



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**Picos de Europa
7 – 14 June 2026**

Holiday participants

Peter Seal
Kate Thompson and Nigel Harding
Ken Leggett

Karin and Brennan Auger
Jill Winwood

Leader

Pau Lucio. Report by Pau Lucio

We stayed at the Hotel Tierra de la Reina in Boca de Huérgano www.hoteltierradelareina.com



Group photo at Mirador del Tombo on the way to Valdeón Valley

Photos as attributed e.g. by Brennan Auger (BA). all taken on the holiday.

Cover, top: Santa Marina chapel near La Ercina (BA).
Bottom: white stork family, Boca de Huérgano (BA); peary heath (PL).

As on every Honeyguide wildlife holiday, we contributed to a conservation project. The conservation contribution of £40 per person, supplemented by and gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, totalled £310. This was sent to Asociación Zerynthia, a Spanish NGO dedicated to the study and conservation of butterflies: see thank-you below. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £168,827.

Hi Chris

Many thanks for your message and for your continued support. We really appreciate Honeyguide's contribution to ZERYNTHIA once again.

Best wishes: Yeray Monasterio León

Presidente de la Asociación Española para la Protección de las Mariposas y su Medio (ZERYNTHIA)

Asociación Española para la Protección de las Mariposas y su Medio ZERYNTHIA
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DAILY DIARY

Day 1: Sunday 7 June: Stansted to Santander, Santander to Boca de Huérgano

Pau had flown from Valencia the day before and met Brennan and Karin at Santander bus station. From there, they took an Uber to Santander airport to meet Jill before the rest of the party: Kate and Nigel, and Peter and Ken arrived on the Ryanair flight from Stansted. The minibus paperwork was sorted quickly, but when we were about to set off, we realised that one of the seatbelts did not work. While the maintenance people tried to fix it, we killed time watching the abundant black kites, kestrels, and common buzzards from the car park. After waiting more than an hour and the problem still not being repaired, we decided to set off to our hotel. To overcome the seatbelt issue, we had to seat the driver and two guests in the front. Our arrival at 7pm gave us time to settle in and meet in the bar for a quick briefing before dinner at 8pm.

Day 2: Monday 8 June: Argovejo and Crémenes area

While having breakfast, we could enjoy close-up views of a white stork feeding in the nearby flooded field from the hotel windows. Then, after breakfast, we headed past the reservoir at Riaño and to Argovejo, where we parked by the bridge over the river. The weather was perfect, warm and sunny but not too hot, and this, combined with the wet spring in Spain this year, meant lots of flowers, butterflies, and birds all morning. Blackcaps and, especially, garden warblers were singing from the scrub as we meandered slowly upwards. Lizard orchids were at their peak, with a single man orchid. Damp patches on the path attracted many butterflies, including Queen-of-Spain, knapweed, and Glanville fritillaries, as well as little, silver-studded, and black-eyed blues.

Other butterflies on the wing included clouded yellow, adonis blue, and in the muddy areas, Pau and Nick found two species of skippers: Oberthür's grizzled and sunflower, and Ken spotted a rock bunting at the bottom of a juniper.



Black-eyed blue (PL); coffee break in Argovejo (BA).

We gathered for drinks at the café in Argovejo, called Bar Pepin. After that, we took a short drive beyond the next village of Crémenes to a picnic site near a modern but unused chapel. This year, the grass was cut and the picnic table fixed. We tucked into salads supplied by the hotel in insulated picnic boxes bought for Honeyguide groups in a previous year. We spent a little while pottering here after lunch, adding a few more butterfly species.

Near the village of Crémenes, we took our regular circuit up and down a hillside before returning along the quiet road. This year, we started from the shaded area and passed through a stream, where we saw beautiful damselfly and several butterflies mud-puddling, including Provence fritillary and the spectacular marsh fritillary of the Spanish subspecies, *Euphydryas aurinia beckeri*. Several black kites flew around, as in most places there were griffon vultures and later an Egyptian vulture, too. We heard a crested tit. We found our first of many pyramidal orchids, followed by sawfly orchids and woodcock orchids. Some tongue orchids were mostly past their best. As well as the intense blue of beautiful flax, there was a patch of white flax (or Pyrenean) flax. Two day-flying moths were noted: speckled yellow and burnet companion. On the tip of the hill, we all enjoyed our first encounter with owl-flies, a strange but beautiful insect from the *Ascalaphidae* family. On the way back, we found the beautiful purple-shot copper butterfly and added Spanish gatekeeper to the list. It was getting warm,

so the group waited in the shade while Pau went to get the minibus. It was a good decision, as everyone enjoyed super views of a kettle of 13 griffon vultures, two Egyptian vultures, and black kites.

We returned to the minibuses along the road and were soon back in Boca de Huérgano.



