

# Butterflies of the French Alps

Mariposa Nature Tours trip report

6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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Tour leaders David Moore & Paul Selby

Trip report by Paul Selby

(Images, clockwise from top left: Alpine Blue © David L; Cynthia's Fritillary © Andrew D;

Small Apollo © Gillian; puddling Heath & Knapweed Fritillaries © Bob)

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## Introduction

This was the second Mariposa trip to the biodiversity-rich French Alps. It was based in two beautiful and butterfly-rich locations - firstly in the Rimplas area and, secondly, in the town of Vars.

The guests joining us were Bob & Rosalind, Paul B & Gillian, Malcolm, Bill, David L, Andrew, leaun, and Roy.

## Day 1, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July

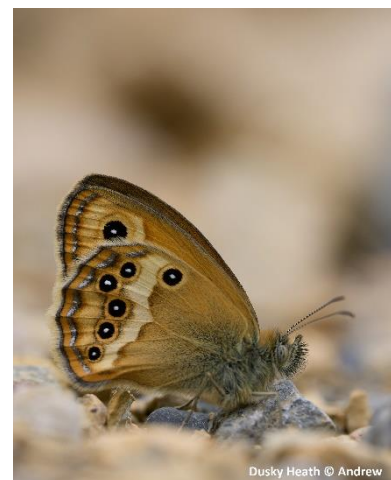
Flight arrival times were quite staggered. Those who'd arrived a day early, or on an early flight today were able to set off at roughly 11.30am in the first van, driven by co-guide Paul S. This half of the group had a clear and quiet drive to our first hotel in Rimplas, had checked in, and were raring to get butterfly spotting by 1.30pm.



The plan to spend the afternoon exploring the famous Rimplas track was already seeming to be an excellent plan, as we discovered huge numbers of butterflies nectaring on the large lavender bushes right next to our hotel. There must have been 50+ individual butterflies, at any one time, on each lavender bush, drawn from a large number of species.

The most common were **Great Sooty Satyr** *Satyrus ferula*, **Marbled White** *Melanargia galathea* and **Small Skipper** *Thymelicus sylvestris*. However, there were also **Cleopatra** *Gonepteryx cleopatra*, **Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus larvatherae*, **Large Skipper** *Ochlodes sylvanus*, **Meleager's Blue** *Meleageria daphnis*, **Silver-washed Fritillary** *Argynnis paphia*, **Heath Fritillary** *Melitaea athalia*, **Spotted Fritillary** *Melitaea didyma*, **Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphioides podalirius*, **Clouded Yellow** *Colias crocea*, **Pearly Heath** *Coenonympha arcania* and **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina*.

It took us at least half an hour to prise ourselves away from these bushes and set off down the track. On the track, we found **Amanda's Blue** *Polyommatus amandus* and **Escher's Blue** *Polyommatus escheri* in good numbers, as well as **Rock Grayling** *Hipparchia alcyone*, **Grayling** *Hipparchia semele*, **Woodland Grayling** *Hipparchia fagi*, **Wall** *Lassiomata megera*, **Long-tailed Blue** *Lampides boeticus*, **Wood White** *Leptidea sinapsis*, **Dusky Heath** *Coenonympha dorus*, **Weaver's Fritillary** *Boloria dia*, **Sooty Copper** *Lycaena tityrus*, **Purple-shot Copper** *Lycaena alciphron*, **Ilex Hairstreak** *Satyrium ilicis*, and many others. The highlight for many of us, however, was **Foulquier's Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus foulquieri*, a pretty rare species known to be found here.





Cleopatra © Bob

After around two hours slowly walking down the track, we turned around, and about halfway up, we met the other half of the group, who'd arrived and checked in to the hotel at around 3pm.

Thankfully the second half of the group didn't miss many of the species, as David M knows the track well, from many years of visits.

After unpacking and freshening up, we met for formal introductions in the hotel bar/restaurant at 7pm, including our first run through the species checklist of the week. Despite only a few hours in the field, we'd already collectively seen 46 butterfly species.

