



# *Honeyguide*

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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**Crete**  
**8 – 16 April 2025**



## Participants

Jill Jordan  
Everard Daniel  
Phil Holmes  
Graham Harris  
Julian Lawrence & Nicky Sutton

Stuart Swan  
Marie Watt  
Steve & Kathy Kourik  
Helen Gee  
Will Warham



## Leaders

Chris Durdin and Rob Macklin

Report by Rob Macklin, plant list by Chris Durdin.

Photos by group members indicated by initials  
e.g. Steve Kourik (SK), Everard Daniel (ED).  
Other photos by Chris Durdin.

Cover: crown anemones, plus a widow iris if you  
look carefully, Omalós (SK); *Cistus creticus*;  
the confiding little stint that was regularly in  
Plakias (SK).

Left: group photo outside where we stayed, at the  
family-run Hotel Sofia in Plakias,  
[www.sofiahotelplakias.com](http://www.sofiahotelplakias.com).

Below: *Tulipa doerfleri* at 'Spili Bumps'.

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £40 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case raptor study and protection by the Hellenic Ornithological Society. HOS, BirdLife Greece, is based in Athens and its work covers the whole of Greece and its islands: on Crete, its work is in collaboration with the Natural History Museum of Crete. Honeyguide's donation to HOS this year was £830, made up of £40 per person, an additional donation of £200 and supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. It takes our running total of donations to HOS since our first Crete group in 1995 to £17,155. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £157,727, to April 2025.

Roula Trigou, Head of Communications & Awareness for the Hellenic Ornithological Society, says: "Thank you so much for the support! We are deeply grateful." Roula has passed on our Bonell's eagle records to colleagues involved in species monitoring.



## DAILY DIARY

### Tuesday 8 April – To Crete

An hour-long delay at Gatwick was soon behind us before eventually leaving on our A320 airbus to Chania with a flight time of three hours and twenty minutes. We arrived at a wet and windy Chania with a little delay while we collected our buses, though were soon on our way east to Plakias. Very little birdlife was apparent on the journey although several swallows were hawking for insects over the roadside trees. The roadsides were a riot of yellow colour with Spanish and spiny broom, Jerusalem sage and giant fennel plus lots of purple three-leaved sage. As we turned off the coast road at Rethymnon a red-rumped swallow flew across the road and, very surprisingly, a white stork was feeding in a roadside field. Unfortunately, a dead eastern hedgehog was on the roadside.

We were in good time so decided to stop off at the Kourtaliótiko gorge and although it was somewhat breezy we recorded our first griffon vultures soaring over the cliffs. We were just about to board the buses when the cry went up “eagles” and a superb pair of Bonelli’s eagles came into view right over our heads with the white belly on one of the adults confirming the identification – what a start to the week!

Arriving at Plakias late afternoon there was still time for a recce along the front which turned up 11 garganeys and a Mediterranean race of shag on the sea, while the beach and the river contributed two common sandpipers and a little ringed plover. Many swallows were hugging the comparative shelter of the sea front while 300+ house martins streamed across the town on their way north. A final check at the river produced a little stint and five wood sandpipers. Our evening meal was at Taverna Gorgona and as we arrived a party of some 20 black-winged stilts flew low along the shoreline capping a fine start to the holiday!

### Wednesday 9 April – Myrthios & Kanevos

Pre-breakfast Chris and Rob took one of the buses to Myrthios for our later onward journey. Back at Plakias, the little stint was still on the river with three common sandpipers and four female yellow wagtails. After breakfast we explored the olive groves behind Plakias on our way to the hilltop village of Myrthios. Stopping off at the river we reconnected with the little stint and little ringed plover, and common sandpiper numbers had risen to seven.

Walking up the nearby track we soon encountered a whole host of new plants including Cretan tree mallow, the splendid honeywort, a stunning patch of pink bindweed and two flowering stalks of spiked star of Bethlehem. A couple of Cetti’s warblers were singing from deep cover, several Sardinian warblers gave just fleeting views while more general birds included both great and blue tits plus singing chaffinches. Star birds of the morning were two woodchat shrikes perched right out in the open giving us all amazing views. A singing nightingale sang from deep cover but was almost drowned out by the wind. Moving on up the track we found flowering tassel hyacinth, groups of bright red field gladioli and the first of several tongue orchids or serapias. Large numbers of branched broomrape were parasitising mats of the invasive yellow Bermuda buttercup.



Tassel hyacinth; a swallow by the bridge in Plakias (both SK).

As the morning began to warm up several griffon vultures drifted overhead while the first butterflies included holly blue, small copper and southern speckled wood. At one particular spot we caught a nosey cone-headed grasshopper with only one leg, found a dead caterpillar being eaten by a scorpion fly then spotted a paper wasp nest with one wasp hanging on the outside. Yet more astounding plants were soon discovered such as shrubby St. John’s wort, long-beaked storksbill, weasel’s snout and Cretan skullcap. Three buzzards and two ravens flew back and forth overhead before an unusual raptor hove into view and was swiftly identified as a migrant honey buzzard – a stroke of luck!



At the crossroads, three of the group elected to return to Plakias and take the bus to Myrthios while the remainder of the group toiled up the hill with Chris and were rewarded with two superb butterflies in swallowtail and scarce swallowtail. We all joined forces again for lunch at Taverna Dionysos which was its usual high quality!

After lunch we headed up through the newly re-opened Kotsiphou gorge and on to a small woodland area at Kanevos, although ominously the clouds were beginning to gather. The open ground beneath the downy oaks and Calabrian pines hosted a carpet of thousands of the endemic Cretan cyclamen, a truly amazing spectacle! Further searching revealed four violet bird's nest orchids in various stages of development among the array of cyclamens. We then attempted a walk up the quiet country road where we heard singing blackcaps and wren, but the heavens opened and we all got thoroughly soaked – time to head for home! Our evening meal was at Taverna Muses where Takis was his usual ebullient self!



Cretan cyclamen.

#### **Thursday 10 April – Phaestos, Kalamaki Pools and Timbaki Lagoon.**

Our pre-breakfast walk began with an improvement in the weather and very little wind so we opted for another look along the front. The river again turned up trumps with the little stint, common sandpiper, little ringed plover and new arrivals in the shape of green sandpiper, crag martin, singing sedge warbler and best of all an adult night heron which flew out of a patch of vegetation right below us.

Our first stop on the road to Phaestos was at Kourtaliótiko gorge where very little wind meant excellent viewing conditions. It wasn't long before we spotted a superb male blue rock thrush among the scree and scrub and a very bright black-eared wheatear flitting across the rocks. At least five alpine swifts soared overhead and were joined by five griffon vultures, a nesting pair of ravens and several crag martins. Driving on to our next destination at Phaestos we were amazed to see thousands of spectacular white turban buttercups along the roadside above the Mesara plain – a truly stunning sight!

