

A Spring in Provence

Mariposa Nature Tours trip report

12th-19th April 2026



Tour leaders Dave Fairhurst & Brian Small

Trip report by Brian Small

(Images, clockwise from top left: Cleopatra © Pamela; Blue Rock Thrush © Martin;

Coypu © Pamela; Greater Flamingo © Brian)



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Summary

Our excellent hotel close to Beaucaire proved to be a splendid base for our excursions into the Camargue and Les Alpilles, as well as having plenty to see on our pre-breakfast walks about the hotel grounds – Short-toed Treecreeper, Scops Owl, Serin, Nightingale and Firecrest spring readily to mind. We were treated to the full force of the Mistral on the first couple of days, yet still saw plenty and after this the weather just got better and better. David's enviable knowledge of the area and great enthusiasm took us to several of the key locations, where we had excellent views of a multitude of birds and species.



On several visits to the Camargue, Mas d'Agon produced thousands of Ruff and Wood Sandpiper, Gull-billed and Whiskered Terns, Western Swamphen, Greater Flamingo and many herons. Likewise, Etang de Vaccarés and the track to Phare de la Gachole found us watching Caspian Tern, lovely Ashy-headed Wagtail, Black-winged Stilt, plus numerous shorebirds to get our teeth into - such as Curlew Sandpiper and

Dunlin... Our day at Salin-de-Giraud and Piémanson was enlivened by a plenitude of waders, but also tired migrants, like Pied Flycatcher, dropping into the tamarisks by the road. Our two mornings in the stony, steppe-like habitat of La Crau were highlighted by Lesser Kestrel, Calandra and Short-toed Larks, Great Spotted Cuckoo and numerous Bath White.

We also enjoyed a couple of days in Les Alpilles, just a short drive from the hotel. The fine chateau at Les Baux-de-Provence, sat atop limestone cliffs, was very impressive, especially with Crag Martin and Alpine Swift whisking about the cliffs; up at La Caume we experienced a lovely stroll through the pines, with Western Marbled White and Provence Orange Tip overshadowed a little by a couple of Bonelli's Eagle.

Daily Diary

Day 1, 12th April

Arrival at Marignane and transfer to hotel

The group arrived in two stages, with the first able to have a bonus brief visit to the salt pans at Berre l'Etang, where many stunning Slender-billed Gull sat on the pans with various waders, most numerous of which were Kentish Plover.

With the main group having arrived at Marignane airport, we set off on the drive northeast to our hotel close to Beaucaire, passing Arles and a handful of Black Kite *en route*. It was nice to arrive, meeting Simon and Barbara who had travelled by train, then settle into our rooms for the week.

Day 2, 13th April

Mas d'Agon; lunch at Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer; Mas de Cacharel and Consécanière

After a quick pre-breakfast stroll about the hotel, where we had our first singing Short-toed Treecreeper, Serin, Nightingale, and Crested Tit, we headed to the flooded fields at Mas d'Agon, where numerous waterbirds greeted us. The next 2.5 hours passed quickly despite the cold north wind and occasional rain, with new birds coming thick and fast: Greater Flamingo, Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill, Western Swamphen, and Purple and Squacco Herons all readily seen. However, it was the thousands of Ruff and Wood Sandpiper that stole the show as they picked among the Black-winged Stilts at the margins of the pools – the Wood Sands were so numerous that they kept on bursting into their soft trilling song. Common, Whiskered and Gull-billed Terns flew above the melee and, as we searched for Red-crested Pochard, we found a couple of male Garganey; back at the vans, we found a few Curlew Sandpiper among the Ruff – revelling in the challenge of picking them out as they hid in the large flock.

Reluctantly we moved on, heading south to the Mediterranean coast at Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, passing Cattle Egret and White Stork in road-side fields. We ate lunch on the seafront, some headed for a coffee in town, while others watched the Yellow-legged Gulls and Turnstone on the beach. In the cold wind, Swifts and House Martins probably wondered what they were doing here...

After lunch, we drove northeast toward Cacharel and Consécanière and hadn't got far before we stopped for more flamingo and a group of Gull-billed and our first Caspian Terns – a small muddy patch held hundreds of Dunlin. Taking a track east, we made regular stops to check out many fine Ashy-headed Wagtail, Zitting Cisticola, Black-winged Stilt, and yet more flamingo. Using the vans to shelter from the wind, we paused at one large group of Dunlin, with David finding a couple of leg-flagged Dunlin that were likely from Hungary. Amongst them were Little Stint, Ringed and Kentish Plovers, Curlew Sands, and Grey Plover. In the bushes a male Sardinian Warbler was collecting food for young, and we also found a male Bearded Tit and even a couple of Kingfisher.

