

False Comma and Summer Butterflies of Serbia

Mariposa Nature Tours trip report 24 June – 1 July 2025

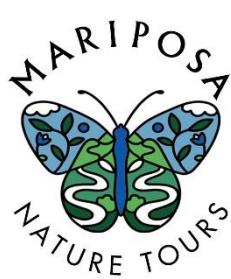


Tour leaders János Oláh & Paul Selby

Trip report by Paul Selby

(Images, clockwise from top left: Balkan Copper © Clive; Lesser Lattice Brown © Ilija;

Lesser Purple Emperor © Emma; Apollo © Lynn)



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Introduction

This was the inaugural Mariposa trip to underexplored and hallowed turf of European butterflying, in south east Serbia. It was based in two beautiful and butterfly-rich locations - firstly in the Stara Planina area and, secondly, in the town of Dimitrovgrad on the Bulgarian border.

The guests joining us were Rod & Lynn, Aidan & Emma, Clive, Richard, Ilija, Harry and John.

Day 1, Tuesday 24th June

Eight of the nine guests and co-guide Paul arrived shortly after John, and we all met lead guide János and minibus driver Zolt at around 5.30pm at Belgrade airport.

We then made great progress on the quiet motorways, observing the intensive agriculture in north and central Serbia, as well as the 'yellowing effect' of the month-long drought. We arrived at our overnight hotel in Jagodina at 7.30pm. We quickly freshened up and met for dinner at 8pm, where we got to know one another, and discussed the plan for the week ahead. The hotel was high quality and we were grateful for the air conditioning, as it remained well above 25°C outside overnight!

Day 2, Wednesday 25th June

An early start meant we could make three relatively long stops on our drive to the Stara Planina plateau. The day dawned hot with clear blue skies, and it stayed that way all day.



Large Chequered Skipper © Clive

On first stop was near Izvor, where we spent around two hours in total, first near the main road, secondly down in a valley. Near the main road, in the traditional hay meadows, we had our first introduction to Serbian butterfly biodiversity. **Great Banded Grayling** *Brintesia circe*, **Black-veined White** *Aporia crategi*, **Silver-washed Fritillary** *Argynnis paphia*, **High Brown Fritillary** *Fabriciana adippe*, **Heath Fritillary** *Melitaea athalia*, **Lesser Spotted Fritillary** *Melitaea trivia*, **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina*, and **Marbled White** *Melanargia galathea* were all seen in good numbers. A **Tufted Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus floccifera*, **Twin-spot Fritillary** *Brenthis hecate*, and **Cardinal** *Argynnis pandora* were also seen.

Down in the valley the butterfly numbers were even greater. As we got out of the minibuses, one of the first butterflies we saw was the unmistakeable flight of a **Large Chequered Skipper** *Heteropterus morpheus*. Thinking these would be difficult to see and photograph, Emma, Clive and Paul gave chase in the heat. Clive caught up with it and took photos, but Paul and Emma were distracted by both **Large Copper** *Lycaena dispar* and **Purple-shot Copper** *Lycaena alciphron*. Clive also had a fleeting view of **False Comma** *Nymphalis vaualbum*!

Meanwhile, most of the other guests settled around a large puddle in partial shade on the muddy track. This was a fantastic puddle... so much so, some guests didn't move from this

spot in the 90 minutes we spent here! New species kept on stopping every few minutes. These included **Yellow-banded Skipper** *Pyrgus sidae*, **Wood White** *Leptidea sinapsis*, **Silver-studded Blue** *Plebejus argus*, **Meleager's Blue** *Polyommatus daphnis*, **Comma** *Polygonia c-album*, **Common Glider** *Neptis sappho*, **Pearly Heath** *Coenonympha arcania* and many more. Also **Large Chequered Skipper** *Heteropterus morpheus* again, so there had been no need to chase the earlier individual!

For those of us that could prise ourselves away, we walked down the track and found **Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys rubi*, **Blue-spot Hairstreak** *Satyrium spini*, and **Balkan Green-veined White** *Pieris balcana*.



Meleager's Blue © Lynn



Freyer's Fritillary © John

We paused briefly to buy lunch from a supermarket, before stopping for two hours at Bigar Waterfalls. It was pretty busy, with families enjoying a picnic while listening to traditional Serbian music. However, it proved to be another amazing puddling spot, with over a dozen **Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphiclides podalirius*, **Clouded Yellow** *Colias crocea*, **Pale Clouded Yellow** *Colias hyale*, **Lesser Purple Emperor** *Apatura ilia*, **White Admiral** *Liminitis camilla*, **Marbled White**

Melanargia galathea, **Anomalous Blue** *Polyommatus admetus*, **Ripart's Anomalous Blue** *Polyommatus ripartii* and many more. A nearby stand of Danewort, always popular for prolonged nectaring, lived up to its reputation. **Large Copper** *Lycaena dispar*, **Purple-shot Copper** *Lycaena alciphron*, **White-letter Hairstreak** *Satyrium w-album*, **Ilex Hairstreak** *Satyrium ilicis*, **Sloe Hairstreak** *Satyrium acacia*, **Marbled Fritillary** *Brenthis daphne*, and **Freyer's Fritillary** *Melitaea arduinna* all showed well.

