# Spring Butterflies in Abruzzo

Mariposa Nature Tours trip report 20th-27th May 2026



Tour leaders Michele Viganò & Jon Dunn

Trip report by Michele Viganò

(Images, clockwise from top left: Marsh Fritillary ssp *provincialis* © Annie; Italian Festoon © Chris; Turquoise Blue © Gillian; Italian Marbled White © Sheila)


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Ophrys incubacea © Annie

**Day 1, 20th May**

Everybody arrived safely and on time to Roma Fiumicino Airport where, after meeting up with the guides, all the guests had a quick lunch and we all hit the road quickly heading east toward our base for the whole week, Sulmona.

After arriving and checking-in to the hotel, most of us went to a nearby hill to stretch our legs and start getting in the mood of more exploration for the next few days. Due to the late time of day and some clouds, butterflies were very few, but we saw quite a nice array of wild orchids representing four genera at this one site alone, setting the tone for what would prove to be a most productive week on that particular front.

**Day 2, 21st May**


Green-underside Blue © Gillian

Our first full day of the week in the field was spent in the territories of the Gran Sasso National Park. We directly drove to a mid/high elevation site on the south-facing slopes with hopes to see one of our main targets straight away, the Italian Festoon. The area was very rich of butterflies, but unluckily clouds kept on gathering, leaving only some short sparks of sunrays coming down to us. This meant that the activity was certainly lower than normal.

On our scrupulous search we saw lots plants of Aristolochia genus, the well-known food plant for festoons, and Jon even managed to find a fresh egg on one, but no adults were to be seen on the wing today. Among the many species seen here were Red-underwing Skipper, plenty of Green-underside Blue, Orange Tip, Baton Blue, many fresh and pretty Silver-studded Blue, as well as an array of fritillaries – Spotted, Lesser Spotted, Knapweed, and Glanville.


Baton Blue © John

The orchids were plentiful as well, among which were a few different hybrid combinations of Ophrys bee orchids! Our first egg-yolk yellow Sparse-flowered Orchid, found by Liz, was a popular attraction. During our picnic lunch Mazarine Blue and Provence Orange Tip were cooperative and showed very well, just before a moderate shower of rain hit our heads and made us all run to the cars. We then moved to Bominaco where a small, precious church belied its modest exterior, revealing an incredible treasure inside – some incredibly well-preserved 13th century frescos that give the well-

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deserved name of “Sistine Chapel of the Apennines” to this little gem. On the frescos, of particular interest for us, was the presence of very well recognizable 13th century bee orchids at the feet of some depictions of saints!



Bominaco orchid fresco © Kirsty

A short walk to the castle ruins nearby allowed us to see Scarce Swallowtail, more Baton Blue, Wall, as well as many orchids, including our first Adriatic Lizard Orchid, and yet another different bee orchid hybrid – this one, *Ophrys dinarica x incubacea*, even got Miki’s camera and diffuser out! We then drove back to the hotel for a well-deserved rest and a delicious dinner. After the tour had concluded, reviewing his images, Nigel added a fine Reverdin’s Blue to our daily account for today.

**Day 3, 22nd May**


Italian Marbled White © Sheila

Today we had an early start, heading again north-west specifically in search of the elusive festoon – the weather was definitely sunnier today, so hopes were high… In order to give time for the sun to heat up the places for the festoon at 1,300masl elevation, we took a mid-way stop at Collepietro on the way up that proved to be extremely successful.

Within seconds of getting out of the vans the other real main target of the trip was seen, the beautiful, elegant, and endemic Italian Marbled White! The site hosted a dozen or more of these beauties so everybody managed to get very good views. Other good species at this site included Lulworth, Rosy Grizzled and the big, colourful Yellow-banded Skippers; Black-veined White; and the very beautiful and distinctive local subspecies of Marsh Fritillary, *provincialis*.


Italian Festoon © Chris

For the botanists of the group – a growing number, given the addictive riches of the Abruzzo! – quite a good number and variety of orchids were found too, including some fine *Ophrys lupercalis*. Very satisfied, we hit the road again, gaining elevation with every passing bend of the road. And again, within literally few minutes after getting to the parking area, the first Italian Festoon was spotted! What a treat to see this not so common Italian endemic species – we ended up seeing three of these, two in good condition and a very worn one as we are in the very late stages of the flight season of this

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Sooty Copper © Gillian

species. Exploring the area more we found a few more interesting species such as Sooty Copper, Mallow Skipper, Provence Orange Tip, and Chapman's Blue.