Finally, the wind and cold had taken their toll; we headed back to base for a warm up and fine evening meal with the odd glass of wine or two or three...

**Day 3, 14th April**

Les Baux-de-Provence; lunch les Alpilles; Pont du Gard

Another brief stroll before breakfast proved that it would be a chilly and breezy morning at least, though the forecast was for improvement. Following breakfast, we drove the short distance to Les Baux-de-Provence (named after bauxite that was mined here), which was very quiet for tourists when we arrived yet, on the sheltered, eastern side of the escarpment and fortress town, it was quite busy for birds. As the sun came out, we picked up Crag Martin and Alpine Swift sweeping about the cliffs, with the odd Sardinian Warbler and Serin in the scrubby pines, cistus, and Kermes Oaks. Careful scanning of the rock produced



initially Starling and Jackdaw, before the target species, Blue Rock Thrush, was finally found – though it proved elusive at times. A few butterflies included Wall Brown and Bath White. In the village, among the cobbled streets and old houses we enjoyed views across the fields and wooded hillsides, as well as close fly-by Alpine Swift and singing Black Redstart.

We ate lunch in a small picnic spot at La Caume, where Crested Tit and Chaffinch joined us. A brief walk produced Giant Orchid, Early Spider Orchid (gone over) and a stem of Violet Limodore. As the wind began to drop, we headed northwest to spend the rest of the afternoon at Pont du Gard and a visit to the picturesque World Heritage site, the Roman aqueduct over the River Gardon, built to supply water from the natural springs in the hills to baths and homes of Nîmes. As we walked across the lower tier, Crag and House Martins flew close by, while Alpine Swift and Black Kite passed over at height. On the east side of the river, we saw a few butterflies including Swallowtail and Scarce Swallowtail, plus a singing Firecrest; the scrub on the western slopes was enlivened not just by the views of the aqueduct, but also several (Ascalaphid) owlflies *Libelloides coccajus*, Yellow-barred Longhorn Moths, and our first Provence Orange Tip.

A Red Kite flew over as we walked back to the vehicles, then after an ice cream for some we returned to the hotel, where some enjoyed a brief walk in the hotel grounds finding a male Pied Flycatcher and Long-tailed Tit, both new for the trip.



Day 4, 15th April

La Crau (Peau de Meau, accessed from Vergieres) and Mas d'Agon

Finally, the wind had dropped, though the early morning was still a little cool and breezy, and temperatures would lift throughout the day (and rest of the week). Our morning was to be spent on the western area of the stony steppe, La Crau, part of the ancient delta deposited after the last Ice Age (and not by a rain of stones poured down by the Greek god, Zeus!). A unique habitat in France, grazed quite heavily by the local sheep, Mérimos d'Arles, it has an interesting avifauna.

On arrival at Peau de Meau, David quickly found our first Tawny Pipit and Corn Bunting, plus Small Heath and Swallowtail, whilst way in the distance a pair of Iberian Grey Shrike shimmered in the warm sun. A Hoopoe was discovered about a building and sat on the well for 'scope views. Heading out onto the plain, we scanned for raptors and picked up Short-toed Eagle (*Jean-le-Blanc*) among the numerous Black Kite. A Whinchat shared the bushes and pile of stones with a pair of Northern Wheatear of the subspecies *libanotica*, in which the male looks particularly pale above and white below, with a subtly different tail pattern. David saw a Great Spotted Cuckoo flying across the landscape and finally we picked up the dry,



Cleopatra © Pamela

gravelly song of Short-toed Lark; seeing one performing its yo-yoing song-flight was tough, but finding one on the ground was even harder...

Along a ditch flowing with clear water, we found Banded Demoiselle and Southern Damselfly, Brown Argus, as well as hearing Nightingale and a Hoopoe sat in an old tree. We ate lunch at a small, scrubby site close to l'Etang des Aulnes, where we found swathes of Yellow Bee Orchid

and a few Early Spider Orchid (one of which was not too old); a Bee-eater flew over, a Cuckoo called, and we enjoyed the butterflies too – Baton and Common Blues, plus Southern Grizzled and Dingy Skippers, and Cleopatra.