The latter species in particular was a delight to many of the group, being a new species for nearly all of us.

Lynn found a very fresh and docile **Purple Hairstreak** *Favonius quercus*, giving many guests their best ever views of this species. Harry also found a small colony of **Large Blue** *Phengaris arion*.



Our penultimate stop of the day was roughly 15 minutes' drive from here, at a site where **Lattice Brown** *Kirinia roxelana* and **Lesser Lattice Brown** *Kirinia climene* are both known to be present. We instantly saw the former species, but despite 30 minutes of searching the known best spot, couldn't find the latter, rarer species.

Our final stop nearby was also known for **Lesser Lattice Brown** *Kirinia climene* but it was getting late, and we didn't have any luck here either.

It was then an hours drive to our second hotel, near Babin Zub. It was a large ski hotel, and very impressive, with lots of choice for dinner. We'd arrived quite late, so we did our first species list after dinner, unusually. Already we'd racked up 71 species, but what was more impressive was the sheer number of individuals of each species. We all went to bed tired, but extremely satisfied with our first amazing day in the field.

Day 3, Thursday 26th June



Bog Fritillary © Clive

János had offered a pre-breakfast short stroll from the hotel entrance, to see if we could find any roosting butterflies. Given how tired guests were, only Clive joined János and Paul, but I think many wished they had afterwards, as our intrepid trio saw **Bog Fritillary** *Boloria eunomia*, numerous **Balkan Copper** *Lycaena candens*, **Bulgarian Ringlet** *Erebia orientalis*, numerous **Lesser Spotted Fritillary** *Melitaea trivia*, **Eastern Large Heath** *Coenonympha rhodopensis*, **Almond-eyed Ringlet** *Erebia albergana*, and more. They also found a Red-rumped Swallow's nest on the hotel.

After breakfast, all of us returned to the same spot, and most of the above species were seen again, albeit by now hyperactive and harder to photograph. Only **Bog Fritillary** *Boloria eunomia* was missing.

The rest of the day was spent at various spots in and around Babin Zub. At the first spot, by another hotel, we were delighted to see a **Hungarian Glider** *Neptis rivularis*, our first of the trip. Walking up the forested track from here, into the open, we found a brilliant meadow with **Eastern Large Heath** *Coenonympha rhodopensis*, **Chestnut Heath** *Coenonympha glycerion*, **Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus*, and **Russian Heath** *Coenonympha leander*. Also in this meadow were good numbers of amazingly fresh **Balkan Copper** *Lycaena candens*.

Lower down, we stopped at a hairpin where **False Comma** *Nymphalis vaualbum* had been seen a week before. No luck with that species, but there was a lot of puddling on a farm track up from the road, with high numbers of both **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*, **Peacock** *Aglais io*, and **Comma** *Polygona c-album*. Walking further up that track, into the nearby meadow, there was an incredible number of very fresh **Queen of Spain Fritillary** *Issoria lathonia*, their silver scales underneath shimmering spectacularly.



Russian Heath © John



We stopped for lunch further down again, at a newly opened restaurant. We were incredulous at the sheer volume of meat, salad and bread we were given, and it took us quite some time to eat just half of it!

We then drove up a nearby wooded track where **False Comma** *Nymphalis vaualbum* had also been seen in the past. This humid damp valley (despite the drought) was an absolute delight, with **Common Glider** *Neptis sappho* seen in profusion, together with **Hungarian Glider** *Neptis rivularis*,

High Brown Fritillary *Fabriciana adippe*, grounded **Purple Emperor** *Apatura iris* and **Lesser Purple Emperor** *Apatura ilia*, and much much more. Clive found another **Cardinal** *Argynnis pandora* at the very top of the track and Paul saw what he suspected was a **False Comma** *Nymphalis vaualbum* do a single fly-by.

On our way back to our hotel, we stopped again at the hairpin, as János had a feeling that this may be our best location for **False Comma** *Nymphalis vaualbum* for the week. Within 10 minutes we really did have our best sighting of the week, with a slower flyby, giving a number of guests a chance to see the upperside markings in flight, before it landed briefly under a large bin! We all slowly crept up to the bin, and John managed a blurred record shot, before it flew off, not to be seen again.

After the long day yesterday, today was a shorter day, giving guests the chance to relax for longer before dinner. When we did the list in the evening, our species list for the day was 82 species and the cumulative total for the week had now reached 104 species!



Day 4, Friday 27th June

It was another early start for some, as Clive and Richard joined János and Paul for another pre-breakfast look for roosting butterflies, this time a five-minute drive from the hotel.