After our picnic lunch we headed to the small village nearby for a little rest and a coffee. We were diverted from the first bar we tried, but such setbacks aren't always a bad thing, for while we were having our ice-cream or coffee in the second bar we were rewarded with our first sight of two or three Mountain Small White! They were not behaving too well and proved difficult to see well, but some of us managed to get views good enough for identification.

Heading south and downhill, we briefly stopped at a place where the food plant of Southern Marbled Skipper grows, but none seemed to be on the wing already and we were kindly sent back to the vans by the arrival of a shepherd, his dogs, and his woolly charges. For our last stop of the day we chose a dry meadow at mid-elevation where, together with a new batch of Italian Marbled White, we found a good array of interesting species, including Scarce and Common Swallowtail, several very fresh Southern White Admiral showing well around their honeysuckle larval foodplant, and a few more Marsh Fritillary too. With the two endemic butterfly species 'in the bag', we enjoyed our dinner and a well-deserved sleep.


Southern White Admiral © Annie

**Day 4, 23rd May**

Having driven a quite long distance for the first two days in the field, we decided to stay closer to our Sulmona base and explore the local environs. In the morning we headed to the foothills of Colle Mitra, in a dry, extensive meadow with small woods and bushes here and there. Butterflies were plenty and diverse, including some goodies such as Italian Marbled White in good numbers, a few, unexpectedly fresh *provincialis* Marsh Fritillary, Scarce and Common Swallowtail, a single elusive Marbled Skipper, a few Rosy Grizzled Skipper, good views for most of us of Mountain Small White, a single Eastern Dappled White, lots of Baton Blue, some fresh and very pretty Adonis Blue, some more Southern White Admiral, and a new species for the trip list, Large Wall Brown.


Marsh Fritillary ssp. provincialis © Nigel

Orchids were not particularly numerous, but our sharp eyes still managed to find a couple of new Ophrys bee orchids species for the trip – Kirsty in particular was on great form, finding

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our first *Ophrys gracilis*. We stopped at Cansano to eat our lunch and were joined there by Marco, a local and very knowledgeable entomologist who has been studying the pollinators of the area for the past five years.


Turquoise Blue © Gillian

We then moved to a nearby area of woods and ample flower-rich clearings where we saw a lot of butterflies, among which were a couple of Pearl-bordered Fritillary, some hundreds of Small Blue among which we spotted a few Osiris Blue, but the absolute stars of the afternoon were two or three males of the bluest of the blues, Turquoise Blue, showing very well and letting us appreciate the incredible hue of his upperside and the delicate minimalistic pattern of his underwing. Clouds gathered so butterfly activity diminished and, when we reached an area where Italian Festoon flies, all we could find were the larval foodplants and some pearly eggs on the underside of the leaves.

**Day 5, 24th May**


Amanda's Blue © Sheila

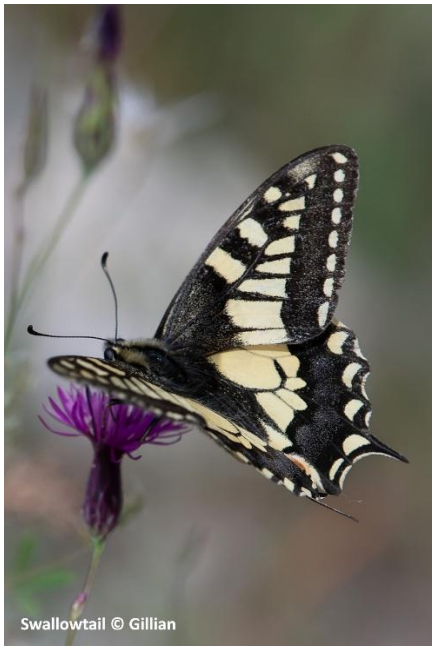
For our fifth day we headed north-east toward the northern slopes of Majella National Park, consisting of some very nice and extensive dry meadows, interspersed with some bushes and stone clusters. Before arriving, on a small slow road in the countryside, we briefly saw a Large Tortoiseshell crossing the road. As soon as we arrived, some blues were noted taking advantage of the minerals from a horse "gift" in the middle of the road, they turned out to be two very fresh and beautiful male Amanda's Blue.

