

Butterflies of the Hautes Pyrenees

Mariposa Nature Tours trip report

13th-20th July 2024



Tour leaders David Moore & Jon Dunn

Trip report by David Moore

Images kindly shared by our guests

(Images above, clockwise from top left: Gavarnie Blue (Harry), Spanish Purple Hairstreak (Sheila), Gavarnie Ringlet (Harry), False Dewy Ringlet (Chris))



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Introduction

This tour takes in both the high altitude locations of the central French Pyrenees as well as lower elevations on both sides of the France/Spain border. It is a two-centre tour with the first base being in Bielsa on the Spanish side, and the second being close to Argeles-sur-Gazost, north of Gavarnie.

Joining us for this tour were Chris, Sheila and Harry.

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

Day 1, 13th July

Arrivals day is normally the first day of the tour, but unusually, all participants had arrived the day before so were ready to set off by mid-morning.

Whilst conditions were sunny in Toulouse, by the time the group reached Lannemezan, the sky was blanketed in cloud, meaning that the scheduled stop was unlikely to generate much in the way of butterfly activity.



Nonetheless, a handful of species were disturbed in the damp and murky conditions, the most notable being a summer brood **Map Butterfly** *Araschnia levana* which was active in a clearing near the main road.

After eating lunch, the group moved further south, but upon reaching Ancizan were forced to make a diversion as a stage of the Tour de France was taking place that day at Saint-Lary-Soulan and roads had consequently been closed to

accommodate the cyclists.

The diversion coincided with the sun coming out, so it was decided to pull in off the minor road to take a look if any butterflies were flying.

Several were, with **Marbled White** *Melanargia galathea* being recorded immediately. **Silver-washed Fritillary** *Argynnis paphia* was then seen on some bramble flowers before a smaller insect was spotted which turned out, surprisingly, to be a **False Heath Fritillary** *Melitaea diamina*.

It proved to be a welcome half hour away from the noisy throngs of spectators across the valley whose cries could be heard from a kilometre away as the cyclists passed them by at speed.

It was hard work getting back to the main road just south of Saint-Lary, with double parked vehicles largely blocking the way, but eventually progress was made and the group headed through the Bielsa tunnel which separates France from Spain, arriving at the hotel in good time to freshen up and get ready for the evening meal.

A total of 17 butterfly species had been recorded en route, and with the weather set fair for the next couple of days, things were looking good for many more.

Day 2, 14th July

Conditions were just about perfect this morning and remained that way throughout the day, which was a blessing as the first site was near Néouvielle at an altitude above 2,000m.

This is a phenomenal site for a range of *Erebia* and things got off to an excellent start as the long, grassy sward was full of them, with **Bright-eyed Ringlet** *Erebia oeme* being the most ubiquitous, followed by the dainty **Mountain Ringlet** *Erebia epiphron*.

However, within a few minutes the first of the main target species appeared. **False Dewy Ringlet** *Erebia sthenyo* is a Pyrenean endemic and is easily distinguishable due to its pale brown appearance and 'bouncing' flight pattern.

There was no shortage of them as the morning unfolded, with Jon managing to find a mating pair at one point.

Another target species involved a bit of extra

effort to see. **Lefebvre's Ringlet** *Erebia lefebvrei* is a denizen of scree slopes so it was necessary to take a 15 minute hike towards an area beyond the rich grassland, where the



group were rewarded with decent numbers flying up and down the rocky furrows. There were also a couple of **Eros Blues** *Polyommatus eros* for company too, as well as at least two **Peak Whites** *Pontia callidice* which flew by strongly.

After negotiating the downward route back to the river, there was an enormous bonus when another endemic was seen. This was **Pyrenean Brassy Ringlet** *Erebia rondoui*, a beautiful member of this genus with large orange forewing patches and a striking glossy sheen.

Less than two hours into the tour, three of the six major targets had therefore already been recorded, which allowed the group to meander around in leisurely fashion, observing all the other species which abound in this glorious, ungrazed habitat.

Shepherd's Fritillary *Boloria pales* was probably the most notable of the supporting cast, although **Alpine Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus andromedae*, **Meadow Fritillary** *Melitaea parthenoides* and **Western Brassy Ringlet** *Erebia arvernensis* were similarly welcome.