After about 20 minutes of seeing very little exciting, Paul shouted the alarm for **Bog Fritillary** *Boloria eunomia*, and in the end the small group saw at least two individuals, which showed well. Also of note was **Assman's Fritillary** *Melitaea britomartis*, the only definitive sighting of the week. This very difficult to identify butterfly requires close examination of the hindwing underside, which was thankfully possible due to the early morning roosting behaviour.

After breakfast, we returned to the second stop from yesterday. This with the main aim of better views of **False Comma** *Nymphalis vaualbum*. **Hungarian Glider** *Neptis rivularis* again showed well, and we were surprised to find a **Bog Fritillary** *Boloria eunomia* on the track in



Violet Copper © Ilija

the woods. However, the highlight of this stop was an unexpected and surprisingly fresh **Violet Copper** *Lycaena helle*. It was unbelievably well behaved and confiding, allowing excellent photos.

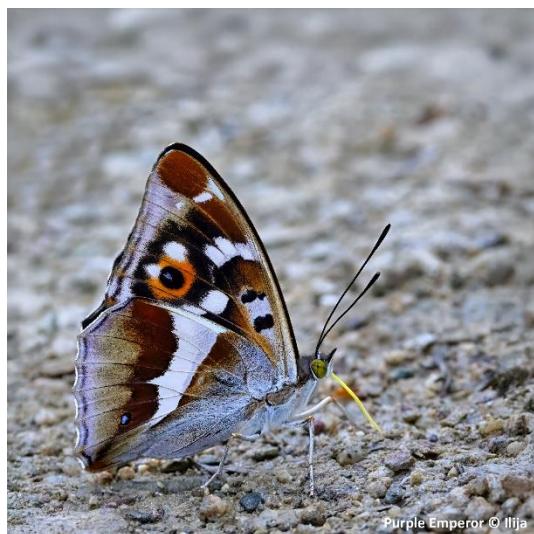
Higher up the track, **Balkan Copper** *Lycaena candens* gave us another good display, and some of the group took the chance to see **Russian Heath** *Coenonympha leander*, which they had missed the day before.

On the way back down, Paul saw another speedy flyby of **False Comma** *Nymphalis vaualbum*.

Our second stop for the day was at the **False Comma** *Nymphalis vaualbum* site from the day before. We hung around the bins hoping for a better sighting that would allow better photos, but we had no luck sadly. It was interesting to see a slightly different range of species on the puddles on the track just off the road, as the high temperatures were clearly advancing the season quickly. **Eros Blue** *Polyommatus eros* and **Scotch Argus** *Erebia aethiops* were the main new species here.

Our third stop was a return to the humid damp valley from a day earlier. The species selection was similar to the day before, which may sound disappointing, but when they include further excellent views of both **Purple Emperor** *Apatura iris* and **Lesser Purple Emperor** *Apatura ilia*, **Hungarian Glider** *Neptis rivularis* and **Common Glider** *Neptis sappho*, this is absolutely not underwhelming! Yet again, Paul had

another speedy fly-by from a **False Comma** *Nymphalis vaualbum*, and once again it didn't settle. Rumbles of thunder in the background indicated an approaching weather front, but it didn't actually rain, and part cleared up by about 1pm.



Purple Emperor © Ilija



Balkan Copper © Clive

We drove onwards to have lunch at a restaurant János had stopped at before. Annoyingly it wasn't open, and nor was the next one in Bigar, for no explicable reason. We did find a backup restaurant, but let's just say that service was at a "relaxed pace" and that the huge size of the meat portions the day previously were half the size of those today!

Our stomachs impossibly full, we returned to Bigar waterfalls from two days earlier. Thankfully it was a bit quieter, both in terms of people, and certainly in terms of music! We

were pleased to get good views of **Map Araschnia levana**, as well as spending more time photographing the puddling butterflies.

János then gave guests the choice of staying at the waterfalls to keep on photographing the puddling butterflies at close quarters, or to drive the 15 minutes back to the **Lesser Lattice Brown Kirinia climene** site, with this being our likely last chance for this species of the week.



Map © Emma

Around half the group opted to stay put, but half the group joined János and Paul on the drive. There was no sign of the target species where we parked, so after 30 minutes, János suggested we walked up a steep grassy hill into some shaded hilltop copse. Unbelievably, on entering the copse, János spotted a **Lesser Lattice Brown Kirinia climene**. Then a second, and third. Eventually we had six or seven, which appeared to be lekking males. We were all ecstatic, including János, to find so many of this seriously hard to spot butterfly. Cue hundreds of close quarter photos.



Lesser Lattice Brown © Ilija

After about 20 minutes in the copse, we drove back to pick up the other half of the group at Bigar Waterfalls, and then the hours journey back to the hotel.

When we did the checklist that evening, our day total was 99 species! We are pretty sure that is either the record for the day on any trip, anywhere in Europe, or close to it. The list for the week was now 115 species.