As we ventured into the fields, some nice Rosy Grizzled Skipper were soon noted and the numbers of Black-veined White certainly hit the three-digit mark. Interestingly, we managed to see even a pupa of this nice species (masterfully spotted by Marco in a bush) and a very recently emerged individual still on the way of stiffening his wings before the first flight.


Black-veined White © John

Baton Blue were very common and present in any kind of wear, from very fresh to very worn individuals. We also added a species we had not seen before: Meadow Brown! And the cherry on the cake was a last-minute Italian Festoon, flying right in front of us and allowing us a last, very up-close encounter with this charismatic endemic species. We drove a short distance back to some benches and tables set again in a nice open area

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Swallowtail © Gillian

with views of the Gran Sasso to the left and the Adriatic Sea to the right. Here, apart from enjoying our meal, a nice set of species were noted, among which were Southern White Admiral, Swallowtail, and not one but two new species for the trip: Eastern Knapweed Fritillary and Pearly Heath, the former an excellent find by Sheila.

Our next stop saw us enjoy a nice ice-cream in a calm and small village under the shade of some tall trees and the speedy flights of the screaming Swifts. That being done, we headed down to the main valley, where we stopped, in now very hot, sunny weather, in the countryside next to a small river. Butterflies were few here, but we added yet another species for the trip: Provencal Short-tailed Blue. It was then time to head back to the hotel for some rest and another lovely dinner.

**Day 6, 25th May**


Provence Orange Tip © Phil

Today we had an earlier start and headed south-east toward the Abruzzo National Park, one of the oldest national parks of Italy that helps to sustain the iconic Marsican Brown Bear population. Our first stop saw us trying to have a go with this exact species, scanning the clearing in front of us for half an hour and trying our luck – alas, we didn't see any bears, but we enjoyed the early morning light, the fresh air, and some Crag Martin flying above us.

Soon after that we reached Passo del Diavolo, where we spent the whole morning exploring the surroundings in search of butterflies and orchids. As soon as we arrived a Provence Orange Tip flew past us: a few more were seen during the day and, unexpectedly, a couple of them stayed perched for more than a millisecond! A few puddles proved good for puddling butterflies: good numbers of Small Blue, many Common Blue, a nice and extremely confiding Mountain Small White, Southern Grizzled Skipper, and a couple of fresh and neat Baton Blue.


Mountain Small White © Sheila

In the flowery fields we saw many Glanville Fritillary, a very fresh Mazarine Blue, Marsh Fritillary, Large and Rosy Grizzled Skipper, a Sooty Copper and, remarkably, five or more Turquoise Blue in perfect condition. It also was very interesting to note the presence of Early Purple Orchid, Sparse-flowered Orchid, and their (more

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or less) stabilized hybrid *Orchis x colemannii*, the latter hybrids with all the possible colour combinations from their parents!


*Orchis spitzelii* © Annie

Back at the vehicles, John confessed to have seen a new species for the tour: Southern Comma! After lunch and an ice-cream in Pescasseroli, we drove to Passo Godi where a few more Provence Orange Tip were noted, together with yet again a very rich and interesting array of wild orchids, including European supermodel *Orchis spitzelii*, and a full set of the local yellow orchids – Pale-flowered Orchid *Orchis pallens*, Roman Orchid *Dactylorhiza romana*, and Elder-flowered Orchid *Dactylorhiza sambucina* – allowing for an educational compare-and-contrast of their respective field characteristics. From there we completed our circular route for the day, getting back to the hotel in time to take a short rest, make the daily check-list and have a relaxing dinner.

**Day 7, 26th May**

Our last full day in the field was spent in the environs of the Sirente-Velino Regional Park, with a first stop close to the city of Pescina. Here the habitat comprised a mosaic of rocky areas, sparse pine-woods, dense broom bushes filled with Nightingales, and a huge amount of open dry fields. Butterflies were plentiful from the very start and indeed this ended up being the day in which we saw the highest number of species of the whole trip!