We arrived at Phaestos in warm sunshine with a very light breeze, ideal for birds and butterflies. As we all piled out of the buses we immediately spotted eight alpine swifts and eight common swifts overhead, a woodchat shrike perched out in the open and a whitethroat moving through the scrub. After a welcome coffee and greetings from the local cats, Marie decided to take a tour of the ruins while the rest of us ambled slowly down the road towards Agia Triada, thought to be a Minoan summer palace. Before we moved on Everard found a rosemary beetle actually on rosemary, another nosey cone-headed grasshopper was caught and released while a Persian lilac tree was in full flower just off the terrace.

In the warm conditions many butterflies appeared on the wing including several stunning swallowtails and the much less showy Lulworth skipper. More alpine swifts and common swifts were overhead continuing their migration, at least four hoopoes put in a brief appearance (a lifer for Nicky) and we were delighted to find up to six bee-eaters on the wing, especially this early in the spring. Four chukar partridges were squabbling with each other and making quite a racket totally ignoring the humans, a huge mammoth wasp appeared and two



vagrant emperor dragonflies were on the wing – this species appears to be spreading northwards throughout Europe.



Lulworth skipper; nosey-cone-headed grasshopper (SK).

Our next stop was at Kalamaki Pools where we had our picnic lunches under tamarisk trees. It was only a short walk to the pools but on the way we spotted a flock of ten tawny pipits on the dunes increasing to a final count of 16 birds on the way back. The pools held a real variety of wading birds including two stunning black-winged stilts, eight wood sandpipers, two curlew sandpipers, a greenshank and the star of the show, a rare marsh sandpiper. We were also wondering when the heron migration might get going when, on cue, 20 purple herons came into view flying in from the east and being joined by three others who flew up to join



Pool at Kalamaki.

them from the reedbed – a stunning sight! Birds just kept on coming with three short-toed larks on the sandy dunes, a kingfisher over the open ponds and an unexpected two stone-curlews in flight low over the reedbed. As we were packing up to leave a small flock of ten yellow wagtails were following a flock of sheep and they included two stunning male black-headed and two male grey-headed wagtails.

Our last port of call was at Katayki lagoons near Timbaki, which usually supports hordes of breeding waders on the extensive muddy edges, but recent heavy rains had turned it into a lake. However, it was still full of birds with an early surprise in the shape of a black-necked grebe on the far side of the lagoon with its cousin, a little grebe, hugging the reedy edges. Over 200 sand martins were hawking for insects over the water while the edges hosted the waders including 13 wood sandpipers, a single ruff, another black-winged stilt and two more curlew sandpipers. Chris then spotted a movement at the far end of the lagoon, a little crane which almost immediately dived into cover. However, another little crane at the other end of the lagoon was much more obliging giving everyone great views through the telescope.

Just as we were thinking of moving on, a magnificent flock of 90 purple herons rose as one from the inaccessible reedbed before settling back down into deep cover. Five squacco herons and three little egrets then dropped into an area of thickly vegetated marshland allowing us all to see them well. More herons appeared with six grey herons flying through to the west without lingering. Finally, a stunning male black-headed wagtail gave us all great views perched up on the marsh and the day was rounded off by a brief appearance of a gull-billed tern over the lagoon – what a way to round off a great day's birding in Crete! Dinner this evening was at the splendid Taverna Kri Kri where several of the group enjoyed gargantuan pizzas!

### Friday 11 April – Moní Préveli, Honeyguide's Secret Valley & Kourtaliótiko Gorge

Our pre-breakfast walk took us along the front at Plakias where we encountered the little stint and three common sandpipers on the river. Further along at the east end of town we found another superb migrant woodchat shrike in the beachside scrub.

Our first destination of the day was the monastery at Moní Préveli; unfortunately, the main road in was being repaired so we followed the official diversion through very narrow roads and hairpin bends, all successfully negotiated! As we pulled up at the monastery four pallid swifts and four alpine swifts were circling low overhead, a great start to the day. We decided to walk down the farm track towards the sea looking for migrants; we were not to be disappointed as we soon encountered a male pied flycatcher in full view and three tree pipits perching obligingly in a dead tree.

Moving on we came past a huge patch of Roman nettle plus specimens of white henbane and henbit dead-nettle, though our attention was also on a grove of downy oaks, which can provide excellent cover for migrants and so it proved today. A flycatcher was found feeding in the centre of one of the trees and finally showed itself as a male collared flycatcher. A hoopoe then alighted on a huge rock before disappearing into the stony landscape and a slight movement in the oak foliage betrayed the presence of a migrant wood warbler. A nightingale produced snatches of song and we concluded at least two birds were present. A flash of yellow quickly vanished into trees only to reappear as a superb male golden oriole – what a morning for migrants!

A sharp squall made us shelter by the buses for a few minutes before some of the group decided to visit the monastery while the others searched for migrants in the surrounding scrub known as phrygana. We hoped to find Rüppell's warbler but had to be content with another pied flycatcher, a whitethroat and singing corn buntings. A female sparrowhawk plunged into the undergrowth and emerged with unidentified prey while at least ten crag martins hunted in the valley. Quite a morning!



Pied flycatcher (SK); fan-flipped and bumblebee orchids.

Our picnic lunches were taken in 'Honeyguide's secret valley' where we began proceedings by looking for orchids. We were amazed to find twelve different species here, with the most numerous being carpets of the stunning naked (or Italian) man orchid and good numbers of loose-flowered orchids. A good find was a fan-flipped orchid by the roadside. Pink butterfly orchids were an unexpected treat as was a milky orchid and many yellow bee orchids *Ophrys phrygana*. A bumblebee orchid was another excellent find and somehow we almost missed a party of man orchids and the very special Cretan bee orchid.

Birds were also well represented as Graham spotted a female or immature marsh harrier coming over the ridge, and we all had good views of a male Montagu's harrier which quartered the fields before continuing on with its migration. The griffon vulture count reached 32 birds, buzzards and kestrels were very also active and all to the continuous backdrop of singing corn buntings.

On the way back to Plakias we decided to have a quick look at Kourtaliótiko Gorge and it was just as well we did! We had hoped to see choughs but to no avail although this hardly mattered as two Bonelli's eagles came in low across the gorge carrying what appeared to be a dead gull! The eagle was then attacked by one of the resident ravens who crashed into the eagle making it drop its prey – an astonishing moment of nature in its full glory and a privilege to witness such an act! Dinner tonight was at Taverna Sirocco.

### Saturday 12 April – Kourtaliótiko Gorge, Spili & Kedros Foothills (Spili Bumps)

Our early morning excursion took us in the buses a little way west to Souda, partly to have a look at the very rare Cretan palms growing there. Before we left Plakias, two red-rumped swallows perched up on the wires above the car park allowing us to see all their features. At Souda, a Mediterranean shag was spotted on the



sea and yet another woodchat shrike perched up in full view. Several more migrants were found here including two pied flycatchers, a singing nightingale and sedge warbler but the highlight was a singing great reed warbler chuntering away in the undergrowth but refusing to show itself. Another new bird was a white wagtail feeding among the sheep flock.