Confidently, David M predicted that the weather forecast and season timing was perfect this year, unlike the previous seven years he'd been visiting, so he felt we may achieve roughly 130 species for the week.

We were then treated to a wonderful selection of choices for food for dinner, as well as the complimentary wine that Mariposa is becoming famous for.

After dinner, David M took the group for a dusk walk to a spot known for both Nightjar and fireflies. On cue, within 5 minutes of stopping at the known spot, a Nightjar began calling, and shortly afterwards, Paul S pointed out one that flew close past us. As it grew darker, the fireflies put on a spectacular display. One landed on Gillian's back, allowing some of the group to take decent photos and videos.



Silver-washed Fritillary © David L

What a wonderful start to the week!

## **Day 2, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

As forecast, today dawned cloudless. After a tasty breakfast, our first stop was at the fort, just above our village. It was disappointing to see the previously rich habitat by the car park had been strimmed. However, there were good numbers of butterflies on the steep edges, the habitat there still intact. Lower down, Paul S saw a single **Southern Swallowtail** *Papilio alexanor* fly through, at the place where guests on the Italian Alps trip had seen six of this species just 17 days earlier. **Brown Argus** *Aricia agestis* and (Common) **Swallowtail** *Papilio machaon* were also added to the list.

After about an hour here, we set off on the roughly hour long drive north-west to Saint-Dalmas le Selva. We stayed at this site for roughly three hours in total and explored the various riverside meadows.

At a damp spot, near some piles of rock dust, a number of Blues were puddling. This included **Eros Blue** *Polyommatus eros*, **Turquoise Blue** *Polyommatus dorylas*, **Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus* and **Escher's Blue** *Polyommatus escheri*. Also at this spot was **Large Ringlet** *Erebia euryale*, and later, a female (Mountain) **Alcon Blue** *Phengaris alcon* form *rebeli*.



As we headed to the slightly higher meadows, Paul S spotted and called out a **Poplar Admiral** *Limenitis populi*, which circled twice before disappearing. A small number of guests saw this, but later Gillian found it puddling!

In the meadows themselves, there were a great number of butterflies nectaring on the abundant Knapweed. Most common were **Heath Fritillary** *Melitaea athalia*, but there were also a small number of **Marbled Fritillary** *Brenthis daphne*, **Meadow Fritillary** *Melitaea parthenoides*, and **Knapweed Fritillary** *Melitaea phoebe* too. Rosalind spotted a **Chestnut Heath** *Coenonympha glycerion*, which was a nice addition, and many of the group also saw **Almond-eyed Ringlet** *Erebia alberganus* and **Large Wall Brown** *Lassiomata maera*.

During lunch, an emperor of some sort flew over us fast and at height, not allowing us to identify it, and so it wasn't added to the species list, sadly. But **Chalkhill Blue** *Polyommatus coridon* put in an appearance, as did **Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus armoricanus*, **Safflower Skipper** *Pyrgus carthami*, and **Southern Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus malvoides*.



After lunch, **Provencal Fritillary** *Melitaea deione* was spotted by small group of us, and everyone was chuffed to find **Damon Blue** *Polyommatus damon* and **Southern White Admiral** *Limenitis reducta* near the car park.



We drove back to the hotel for around 4pm, and many of us walked the famous Rimplas track again, which produced a similar range of species to the day before, but added **Baton Blue** *Pseudophilotes baton* and only one of two **Bath White** *Pontia daplidice* of the week.

After a very hot day, we were all in need of refreshments. The change in habitat meant we had added 43 new species to the list for the week, taking us to 89 species. David's prediction from the day earlier was looking good.

Another fantastic dinner, and we went to bed anticipating another change of habitat again tomorrow.

### Day 3, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July

We awoke to another glorious morning, and set off in good time, up the road to the Col de la Lombarde. Our first stop was at a site known for **Apollo** *Parnassius apollo*, and one showed up within minutes of stepping out of the vans. As it was still quite early, many of the butterflies were quite dozy, so good photos were possible. This included a fantastically docile **Niobe Fritillary** *Fabriciana niobe* that allowed Paul S the opportunity to explain the distinctive underside markings to some of the guests.