After such a productive morning, it was with some sadness that the group realised it was time to move on, although a visit to the reservoir higher up did offer the opportunity for a snack and a cold beer.



Piedmont Ringlet © Chris

At this location two new species were seen. A **Mountain Dappled White** *Euchloe simplonia* was busy flying around crucifers close to the car park, and nearby a **Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus lavatherae* was regularly coming to rest on the bare patches by the track.

Suitably refreshed, the group made their way about 3km down the road to a site comprising flat grassy areas in the lee of the steep rock faces,

An extremely good early find was a male **Glandon Blue** *Plebejus glandon*, seen taking minerals where a trickle of mountain water was moistening the ground. Nearby were a couple of **Swallowtails** *Papilio machaon* and on a patch of thyme were two **Purple-shot Coppers** *Lycaena alciphron*, one being in immaculate condition and the other less so.

Walking further down the track towards the EDF facility, a resplendent **Piedmont Ringlet** *Erebia meolans* treated everyone to a full open-wing pose on a large rock, whilst **Large Wall** *Lasiommata maera* was present in a sheltered corner nearby.

There was still one site left to visit, this being much lower down at around 1,500m, and although not large in size, it was extremely productive from a butterfly perspective.



Purple-edged Copper © Jon

The erratic season had suddenly generated an unusual range of species, with the earlier ones left over from late spring flying together with the usual midsummer line up.

A **Duke of Burgundy** *Hamaeris lucina* was spotted by Chris at the field edge, whilst a very tatty **Clouded Apollo** *Parnassius mnemosyne* was seen flying nearby.

In the same area there was also a brightly-blazing **Scarce Copper** *Lycaena virgaureae*, whilst on the opposite side were a small number of **Purple-edged Copper** *Lycaena hippothoe*.



Apollo © Harry

In between, there was a pathway along which several **Large Blues** *Phengaris arion* were nectaring from a plant clearly much to their liking, and then an additional distraction entered the arena in the form of a female **Apollo** *Parnassius apollo*, which very helpfully decided to nectar awhile from a prominent thistle flower.

There were both **Silver-studded** *Plebejus argus* and **Idas Blue** *Plebejus idas* active in this sheltered meadow, with **Adonis Blue**

Polyommatus bellargus, **Black-veined White** *Aporia crataegi*, and **Berger's Clouded Yellow** *Colias alfacariensis* adding further colour.

All told, it was a spectacularly good opening full day, with an enviable 56 species recorded, including several rarities. With 63 species now on the list, the entire UK total had already been surpassed.

Day 3, 15th July

Today would see a completely different kind of environment visited, along with a totally different suite of butterfly species.

This day was to be spent entirely on the Spanish side, where the habitat is rather different and temperatures significantly warmer.

Evidence of that was at the first roadside stop having driven through the small town of Ainsa, where it was already hot at 10:30am.



Spanish Purple Hairstreak © Sheila

Unfortunately, the local authorities had largely ruined the previously vegetated area beside this large pull-in, but even so, there were still a couple of **Dusky Heath** *Coenonympha dorus* active on the drier, rocky areas. There was also a **Rock Grayling** *Hipparchia hermione* on the corner where the track led down to an allotment.



Spanish Chalkhill Blue © Chris

The group walked down this track and ended up seeing all three species of gatekeeper! The first was **Spanish Gatekeeper** *Pyronia bathseba*, an insect not found at altitude back over the border

in France. Soon, the stonewashed undersides of **Southern Gatekeeper** *Pyronia cecilia* gave away the identity of this butterfly, whilst several of the species seen in the UK, **Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus*, were also present, along with another reminder of home in the form of a **Wall Brown** *Lasiommata megera* which was holding territory further down the track.

This short stop to break up the journey therefore proved quite productive, with a sign that the species range was going to be far removed from what had been seen the previous day.

It took less than an hour to reach the main site for the day, a rather ordinary looking roadside meadow replete with bramble scrub and flowering scabious. Importantly though, there is a permanent source of water flowing here from further up the hillside, meaning that plant growth is unusually robust in this small location, and of course this leads to serious numbers of butterflies.



Iberian Scarce Swallowtail © Harry



There were hundreds of them in this 100m square area, and almost as many just across the road. Chief among them was undoubtedly **Spanish Purple Hairstreak** *Laeospois roboris*, but there were several **Ilex Hairstreak** *Satyrium ilicis* present too.