A sunny and comparatively windless day was on the cards as we made our way to Kourtaliótiko gorge. Here the group split up with the botanists exploring the plant life down the steps to the bottom of the gorge and the birders remaining at the top. Those who descended found a great variety of flowers, including patches of the endemic *Ricotia*, Cretan gorge comfrey (*Procopiana*) and beautifully scented storax blooms, then a group of people ‘canyoning’, which included getting into the river among the rocks. At the top our first birds were up to seven red-billed choughs flying back and forth along the cliffs calling as they went while seven griffon vultures soared above, occasionally landing on the nesting cliffs. A pair of kestrels were breeding right at the top of the cliffs and we were fortunate to get good views of two black-eared wheatears and two male blue-rock thrushes which perched up right out in the open.



Storax; *Ricotia cretica*; canyoning – an idea for the next Honeyguide group?

Leaving here late morning we took the scenic route to Spili. Here we had our lunches in the town square by the lion fountains underneath towering holm oak trees – the water here tasted as good as ever! A Cretan festoon butterfly flew swiftly through the square as we all enjoyed coffee and ice creams. A small wood by the car park turned up singing chiffchaff, blackcaps and Cetti’s warblers while holly blue butterflies abounded in the sunshine and four red-rumped swallows circled overhead.

Time to move on to the Kedros foothills and an exploration of the botanical wonders of ‘Spili Bumps’. The plants were going to take central stage this afternoon but there were still birds on offer. As we arrived a woodlark sang right over our heads and another blue rock thrush was perched atop a pile of rocks – very apt! Corn buntings provided the musical backdrop, several more woodlarks were in song and three male whinchats showed all their colours when perched up on the fences. The griffon vulture count peaked at 26 birds.

Orchids were the top priority here and there masses of naked man orchids but surprisingly few loose-flowered orchids. Before we reached the bumps we found a single giant orchid in flower (usually over by this time), several eastern sawfly orchids, man orchids and Cretan bee orchids. The red tulips *Tulipa doerfleri* mixed in with naked man orchids provided a real spectacle and we also noted Cretan iris, *Silene cretica* (a small pink) and hairy lupin. There were many few-flowered orchids though the bumps area was dominated by *Orchis boryi*; two more *Ophrys* species were found here, bumblebee orchid and marengo orchid.



Few-flowered orchid *Orchis pauciflora*; *Orchis boryi* (SK); eastern sawfly orchid *Ophrys (tenthredinifera) villosa* (SK).



As the afternoon wore on the delicate barbary nut irises fully opened, and we also found carpets of corn marigold and several Cretan valerians. As we were making our way back to the buses a large movement of some 110 alpine swifts moved through on their northerly migration and the day was completed by a splendid Bonelli's eagle flying low over the ridge right by the buses – another stroke of luck! Dinner tonight was at Taverna Apanemo with its garlic bread and gargantuan main courses!

### **Sunday 13 April – Damnioni, Kotsiphou Gorge, Kanevos & Souda**

Heavy rain and thunder overnight had abated by the time we assembled for our pre-breakfast walk. We walked along the front to the river where familiar faces included 2 little stints, two little ringed plovers and three common sandpipers. Instead of walking up to the end of town we had a look at the area behind the river but only came up with a male pied flycatcher.

After breakfast we walked up the road behind the hotel where Chris showed the group a patch of flowering solenopsis, the only site for this delightfully delicate plant on the trip. Weasel's snout was also in flower here. Our next port of call was at the nearby beach resort of Damnioni – birds were in short supply here but we did locate several more griffon vultures, an alpine swift and several linnets. Several new plants were quickly identified including rock samphire, Cretan viper's grass, narrow-leaved bugloss and sea spurge which completed sightings of all the spurge, much to Chris's delight!

Our next destination was Kotsiphou gorge where we quickly encountered more griffon vultures and 22 jackdaws but the strong breeze made it difficult to find any smaller birds. Time for coffee in a little taverna at Kanevos where a pair of swallows were nesting in a corner of the outside room! We then decided to walk down the road into the gorge where we were delighted to find the spectacular Cretan arum in full flower, the only ones of the trip. Another good find was a monkey orchid up in the spiny scrub but very difficult to reach although Chris and Phil battered their way through!



Looking towards Kotsiphou Gorge, with *Iris albicans* (ED); monkey orchid; Cretan palms (ED).

We decided to head back to the woodland supporting the Cretan cyclamens to have our picnic lunches surrounded by these wonderful flowers. On the way there two jays and four serins flew across the road in front of the buses. Many blackcaps were singing from the surrounding woodland and were accompanied by a single wren. Another pied flycatcher was also found here and a turtle dove called softly from the woodland. The roadsides were full of flowering plants included lots of sage-leaved cistus but also more orchids in the shape of marengo orchid, loose-flowered orchid plus the delightful Jersey toadflax.

After this we decided to head back to the coast and to Souda but on the way we stopped off at another orchid site. Here we quickly located three eastern sawfly orchids and several loose-flowered orchids. Our main goal at Souda was to admire the incredibly rare Cretan palms, one of the best sites in Europe for this species. While we were here Julian found a turtle dove perched amongst a herd of goats giving the whole group great views. Two white wagtails were also feeding among the goats, daintily avoiding any flying hooves. Tonight's dinner was another large evening meal at Taverna Apanemo.

### **Monday 14 April – Agia Reservoir & Omalós Plateau**

A change in the weather today with temperatures soaring to 23°C and much appreciated by all! Before breakfast just two little ringed plovers and a little stint on the river but before we left for our long drive to Omalós we spotted a Bonelli's eagle soaring with two ravens from the car park! After a long drive our first



stop was at the Agia Reservoir south-west of Chania which used to be one of the best bird watching sites on Crete but has deteriorated over the past few years.

However, our intrepid band were soon searching the area with the lake itself turning up two mute swans, several coots and moorhens plus three little grebes. Walking around the lake on the boardwalk we found a wood sandpiper on the weir and in the warm sunshine dragonflies and damselflies began to emerge. A male emperor dragonfly was patrolling a pond area and another dragonfly perched up was identified as a vagrant emperor. Nicky then found a red-veined darter and three blue-tailed damselflies put in an appearance. Sand martins and swifts were hawking for insects over the lake, but the best was saved for last. First, Will spotted a squacco heron which flew out of the reeds and right across to the other side of the lake, then a little bittern crashed out of cover, flew a little way before landing in reeds and disappearing into even thicker cover!

Time to climb up through the White Mountains to the Omalós plateau, with a coffee stop in Omalós village. We had our picnic lunches overlooking a field full of flowering tulips *Tulipa bakeri* while woodlarks sang above us and several griffon vultures soared over the mountains. We then headed up to the head of the Samaria gorge; the hoped for raptors were nowhere to be seen although we did find burnt candytuft and a different yellow bee orchid, *Ophrys (lutea) sicula*.



Omalós: aubretia with door snails, and view at the top of Samaria Gorge.