After about 45 minutes here, we drove on to the very top of the col where we arrived at pretty much spot on midday. David M walked us to the place where the high-altitude fritillaries are most often seen and, sure enough, within five minutes we were seeing good numbers of **Grison's Fritillary** *Melitaea varia*. They were very active, which made photos difficult. But with

persistence, most of us were satisfied. **Cynthia's Fritillary** *Euphydryas cynthia* are known to fly here too, but despite many false dawns, no definitive sightings were made.

Many of us spotted a small number of highly active **Common Brassy Ringlet** *Erebia cassioides*, but few were able to take photos. More compliant were **Alpine Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus andromedae*, with a good number seen. **Small Blue** *Cupido minimus* and **Mazarine Blue** *Cyaniris semiargus* were around in small numbers, as were **Mountain Clouded Yellow** *Colias phicomone*, **Mountain Ringlet** *Erebia epiphron*, the alpine form of **Sooty Copper** *Lycaena tityrus*, **Queen of Spain** *Issoria lathonia*, **Glanville Fritillary** *Melitaea cinxia*, and migrating **Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui*



We had lunch on the col itself, with lunch disturbed when Paul S spotted **Mountain Dappled White** *Euchloe simplonia*!

At around 1.30pm, we dropped a little lower to a spot that's known to have a small colony of the rare **Balkan Fritillary** *Boloria graeca*. After a bit of searching, David M found one,

allowing good views. **Darwin's Heath** *Coenonympha darwiniana* was also a new species here, as was **Silvery Argus** *Aricia nicias*. **Mountain Dappled White** *Euchloe simplonia* showed up again, as did **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** *Boloria euphrosyne*.

Lower down again we stopped at a place full of geraniums, with the target species being the eponymous **Geranium Argus** *Eumedonia eumedon*. No luck sadly, but this site did produce **Purple-edged Copper** *Lycaena hippothoe* and our only **White Admiral** *Limenitis camilla* of the week.



Sooty Copper © Gillian

We made a final stop lower down again, closer to Isola. **Tufted Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus flocciferus* was a new species here, and **Eros Blue** *Polyommatus eros* was seen again, amongst large numbers of more common species.

Returning to Rimplas, Paul S and I went back to the fort to see if they could get better views of **Southern Swallowtail** *Papilio alexanor*. It was very hot, and they had no luck.

Ahead of our final dinner in Rimplas, our collective list reached 112 species, already a higher total than many trips see over 8 full days. With our move to a different area for the rest of the week, we were getting ever more confident of a bumper week!

#### **Day 4, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

It was sad to say goodbye to Paola and her family in Rimplas, but we were all equally excited about the trip ahead of us that day, another day of wall-to-wall sunshine. This made for spectacular views of the mountain scenery as we crossed the roof of France over multiple cols during the course of the day.



False Heath Fritillary © Paul B

Our first stop was after around 90 minutes of driving, as an unassuming location not too far from Valberg. David M assured the group this was a superb place for butterflies, and so it turned out to be. Indeed, many of us commented that we'd never seen a location where the puddling of so many butterflies was extended over such a long distance of damp mud.

Species seen at this site included **Dingy Skipper** *Erynnis tages*, **Mazarine Blue** *Cyaniris semiargus*, **Purple-edged Copper** *Lycaena hippothoe*, **High Brown Fritillary** *Fabriciana adippe*, **Dark Green Fritillary** *Speyeria aglaja*, **False Heath Fritillary** *Melitaea diamina*, and **Great Banded Grayling** *Brintesia circe*.

Our second stop was at Lac D'Estenc, with its near completely still surface reflecting the blue sky and mountains – picture perfect! Most of the group saw **Mountain Green-veined White**

*Pieris byroniae* here. In a gravel inlet to the lake, large numbers of butterflies were puddling. David M and Paul S spotted an unusual **Chalkhill Blue** *Polyommatus coridon* with red markings on its upperside hindwing, albeit this proved tricky to photo. **Damon Blue**



*Polyommatus damon* and **Silvery Argus** *Aricia nicias* were also present. On the sheltered side of the lake, **Arran Brown** *Erebia ligea* put in an appearance. Near the car park were **Apollo** *Parnassius apollo* and **Marbled Fritillary** *Brenthis daphne*.