We returned to Mas d'Agon for our second look at this very 'birdy' location and were not disappointed, enjoying it in sunny and warm weather. A couple of Griffon Vulture and plenty of Glossy Ibis and Cattle Egret were seen *en route* and several gorgeous Ashy-headed Wagtail sang on roadside fencelines and bushes. On the main flooded area, waders included: Black-winged Stilt, Little Ringed Plover, hundreds of Ruff and Wood Sandpiper, Greenshank, four Collared Pratincole in flight, and more Curlew Sands. Red-crested Pochard, Great Crested Grebe, Purple and Grey Herons, Spoonbill and Greater Flamingo all fed in the water, whilst Whiskered and Gull-billed Terns picked insects from the surface or in mid-air. Walking along the road we gained really nice views of Zitting Cisticola, Four-spotted Chaser, and Coypu, but in a way it was the warm sunshine that was most appreciated.



Zitting Cisticola © Martin

Day 5, 16th April

Etang de Vaccares, track to Phare de la Gacholle, Capeliere, Salin de Giraud and Piemanson

The whole day was to be spent in the eastern Camargue, ultimately travelling to Piemanson - almost as far southeast as you can get. For a few it was a pre-breakfast walk, then we all set off after, taking the route down the eastern edge of l'Etang de Vaccares, where we stopped for our first roadside stroll. Looking west with the sun on our backs, we quickly picked up Great Crested plus a fair number of Black-necked Grebes; while flamingos and Mediterranean Gulls treated us to some stunning fly-pasts. On the flooded areas behind us were Shoveler, Gadwall and Red-crested Pochard, with Whiskered Terns doing circuits of the water. As at all wet areas we visited, numerous Wood Sandpipers and Ruff fed and we also saw Greenshank, but continuing to the track out to the Phare de la Gacholle we were treated to an even better array of waders.

In a tight flock at the northern tip of l'Etang du Fangassier were Ringed and Kentish Plover, Dunlin, Sanderling, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, and more Greenshank, with Avocet and hundreds of flamingos beyond. It was educational to go through the shorebirds carefully and learn the subtle differences in size, shape and feeding actions – not an easy task when

there are so many to look at... A Spotted Redshank flew north and numerous terns included Gull-billed.

Parking up close to the old lighthouse, in the surrounding bushes were Corn Bunting and our first Spectacled and Western Subalpine Warblers; it was clear that migration was on as a male Redstart flicked about and flocks of Yellow Wagtails of various subspecies fed in the Salicornia. We tracked back to Capeliere for lunch, where White Stork were nesting and a couple of Turtle Dove perched in the trees. As we were about to depart, an Egyptian Locust sat in the car park.



Ashy-headed Wagtail © Brian

Further southeast, we stopped at the salt pans of Salin-de-Giraud, close to the mounds of salt where some walked up to the viewpoint, whilst others searched for Tiger Beetles, Vagrant Emperor, and had super looks at singing Spectacled Warbler on a Tamarisk. And so to our final destination for the day, Piémanson, though as ever not before a couple of stops to check out the terns, gulls and flamingos. On one island we watched Sandwich, Caspian and Gull-billed

Terns; an Osprey flew over with a fish; salmon- (or shrimp-) pink Slender-billed Gulls picked at flies on the warm pans; and Spoonbills fed, sweeping their bills side to side.

At our final stop was a very busy one for birds, as small migrants were quite numerous in the bushes: both Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler, Redstart, Tree Pipit, and a handful of male Pied Flycatcher. A flock of 11 Night Heron flew over heading north, breeding-plumaged Water Pipit perched along the edge of the pans as did numerous small waders – again numerous Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, and Dunlin; a first-summer Little Gull fed among the Black-headed Gulls, and hundreds of Sandwich Tern gathered on small islands out in the water. The total of over 100 species seen during the day doesn't do justice to the sheer numbers and quality of birds.

Day 6, 17th April

La Crau (Mas de Chauvet); Les Baux-de-Provence

An early breakfast enabled us to access La Crau before too much heat haze had picked up, but very early risers managed to see and hear a Wood Warbler in the trees close to the hotel. Parking up at the Mas de Chauvet track, we walked south across the area known as 'Réserve naturelle nationale des Coussouls de Crau', though hadn't gone far before a Corn Bunting pushed another bird onto a bush that proved to be a Richard's Pipit. Tawny Pipit and the first of several Whinchat followed, as did an adult Great Spotted Cuckoo, which chose the only tree on the plain to feed on caterpillars and enabled good views through telescopes; two male Little Bustard chased each other in the distance.