Driving back down the valley we came across a spectacular showing of thousands of crown anemones and tulips growing together – an amazing sight, probably due to extra rainfall in the previous days. Everard also pointed out a patch of widow iris growing among this flowering paradise. We then relocated to a small wetland, a Mediterranean temporary pond, where a male grey-headed wagtail was feeding along the edges. A cry of “raptor” went up and we had brief views of a ringtail Montagu’s harrier hunting low across the grassland. Helen then pointed out another raptor in the sky which turned out to be our first golden eagle of the trip. Congratulating ourselves, we decided to stop for refreshments in our earlier taverna and on the way Helen spotted yet another golden eagle much lower along a ridge before it gained height and was lost to view. A great end to a great day. After the journey back to Plakias we had dinner at the excellent GioMa taverna.



Mediterranean temporary pond on Omalós mountain plateau; *Tulipa bakeri* (SK).

## Tuesday 15 April – Frangocastello

Sunny and warm for the pre-breakfast walk down to the river and beyond; three common sandpipers and two little ringed plovers were on the river at the bridge, four griffon vultures drifted over and a corn bunting (now scarce in UK) was singing at the far end of town. After breakfast we moved off west towards Frangocastello with our first stop at Kotsiphou gorge. Four species of raptors were logged here with six griffon vultures, a single buzzard and two kestrels but the star of the show was an immature peregrine buzzing along the cliffs and calling in flight. Apart from the raptors two black-eared wheatears were moving across the rocky scrub, a



pair of blue rock-thrushes appeared with the male in a delightful song flight and to cap it all we had brief views of a male Rüppell's warbler.

We arrived mid-morning at the Venetian fort at Frangocastello, built between 1371 & 1374. However, its main claim to historical fame is the massacre of Cretan forces by the Ottoman Empire on 17 May 1828. Many of the Turks were killed by rebel ambushes launched from the local gorges. Tradition has it that those Cretan forces called *Drosoulites* are seen to march towards the fortress around dawn on the anniversary of the battle.

We decided to walk by the coast along a dirt road and were somewhat surprised when two hoopoes flew directly over our heads towards the fort, followed almost instantly by a male golden oriole that also disappeared from sight very quickly. Another migrant was a male pied flycatcher which gave us all good views. Botanical finds included spiny golden star, a broomrape on crown daises and, at last, a mandrake in a stony area. Looking out to sea a single Cory's shearwater flew east and we then spotted a small pod of bottle-nosed dolphins between us and the island of Gavdos – a real surprise!



Success playing hunt-the-mandrake, plus some rather prettier botany at Frangocastello, namely crown daisies, poppies and gladioli.

More birds began to appear with a real highlight being two more hoopoes perched up in a dead tree, giving us all excellent views. A male whinchat perched up on one of the fences, at least five wheatears flitted through the vegetation and a woodchat shrike perched up on another fence. Crested larks were very active here and perched up out in the open. With the weather warming up butterflies began to appear including our first eastern dappled white, scarce swallowtail, swallowtail and clouded yellow. At the end of our walk Chris pointed out caper with a single flower and several love-in-a-mist; though perhaps the most dramatic botanical delight here were the thousands of flowering crown daisies and corn marigolds! Time for coffee in a local taverna where we spotted a flock of birds moving west offshore and in the telescope they were found to be Yelkouan shearwaters, the first we have seen here for many years.

After lunch at the fort most of us decided to walk down to the beach, although it was a bit busy today with beach-loving tourists. We still managed to find two dunlins here, a nightingale was singing in the scrub and Chris pointed out dune tiger beetles (*right, SK*) actually on the beach. Before we left, Julian and Nicky had spotted 10 purple herons over the open plains and on our way out a buzzard flew by carrying a snake. We took a new road which didn't actually go anywhere but we did find a cuckoo, yet another hoopoe and a male whinchat.



On the way back to Plakias we stopped on the roadside between Rodakino and Sellia where two more Bonelli's eagles were in the air, several griffon vultures drifted over the mountains and a male blue rock thrush was in song atop a prominent rock. A brief stop back at Kotsiphou gorge turned up the last bird of the day, a male pied flycatcher. Our last dinner was at Taverna Muses where Takis provided a cake to celebrate Julian's birthday!

### Wednesday 16 April – Armeni and home

We had time for a look at the late Minoan cemetery at Armeni set in Valonia oak woodland. The tombs were surrounded by flower-rich grassland, and we found eight species of orchids including eastern sawfly orchid, marengo orchid, yellow bee orchid, pink butterfly orchid, Bergon's tongue-orchid and carpets of naked man orchid.



The hot and still conditions were perfect for butterflies including scarce swallowtail and Cretan festoon while birds weighed in with calling golden oriole and turtle dove. We also had a superb view of one of three vagrant emperors buzzing around the tombs. We arrived at Chania in good time for our flight home and reflected on yet another great week in Crete with another excellent group.



Male vagrant emperor dragonfly, Armeni (SK); view at Armeni, with tombs, flowers and Valonia oaks.

### Holiday highlights

Phil	tulips at Omalós; giant fennel, Valonia oaks.
Will	black-winged stilt.
Jill	Montagu's harrier; black-eared wheatear; golden eagle; all the flowers especially tulips & anemones at Omalós.
Marie	mid-air collision between Bonelli's eagle and raven; large numbers of orchids; swathes of colour e.g. crown daisies, anemones and tulips.
Kathy	turtle dove; all the different orchids; fields of colourful flowers.
Steve	orchids; geology of gorges; good company.
Graham	little crane; anemones.
Stuart	stationary swallowtail; rapid little bittern.
Everard	male Montagu's harrier; carpet of bulbs: cyclamen, tulips & orchids.
Nicky	swallows & martins at lagoon; first hoopoe; company & the Crete experience.
Julian	the whole experience; meadows, birthday.
Helen	The floriferous fields eg tulips/anemones, at Omalós and poppies/crown daisies/wild gladiolus at Frangocastello; becoming an accidental eagle finder; the melodrama of the Bonelli's eagle dropping the gull.
Rob	male Montagu's harrier; tulips and anemones at Omalós.
Chris	Spili bumps; favourite flower is giant fennel; 80 purple herons; great year for flower colour e.g. fields at Frangocastello.



Rainbow over Plakias.