After dinner there was a tremendous thunderstorm, and it rained heavily for much of the night. Serbia needed it, after the previously mentioned drought, and we were glad it happened at night, rather than the daytime.

Day 5, Saturday 28th June

Today was transit day, as we moved to our second base for the week. The whole day was to be spent in the area around Topli Do. As the crow flies, it was barely 6 miles from our first hotel, but the roads to there were much longer, and it took about 90 minutes for us reach our first brief stop, an unexpected one, after János spotted a large butterfly on the road – a **Large Tortoiseshell Nymphalis polychloros**.



Large Tortoiseshell © Emma



Apollo © Lynn

A further 20 minutes down the road, we stopped at an open area known for its **Apollo** *Parnassius apollo* colony. On cue, as we exited our vehicles, we saw our first one. We saw many more over the next 45 minutes. Universally, we all felt these to be the largest examples of Apollo we'd ever seen anywhere in Europe. Whether or not this is a genetic thing, or just the caterpillars had enjoyed a healthy diet that spring, we don't know.

Just round the corner was our first **Chequered Blue** *Scolitantides orion* for the week too.

We moved on to the area around Topli Do itself.

We spent a grand total of three hours along the most fantastic open track and its surrounds here. For the first two hours it was hot, but mostly cloudy, with the odd short sunny spell. This gave us simply superb conditions for photography, and many of us were able to take our best close quarters photos of many species.

Lesser Purple Emperor *Apatura ilia* were everywhere, including one that was very keen on landing on Aidan, and which was then photographed on both Emma and Aidan's hand!

There were a good number of very fresh **Chequered Blue** *Scolitantides orion* and **Sooty Copper** *Lycaena tityrus*, and a pair of **Reverdin's Blue** *Plebejus argyrogynomon*. A couple of the group also saw **Poplar Admiral** *Limenitis populi*, and we saw our only **Woodland Grayling** *Hipparchia fagi* of the week. **Hungarian Skipper** *Spialia orbifera* and **Yellow-banded Skipper** *Pyrgus sidae* were also seen, as were some fresh **Scarce Copper** *Lycaena virgaureae*.



Chequered Blue © Ilija

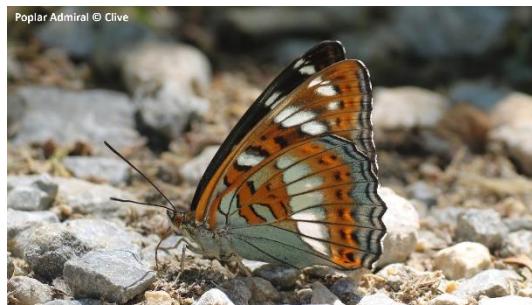
Despite the shade, the heat meant that lots of butterflies were puddling. In particular, there were a number of large concentrations of various Pierid white species.

It was with real sadness that we had to leave this wonderful valley at 3pm, to make our way to our second hotel in Dimitrovgrad, arriving in the late afternoon, stopping halfway for some petrol and an ice cream.

While the bedrooms here were basic, dinner was very good, and János explained just how few hotels had sufficient rooms for a group as large as ours, in this part of Serbia.

With eight new species for the day, our running total for the week was now 123 butterfly species. But more than the species count, all guests reflected over dinner just how wonderful the day had been.

Day 6, Sunday 29th June



Today was another glorious hot day with nearly clear blue skies. After collecting lunch from a bakery in town, we drove to the Dojkinci valley, where we spent most of the day.

We started off lower down, slowly but surely making our way up the valley. Even as we first arrived at roughly 10am, the track was already highly active with puddling butterflies. **Purple Emperor** *Apatura iris* and **Lesser Purple Emperor** *Apatura ilia* were already grounding for minerals, and we must have seen up to 100 of the latter species over the course of the day, along the whole length of the track.

Highlight of the first part of the morning was a **Poplar Admiral** *Limenitis populi* that was very obliging and allowed nearly all of the group to take close range photos, as it stayed in the same place for nearly 20 minutes.

Shortly on from here, we were all grateful to find another **Yellow-banded Skipper** *Pyrgus sidae*, as not all the group had seen this species on the two previous sightings during the week. Paul was particularly pleased, this having been a bit of a bogey species for him over the last 9 years! Near this site, Paul called out the first **Turquoise Blue** *Polyommatus dorylas* for the week.



Further up the valley, in a damp spot, thorough searching by János produced our first and only **Geranium Argus** *Eumedonia eumedon* of the week. This is where we had lunch.

In the afternoon, the group split up to do their own things, some walking higher up the track, others making their slow way back down the valley to where we all first started.

Hungarian Glider *Neptis rivularis* again put on a good show in some of the more wooded sections of the track, and we saw our freshest **Russian Heath** *Coenonympha leander* of the week. Paul, Aidan and Emma also found the first definitive **Large Wall Brown** *Lasiommata maera*.