There were **Chalkhill Blue** *Polyommatus coridon* flying with their larger and paler cousins, **Spanish Chalkhill Blue** *Polyommatus albicans* although, despite intensive searching, no **Catalonian Furry**

Blue *Polyommatus fulgens* could be found.

At first, the guides had believed a couple of female **Damon Blue** *Polyommatus damon* had been discovered, and more followed which led to the question as to why there were no males present. The answer was simple, when the penny dropped – these were **Ripart's Anomalous Blue** *Polyommatus ripartii*, an unexpected but very welcome bonus!

A couple of nearby sites with similar terrain were visited and again there were plenty of butterflies seen. **Long-tailed Blue** *Lampides boeticus* were observed nectaring from the many flowers whilst **Cleopatra** *Gonepteryx cleopatra* was another first for the tour. Amongst the fritillaries, **Queen of Spain** *Issoria lathonia*, **High Brown** *Fabriciana adippe*, and **Weaver's** *Boloria dia* were also notable newcomers, along with **Southern White Admiral** *Limentis reducta*, which would not be seen again after this day.

Other species that would not appear subsequently were **Great Banded Grayling** *Brintesia circe*, **Chestnut Heath** *Coenonympha glycerion*, and **Iberian Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphiolides feisthamelli*, the latter of which does not occur on the French side of the Hautes Pyrenees.

In total, 51 species were recorded, with an amazing 31 of them being new for the tour, taking the total after two full days to 94.



Day 4, 16th July

Transit day provided the only adverse weather of the week, with heavy cloud in the morning putting paid to any attempts to find **Purple Emperor** *Apatura iris* near the village of Azet.

Given that the route over Col d'Aspin was closed until the afternoon for a cycling event, it was decided to pay a repeat visit to the humid woodland at Lannemezan. Weather conditions were a little better than on arrival day, although sunshine was still in limited supply. That said, the diversion was worthwhile as more Map were found, along with **Ringlet** *Aphantopus hyperantus*.



There was little point stopping at Col du Tourmalet due to cool and misty conditions, so instead the group stopped at lower altitude on the western side of the col and parked at a damp set of fields just as the sun made an appearance.

Slowly, a few whites made their presence felt, before Harry walked up the hill and found one of the main target species, **Yellow-spotted Ringlet** *Erebia manto*. This uniformly dark butterfly is of the form *constans*, which lacks the yellow markings of the nominative form. Drab though it was, it was still a highlight to find it, especially in weather conditions not terribly conducive to butterfly-watching.

Eventually, the group moved on to the second base for the week, just outside Argeles-sur-Gazost. The hotel restaurant was not open that evening, so everybody headed down to a nearby establishment for an excellent meal.

Day 5, 17th July

Thankfully, the cloud from yesterday had thoroughly cleared so the group travelled beyond the village of Gèdre to Lac des Gloriettes, which is one of the most beautiful butterfly sites in the Pyrenees.

The car park is rather less satisfying, with vehicles negotiating their way constantly up the steep, narrow road to get there, but a space was eventually found and everybody began the walk along the reservoir bridge before doing a circuit of the lake.



The steep, grassy slopes were replete with butterflies, with Marbled White and Piedmont Ringlet the most noticeable.



Walking through the gate at the far end took the group into a damp, steep-sided river valley. David told everyone to be on the alert around the boggy areas for the main target and had barely issued this advice when Sheila spotted the first **Gavarnie Blue** *Agriades pyrenaicus* puddling happily on some mud before flying a short distance to rest on a rock.

Several more followed, along with a beautiful male **Turquoise Blue** *Polyommatus dorylas* which imbibed side by side with a Gavarnie Blue for several minutes.

Elsewhere, there were serious numbers of Marbled Skippers along the damp banks of the river and **Safflower Skipper** *Pyrgus carthami* was also seen amongst them.

A wonderful hour was spent here before the group all headed back via the stone buvette which allowed the opportunity to take some refreshments whilst admiring the fabulous views of the reservoir from an elevated vantage point.

A further stop was made at the bottom of the road where many more butterflies were seen, but with temperatures nudging 30°C it was decided to head back to the hotel after a stop at a bar along the way, where Chris spotted a **Geranium Bronze** *Cacyreus marshalli* on the potted plants surrounding the seating area!