## WILDLIFE LISTS

### BIRDS

Little Grebe	one at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04 & 3 at Agia Reservoir 14/04.
Black-necked Grebe	one at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04.
Cory's Shearwater	one offshore at Frangocastello 15/04.
Yelkouan Shearwater	c.20 offshore at Frangocastello 15/04.
Shag	individuals at Plakias 08/04, Souda 12/04 & 13/04 and Frangocastello 15/04.
Little Bittern	one at Agia Reservoir 14/04.
Night Heron	one at Plakias 10/04.
Squacco Heron	Five at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04 & one at Agia Reservoir 14/04.
Little Egret	three at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04.
Grey Heron	six at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04 & one east of Chania 14/04.
Purple Heron	23 at Kalamaki Pools & c.90 at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04; 10 at Frangocastello 15/04.
White Stork	one in field near Rethymnon 08/04.
Mute Swan	two at Agia Reservoir 14/04.
Garganey	11 on sea at Plakias 08/04.
Honey Buzzard	one at Plakias 09/04.
Griffon Vulture	seen daily, max.count 55 at Kourtaliótiko Gorge area 11/04.
Marsh Harrier	one at Plakias & Honeyguide Secret Valley 11/04.
Montagu's Harrier	ringtail near Plakias, male at Honeyguide's Secret Valley on 11/04; ringtail at Omalós 14/04.
Sparrowhawk	female took prey at Moní Préveli 11/04.
Common Buzzard	seen daily in small numbers.
Long-legged Buzzard	one on migration and soaring high at Armeni 16/04.
Golden Eagle	two at Omalós 14/04.
Bonelli's Eagle	two at Kourtaliótiko Gorge 08/04 & 11/04, one Kedros Foothills 12/04, two Kotsiphou Gorge 13/04, one at Plakias 14/04 & two between Rodakino and Sellia 15/04.
Kestrel	seen daily in small numbers; breeding at Kourtaliótiko & Kotsiphou Gorges.
Peregrine	immature at Kotsiphou Gorge 15/04.
Chukar	four on the roadside at Phaestos 10/04.
Little Crane	two at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04.
Moorhen	two at Kalamaki Pools & one at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04 & three at Agia Reservoir 14/04.
Coot	ten at Agia Reservoir 14/04.
Black-winged Stilt	20 at Plakias 08/04, two at Kalamaki Pools 10/04 & one at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04.
Stone-curlew	two at Kalamaki Pools 10/04.
Little Ringed Plover	seen daily at Plakias max.3 on 10/04 & 15/04.
Little Stint	one at Plakias until 14/04 but 2 on 13/04; two at Kalamaki Pools 10/04.
Curlew Sandpiper	two at Kalamaki Pools & two at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04.
Dunlin	two on beach at Frangocastello 15/04.
Ruff	one at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04.
Snipe	one at Kalamaki Pools 10/04.
Marsh Sandpiper	one at Kalamaki Pools 10/04.
Greenshank	one at Kalamaki Pools 10/04.
Green Sandpiper	one at Plakias 10/04.
Wood Sandpiper	five at Plakias 08/04 & 21 at Kalamaki Pools & Timbaki Lagoon 10/04.
Common Sandpiper	daily at Plakias max.7 on 09/04; one at Souda 12/04.
Yellow-legged Gull	widespread and common even as high as the Omalós Plateau.
Gull-billed Tern	one at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04.
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	common in the gorges and also seen at Damnoni.
Woodpigeon	Seen daily in low numbers.
Collared Dove	widespread and common esp.in towns and villages.
Turtle Dove	single birds at Kanevos and Souda 13/04, on way to Omalós 14/04 and at Armeni 16/04.
Cuckoo	one at Frangocastello 15/04.
Swift	seen daily from 10/04.
Pallid Swift	four at Moní Préveli 11/04.
Alpine Swift	peak counts of 17 at Phaestos 10/04 and 110 at Kedros Foothills 12/04.
Kingfisher	one at Kalamaki Pools 10/04.
Bee-eater	six at Phaestos 10/04.
Hoopoe	four at Phaestos 10/04, one at Moní Préveli 11/04 & 5 at Frangocastello 15/04.
Short-toed Lark	three on the dunes at Kalamaki Pools 10/04.
Crested Lark	Noted at Chania, Kalamaki Pools & Frangocastello.
Woodlark	four at Kedros Foothills 12/04 & four at Omalós 14/04.
Sand Martin	200+ at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04.
Crag Martin	common in the gorges but also one at Plakias.
Swallow	widespread and common.
Red-rumped Swallow	one near Rethymnon 08/04 then 2 at Plakias & four at Spili 12/04.
House Martin	many moving through on migration peaking at 300 at Plakias 08/04.
Tawny Pipit	a flock of 16 on the dunes at Kalamaki Pools 10/04.
Meadow Pipit	one at Kedros Foothills 12/04.
Tree Pipit	three at Moní Préveli 11/04 & one at Kedros Foothills 12/04.
Black-headed Wagtail	single males at Kalamaki Pools and Timbaki Lagoon 10/04.
Grey-headed Wagtail	two at Kalamaki Pools 10/04 & one at Omalós 14/04.
Yellow Wagtail	10 at Kalamaki Pools 10/04 could not be assigned to race.
White Wagtail	one at Souda 12/04 & two there 13/04.



<b>Wren</b>	singing birds at Kanevos & Spili.
<b>Nightingale</b>	singing male at Plakias 09/04, three at Moní Préveli 11/04, one Plakias 12/04, one Souda 13/04 & singing male on beach at Frangocastello 15/04.
<b>Whinchat</b>	two at Timbaki Lagoon 10/04, three at Kedros Foothills 12/04 & two at Frangocastello 15/04.
<b>Stonechat</b>	recorded in small numbers throughout the week.
<b>Northern Wheatear</b>	five at Omalós 14/04 and five at Frangocastello 15/04.
<b>Black-eared Wheatear</b>	male at Kourtaliótiko Gorge 10/04 & 2 there 12/04, male at Omalós 14/04 & 2 at Kotsiphou Gorge 15/04.
<b>Blue Rock Thrush</b>	male at Kourtaliótiko Gorge 10/04 & two males there 12/04, male at Kedros Foothills 12/04, one at Omalós 14/04, pair at Kotsiphou Gorge & one between Rodakino and Sellia 15/04.
<b>Blackbird</b>	widespread and common.
<b>Cetti's Warbler</b>	recorded daily, most often heard and not seen.
<b>Sedge Warbler</b>	singing male at Plakias 10/04 & 12/04, singing male at Souda 12/04 & noted at Agia Reservoir 14/04.
<b>Great Reed Warbler</b>	singing male at Souda 12/04.
<b>Sardinian Warbler</b>	widespread and common.
<b>Rüppell's Warbler</b>	brief view of male at Kotsiphou Gorge 15/04.
<b>Whitethroat</b>	single birds at Phaestos 10/04 and Moní Préveli 11/04.
<b>Blackcap</b>	noted daily but especially abundant at Kanevos.
<b>Wood Warbler</b>	one in downy oaks at Moní Préveli 11/04.
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	singing male at Spili 12/04.
<b>Collared Flycatcher</b>	male in Downy Oaks at Moní Préveli 11/04.
<b>Pied Flycatcher</b>	2 at Moní Préveli 11/04, two at Souda 12/04, males at Plakias & Kanevos 13/04, males at Frangocastello & Kotsiphou Gorge 15/04.
<b>Blue Tit</b>	widespread and common.
<b>Great Tit</b>	widespread and common.
<b>Golden Oriole</b>	superb males at Moní Préveli 11/04, Frangocastello 15/04 and calling male at Armeni 16/04.
<b>Woodchat Shrike</b>	single birds noted on three days but 2 at Plakias 09/04 and 2 at Plakias & Moní Préveli 11/04.
<b>Jay</b>	two at Kanevos 13/04 & one on way to Omalós 14/04.
<b>Chough</b>	seven at Kourtaliótiko Gorge 12/04.
<b>Jackdaw</b>	peak of 22 around Kotsiphou Gorge 13/04.
<b>Hooded Crow</b>	widespread and common.
<b>Raven</b>	seen daily max.seven 12/04.
<b>House Sparrow</b>	one at Moní Préveli 11/04.
<b>Italian Sparrow</b>	widespread and common.
<b>Chaffinch</b>	widespread and common.
<b>Serin</b>	four at Kanevos 13/04 & one at Frangocastello 15/04.
<b>Greenfinch</b>	widespread and common, many in song at Phaestos.
<b>Goldfinch</b>	widespread and common.
<b>Linnet</b>	peak of 10 at Omalós 14/04.
<b>Ortolan Bunting</b>	one at Honeyguide's Secret Valley 11/04.
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	widespread and common particularly at Kedros Foothills.