After all meeting up again at the same spot, we made a short stop at a local restaurant for refreshments, before a final stop of the day near Vikovija. The viewpoint here gave beautiful views. While we only had 45 minutes here, we spotted our first **Delattin's Grayling** *Hipparchia volgensis* and **Great Sooty Satyr** *Satyrus ferula* of the week.



Delattin's Grayling © Clive

Over another excellent dinner, we again reflected on just what brilliant and varied habitat we'd seen in just one valley, and the sheer volume of butterflies that were seen, regardless of species. We were now up to 128 species for the week, just five below the record for any 8-day trip, anywhere in Europe.

Day 7, Monday 30th June



Ripart's Anomalous Blue © Rod

This was our final day in the field, and proved to be another excellent one. Having packed our suitcases, we made an early stop at our last site from yesterday, near Vikovija. It was actually overcast, with the occasional sunny spell, which meant there were less butterflies to see this early in the morning. The repeat visit did however give guests who'd missed **Delattin's Grayling** *Hipparchia volgensis* the day before the chance to see this species.

The highlight of this stop was the fact that Richard spotted a **Lesser Lattice Brown** *Kirinia climene*. János had no idea this species was at this site, and so was especially delighted. We all did a further search where Richard had seen it, but we had no luck relocating it.

After around an hour, we moved on to the area around the hamlet of Baljev Dol, where we spent the whole morning. Around the buildings it was quite wooded, so we saw many of the usual woodland habitat species. At a damp spot near the vans, Paul spotted our first and only **Chapman's Blue** *Polyommatus thersites* of the week.

Moving out of the hamlet, into the dry gorge above it, Clive found our only **Adonis Blue** *Polyommatus bellargus* of the week, a very tatty individual. Nearby was a pair of **Reverdin's Blue** *Plebjs argyrogynomon*. Higher up there were a number of **Grayling** *Hipparchia semele* and **Delattin's Grayling** *Hipparchia volgensis*, plus a large number of **Hungarian Skipper** *Spialia orbifer*.



Eastern Baton Blue © Clive

We returned to the vans for our lunch, many of us enjoying the numerous puddling butterflies at the damp spot. Incredibly, just as we were giving up on spotting **Spinose Skipper** *Muschampia cribrellum* this week, János spotted one! It stayed for about 10 minutes, and while quite active, it gave the whole group decent views.



At about 1.30pm, we set off for our third stop of the day, by the river in the town of Rsovci. There was a fantastic puddling spot for various blue species, where we spent most of our time. **Eros Blue** *Polyommatus eros* again put in an appearance as did **Eastern Baton Blue** *Pseudophilotes vicrama*. A **Large Tortoiseshell** *Nymphalis polychloros* was also recorded again here.

We made a final butterflying stop on a random hairpin at a slightly higher altitude, in an open spot in some woodland. A large number of fresh **Brimstone** *Gonepteryx rhamni* were nectaring on thistles. We then spotted quite an unusual lightly marked white butterfly, which both Paul and János initially identified as **Mountain Small White** *Pieris ergane*. However, closer examination revealed it to be just an unusual **Small White** *Pieris rapae*, demonstrating the value of us always questioning ourselves and giving everything a second glance.

A short stop for petrol and ice creams about half an hour later, and then we had a roughly 90-minute drive back to the hotel in Jagodina, where we'd stayed on our first night.

After freshening up, we had our final dinner together and reflected on what a fantastic week we had enjoyed. Serbia really is a special country in terms of butterfly diversity, and the sheer volume of individual butterflies is a sight to behold, especially in puddling spots.



Day 8, Tuesday 1st July

It was an early alarm, as we set off from our hotel at 7am, needing to be back at Belgrade Airport for 8.30am, for most of the guests to catch the 10.30am flight back to Heathrow.

We made very good time though, being so early in the morning, many of us eating the packed breakfast the hotel had made us, on the way.

It was then time for all the guests to say our farewells to one other, and to both János and Zolt, who were driving back to Hungary straight after dropping everyone else off.

Footnote and acknowledgements



Glorious habitat © Aidan

The total butterfly species count for the trip was 131 (2 less than the existing record species count on any 8-day European butterfly holiday, and despite us only having six active days in the field).

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

I think we were all slightly disappointed not to take photos of False Comma, even though nearly all of us saw it. We think that the advanced season and high temperatures may have had something to do with this.

On the other hand, many other species were puddling for minerals, allowing us to take incredible close-range photos. Poplar Admiral and Lesser Purple Emperor being the best examples, but there were many more.

János had researched the sites we visited thoroughly, and we should thank him hugely for this. Equally though, driving through much of the unspoiled habitat, it felt like we could have stopped literally anywhere and seen more than 80% of what we did actually see.

As ever with these trips, it isn't just about the wildlife. There was also a good group dynamic throughout. Not just in terms of the broad range of knowledge, which all shared generously, but also in terms of conversations shared, laughs, and jokes.