The four new species for the day had now taken the group to the 100-mark, which was excellent going given that two full days remained.

Day 6, 18th July



As far as the major target butterflies were concerned, there was just one left to find – **Gavnarnie Ringlet** *Erebia gorgone*.

Past experience had shown that the likeliest place for this to be seen was at Col des Tentes, which at 2,207m is the highest point accessible by road in the area.

Again, the weather was sunny and clear but the habitat is not ideal here due to the excessive overgrazing from hundreds of livestock.

The sheer numbers of Piedmont Ringlets made the task of finding the target much more difficult, but eventually David tracked one down for all the group to see - a female with particularly well-marked undersides.

Other species around were **Small Heath**, *Coenonympha pamphilus*, Bright-eyed and Mountain Ringlets, and even an Apollo which was coasting around, no doubt looking for a thistle to feed from.

In truth, numbers of butterflies were not great owing to the overgrazing, but the views were terrific and lunch was taken prior to moving back down towards Gavarnie and then on to Col du Tourmalet.



Again, getting close to butterflies at this high-altitude col was tricky as most of them were active on the steep slopes, with Piedmont Ringlet once again the most ubiquitous.

That said, the views towards Barèges were spectacular and the day had still been enjoyable.

Only 21 species seen today as most of the time was spent above 2,000m, but the Gavarnie Ringlet took the week's total to 101, including the complete set of main targets.

Day 7, 19th July

With the main business done, this final full day was an opportunity to sample the delights of the unspoiled Valle d'Ossoue and the many butterflies that inhabit it.

Unlike Col des Tentes, there are no livestock grazing here and as a consequence the meadows are alive with flowers.



Lesser Marbled Fritillary © Harry

The road to access the site is a little precarious in places but was navigated successfully with the group deciding, once the vehicle had been parked, to walk in the direction of the reservoir about 3km away.

Shortly after leaving the vehicle, the week's first **Bath White** *Pontia daplidice* was seen, and following this, the group cut across the stream to a sheltered meadow protected by a steep-sided hill. Here, there were a number of Apollo floating effortlessly amongst the flowers, whilst the higher reaches had plenty of Piedmont and Mountain Ringlets flying.

Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne* were still going strong whilst Chalkhill Blue and **Knapweed Fritillary**

Melitaea phoebe were also common.

A damp area of the track yielded something of note – Glandon Blue and Gavarnie Blue were puddling side-by-side, with a handsome Western Brassy Ringlet just a metre or so away. Sadly, nearby was the only **Niobe Fritillary** *Fabriciana niobe* of the week, but one that had clearly been killed by a passing vehicle.

A second stop was made about 1km back in the direction of the main road. This location is a fabulous spot, with the riverside meadows replete with flowering plants. Again, there were Apollo here, and even a couple of Scarce Copper, but there were also newcomers – a **Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphiclides podalirius* was finally recorded after being strangely absent earlier in the tour, and a colony of **Lesser Marbled Fritillary** *Brenthis ino* were enjoying the damp conditions near to the river.



Scarce Copper © Jon

In this same area, the first **Tufted Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus flocciferus* of the tour was holding territory, and this was no easy task with the huge amount of butterfly traffic continually passing by.



One last brief stop was made lower down, but by now temperatures had risen into the thirties Celsius and butterfly activity was somewhat suppressed, although a Large Blue was seen on some vetches growing on a steep bank.

En route back to the hotel, the group stopped for refreshments at a bar in Gèdre. The garden at the rear overlooked a river with a steep rockface behind it. A handful of butterflies were active here, including a **Dark Green Fritillary** *Speyeria aglaja* which spent time nectaring behind a family at one of the end tables. Upon leaving, a **White Admiral** *Limentis camilla* was observed flying by the bridge over the same river.

It had been a phenomenally good day with excellent weather and the best daily tally of the week with an impressive 69 species recorded. The 5 new additions took the week's final total to 106, which is quite exceptional.

Footnote and acknowledgements

This tour was extremely successful. A combination of the consequences of the late season allied to warm conditions immediately prior to and during the visit led to a compression of flight periods which saw some rather unusual things develop, such as Duke of Burgundy, Orange Tip, and Clouded Apollo still on the wing, with later summer species such as Gavarnie Ringlet, Shepherd's Fritillary and Idas Blue.