Over the next couple of hours, we slowly headed south, listening to the larks above and checking the skies for raptors and scanning the ground. Crested Lark and Skylark predominated until the subtle but characteristic song of a Calandra Lark could be heard high above. Against the brilliant blue sky it was hard to pick out, but eventually all managed to see it perform its slow-wingbeat song-flight – three more were also seen lifting up from the

long grass; at one stage, as David recorded the lark, a Red-throated Pipit flew past calling. Good numbers of Lesser Kestrel hunted, with views getting better as we closed in on the nesting building; a female Montagu's Harrier soared high overhead; a Short-toed Eagle hovered over the fields; and finally and somewhat frustratingly, a distant eagle took off from the aerodrome and slowly flapped about, but never came close and remained unidentified, though it looked like an *Aquila*...

A handful of Stone-curlew emerged from the heat haze, as did a couple of Iberian Grey Shrike that stretched our imagination, and two more Little Bustard flew about in the distance. Raptors began to move and three Red Kite headed north as did 12 Griffon Vulture a while later. Back at the vehicles we ate lunch, serenaded by Nightingale, then a short walk showed us a few migrants in the bushes – more Whinchat and a Whitethroat, with a couple of Hobby catching dragonflies overhead.



The afternoon was spent at Les Baux-de-Provence in quite different weather conditions: hot, sunny and calm. A couple of male Cirl Bunting sang yet and showed to a few, Crag Martin and Alpine Swift called about the rock face, but perhaps best was the male Blue Rock Thrush that, having hitherto been seen high on the cliff, eventually came down and showed well.

Day 7, 18th April

Les Alpilles – La Caume; Mas d'Agon

Returning to normal breakfast time enabled an early walk, with very nice views of Firecrest and singing Redstart the highlights, then a short drive took us to the car park at La Caume from which we walked toward the antenna. Short-toed Treecreepers called and flew about from tree to tree as did numerous Crested Tit and butterflies enjoyed the warmth: Cleopatra, Provence Orange Tip, Baton Blue, Swallowtail, and Scarce Swallowtail, plus two new



species for the trip, Western Marbled White, and Glanville Fritillary. The first Western Subalpine Warbler of the walk showed well close to the track, and with patience good views were had; and a Western Bonelli's Warbler sang above us.

Pushing on along the trail, we came into the open with fine views to the south and especially north to Aix-en-Provence. The Kermes Oak scrub was very good for Western Subalpine Warbler, and Alpine Swift flew over with an occasional Hobby,

but it was the two Bonelli's Eagle - an adult and immature – that were especially pleasing to see. A threatened species throughout much of its range, to watch the adult perform a rollercoasting display flight in which it turned upside down at the zenith was superb. The long stroll downhill was broken by further various birds and butterflies, with a Cream-spot Tiger moth being a highlight.

Lunch was taken in the shade of the trees, then we headed into the Camargue for a final (and eventful) visit to Mas d'Agon. It was certainly warm, 29°C, and the approach fields had plenty of Cattle Egret and Glossy Ibis, plus Wood Sands and five Whimbrel. Walking the road, we hadn't gone far before a Collared Pratincole was seen chasing insects on the wing and, among the still numerous waders, a couple of Temminck's Stint were found. Very small and unobtrusive, they



were hard to pick out, but views improved as we changed our angle of view – Dave found another further along the road. Having been told of a Marsh Sandpiper in the area, it was not long before we found it feeding among the Ruff and Wood Sandpipers: pale and elegant, with a hypodermic-needle bill it was very active. It was clear that a few species had declined in number, but it was still incredibly busy: a Short-toed Eagle sat on a post; Whiskered Terns dip-fed; a Purple Heron flew past a close range and another was found in the reeds; Western Swamphen, Spoonbill, Gull-billed Tern, etc, etc...

In the evening after dinner a Scops Owl was found calling near the hotel and was heard by many as it '*poop...pooped*' until a Tawny Owl took umbrage and chased it off.

