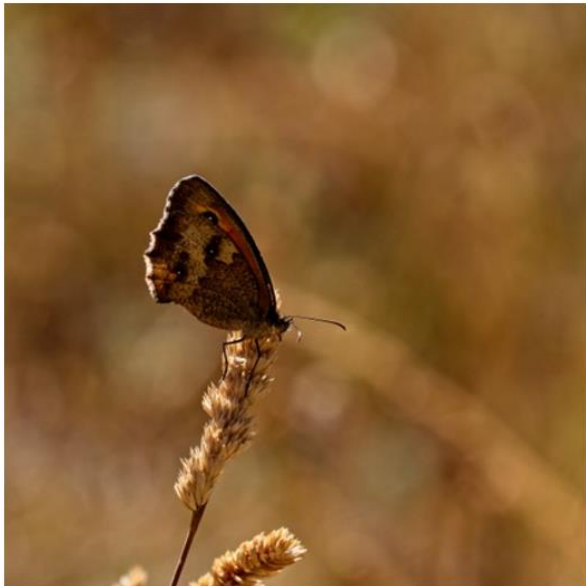
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**And finally...** If you like the sound of Butterflies of Montes Universales, the 2025 tour is available to book – full details on our website:

[Butterflies of Montes Universales](#)

Alternatively, we have other butterfly tours with availability in spring / summer 2025 that explore other wonderful parts of Spain!

[Spring Butterflies of Central & Northern Spain](#)

[Summer Butterflies of the Spanish Pyrenees](#)

[Butterflies of the Picos de Europa](#)

[Autumn Exotica in Andalusia](#)