Marsh fritillary (PL), woodcock and pyramidal orchids (BA).

Day 3: Tuesday 9 June: La Ercina area and walk around Boca de Huérgano

There was a risk of rainfall in the mountain passes, so we headed south to La Ercina, a short distance outside the Picos and into bee-eater country, a habitat with a hint of the Mediterranean. We soon found the bee-eater colony, with birds perched on the wires. Once we stopped at the regular place, golden orioles called and moved between the poplars and oaks, allowing only glimpses of these wonderful birds. A Spanish chestnut heath was a new butterfly, as well as the only honey buzzard seen on the trip.

There were lots of white and blue flaxes, yellow horseshoe vetch, and pink thyme creating a lovely mix. The showiest of the orchids were sawfly orchids, and it was possible to find a few lingering flowers on early spider orchids. As in other areas, there were lizard orchids, men orchids, and the occasional pyramidal orchid. Robust marsh orchid was a new species for the trip.



Spanish chestnut heath (PL)

As we walked through the terraces, we got fantastic views of a red-backed shrike, more bee-eaters flew above us, and corn buntings seemed to be perched in every single bush. There were Lulworth and small skippers and red-underwings.

There is no bar/café in the local village, so we returned to Crémenes for our coffee stop, finding a hoopoe flying in front of the minibus on the way. The bar used to have a tame monk parakeet, which we didn't see for the first time! A mystery! As so often happens, some cake was provided with our drinks. We revisited the picnic tables near the modern chapel for our picnic, where we got two nice sightings. First, Peter found a clouded yellow laying eggs on clover, and then Pau spotted a booted eagle.

We drove back to Boca de Huérgano and reached a quick consensus to have our local walk through the village soon, after just 15 minutes to get sorted. We moved to the garden that often has common redstarts, and we saw the male briefly. One of the local white storks had, as in previous years, three chicks, which were almost adult size. They must find a good variety and abundant food in the nearby meadows! Then we moved to the famous 'dipper bridge', where we had fantastic views of a peregrine falcon flying above us. We also had some new bird species, such as crag and sand martins and red-rumped swallow. We heard the dipper family calling, but they were out of view, hidden on a tributary stream. While we waited for the dippers to show up, we watched the huge barbels spawning, and there were also trout. Then the dipper family showed, and we all enjoyed watching an adult being followed by two chicks, which constantly begged for food and were fed.

After dinner, we took a stroll on the village. First to see some bats, sadly only one greater noctule, and pipistrelle showed up, and then we moved to hear midwife toads which congregate by a drinking trough.

Day 4: Wednesday 10 June: near Riaño and La Uña

Our morning's walk was beyond but overlooking the reservoir at Riaño, on a day that was cooler than we'd been used to, though very comfortable. Just beyond the village where we'd parked, we stopped to look at Iberian water frogs in a large concrete water structure. The vegetation in this area showed it to be slightly acidic, where we found the endemic small-flowered foxglove with its distinctive dark red colour.

As we walked, we quickly found our first lesser butterfly orchid, followed by fragrant orchid and soon many more. A dunnock showed well, and we saw yellowhammer and whitethroat. The reservoir had few birds, just a cormorant, a yellow-legged gull and a great crested grebe. The return walk was delayed in a good way by a green hairstreak that perched.

Our regular coffee stop in the small town of Acebedo was closed, so we drove on to the next place, La Uña, for drinks, where we saw a male common redstart calling from the roof. Lunches were at a new picnic site for the week, reached by walking along a short boardwalk through a damp meadow that had patches of ragged robin in flower. This site was defined by some guests as "the most beautiful picnic site in Europe"! After lunch, we spent some time watching a violet carpenter bee coming and going.



Lunch with a view, Valles de Montaña (BA).

Our afternoon was spent at the mountain pass, above La Uña, around two pools set in alpine meadows. We heard goldcrest and saw a tree pipit displaying. Dragonflies here were very active, the most abundant being four-spotted and broad-bodied chasers. These were also robust spreadwings. We'd noticed one moonwort fern on the walk up the hill to the main pond. At the end of the walk, we were rewarded with beautiful views of the valley and a juvenile crossbill found by Karin and Ken. There were also alpine choughs, and on the plants front, a nice variety of marsh orchids and large-flowered butterwort.