Our third stop was just north of the Col du Cayolle. It was extremely hot by now, but this was a known site for **Small Apollo** *Parnassius phoebus*, which was our main target. Along the

track we were very surprised to find **Marbled Ringlet** *Erebia montana*, which had not been seen here before. **Glandon Blue** *Agriades glandon* were in decent numbers, as were a number of commoner species.

Paul S spotted a relatively compliant **Common Brassy Ringlet** *Erebia cassioides*, allowing Malcolm and others to take photos which showed off the green/purple sheen that gives it its 'brassy' name.

While a number of the group had seen flypasts of suspected **Small Apollo** *Parnassius phoebus*, we headed back to the vans a bit disappointed not to have confirmed it, nor photographed it. Literally 10 seconds walk from the van, Andrew and Paul S spotted one, which Andrew believed had landed, but Paul S couldn't quite believe. So, they both carefully walked to the suspected spot, and sure enough, Andrew was correct! The butterfly remained still for some time, allowing everyone in the group to take excellent photos.



We then had a further roughly 90-minute drive to our second hotel in Vars, which had wonderful chalet style rooms. After another thoroughly enjoyable day, we were now up to 119 species.

Dinner was again thoroughly delicious, and included the opportunity to cook our own choice of meat on hot stone on the dinner table – an unusual surprise, but still an enjoyable experience!

### **Day 5, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

We were all looking forward to today, a trip to the Col d'Agnel. After a roughly 90-minute drive, we arrived at a car park just below the Col at around 2,600 metres above sea level.

Our main targets here were **Cynthia's Fritillary** *Euphydryas cynthia* and **False Mnestra Ringlet** *Erebia aethiopella*. Within minutes, we had seen both species, both in good



Cynthia's Fritillary © Andrew

numbers. The latter was sometimes quite tricky to photograph, but with persistence, efforts paid off. **Cynthia's Fritillary** *Euphydryas cynthia* was actually much easier, some individuals being quite torpid. We saw mainly males, but there were also a few females. At one point we saw both male and female together, allowing us to see the stark sexual dimorphism.

This site was also productive for **Shepherd's Fritillary** *Boloria pales* and **Mountain Fritillary** *Boloria napaea*. Superficially similar, with a bit of knowledge these can be identified from each other relatively easily.

Also seen at this site was **Dewy Ringlet** *Erebia pandrose* and very large numbers of **Alpine Heath** *Coenonympha gardetta* and **Large Ringlet** *Erebia euryale*. David L also managed to photograph an **Alpine Blue** *Plebejus orbitulus* on a tricky slope, and surprisingly, this ended up being the only sighting of this species today.

After around two hours here, we moved to a lower site at around 2,400 metres. We spent another two hours here, including lunch. In a damper patch, near the river, there were large numbers of **Geranium Argus** *Eumedonia eumedon*. Along the road, we saw a couple of **Large Blue** *Phengaris arion*. Most satisfyingly, we also found at least 20 **Small Apollo** *Parnassius phoebus*, far outnumbering the one from yesterday.

We made a further stop lower down, where we spent 90 minutes in a dry spot near the river. Here we found absolutely huge numbers of **Small Skipper** *Thymelicus sylvestris*, numbers Paul S and Paul B commented they'd never seen before. Also seen here were **Olive Skipper** *Pyrgus serratulae* and our only **Carline Skipper** *Pyrgus carlinae* of the week.



Carline Skipper © Bob

On the way back to the hotel, we stopped just outside Vars at a site known for **Blind Ringlet** *Erebia pharte*. We were only here for around 30 minutes, but sure enough we saw three individuals.

12 new species had been seen today, taking us to 131 species. We'd surpassed David M's optimistic guess for the species total for the week, and still had three days to go!