Team Mariposa © Aidan

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

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FALSE COMMA & SUMMER BUTTERFLIES OF SERBIA 24 JUNE – 1 JULY 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	Spinoose 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>Cartecephalus palaemon</i>								
14	Essex Skipper <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Small Skipper <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
16	Large Skipper <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	Southern Festoon <i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>								
18	Eastern Festoon <i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>								
19	Clouded Apollo <i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>								
20	Apollo <i>Parnassius apollo</i>						✓		
21	Scarce Swallowtail <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Swallowtail <i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	Wood White <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Eastern Wood White <i>Leptidea duponcheli</i>								
25	Orange-tip <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>								
26	Black-veined White <i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
28	Southern Small White <i>Pieris mannii</i>				✓	✓			
29	Small White <i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Green-veined White <i>Pieris napi</i>				✓				
31	Balkan Green-veined White <i>Pieris balcana</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	Clouded Yellow <i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
33	Pale Clouded Yellow <i>Colias hyale</i>		✓		✓	✓			
34	Berger's Clouded Yellow <i>Colias alfacariensis</i>		✓		✓				
35	Brimstone <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	

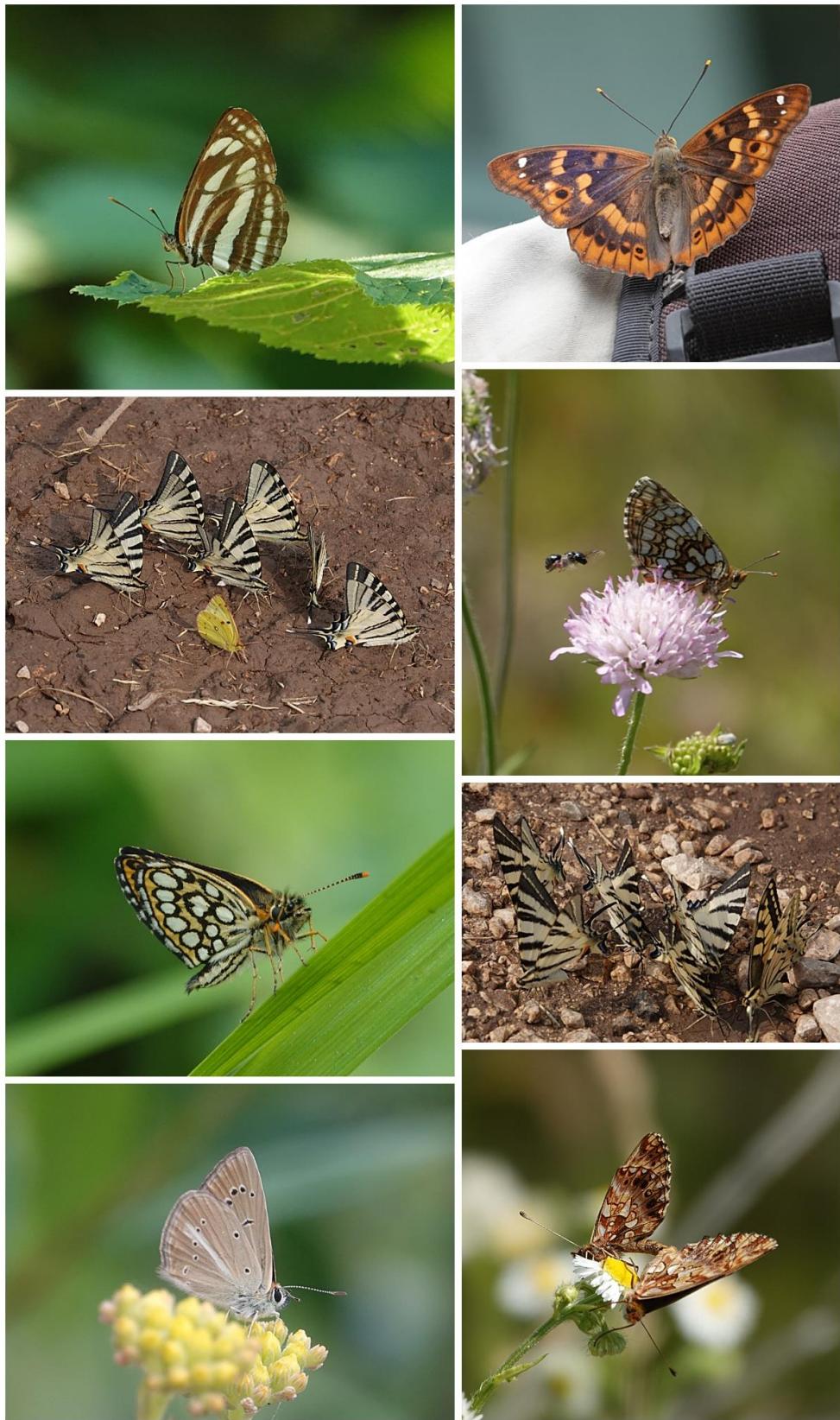
	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
36	Duke of Burgundy <i>Hamearis lucina</i>								
37	Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
38	Violet Copper <i>Lycaena helle</i>				✓				
39	Large Copper <i>Lycaena dispar</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
40	Scarce Copper <i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
41	Sooty Copper <i>Lycaena tityrus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
42	Purple-shot Copper <i>Lycaena alciphron</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	Balkan Copper <i>Lycaena candens</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
44	Green Hairstreak <i>Callophrys rubi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
45	White-letter Hairstreak <i>Satyrium w-album</i>		✓						
46	Black Hairstreak <i>Satyrium pruni</i>								
47	Blue-spot Hairstreak <i>Satyrium spini</i>		✓				✓	✓	
48	Ilex Hairstreak <i>Satyrium ilicis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Sloe Hairstreak <i>Satyrium 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	Chequered Blue <i>Scolitantides orion</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
58	Green-underside Blue <i>Glaucomysche alexis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
59	Large Blue <i>Phengaris arion</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
60	Silver-studded Blue <i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Idas Blue <i>Plebejus idas</i>		✓		✓				
62	Reverdin's Blue <i>Plebejus argyronomus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
63	Geranium Argus <i>Eumedonia eumedon</i>							✓	
64	Brown Argus <i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	Northern Brown Argus <i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
66	Blue Argus <i>Aricia anteros</i>								
67	Mazarine Blue <i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
68	Turquoise Blue <i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>						✓	✓	
69	Amanda's Blue <i>Polyommatus amandus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	Common Blue <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	Eros Blue <i>Polyommatus eros</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Meleager's Blue <i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓
73	Anomalous Blue <i>Polyommatus admetus</i>		✓		✓				
74	Adonis Blue <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>							✓	
75	Nettle-tree Butterfly <i>Libythea celtis</i>								