Italian Marbled White © Nigel

Highlights included our last Italian Marbled Whites, nine(!) species of skippers, a couple of Mountain Small White, Amanda's and Adonis Blue, Southern White Admiral, a teasing Southern Comma, some Marsh Fritillary, and Eastern Knapweed Fritillary. Everybody enjoyed for quite some time the puddling blues as well as the struggle to identify some of the skippers! Chris was on top skipper-spotting form, finding a fine pair of mating Safflower Skipper.

Orchids were quite remarkable here as well, both in terms of numbers and variety: the absolute star was a very attractive and unusual hybrid spotted by the unstoppable Jon between two parent bee orchids: *Ophrys apifera x dinarica*.

After a nice picnic lunch in the shade of a small church, we reluctantly skipped our usual ice-cream stop to be able to fit in all we had to see for the day, and moved to the entrance of Valle Majelana which hosts an important colony of Griffon Vultures. Vultures proved tricky to see, and only a couple of distant individuals were spotted, but the sheer numbers of butterflies and orchids was extraordinary, especially on a

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small green grassy hill, covered with orchids and ending with a blue sky with sparse white clouds… paradise must have not been too far away!

Soon after that we reached our last stop: the very well-preserved Roman ruins of Alba Fucens, where we all enjoyed the view of the village and the visit inside the 'Anfiteatro'. After a quick stop to buy some souvenirs to take back home (wine!) we reached hotel, relaxed a bit, and had a final celebratory dinner.

**Day 8, 27th May**

This last day saw the group splitting in two: while one bus had to drive toward Rome Airport straight away after breakfast for those on early flights, the second bus had time to spend a couple of hours of the morning in the field – we visited a nice Apennine pass, close to the Sirente-Velino Regional Park, with breathtaking views of the mountains surrounding the area, included the high-standing peak of Gran Sasso.


Lesser Spotted Fritillary © Phil

Lots of flowers and, consequently, butterflies were present in the site, with good numbers of Queen of Spain, Glanville, Spotted, and Lesser Spotted fritillaries, lots of Adonis Blue, a couple more Italian Marbled White, some Scarce Swallowtail, and a good selection of skipper species. Also enjoyed, a few Griffon Vulture silently passed not too far from us in the sky. After a picnic lunch in the same spot as the day before, and a quick final gelato in the nearby village square, we headed toward Rome, getting to the airport in good time for everybody to catch their flight or head to their accommodation for the night.

**Afterword**

Miki and Jon would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for joining them for this most enjoyable week in one of the most beautiful and biodiverse regions of Italy – which, this being Italy, is really saying something, for so much of this wonderful country is achingly lovely. We look forward to seeing you again someday soon!

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| *SPRING BUTTERFLIES IN ABRUZZO 20 – 27 MAY 2026* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Species name** | **Day 1** | **Day 2** | **Day 3** | **Day 4** | **Day 5** | **Day 6** | **Day 7** | **Day 8** |
| | **Butterflies** | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 2 | Swallowtail *Papilio machaon* | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 3 | Clouded Apollo *Parnassius mnemosyne* | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Italian Festoon *Zerynthia cassandra* | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| 5 | Large Skipper *Ochlodes sylvanus* | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 6 | Lulworth Skipper *Thymelicus acteon* | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 7 | Small Skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris* | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Essex Skipper *Thymelicus lineola* | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Red-underwing Skipper *Spialia sertorius* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 10 | Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus alceae* | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| 11 | Southern Marbled Skipper *Muschampia baeticus* | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Tufted Marbled Skipper *Carcharodus flocciferus* | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 13 | Marbled Skipper *Carcharodus lavatherae* | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 14 | Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 15 | Southern Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvoides* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 16 | Safflower Skipper *Pyrgus carthami* | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 17 | Yellow-banded Skipper *Pyrgus sidae* | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| 18 | Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus armoricanus* | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 19 | Large Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus alveus* | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 20 | Rosy Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus onopordi* | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 21 | Wood White *Leptidea sinapis* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 22 | Real's Wood White *Leptidea reali* | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleopatra* | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 25 | Berger's Clouded Yellow *Colias alfacariensis* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 26 | Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 27 | Black-veined White *Aporia crataegi* | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 28 | Eastern Bath White *Pontia edusa* | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 29 | Large White *Pieris brassicae* | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 30 | Small White *Pieris rapae* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 31 | Southern Small White *Pieris mannii* | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | Mountain Small White *Pieris ergane* | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 33 | Green-veined White *Pieris napi* | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 34 | Eastern Dappled White *Euchloe ausonia* | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 35 | Provence Orange Tip *Anthocharis euphenoides* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 36 | Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