**Day 6, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Today began with a roughly a 60-minute drive after breakfast, in once again glorious sunny weather. This time we headed to the Col d'Izoard, which boasted arguably the most spectacular of all the scenery of the week.

David M guided us straight from the vans to a specific spot where he had previously seen **Peak White** *Pontia callidice* hill-topping and occasionally landing. Sure enough, within minutes, we saw at least three individuals doing exactly this. They landed on flowers for a maximum of five seconds. But this ended up being sufficient for some to take some half decent photos of this hard to photograph species – brilliant!!!

We then all split up, going in different directions. While overall butterfly numbers were low, not surprising given the scree slopes and limited vegetation, those that were flying were interesting. David M, Bill and a few others managed to see **Sooty Ringlet** *Erebia pluto* on the scree slopes, Bill even managing to take a photo. Bob and Rosalind found **Large Blue** *Phengaris arion* and **(Mountain) Alcon Blue** *Phengaris alcon*, form *rebeli*, both surprising given the habitat, both in the same hollow.

However, most prized was a male **Alpine Blue** *Plebejus orbitulus* which Andrew and Paul S found, enabling the whole group to take photos of this distinctive species with its unique colour blue.

After two hours here, we moved on to a lunch stop just outside the village of Reotier. This was dry and part-desiccated, the season much more advanced than expected. Hence, we missed out on the target species of **Spanish Purple Hairstreak** *Laeosopis roboris* here. We did however see **Mallow Skipper** *Carcharodus alcaea*, **Tufted Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus flocciferus*, **Lulworth Skipper** *Thymelicus acteon*, **Baton Blue** *Pseudophilotes baton*, and **Meadow Fritillary** *Melitaea parthenoides*,



We then drove to a spot just north of Col de Vars, with guests walking slowly over the course of an hour to the nearby Refuge, where they had refreshments. As Paul S had arrived at the car park, he had spotted a **Moorland Clouded Yellow** *Colias palaeno*, which didn't stop. Undeterred, he and David M spent the majority of the hour searching for this species. In the end they found two, and all guests were able to see this species.

This had been another wonderful day. Three further new species meant we were at 134 species, already a record for any 8-day trip anywhere in Europe. And there were still two days to go.

### Day 7, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July



We started the day off with a brief 45-minute visit to the **Blind Ringlet** *Erebia pharte* site, with the aim of finding a few torpid individuals that would produce better photos for the group. Unbelievably, we didn't find any! A good number of **Scarse Copper** *Lycaena virgaureae* did show very well for us, in compensation, however.

We then drove the relatively long distance to just outside Le Sauz-du-Lac. The habitat was dry and rocky and the views pretty. While we didn't see that much unusual, we did find **Ripart's Anomalous Blue** *Polyommatus ripartii*, and also **Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus* and **Silver-spotted Skipper** *Hesperia comma*.

After lunch, we drove to the Col de Vars itself. Many of the species we'd seen previously were in excellent numbers, including **Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus armoricanus*, **Large Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus alveus*, **Geranium Argus** *Eumedonia eumedon*, **Grison's Fritillary** *Melitaea varia*, and **Moorland Clouded Yellow** *Colias palaeno* again.

Paul S managed to find **Osiris Blue** *Cupido osiris*, another new species for the week, as well as an Alpine Accentor.

We were now at 136 species for the week. Quite incredible. Over another tasty dinner, we all reflected on how enjoyable the week had been.

### Day 8, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July

It was a sad dawn to the day, despite the sunny spells we woke to. The holiday was coming to an end! As we were packing the vans in the hotel car park, we finally saw the Red Squirrel Rosalind had been hoping to see for the last four days.

It was then a roughly hour-long drive to the top of the spectacular Col de la Bonnette. As we arrived, it was actually quite cool and cloudy. Despite this, some butterflies were flying, including a number of *Erebia* species and **Mountain Clouded Yellow** *Colias phicomone*.



**Mountain Fritillary** *Boloria napaea* showed quite well, and **Cynthia's Fritillary** *Euphydryas cynthia* put in its second appearance of the week.