Day 8, 19th April

Berre l'Etang; Marignane

Our final morning and a day of travel for us all, we promptly set off to Marseilles to drop Ian off for his earlier flight, then headed round to the salt pans at Berre l'Etang. It was a warm walk, short but sweet, along the edge of the pans where Stone-curlew called, flew then sat in the open; House Martin collected mud; Slender-billed Gull showed very well, and a fair number of waders had gathered on one pan. A Red-throated Pipit dropped into the scrub, but alongside local Kentish Plover and Avocet were Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Curlew Sandpipers, Ruff, and Little Stint all destined, like us, for flights north.

Thanks to all for making this such an enjoyable tour and we sincerely hope to see you again soon.

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SPRING IN PROVENCE 12 th -19 th April 2026									
	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	Butterflies								
1	Mallow Skipper <i>Carcharodus alceae</i>								
2	Dingy Skipper <i>Erynnis tages</i>				✓				
3	Rosy Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus onopordi</i>								
4	Southern Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>				✓		✓		
5	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>								
6	Sage Skipper <i>Muschampia proto</i>								
7	Red-underwing Skipper <i>Spialia sertorius</i>								
8	Lulworth Skipper <i>Thymelicus acteon</i>								
9	Brown Argus <i>Aricia agestis</i>				✓		✓		
10	Holly Blue <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>						✓		
11	Small Blue <i>Cupido minimus</i>								
12	Green-underside Blue <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>								
13	Black-eyed Blue <i>Glaucopsyche melanops</i>								
14	Lang's Short-tailed Blue <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>								
15	Long-tailed Blue <i>Lampides boeticus</i>								
16	Short-tailed Blue <i>Cupido argiades</i>								
17	Common Blue <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>				✓		✓	✓	
18	Chapman's Blue <i>Polyommatus thersites</i>								
19	Baton Blue <i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>				✓		✓	✓	
20	Provence Chalkhill Blue <i>Polyommatus hispana</i>								
21	Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓			✓		
22	Provence Hairstreak <i>Tomares ballus</i>								
23	Green Hairstreak <i>Callophrys rubi</i>			✓	✓				
24	Weaver's Fritillary <i>Boloria dia</i>								
25	Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>								
26	Marsh Fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>								
27	Queen of Spain Fritillary <i>Issoria lathonia</i>								
28	Provençal Fritillary <i>Melitaea deione</i>								
29	Glanville Fritillary <i>Melitaea cinxia</i>							✓	
30	Spotted Fritillary <i>Melitaea didyma</i>								
31	Knapweed Fritillary <i>Melitaea phoebe</i>								
32	Small Tortoiseshell <i>Aglais urticae</i>								
33	Large Tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>								

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
34	Camberwell Beauty <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>								
35	Nettle Tree Butterfly <i>Libythea celtis</i>								
36	Peacock <i>Inachis io</i>								
37	Comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i>								
38	Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				✓	✓			
39	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
40	Scarce Swallowtail <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
41	Swallowtail <i>Papilio machaon</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
42	Southern Festoon <i>Zerynthia polyxana</i>					✓	✓		
43	Spanish Festoon <i>Zerynthia rumina</i>								
44	Orange Tip <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>							✓	
45	Provence Orange Tip <i>Anthocharis euphenoides</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
46	Western Dappled White <i>Euchloe cramerii</i>								
47	Portuguese Dappled White <i>Euchloe tagis</i>								
48	Black-veined White <i>Aporia crataegi</i>								
49	Berger's Clouded Yellow <i>Colias alfacariensis</i>								
50	Clouded Yellow <i>Colias crocea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
51	Cleopatra <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
52	Brimstone <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>							✓	
53	Wood White <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>								
54	Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓	✓	✓			
55	Green-veined White <i>Pieris napi</i>			✓					
56	Small White <i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓				
57	Western Bath White <i>Pontia daplidice</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Duke Of Burgundy <i>Hamearis lucina</i>								
59	Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>				✓		✓		
60	Wall <i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓	✓		✓		
61	Speckled Wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>								
62	Spanish Gatekeeper <i>Pyronia bathseba</i>								
63	Spring Ringlet <i>Erebia epistygne</i>								
#	Western Marbled White <i>Melanargia occitanica</i>							✓	