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| | Species name | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 | Day 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37 | Duke of Burgundy *Hamearis lucina* | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | Purple-shot Copper *Lycaena alciphron* | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | Lesser Fiery Copper *Lycaena thersamon* | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 41 | Sooty Copper *Lycaena tityrus* | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 42 | Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 43 | Ilex Hairstreak *Satyrium ilicis* | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | Blue-spot Hairstreak *Satyrium spini* | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | Sloe Hairstreak *Satyrium acaciae* | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrium w-album* | | | | | | | | |
| 47 | Lang's Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithous* | | | | | | | | |
| 48 | Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus* | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli* | | | | | | | | |
| 50 | Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus* | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| 51 | Baton Blue *Pseudophilotes baton* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 52 | Green-underside Blue *Glaucopsyche alexis* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 53 | Short-tailed Blue *Cupido argiades* | | | | | | | | |
| 54 | Provencal Short-tailed Blue *Cupido alcetas* | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 55 | Osiris Blue *Cupido osiris* | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 56 | Small Blue *Cupido minimus* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 57 | Silver-studded Blue *Plebejus argus* | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| 58 | Idas Blue *Plebejus idas* | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 59 | Geranium Argus *Eumedonia eumedon* | | | | | | | | |
| 60 | Mazarine Blue *Cyaniris semiargus* | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 61 | Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 62 | Adonis Blue *Polyommatus bellargus* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 63 | Escher's Blue *Polyommatus escheri* | | | | | | | | |
| 64 | Chapman's Blue *Polyommatus thersites* | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 65 | Amanda's Blue *Polyommatus amandus* | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 66 | Turquoise Blue *Polyommatus dorylas* | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| 67 | Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 68 | Southern White Admiral *Limenitis reducta* | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 69 | White Admiral *Limenitis camilla* | | | | | | | | |
| 70 | Queen of Spain Fritillary *Issoria lathonia* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 71 | Twin-spot Fritillary *Brenthis hecate* | | | | | | | | |
| 72 | Marbled Fritillary *Brenthis daphne* | | | | | | | | |
| 73 | Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia* | | | | | | | | |
| 74 | Cardinal *Argynnis pandora* | | | | | | | | |
| 75 | Dark Green Fritillary *Speyeria aglaja* | | | | | | | | |
| 76 | Niobe Fritillary *Fabriciana niobe* | | | | | | | | |
| 77 | High Brown Fritillary *Fabriciana adippe* | | | | | | | | |

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| | Species name | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 | Day 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 78 | Weaver's Fritillary *Boloria dia* | | | | | | | | |
| 79 | Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne* | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 80 | Lesser Purple Emperor *Apatura ilia* | | | | | | | | |
| 81 | Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 82 | Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 83 | Peacock *Aglais io* | | | | | | | | |
| 84 | Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* | | | | | | | | |
| 85 | Southern Comma *Polygonia egea* | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 86 | Comma *Polygonia c-album* | | | | | | | | |
| 87 | Large Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychloros* | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 88 | Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 89 | Lesser Spotted Fritillary *Melitaea trivia* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 90 | Spotted Fritillary *Melitaea didyma* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 91 | Knapweed Fritillary *Melitaea phoebe* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| 92 | Eastern Knapweed Fritillary *Melitaea ornata* | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 93 | Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 94 | Southern Heath Fritillary *Melitaea celadussa* | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 95 | Dusky Heath *Coenonympha dorus* | | | | | | | | |
| 96 | Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 97 | Pearly Heath *Coenonympha arcania* | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 98 | Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 99 | Large Wall Brown *Lasiommata maera* | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 100 | Northern Wall Brown *Lasiommata petropolitana* | | | | | | | | |
| 101 | Wall *Lasiommata megera* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 102 | Marbled White *Melanargia galathea* | | | | | | | | |
| 103 | Italian Marbled White *Melanargia arge* | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| 104 | Grayling *Hipparchia semele* | | | | | | | | |
| 105 | Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina* | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| # | Reverdin's Blue *Plebejus argyrognomon* | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | **Daily total:** | | | | | | | | |
| | **Running total:** | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | **Orchids (and hybrids)** | | | | | | | | |
| | *Ophrys incubacea* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| | *Ophrys apennina* | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | *Ophrys bertolonii* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | Man Orchid *Orchis anthropophora* | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |

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| | Species name | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 | Day 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Ploughshare Tongue-orchid *Serapias vomeracea* | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | *Ophrys dinarica* | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | *Ophrys molisana* | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| | Three-toothed Orchid *Neotinea tridentata* | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | Lady Orchid *Orchis purpurea* | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | Sparse-flowered Orchid *Orchis pauciflora* | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | Elder-flowered Orchid *Dactylorhiza sambucina* | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| | Adriatic Lizard Orchid *Himantoglossum adriaticum* | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | *Ophrys bertolonii x Ophrys dinarica* | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | *Ophrys dinarica x Ophrys incubacea* | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | *Ophrys riojana* | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| | Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | *Ophrys lupercalis* | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| | Small-flowered Tongue-orchid *Serapias parviflora* | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | White Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium* | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| | Burnt Orchid *Neotinea ustulata* | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| | Common Twayblade *Neottia ovata* | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| | Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera* | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | *Ophrys gracilis* | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| | Roman Orchid *Dactylorhiza romana* | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula* | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | Orchis x colemanii (*O. mascula x O. pauciflora*) | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | *Orchis spitzelii* | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | Pale-flowered Orchid *Orchis pallens* | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | Naked Man Orchid *Orchis italica* | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | Chalk Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | Lesser Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera bifolia* | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | Fragrant Orchid *Anacamptis fragrans* | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | *Ophrys apifera x Ophrys dinarica* | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | **Miscellaneous flora & fauna** | | | | | | | | |
| | Cream-spot Tiger *Arctia villica* | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| | Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* | | | ✓ | | | | | |

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| | Species name | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 | Day 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | European Serin *Serinus serinus* | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| | European Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Eurasian Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| | Western Whip Snake *Hierophis viridiflavus ssp carbonarius* | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus* | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| | Fulvous Burnet *Zygaena rubicundus* | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| | Thyrrhenian Burnet *Zygaena oxytropis* | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| | Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth *Hemaris tityus* | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| | Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| | Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Curruca cantillans* | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| | Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus* | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | | | | | | | | | |




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## Guest Galleries

All images that follow were kindly shared by tour participants



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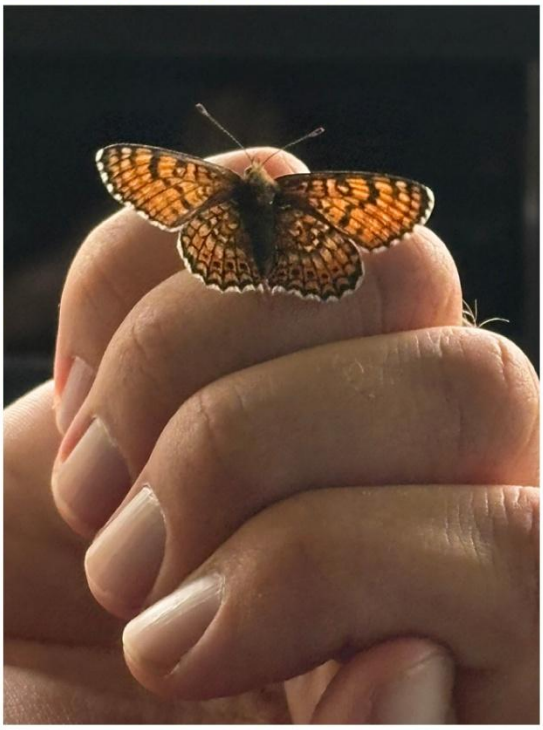
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**And finally…** If you liked the sound of Spring Butterflies in Abruzzo, we've that and a further selection of wonderful Italian butterfly- and orchid-watching tours with availability remaining on them in 2027. Naturally, all of them generate a donation to support the brilliant, science-led conservation work of Butterfly Conservation Europe or, from the orchid tours, Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland:

Spring Butterflies in Abruzzo

Orchids of the Gargano Peninsula

Orchids of Basilicata, Campania & Puglia

Butterflies of the Italian Alps & French Mercantour

Butterfly CONSERVATION EUROPE

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