There were really high numbers of **Glandon Blue** *Agriades glandon*, as well as small numbers of **Alpine Blue** *Plebejus orbitulus*. Having seen a couple of males of this species two days earlier, we found a few females today.



Despite the limited sunny spells, the *Erebia* were still very active. The majority were **Mountain Ringlet** *Erebia epiphron* and **Common Brassy Ringlet** *Erebia cassioides*, but there were also quite a few **Dewy Ringlet** *Erebia pandrose*. David M and Paul S worked hard to chase a few individual *Erebia* that looked different, and the group were delighted that two turned out to be **Silky Ringlet** *Erebia gorge*, species number 137 for the week. In the brief sunny spells, the silver sheen on the underside of these **Silky Ringlet**

*Erebia gorge* was really quite special indeed.

We had lunch here, but we could tell that rain was beginning to threaten. On the two-hour drive back to Nice airport, we did indeed have 15 minutes of rain, our first and only rain of the week.

We arrived at a muggy Nice airport at roughly 2.30pm, and said our fond farewells as everyone got their separate flights.

### **Footnote and acknowledgements**

The total butterfly species count for the trip was 137. This smashed the previous record of 132 species for any previous running of this trip, or indeed any other 8-day trip anywhere in Europe.

This spectacular number demonstrates the huge biodiversity in this part of the French Alps and the variety of habitats visited. The weather also played its part, with warm sunshine for all days apart from the final day, and no rain until our final drive to the airport.

The only species we might have hoped for but missed out on were some of the spring species, a couple of the hairstreaks, and **Large Tortoiseshell**.