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
76	Silver-washed Fritillary <i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
77	Cardinal <i>Argynnis Pandora</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
78	Dark Green Fritillary <i>Speyeria aglaja</i>			✓			✓	✓	
79	High Brown Fritillary <i>Fabriciana adippe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
80	Niobe Fritillary <i>Fabriciana Niobe</i>		✓	✓			✓		
81	Queen of Spain Fritillary <i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
82	Lesser Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis ino</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
83	Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis daphne</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
84	Twin-spot Fritillary <i>Brenthis hecate</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
85	Bog Fritillary <i>Boloria Eunomia</i>			✓	✓				
86	Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>			✓					
87	Weaver's Fritillary <i>Boloria dia</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
88	Marsh Fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>			✓	✓				
89	Glanville Fritillary <i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Knapweed Fritillary <i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
91	Freyer's Fritillary <i>Melitaea arduinna</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
92	Lesser Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea trivia</i>		✓	✓	✓				
93	Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
94	False Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea diamine</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
95	Nickerl's Fritillary <i>Melitaea Aurelia</i>		✓						
96	Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea athalia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
97	Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
98	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
99	Peacock <i>Aglais io</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
100	Small Tortoiseshell <i>Aglais urticae</i>			✓	✓		✓		
101	Comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
102	Map <i>Araschnia Levana</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
103	Camberwell Beauty <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>								
104	Large Tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
105	False Comma <i>Nymphalis vaualbum</i>		✓	✓	✓				
106	Poplar Admiral <i>Limenitis populi</i>						✓	✓	
107	White Admiral <i>Limenitis Camilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
108	Southern White Admiral <i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
109	Common Glider <i>Neptis Sappho</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
110	Hungarian Glider <i>Neptis rivularis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
111	Lesser Purple Emperor <i>Apatura ilia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
112	Purple Emperor <i>Apatura iris</i>			✓	✓		✓		
113	Lattice Brown <i>Kirinia roxelana</i>		✓		✓			✓	
114	Lesser Lattice Brown <i>Kirinia climene</i>				✓			✓	
115	Speckled Wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>			✓			✓		
116	Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata megera</i>				✓	✓			

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
117	Northern Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>			✓	✓				
118	Large Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata maera</i>				✓		✓	✓	
119	Eastern Large Heath <i>Coenonympha rhodopensis</i>			✓	✓				
120	Pearly Heath <i>Coenonympha arcana</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
121	Chestnut Heath <i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
122	Russian Heath <i>Coenonympha leander</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
123	Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
124	Ringlet <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
125	Meadow Brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
126	Arran Brown <i>Erebia ligea</i>			✓	✓		✓		
127	Bulgarian Ringlet <i>Erebia orientalis</i>			✓	✓		✓		
128	Scotch Argus <i>Erebia aethiops</i>			✓					
129	Woodland Ringlet <i>Erebia medusa</i>				✓		✓		
130	Almond-eyed Ringlet <i>Erebia albergana</i>			✓	✓		✓		
131	Bright-eyed Ringlet <i>Erebia oeme</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
132	Marbled White <i>Melanargia galathea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
133	Dryad <i>Minois dryas</i>								
134	Grayling <i>Hipparchia semele</i>		✓						
135	Great Banded Grayling <i>Brintesia circe</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
#	Réal's Wood White <i>Leptidea reali</i>					✓	✓	✓	
#	Eastern Bath White <i>Pontia edusa</i>			✓	✓	✓			
#	Purple Hairstreak <i>Favonius quercus</i>		✓		✓				
#	Lang's Short-tailed Blue <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>				✓				
#	Ripart's Anomalous Blue <i>Polyommatus ripartii</i>		✓		✓			✓	
#	Assman's Fritillary <i>Melitaea britomartis</i>			✓	✓				
#	Great Sooty Satyr <i>Satyrus ferula</i>						✓	✓	
#	Woodland Grayling <i>Hipparchia fagi</i>					✓			
#	Delattin's Grayling <i>Hipparchia volgensis</i>						✓	✓	
	Daily total:	72	82	99	79	91	81		
	Running total:	72	104	115	123	128	131		