Furthermore, it was possible to track down all five of the target *Erebia* species in a single week, which is not something that could normally be guaranteed.



Whilst the search for *gorgone* was a tricky and time-consuming one, all the other main targets were found quickly and easily, in largely fine, sunny weather and in locations that were scenic and unspoiled.

The accommodation in both towns was of good standard and ease of transportation, apart from on arrivals day due to the cycling event, was straightforward.

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 butterfly species seen during the tour.



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BUTTERFLIES OF THE HAUTES PYRENEES								
13 - 20 July 2024								
	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
	Butterflies							
1	Mallow Skipper <i>Carcharodus alceae</i>							
2	Tufted Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>							✓
3	Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>		✓			✓		✓
4	Large Chequered Skipper <i>Heteropterus morpheus</i>							
5	Large Skipper <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
6	Silver Spotted Skipper <i>Hesperia comma</i>							
7	Large Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus alveus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Alpine Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus andromedae</i>		✓					
9	Safflower Skipper <i>Pyrgus carthami</i>					✓		✓
10	Southern Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>		✓					
11	Olive Skipper <i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Red-underwing Skipper <i>Spialia sertorius</i>			✓		✓		
13	Lulworth Skipper <i>Thymelicus acteon</i>			✓		✓		✓
14	Essex Skipper <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		✓			✓		✓
15	Small Skipper <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
16	Brown Argus <i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
17	Mountain Argus <i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>				✓			✓
18	Geranium Bronze <i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>					✓	✓	✓
19	Holly Blue <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Small Blue <i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓			✓		✓
21	Mazarine Blue <i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓
22	Green-underside Blue <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>							
23	Lang's Short-tailed Blue <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>							
24	Long-tailed Blue <i>Lampides boeticus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
25	Black-eyed Blue <i>Glaucopsyche melanops</i>							
26	Large Blue <i>Phengaris arion</i>		✓			✓		✓
27	Silver-studded Blue <i>Plebejus argus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
28	Glandon Blue <i>Plebejus glandon</i>		✓			✓		✓
29	Gavarnie Blue <i>Agriades pyrenaicus</i>					✓		✓
30	Idas Blue <i>Plebejus idas</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓
31	Amanda's Blue <i>Polyommatus amandus</i>							
32	Adonis Blue <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
33	Chalkhill Blue <i>Polyommatus coridon</i>			✓		✓		✓
34	Damon Blue <i>Polyommatus damon</i>							
35	Turquoise Blue <i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>					✓		✓
36	Eros Blue <i>Polyommatus eros</i>		✓					✓
37	Escher's Blue <i>Polyommatus escheri</i>			✓				✓
38	Common Blue <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
39	Chapman's Blue <i>Polyommatus thersites</i>			✓		✓		
40	Purple-shot Copper <i>Lycaena alciphron</i>		✓					
41	Purple-edged Copper <i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>		✓			✓		✓
42	Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓		✓		

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
43	Sooty Copper <i>Lycaena tityrus</i>			✓				✓
44	Scarce Copper <i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>		✓					✓
45	Spanish Purple Hairstreak <i>Laeosopis roboris</i>			✓				
46	Purple Hairstreak <i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>							
47	Sloe Hairstreak <i>Satyrium acacia</i>							
48	Ilex Hairstreak <i>Satyrium ilicis</i>			✓				
49	False Ilex hairstreak <i>Satyrium esculi</i>							
50	Blue-spot Hairstreak <i>Satyrium spini</i>							
51	High Brown Fritillary <i>Argynnis adippe</i>			✓				
52	Dark Green Fritillary <i>Argynnis aglaja</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Niobe Fritillary <i>Argynnis niobe</i>							
54	Silver-washed Fritillary <i>Argynnis paphia</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓
55	Weaver's Fritillary <i>Boloria dia</i>			✓		✓		
56	Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>		✓				✓	✓
57	Shepherd's Fritillary <i>Boloria pales</i>		✓					
58	Lesser Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis ino</i>							✓
59	Queen of Spain Fritillary <i>Issoria lathonia</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓
60	Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea athalia</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓
61	Glanville Fritillary <i>Melitaea cinxia</i>							
62	False Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea diamine</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓
63	Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea didyma</i>			✓				✓
64	Meadow Fritillary <i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>		✓			✓		✓
65	Knapweed Fritillary <i>Melitaea phoebe</i>			✓				✓
66	Provençal Fritillary <i>Melitaea deione</i>			✓				✓
67	Small Tortoiseshell <i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Lesser Purple Emperor <i>Apatura ilia</i>							
69	White Admiral <i>Limenitis camilla</i>							✓
70	Southern White Admiral <i>Limenitis reducta</i>			✓				
71	Map <i>Araschnia levana</i>	✓			✓			
72	Large Tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>							
73	Comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓
74	Peacock <i>Inachis io</i>							
75	Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓	✓					
76	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>							
77	Scarce Swallowtail <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>							✓
78	Swallowtail <i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
79	Apollo <i>Parnassius apollo</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
80	Clouded Apollo <i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>		✓					✓
81	Orange-tip <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓					
82	Black-veined White <i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓
83	Berger's Clouded Yellow <i>Colias alfacariensis</i>		✓	✓				✓
84	Clouded Yellow <i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
85	Mountain Clouded Yellow <i>Colias phicomone</i>		✓					
86	Cleopatra <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>			✓				