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

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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BUTTERFLIES OF THE FRENCH ALPS 6 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> July 2025									
	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	<b>Butterflies</b>								
1	Mallow Skipper <i>Carcharodus alceae</i>				✓		✓	✓	
2	Tufted Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Marbled Skipper <i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>	✓	✓						
4	Dingy Skipper <i>Erynnis tages</i>				✓			✓	
5	Large Skipper <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
6	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>		✓					✓	
7	Foulquier's Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus foulquieri</i>	✓	✓						
8	Large Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus alveus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Alpine Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus andromedae</i>			✓		✓			
10	Carline Skipper <i>Pyrgus carlinae</i>					✓			
11	Safflower Skipper <i>Pyrgus carthami</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	Southern Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>	✓		✓		✓			✓
13	Olive Skipper <i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>				✓	✓			
14	Red-underwing Skipper <i>Spialia sertorius</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			
15	Lulworth Skipper <i>Thymelicus acteon</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
16	Essex Skipper <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	Small Skipper <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Brown Argus <i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	
19	Mountain Argus <i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
20	Silvery Argus <i>Aricia nicias</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Geranium Argus <i>Eumedonia eumedon</i>					✓		✓	
22	Geranium Bronze <i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>								
23	Holly Blue <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓	✓					
24	Small Blue <i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
25	Osiris Blue <i>Cupido osiris</i>							✓	
26	Mazarine Blue <i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Green-underside Blue <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>								
28	Lang's Short-tailed Blue <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>		✓	✓					
29	Mountain Alcon Blue <i>Phengaris alcon</i> f. <i>rebeli</i>		✓		✓				
30	Large Blue <i>Phengaris arion</i>					✓	✓	✓	
31	Silver-studded Blue <i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	Glandon Blue <i>Plebejus glandon</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓
33	Idas Blue <i>Plebejus idas</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
34	Alpine Blue <i>Plebejus orbitulus</i>					✓	✓		✓
35	Amanda's Blue <i>Polyommatus amandus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
36	Adonis Blue <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		✓					✓	
37	Chalkhill Blue <i>Polyommatus coridon</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
38	Damon Blue <i>Polyommatus damon</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
39	Furry Blue <i>Polyommatus dolus</i>								
40	Turquoise Blue <i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>		✓						
41	Eros Blue <i>Polyommatus eros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
42	Escher's Blue <i>Polyommatus escheri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	Common Blue <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
44	Chapman's Blue <i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		
45	Baton Blue <i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>		✓				✓		
46	Chequered Blue <i>Scolitantides orion</i>								
47	Purple-shot Copper <i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
48	Purple-edged Copper <i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		
50	Sooty Copper <i>Lycaena tityrus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
51	Scarce Copper <i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
52	Green Hairstreak <i>Callophrys rubi</i>		✓						
53	Purple Hairstreak <i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>								
54	White-letter Hairstreak <i>Satyrium w-album</i>								
55	Sloe Hairstreak <i>Satyrium acacia</i>		✓				✓	✓	
56	Ilex Hairstreak <i>Satyrium ilicis</i>	✓	✓						
57	False Ilex Hairstreak <i>Satyrium esculi</i>			✓					
58	Blue-spot Hairstreak <i>Satyrium spini</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
59	High Brown Fritillary <i>Fabriciana adippe</i>				✓				
60	Niobe Fritillary <i>Fabriciana niobe</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Dark Green Fritillary <i>Speyeria aglaja</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
62	Silver-washed Fritillary <i>Argynnis paphia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	Weaver's Fritillary <i>Boloria dia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
64	Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>			✓	✓				
65	Mountain Fritillary <i>Boloria napaea</i>					✓	✓		✓
66	Shepherd's Fritillary <i>Boloria pales</i>					✓	✓		✓
67	Titania's Fritillary <i>Boloria titania</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
68	Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis daphne</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
69	Lesser Marbled Fritillary <i>Brenthis ino</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
70	Marsh Fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>								
71	Cynthia's Fritillary <i>Euphydryas cynthia</i>					✓			✓
72	Queen of Spain Fritillary <i>Issoria lathonia</i>			✓	✓	✓			
73	Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea athalia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
74	Glanville Fritillary <i>Melitaea cinxia</i>			✓	✓	✓			
75	False Heath Fritillary <i>Melitaea diamina</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
76	Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea didyma</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
77	Meadow Fritillary <i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
78	Knapweed Fritillary <i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
79	Grison's Fritillary <i>Melitaea varia</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
80	Small Tortoiseshell <i>Aglais urticae</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
81	Lesser Purple Emperor <i>Apatura ilia</i>								
82	White Admiral <i>Limenitis camilla</i>			✓					
83	Southern White Admiral <i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓		✓			✓	
84	Large Tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>								
85	Comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i>	✓	✓		✓				
86	Southern Comma <i>Polygonia egea</i>								
87	Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
88	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
89	Scarce Swallowtail <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Swallowtail <i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
91	Apollo <i>Parnassius apollo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
92	Clouded Apollo <i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>								
93	Small Apollo <i>Parnassius phoebus</i>				✓	✓			
94	Orange-tip <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓		✓				
95	Black-veined White <i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
96	Berger's Clouded Yellow <i>Colias alfacariensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
97	Clouded Yellow <i>Colias crocea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
98	Mountain Clouded Yellow <i>Colias phicomone</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
99	Mountain Dappled White <i>Euchloe simplonia</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
100	Cleopatra <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	✓	✓	✓					
101	Brimstone <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
102	Wood White <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
103	Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Mountain Green-veined White <i>Pieris byroniae</i>				✓	✓		✓	
105	Green-veined White <i>Pieris napi</i>		✓	✓	✓				
106	Small White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
107	Peak White <i>Pontia callidice</i>						✓		✓
108	Bath White <i>Pontia daplidice</i>		✓					✓	