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	Birds								
1	Great Crested Grebe	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
2	Black-necked Grebe	✓15				✓			
3	Little Grebe		✓1						
4	Great Cormorant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Great Bittern								
6	Grey Heron		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
7	Purple Heron		✓2		✓	✓		✓	
8	Night Heron					✓11			
9	Squacco Heron		✓1						
10	Little Egret	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
11	Great Egret		✓		✓	✓		✓	
12	Cattle Egret		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	White Stork	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Glossy Ibis		✓		✓	✓		✓	
15	Greater Flamingo								
16	Eurasian Spoonbill		✓		✓	✓		✓	
17	Mute Swan	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
18	Common Shelduck	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
19	Mallard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Gadwall					✓			
21	Eurasian Wigeon								
22	Garganey		✓3						
23	Common Teal								
24	Northern Pintail								
25	Northern Shoveler		✓		✓	✓		✓	
26	Red-crested Pochard		✓		✓	✓		✓	
27	Common Pochard		✓1						
28	Tufted Duck								
29	Red-breasted Merganser								
30	Osprey					✓1			
31	Golden Eagle								
32	Bonelli's Eagle							✓2	
33	Red Kite			✓1			✓3		
34	Black Kite	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Booted Eagle								
36	Short-toed Eagle				✓	✓	✓	✓	
37	Griffon Vulture				✓2		✓12		
38	Eurasian Marsh Harrier		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Montagu's Harrier					✓1			
40	Eurasian Sparrowhawk			✓	✓		✓		
41	Common Buzzard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Kestrel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Lesser Kestrel						✓20		
44	Hobby				✓	✓1	✓2	✓1	

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
45	Red-legged Partridge						✓		
46	Common Pheasant					✓			
47	Water Rail		h			h			
48	Western Swamphe		✓					✓1	
49	Common Moorhen		✓					✓	
50	Common Coot		✓		✓	✓		✓	
51	Little Bustard						✓4		
52	Pied Avocet	✓	✓			✓			✓
53	Black-winged Stilt	✓2	✓		✓	✓		✓	
54	Stone Curlew	✓1					✓		✓6
55	Oystercatcher		✓3						
56	Northern Lapwing								
57	Collared Pratincole								
58	Golden Plover								
59	Grey Plover		✓15						
60	Ringed Plover	✓	✓			✓			✓
61	Little Ringed Plover	✓	✓		✓2	✓			
62	Kentish Plover	✓	✓			✓			✓
63	Whimbrel				✓1			✓5	
64	Curlew		✓1		✓2				
65	Turnstone		✓4						
66	Ruff		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
67	Curlew Sandpiper		✓		✓	✓			✓
68	Temminck's Stint							✓2	
69	Sanderling	✓4				✓			
70	Dunlin		✓			✓			✓
71	Little Stint	✓	✓			✓			✓
72	Common Snipe		✓2		✓				
73	Jack Snipe								
74	Greenshank		✓3		✓2	✓			
75	Common Redshank					✓1			
76	Spotted Redshank		✓1			✓1			
77	Green Sandpiper		✓1						
78	Marsh Sandpiper							✓1	
79	Wood Sandpiper		✓		✓	✓		✓	
80	Common Sandpiper	✓1				✓3			
81	Black-tailed Godwit								
82	Collared Pratincole				✓4	✓1		✓	
83	Slender-billed Gull	✓				✓			✓
84	Black-headed Gull	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
85	Little Gull					✓1			
86	Mediterranean Gull	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
87	Yellow-legged Gull	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Gull-billed Tern		✓		✓	✓		✓	