Eastern dappled white (ED); swallowtail (ED); scorpionfly.

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES, FISH		
Green toad (RK)	Cretan wall lizard	Grey mullet
MAMMALS		
Bottlenose dolphin	Badger RK	Beech (stone) marten RK
Eastern hedgehog RK		<i>RK = roadkill</i>
BUTTERFLIES		
Swallowtail	Eastern dappled white	Southern speckled wood
Scarce swallowtail	Clouded yellow	Wall brown
Cretan festoon	Brimstone	Small copper
Large white	Cleopatra	Holly blue
Small white	Painted lady	Common blue
Bath white	Red admiral	Lulworth skipper



BEES, WASPS, FLIES etc	
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i> violet carpenter bee	<i>Megascolia flavifrons (maculata)</i> a mammoth wasp
<i>Polistes gallicum</i> a paper wasp	<i>Panorpa</i> sp. a scorpionfly
BUGS	
<i>Spilostethus (Lygaeus) pandurus</i> a black and red ground bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i> fire bug
BEETLES	
<i>Tropinota hirta</i> a hairy chafer	<i>Calomera (Cicindela) littoralis</i> littoral tiger beetle
<i>Oxythyrea cinctella</i> a black-and-white flower chafer	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i> seven-spotted ladybird
<i>Chnootriba (Henosepilachna) elaterii</i> Melon ladybird	<i>Chrysolina americana</i> Rosemary beetle
ODONATA	
<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i> Red-veined Darter	<i>Anax imperator</i> Emperor (Blue Emperor)
<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i> Common Darter	<i>Anax phippiger</i> Vagrant Emperor
<i>Ischnura elegans</i> Blue-tailed Damselfly	
ORTHOPTERA	
<i>Cicada</i> sp. a cicada	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i> Egyptian grasshopper
Nosey cone-headed grasshopper <i>Truxalis nasuta</i>	
OTHER INVERTEBRATES	
Mantis egg case probably <i>Empusa fasciata</i> a cone-headed mantis	Cretan door snail <i>Albinaria (corrugata) inflata</i>

### CRETE PLANT LIST, 2025

The main references for identification and names of plants are Mediterranean Wild Flowers (Blamey & Grey-Wilson 1993), *Wild Flowers of Crete* by Vangelis Papiomitoglou, *Flowers of Crete* by J Fielding & N Turland and [www.cretanflora.com](http://www.cretanflora.com)

\* =Endemic to Crete P = Planted NiF = not in flower  
# = Introduced and not native to Crete, and cultivated or planted species

FERNS AND ALLIES		
	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair fern
	<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>	similar to black spleenwort
	<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback fern
	<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Great horsetail
	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
	<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean club-moss
CONIFERS		
<b>Cupressaceae Cypress Family</b>	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Cypress
	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> var. <i>pyramidalis</i>	Funeral cypress
	<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> ssp. <i>macrocarpa</i>	Prickly juniper
<b>Pinaceae Pine Family</b>	# <i>Araucaria araucana</i>	Norfolk Island pine
	<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Calabrian pine
	# <i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone or umbrella pine
FLOWERING PLANTS Dicotyledons		
<b>Aceraceae Maple Family</b>	<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	
<b>Aizoaceae Aizoon Family</b>	# <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot fig
<b>Anacardiaceae Pistacio Family</b>	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic tree or lentisc
	# <i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian peppertree
<b>Apiaceae (=Umbelliferae)</b>	* <i>Chaerophyllum creticum</i>	(Omalós, yellow)
<b>Carrot Family</b>	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock samphire NiF
	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot
	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo
	<i>Ferula communis</i> ssp. <i>communis</i>	Giant fennel
	* <i>Ferulago thyrsoiflora</i>	(in Kotsiphou gorge) NiF
	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel NiF
	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	Corky-fruited water dropwort
	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's needle
	<i>Smyrniolus olusatrum</i>	Alexanders
	<i>Smyrniolus perfoliatum</i> ssp. <i>rotundifolium</i>	Perfoliate alexanders
	<i>Tordylium apulum</i> (fruit 5-8mm)	Mediterranean hartwort
<b>Asteraceae (Compositae)</b>	<i>Anthemis chia</i>	Mayweed
<b>Daisy Family</b>	<i>Anthemis rigida</i>	Rayless chamomile
	<i>Astericus maritimus</i>	Yellow sea aster
	<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual daisy
	<i>Bellis longifolia</i>	
	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field marigold



	<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> var. <i>coronarium</i> ( <i>Glebionis coronaria</i> )	Crown daisy
	<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> var. <i>discolor</i>	Crown daisy
	<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn marigold
	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory
	<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Crupina
	<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Aromatic inula NiF
	<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Mediterranean thistle
	<i>Helichrysum</i> sp	a curry-plant without scent
	<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian thistle
	<i>Pallenis (Asteriscus) spinosus</i>	Spiny golden star
	<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>	Shrubby cudweed
	<i>Picnemon acarna</i>	Yellow-spine thistle
	<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i> NiF	
	<i>Scorzonera cretica</i>	Cretan viper's-grass
	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle
	* <i>Stachelina arborea</i> NiF	
	<i>Tragopogon sinuatus</i> ( <i>porrifolius</i> )	Salsify
	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Rough cocklebur (seeds/stems)
<b>Apocynaceae</b> Oleander Family	<i>Nerium oleander</i> ssp. <i>oleander</i>	Oleander
<b>Berberidaceae</b> Barberry Family	<i>Berberis cretica</i>	
<b>Boraginaceae</b> Borage Family	<i>Anchusa azurea</i> (=A. <i>italica</i> )	Large blue alkanet
	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
	<i>Cerinthe major</i>	Honeywort
	<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue hound's-tongue
	<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved bugloss
	<i>Echium italicum</i>	Pale bugloss
	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple viper's-bugloss
	<i>Symphytum creticum</i> ( <i>Procopiaia cretica</i> )	Procopiaia or Cretan gorge comfrey
<b>Cactaceae</b> Cactus Family	# <i>Opuntia ficus-barbarica</i> (O. <i>ficus-indica</i> )	Prickly pear
<b>Campanulaceae</b> Bellflower Family	<i>Campanula erinus</i>	
	* <i>Campanula tubulosa</i>	NiF
	* <i>Petromarula pinnata</i>	Cretan wall lettuce
	* <i>Solenopsis minuta</i> ssp. <i>annua</i> ( <i>Laurentia gasparrinii</i> )	Solenopsis
<b>Capparaceae</b> Caper Family	<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b> Honeysuckle Family	<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Honeysuckle
	# <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b> Pink Family	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved sandwort
	* <i>Cerastium scaposum</i>	Cretan mouse-ear
	<i>Silene cretica</i>	
	<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean catchfly
	<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered catchfly
	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion
	<i>Spergularia</i> sp. probably <i>bocconeii</i> (tbc)	Greek (?) sea-spurrey
<b>Chenopodiaceae</b> Goosefoot Family	<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachyum</i> (=A. <i>fruticosum</i> )	Glaucous glasswort
<b>Cistaceae</b> Rockrose Family	<i>Cistus (incanus ssp.) creticus</i>	Cretan cistus
	<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved cistus
	<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved fumana
<b>Clusiaceae</b> St John's-wort Family	<i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i> ssp. <i>empetrifolium</i>	Shrubby St. John's-wort
<b>Convolvulaceae</b> Bindweed Family	<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
	<i>Convolvulus (althaeoides) elegantissimus</i>	cut leaves, pale in centre of flower
	<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder
<b>Crassulaceae</b> Stonecrop Family	<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	Navelwort / wall pennywort
<b>Cruciferaeae</b> (=Brassicaceae) Cabbage Family	<i>Aethionema saxatile</i>	Burnt candytuft
	<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring rock-cress
	<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Aubrieta
	<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Buckler mustard
	<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea-rocket
	<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned stock
	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress
	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish