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
109	Duke of Burgundy <i>Hamearis lucina</i>								
110	Ringlet <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>		✓		✓				
111	Great Banded Grayling <i>Brintesia circe</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
112	Pearly Heath <i>Coenonympha arcania</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
113	Darwin's' Heath <i>Coenonympha darwiniana</i>			✓	✓				
114	Dusky Heath <i>Coenonympha dorus</i>	✓	✓	✓					
115	Chestnut Heath <i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
116	Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
117	False Mnestra Ringlet <i>Erebia aethiopella</i>					✓	✓		✓
118	Almond-eyed Ringlet <i>Erebia alberganus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
119	Common Brassy Ringlet <i>Erebia cassioides</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
120	Mountain Ringlet <i>Erebia epiphron</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
121	Large Ringlet <i>Erebia euryale</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
122	Arran Brown <i>Erebia ligea</i>		✓	✓	✓				
123	Piedmont Ringlet <i>Erebia meolans</i>			✓	✓				
124	Sooty Ringlet <i>Erebia pluto</i>						✓		
125	Woodland Grayling <i>Hipparchia fagi</i>	✓	✓	✓					
126	Dusky Meadow Brown <i>Hyponephele lycaon</i>			✓					
127	Large Wall Brown <i>Lassiomata maera</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
128	Wall <i>Lassiomata megera</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	
129	Meadow Brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
130	Marbled White <i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
131	Speckled Wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
132	Great Sooty Satyr <i>Satyrus ferula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Other possibles...								
1	Dusky Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus cacaliae</i>					✓			
2	Warren's Skipper <i>Pyrgus warrensis</i>								
3	Rosy Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus onopordi</i>								
4	Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Hesperia comma</i>			✓				✓	
5	Meleager's Blue <i>Meleageria daphnis</i>	✓	✓	✓					
6	Long-tailed Blue <i>Lampides boeticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
7	Spanish Purple Hairstreak <i>Laeosopsis roboris</i>								
8	Scarce Fritillary <i>Euphydryas maturna</i>								
9	Provençal Fritillary <i>Mellicta dejone</i>		✓		✓				
10	Poplar Admiral <i>Limenitis populi</i>		✓						
11	Camberwell Beauty <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>								
12	Peacock <i>Inachis io</i>								
13	Southern Small White <i>Pieris mannii</i>								
14	Southern Swallowtail <i>Papilio alexanor</i>								
15	Northern Wall Brown <i>Lassiomata petropolitana</i>								
16	Alpine Heath <i>Coenonympha gardetta</i>					✓	✓	✓	
17	Lesser Mountain Ringlet <i>Erebia melampus</i>								
18	Blind Ringlet <i>Erebia pharte</i>					✓			

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
19	Dewy Ringlet <i>Erebia pandrose</i>					✓			✓
20	Silky Ringlet <i>Erebia gorge</i>								✓
21	Marbled Ringlet <i>Erebia montana</i>				✓				
22	De Prunner's Ringlet <i>Erebia triaria</i>								
23	Grayling <i>Hipparchia semele</i>	✓	✓						
24	Rock Grayling <i>Hipparchia alcyone</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	
25	Black Satyr <i>Satyrus actaea</i>								
#	<b>Gatekeeper</b>		✓				✓	✓	
#	<b>Balkan Fritillary</b>			✓					
#	<b>Moorland Clouded Yellow</b>						✓	✓	
#	<b>Ripart's Anomalous Blue</b>							✓	
#	<b>Scotch Argus</b>			✓					
	<b>Daily total</b>	47	86	85	86	64	80	77	15
	<b>Running total</b>	47	89	112	119	131	134	136	137

## Galleries

All images that follow were kindly shared by tour participants



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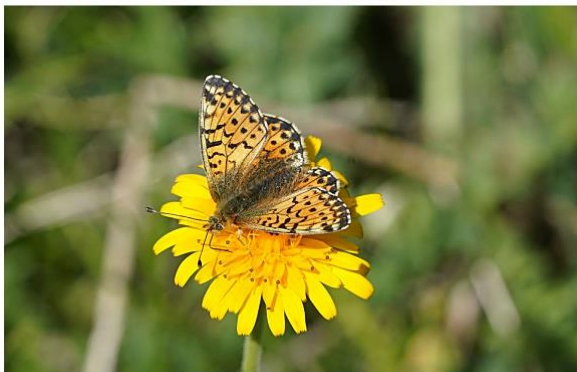
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**And finally...** If you like the sound of Pallas's Fritillary and Late Summer Butterflies of Hungary, next year's tour is available to book on our website:

[Butterflies of the French Alps](#)

Alternatively, we have other butterfly tours in France that promise a feast of fritillaries and a bonanza of blues, and many more besides!

[Spring Butterflies of the French Pyrenees](#)

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