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
89	Caspian Tern		✓1			✓			
90	Sandwich Tern		✓			✓			✓2
91	Common Tern	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
92	Whiskered Tern		✓		✓	✓		✓	
93	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse								
94	Great Spotted Cuckoo				✓1		✓1		
95	Cuckoo		✓1		✓1		✓1		
96	Feral Pigeon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Wood Pigeon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Turtle Dove					✓2			
99	Collared Dove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Eurasian Eagle Owl								
101	Scops Owl					H		H	
102	Tawny Owl					H		h	
103	Little Owl								
104	Alpine Swift			✓			✓	✓	
105	Common Swift	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Common Kingfisher		✓2		✓1	✓1			
107	Bee-eater				✓		h	H	
108	Eurasian Hoopoe		H		✓	✓	✓	✓	
109	Great Spotted Woodpecker				✓	✓	✓		
110	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker								
111	Black Woodpecker								
112	Green Woodpecker				✓		✓		
113	Skylark		✓		✓	✓	✓		
114	Calandra Lark						✓4		
115	Crested Lark	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
116	Short-toed Lark				✓3				
117	Crag Martin			✓			✓	✓	
118	House Martin	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
119	Barn Swallow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Sand Martin		✓			✓			
121	Tree Pipit		✓1			✓	✓	✓	
122	Meadow Pipit								
123	Richard's Pipit						✓1		
124	Tawny Pipit				✓	✓	✓		
125	Red-throated Pipit						✓1		✓1
126	Water Pipit					✓2			
127	Yellow Wagtail <i>flavissima</i>					✓1			
128	Ashy-headed Wagtail <i>cinereocapilla</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
129	Blue-headed Wagtail <i>flava</i>		✓			✓			
130	White Wagtail	✓	✓				✓		✓
131	Grey Wagtail								
132	Wren					h			
133	Common Nightingale		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
134	Whinchat				✓1		✓10		
135	European Stonechat						✓2		
136	European Robin			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
137	Northern Wheatear		✓1		✓4				
138	Black Redstart			✓			✓		
139	Common Redstart				✓	✓	✓	✓	
140	Blue Rock Thrush			✓1			✓3		
141	Common Blackbird				✓	✓	✓	✓	
142	Mistle Thrush								
143	Song Thrush								
144	Cetti's Warbler		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
145	Moustached Warbler								
146	Sedge Warbler								
147	Reed Warbler							h	
148	Wood Warbler						✓1		
149	Common Chiffchaff					✓		✓	
150	Western Bonelli's Warbler					✓	✓	✓	
151	Willow Warbler					✓			
152	Blackcap		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
153	Common Whitethroat						✓1		
154	Lesser Whitethroat								
155	Spectacled Warbler		✓1			✓			
156	Sardinian Warbler		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
157	Western Subalpine Warbler				✓	✓		✓	
158	Dartford Warbler								
159	Zitting Cisticola		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
160	Firecrest			✓1	✓1			✓1	✓1
161	Crested Tit			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
162	Blue Tit			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
163	Coal Tit								
164	Great Tit			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
165	Long-tailed Tit			✓2		✓	✓	✓	
166	Penduline Tit								
167	Bearded Tit		✓						
168	Pied Flycatcher		✓1	✓1		✓		✓1	
169	Spotted Flycatcher								
170	Eurasian Nuthatch								
171	Short-toed Treecreeper		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
172	Iberian Grey Shrike				✓2		✓2		
173	Woodchat Shrike								
174	Eurasian Jay		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
175	Eurasian Magpie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
176	Common Raven								
177	Rook				✓1				
178	Carrion Crow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Species name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
179	Eurasian Jackdaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
180	Common Starling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
181	House Sparrow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
182	Eurasian Tree Sparrow								
183	Chaffinch		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
184	Citril Finch								
185	Siskin								
186	Greenfinch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
187	European Goldfinch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
188	Eurasian Linnet								
189	European Serin		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
190	Hawfinch								
191	Common Crossbill								
192	Reed Bunting							h	
193	Rock Bunting								
194	Corn Bunting				✓	✓	✓	✓	
195	Cirl Bunting			✓			✓4		
	Additional invertebrates								
	Hebe Tiger <i>Arctia festiva</i>								
	Cream-spot Tiger <i>Arctia vilia</i>								
	Hummingbird Hawkmoth <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>								
	Longhorn Moth <i>Nemophora degeerella</i>								
	Hairy Rose Beetle <i>Tropinota hirta</i>								
	European Rose Chafer <i>Cetonia aurata</i>								
	Banded Demoiselle <i>Calopteryx splendens</i>								
	Blue-tailed Damselfly <i>Ischnura elegans</i>								
	Southern Damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercurial</i>								
	Lesser Emperor <i>Anax parthenope</i>								
	Vagrant Emperor <i>Anax ephippiger</i>								
	Four-spotted Chaser <i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>								
	Black-tailed Skimmer <i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>								
	Egyptian Grasshopper <i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>								
	Ascalaphid Owlfly <i>Libelloides occajus</i>								
	Mammals								
	Coypu (Nutria)								
	Brown Hare								

	European Rabbit								
	Plants								
	Yellow Bee Orchid <i>Ophrys lutea</i>								
	Early Spider Orchid <i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>								
	Giant Orchid <i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>								
	Violet Limodore <i>Limodorum abortivum</i>								
	Thyme Broomrape <i>Orobanche alba</i>								

Galleries

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And finally... If you liked the sound of A Spring in Provence, we've other tours with remaining availability in 2027 that visit further destinations in France...

[Spring Butterflies of the French Pyrenees](#)

[Butterflies of the Hautes Pyrenees](#)

[Butterflies of the French Alps](#)