	* <i>Ricotia cretica</i>	Ricotia
	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock
<b>Cucurbitaceae Cucumber Family</b>	<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting cucumber
	<i>Bryonia cretica</i> ssp. <i>cretica</i>	Cretan white bryony
<b>Dipsacaceae Scabious Family</b>	<i>Scabiosa maritima</i>	Mournful widow
<b>Dioscoraceae Yam Family</b>	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony
<b>Ericaceae Heather Family</b>	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry-tree
	<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree-heath
<b>Euphorbiaceae Spurge Family</b>	<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	Greek spiny spurge
	<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Mediterranean spurge
	<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree spurge
	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun spurge
	<i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i>	
	<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea spurge
	# <i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor oil plant
	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual mercury
<b>Fabaceae (=Leguminosa) Pea Family</b>	# <i>Acacia cyanophylla</i>	Mimosa / blue-leaved wattle
	<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean trefoil
	<i>Anthyllus hermanniae</i>	(spiny broom-like bush) NiF
	<i>Anthyllus vulneraria</i> ssp. <i>praepropera</i> (= <i>rubriflora</i> )	Red (Mediterranean) kidney vetch
	<i>Bituminaria (Psoralea) bituminosa</i>	Pitch trefoil
	<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	Hairy thorny broom
	# <i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas tree
	<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob tree
	<i>Coronilla</i> (= <i>Securigera</i> ) <i>parviflora</i>	yellow or pink flowers
	* <i>Ebenus cretica</i>	Shrubby sainfoin (Cretan ebony)
	<i>Hymenocarpus circinnatus</i>	Disk trefoil
	<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>	yellow flowers, often red-veined
	<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow vetchling (tendrils)
	<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Brown vetch (but red)
	<i>Lotus orithopoides</i>	
	<i>Lupinus pilosus</i>	A blue lupin
	<i>Medicago arborea</i>	Tree medick
	<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick
	<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea medick
	<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Large disk medick
	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne NiF
	<i>Melilotus sulcatus</i>	Small melilot
	<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cock's-comb sainfoin
	<i>Ononis (natrix) hispanica</i>	Large yellow restharrow
	<i>Ononis reclinata</i>	Small restharrow
	# <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False acacia
	<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpiurus
	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom
	<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Asparagus pea
	<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	
	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil
	<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	a common annual white clover
	<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed clover
	<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry clover
	<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly trefoil
	<i>Trifolium uniflorum</i>	One-flowered clover
	<i>Tripodion (Anthyllis) tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder vetch
	<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	Bithynian vetch (two-tone purple & white)
	<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy yellow vetchling
	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch
	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder vetch
<b>Fagaceae Oak Family</b>	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes or prickly oak
	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm or evergreen oak
Deciduous oaks on Crete, both doubtfully native, are		
	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy oak
	<i>Quercus ithaburensis</i> ssp. <i>macrolepis</i>	Valonia oak; acorn cups with long, spreading scales
<b>Fumariaceae Fumitory Family</b>	<i>Fumaria macrocarpa</i>	a fumitory
<b>Gentianaceae Gentian Family</b>	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort
	<i>Centaureum pulchellum</i>	Lesser centaury
<b>Geraniaceae Geranium Family</b>	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common storksbill
	<i>Erodium gruinum</i>	Long-beaked storksbill

	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot cranesbill
	<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little robin
	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved cranesbill
<b>Lamiaceae (=Labiatae)</b>	<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>	
<b>Mint Family</b>	<i>Coridothymus (Thymus) capitatus</i>	Shrubby thyme
	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit dead-nettle
	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> P	French lavender
	<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem sage
	<i>Prasium majus</i>	Spanish hedge-nettle
	<i>Salvia fruticosa</i> (formerly <i>S. triloba</i> )	Shrubby or 3-leaved sage
	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild clary
	<i>Satureja (Micromeria) nervosa</i>	
	<i>Stachys cretica</i>	Mediterranean woundwort NiF
	* <i>Scutellaria sieberi</i>	Cretan skullcap
	<i>Teucrium alpestre</i>	
<b>Linaceae Flax Family</b>	<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Tree flax
	<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale flax
<b>Lythracea Loosestrife Family</b>	<i>Lythrum junceum</i>	
<b>Malvaceae Mallow Family</b>	<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Lesser tree mallow
	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow
<b>Meliaceae Persian Lilac Family</b>	# <i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian bead tree or Persian lilac
<b>Moraceae Fig Family</b>	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
	# <i>Morus alba</i>	White mulberry
<b>Myoporaceae Myoporum Family</b>	# <i>Myoporum laetum</i> P	Ngaio (from New Zealand)
<b>Oleaceae Olive Family</b>	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
<b>Orobanchaceae Broomrape Family</b>	<i>Orobanche lavandulacea</i>	on pitch trefoil
	<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common broomrape
	<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched broomrape
<b>Oxalidaceae Sorrel Family</b>	# <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup
<b>Papaveraceae Poppy Family</b>	<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow horned-poppy
	<i>Papaver purpureomarginatum</i>	
	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy
<b>Pittosporaceae Pittosporum Family</b>	# <i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	Pittosporum
<b>Plantaginaceae Plantain Family</b>	<i>Plantago afra</i>	branched
	<i>Plantago bellardii</i>	unbranched
	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buckshorn plantain
	<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Haresfoot plantain
	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
<b>Platanaceae Plane Tree Family</b>	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
<b>Polygalaceae Milkwort Family</b>	<i>Polygala venulosa</i>	Eastern milkwort
	# <i>Polygala x dalmaisiana</i>	Sweet pea shrub
<b>Polygonaceae Dock Family</b>	<i>Persicaria senegalensis</i>	Naturalised, from Africa
	<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned dock
<b>Primulaceae Primrose Family</b>	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Pimpernel (scarlet and blue forms)
	* <i>Cyclamen creticum</i>	Cretan cyclamen
<b>Punicaceae Pomegranate Family</b>	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate
<b>Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family</b>	<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown anemone
	<i>Anemone hortensis</i> ssp. <i>heldreichii</i>	
	<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love-in-a-mist
	<i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i>	Turban buttercup
	* <i>Ranunculus cupreus</i>	(scree, open stony ground, calcareous e.g. Spili)
	<i>Ranunculus ophioglossifolius</i>	(fen at Frangocastello)
	<i>Ranunculus peltatus</i> ssp. <i>fucoideus</i>	Pond water-crowfoot
<b>Resedaceae Mignonette Family</b>	<i>Reseda alba</i>	White mignonette
<b>Rosaceae Rose Family</b>	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ssp. <i>azarella</i>	Hawthorn
	# <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat
	<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Almond-leaved or wild pear
	<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	Bramble
	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i> ssp. <i>verrucosa</i>	Mediterranean salad burnet
	<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny burnet
<b>Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family</b>	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder
	<i>Valantia hispida</i>	
<b>Rutaceae Rue Family</b>	# <i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon
	# <i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange
	<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	Rue
<b>Santalaceae Sandalwood Family</b>	<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris
<b>Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family</b>	<i>Saxifraga carpetana</i> ssp. <i>graeca</i>	Omalós