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
87	Brimstone <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓
88	Wood White <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓
89	Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
90	Green-veined White <i>Pieris napi</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
91	Small White <i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Southern Small White <i>Pieris mannii</i>							
93	Peak White <i>Pontia callidice</i>		✓					
94	Bath White <i>Pontia daplidice</i>							✓
95	Ringlet <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	✓			✓	✓		
96	Great Banded Grayling <i>Brintesia circe</i>			✓				
97	Rock Grayling <i>Hipparchia hermione</i>			✓				✓
98	Grayling <i>Hipparchia semele</i>			✓				
99	Pearly Heath <i>Coenonympha arcania</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
100	Dusky Heath <i>Coenonympha dorus</i>			✓				
101	Chestnut Heath <i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>			✓				
102	Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	False Dewy Ringlet <i>Erebia sthenno</i>		✓					
104	Lefebvre's Ringlet <i>Erebia lefebvrei</i>		✓					
105	Western Brassy Ringlet <i>Erebia arvernensis</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
106	Mountain Ringlet <i>Erebia epiphron</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Gavarnie Ringlet <i>Erebia gorgone</i>						✓	
108	Pyrenean Brassy Ringlet <i>Erebia rondoui</i>		✓					
109	Piedmont Ringlet <i>Erebia meolans</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Yellow-spotted Ringlet <i>Erebia manto</i>				✓	✓		
111	Bright-eyed Ringlet <i>Erebia oeme</i>		✓				✓	✓
112	Water Ringlet <i>Erebia pronoe</i>							
113	Large Wall <i>Lasiommata maera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Wall <i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓		✓		✓
115	Meadow Brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓
116	Marbled White <i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Speckled Wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓			✓	✓		
118	Spanish Gatekeeper <i>Pyronia bathseba</i>			✓				
119	Gatekeeper <i>Pyronia tithonus</i>			✓	✓			
#	Duke of Burgundy <i>Hamaeris lucina</i>		✓					
#	Dingy Skipper <i>Erynnis tages</i>		✓		✓			
#	Mountain Dappled White <i>Euchloe simplonia</i>		✓					
#	Iberian Scarce Swallowtail <i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>			✓				
#	Spanish Chalkhill Blue <i>Polyommatus albicans</i>			✓				
#	Ripart's Anomalous Blue <i>Polyommatus ripartii</i>			✓				
#	Southern Gatekeeper <i>Pyronia cecilia</i>			✓				
#	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>			✓		✓		✓
	Daily total:	17	56	51	32	58	21	69
	Running total:	17	63	94	96	100	101	106

Guests' Galleries

All images that follow were kindly shared by tour participants.



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And finally... If you like the sound of Butterflies of the Hautes Pyrenees, next year's tour is available to book on our website: [Butterflies of the Hautes Pyrenees](#)

Alternatively, we have other butterfly tours with remaining availability in 2025 that explore other wonderful montane areas in France, Italy and Spain!

[Spring Butterflies of the French Pyrenees](#)

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

[Summer Butterflies of the Spanish Pyrenees](#)

[Butterflies of the French Alps](#)

[Butterflies of the Picos de Europa](#)