Galleries

All images that follow were kindly shared by tour participants



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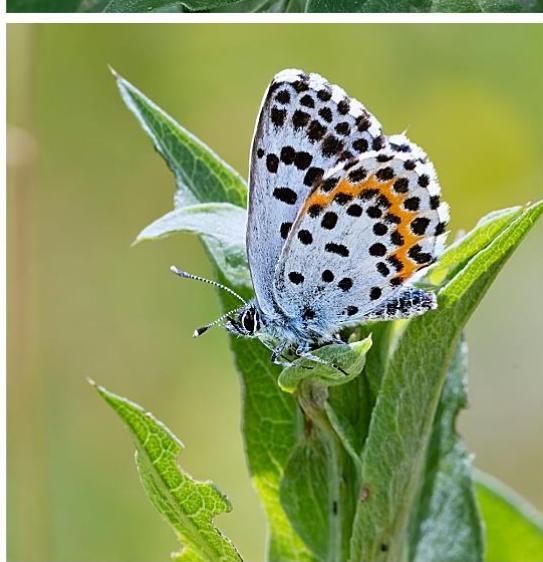
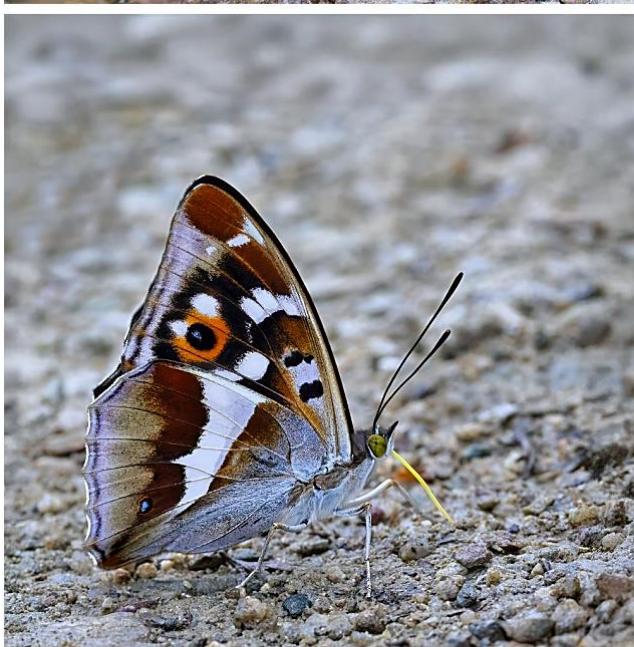
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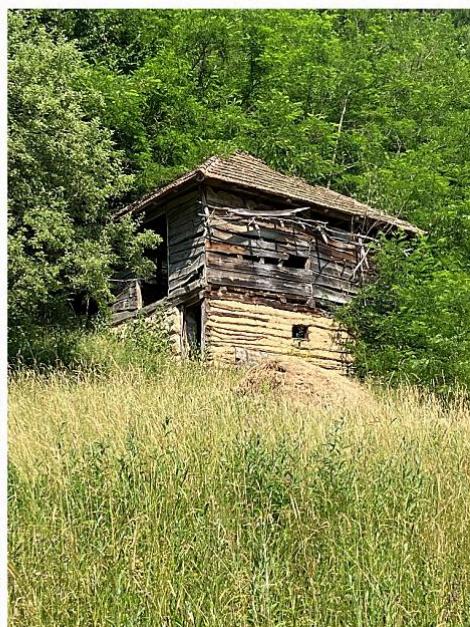
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And finally... If you like the sound of False Comma & Summer Butterflies of Serbia, next year's (2026) tour is already fully booked. We expect this superb tour to be oversubscribed for some years to come!

We'll be announcing dates for 2027 in due course, but in the meantime, in 2026 we have butterfly tours with remaining availability that explore other excellent areas of eastern and south-eastern Europe:

[Pallas's Fritillary & Late Summer Butterflies of Hungary](#)

[Butterflies of North Greece](#)