<b>Scrophulariaceae Figwort Family</b>	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia
	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax
	<i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>	Jersey toadflax
	<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Lesser snapdragon (weasel's snout)
	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern red bartsia
	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow bartsia
	<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining figwort
	<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved figwort
	* <i>Verbascum arcturus</i>	Hanging mullein
	<i>Verbascum macrurum</i>	
	<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	
	<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Water speedwell
	<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	
<b>Solanaceae Nightshade Family</b>	<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	White henbane
	<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake
	# <i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree tobacco
<b>Styracaceae Storax Family</b>	<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax
<b>Tamaricaceae Tamarix Family</b>	# <i>Tamarix smyrnensis</i>	Tamarisk
<b>Theligonaceae</b>	<i>Theligonum cynocrambe</i>	Dog-cabbage
<b>Thymelaeaceae Daphne Family</b>	<i>Daphne sericea</i>	(pink, Omalós & Spili)
	<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>	Thymelea
<b>Ulmaceae Elm Family</b>	<i>Zelcova abelicea</i>	Zelcova or ambelitsiá
<b>Urticaceae Nettle Family</b>	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall
	<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman nettle
<b>Valerianaceae Valerian Family</b>	<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	
	* <i>Valeriana asarifolia</i>	Cretan valerian
<b>Verbenaceae Verbena Family</b>	# <i>Lantana cámara</i>	Lantana
	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste tree
<b>Vitaceae Vine Family</b>	<i>Vitus vinifera</i>	Grape vine
<b>Monocotyledons</b>		
<b>Agavaceae Agave Family</b>	# <i>Agave americana</i>	Century plant
<b>Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family</b>	<i>Pancratium maritimum</i> NiF	Sea daffodil (leaves only)
<b>Araceae Arum Family</b>	<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's cowl
	<i>Arum concinnum</i>	
	* <i>Arum idaeum</i>	Cretan arum (leaves only)
	<i>Arum creticum</i>	Cretan arum
	<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon arum
<b>Arecaceae Palm Family</b>	# <i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary date palm
	<i>Phoenix theophrasti</i>	Cretan palm
	# <i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	Washingtonia
<b>Iridaceae Iris Family</b>	<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field gladiolus
	<i>Gynandrysis sisyrinchium</i>	Barbary nut
	<i>Iris</i> (was <i>Hermodactylus</i> ) <i>tuberosus</i>	Widow iris
	# <i>Iris albicans</i>	
	* <i>Iris (unguicularis) cretensis</i>	Cretan iris
<b>Liliaceae Lily Family</b>	<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow asphodel
	<i>Asphodelus ramosus (aestivus)</i>	Common asphodel
	<i>Charybdis (Drimia, Urginea) maritima</i>	Sea squill NiF
	<i>Gagea graeca</i>	
	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth
	<i>Ornithogalum exscapum</i>	
	<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	A spiked star-of-Bethlehem
	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's broom
	* <i>Tulipa (saxatilis) bakeri</i>	(pink, Omalós)
	* <i>Tulipa doerfleri</i>	(red, Spili)
<b>Orchidaceae Orchid Family</b>	<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow asphodel
	<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man orchid
	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid
	<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	Giant orchid
	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet birdsnest orchid
	<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee orchid
	<i>Ophrys cretica</i>	Cretan bee orchid
	<i>Ophrys (scolopax) heldreichii</i>	Marengo orchid (woodcock type)
	<i>Ophrys episcopalis/holoserica</i>	Bishop's ophrys
	<i>Ophrys (lutea) phryganae</i>	Phrygana orchid – a yellow bee orchid; hairy speculum
	<i>Ophrys (lutea) sicula</i>	Sicilian orchid, another yellow bee orchid – flowers held horizontally or

		vertically; hairless speculum
	<i>Ophrys (tenthredinifera) villosa</i>	Eastern sawfly orchid
	<i>Orchis boryi</i>	
	<i>Orchis collina</i>	Fan-lipped or hill orchid
	<i>Orchis italica</i>	Italian man orchid
	<i>Orchis lactea</i>	Milky orchid
	<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered orchid
	<i>Orchis (provincialis) pauciflora</i>	Few-flowered orchid
	<i>Orchis quadripunctata</i>	Four-spotted orchid
	<i>Orchis papilionacea</i> ssp. <i>alibertis</i>	Albertis's butterfly orchid
	<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey orchid
	<i>Serapias bergonii</i> (S. <i>vomeracea</i> ssp. <i>laxiflora</i> )	Bergon's tongue-orchid
	<i>Serapias cordigera</i> ssp. <i>cretica</i>	
	<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue orchid
	<i>Serapias orientalis</i>	
<b>Poaceae Grass Family</b>	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed
	<i>Avena</i> sp	oats
	<i>Briza maxima</i>	Greater quaking-grass
	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass
	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall barley
	<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail
	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed
	<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Bulbous meadow-grass
<b>Posidoniaceae Sea-grass Family</b>	<i>Posidonia aceanica</i>	Neptune-weed
<b>Smilacaceae Smilax Family</b>	<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common smilax or sarsaparilla
<b>Typhaceae Reedmace Family</b>	<i>Typha domingensis</i>	
<b>Fungus</b>	<i>Inonotus tamaricis</i>	Tamarisk bracket fungus
<b>Galls</b>	an epiphyte pathogen (bacterium) <i>Pseudomonas savastanoi</i>	Olive knot



Friar's cowl, with cyclamens at Kanevos; long-beaked storksbill, Plakias; love-in-the-mist, Frangocastello.