Day 5: Thursday 11 June: Valle de Valdeón

Our main stop this morning was in a lovely patch of mountain meadows on the way to Valdeón, which fortunately was not affected by the terrible forest fire that burned almost 3000 ha last summer. With climate change accelerating, not even the alpine habitats are safe from fire. Yellowhammers and dunnocks were singing – here found at higher altitudes – plus garden warblers, stonechats and a rock bunting remained perched, allowing beautiful views. In drier places by the path were burnt-tip orchids and a broomrape actually on broom, and in damper areas, broad-leaved marsh and heath spotted orchids. Marbled skipper was a new species of butterfly, as was Iberian sooty cooper, Provence orange-tip, and mazarine blue, among others. Some of the more obvious flowers included globe flowers and wood cranesbill. By the roadside, there was a large patch of broad-leaved marsh orchids and, almost masquerading as more of these, several verticillate

louseworts. There were lots of large cuckoo flowers and more butterwort in flower. Jill bumped into the endemic Schreiber's green lizard.

We stopped for the view and group photos at Mirador del Tombo. Here, there were several Chapman's ringlets flying around: it's a large ringlet and endemic to the Picos, and a small pearled-bordered fritillary which has just emerged.

Next stop was the town of Posada de Valdeón for our regular coffee/drinks stop, with some nice nibbles: "*patatas con alioli*" provided 'on the house'. We visited the cheese shop to get some of the famous 'Picos blue' cheese. From the bar, we could see a fine example of the historic buildings here called *hórreos*, small, roofed structures on stilts once used to store agricultural produce safely off the ground and away from floods, vermin and other contamination.

It was time for our picnics, a very short distance away, where there were tables set in grassland by a small lake. Here we added rosy grizzled skipper to our list.

Our next stop was a short, though uphill, walk to look for orchids in an area of limestone grassland by some bends in the road. Many orchids were abundant; there were more lizard orchids and pyramidal orchids. At the end of the final dry slope, a shady area supported many sweet-scented, fragrant orchids. There were also wall browns, a few Spanish purple hairstreaks, and sloe hairstreaks. We walked back to the car park and drove just a few minutes to another site to find dark-red helleborine and bee-orchids, and a marsh tit perched close up for us.

The final stop today was at 'El Chorco de los Lobos', a wolf-trap set in a woodland by the road. In years gone by, all adult men were obliged to take part in a wolf round-up, driving the wolves down into the woodland and eventually into a pit at the end of a funnel of wooden palisades. There were also little shelters, still displayed for historic interest, designed to hide people who would discourage the wolves from turning back. Silver-washed fritillaries landed on the information sign.

We stopped for fuel in Riaño on the way home.

Day 6: Friday 12 June: Fuente Dé

Our tickets for the cable car at Fuente Dé were for 10:30, so we left Boca de Huérgano at 8:45. We could see from the vehicle in the canyon a female Spanish ibex on steep rocks. Then it was onward through Potes, though we were slowed by a big coach there, and then to the big car park at Fuente Dé. We joined the throng preparing for the ascent; happily, we were able to bypass the queue as they were letting those booked for 10:30 go through. The whole group was divided into two: Brennan and Karin were in the first cable car (they take 20), and the rest were in the second for the ascent from 3,500 feet to 6,000 feet.

Immediately, there were the tame alpine choughs that are such a feature here. Red-billed choughs were also seen, though never tame and mostly obvious by their call. Soon after Pau had explained the plan, we saw our first snowfinches and northern wheatears.



Fuente Dé: the drier part with the wallcreeper cliff, alpine chough and rock-jasmine *Androsace* (BA).

The first half of the two-kilometre walk passes a green mountainside rich with alpine flowers. There was low-growing – and prickly and sweetly-scented – Spanish gorse, rockroses, birdsfoot trefoil and wallflowers *Erysimum mayorii* all in yellow. A stock *Matthiola perennis*, sheepsbit and early purple orchids added colour. So did trumpet gentians. Creeping globularia was hugging rocks in distinctive patches; shrubby gromwell flowers could have passed as small gentians without a careful look.

It was busy with people, as ever: lots of couples, small groups or individuals enjoying the high mountain landscape. Towards the crossroads in the path, a water pipit was performing its descending flight song. As the landscape became barer, oddly, there were more birds, though alpine toadflax – it likes scree slopes – started to appear here. There was a chamois on a snow patch, keeping cool on the hot day. We were lucky enough to see snowfinches several times today. Our destination was the cliffs that often have wallcreepers, where we found some alpine accentors among the big boulders. Just before reaching the picnic site, Pau called out, “Wallcreeper.” The gorgeous male was flying up and down the track, looking for small insects in the rocks. After a few minutes, it flew away, and we tucked into our lunch.

Jill had excellent views of an alpine accentor on the return walk before we all gathered in the café at the top of the cable car for a coffee, and Brenan and Pau saw a Gavarnie blue, which was the first time we had seen this butterfly. Then it was time to join the queue to descend. The return journey took an hour and a half.

Day 7: Saturday 13 June: Lois and old Roman road at Las Salas

Our morning was spent in Las Salas, then we crossed the bridge over the river to reach our afternoon’s walk on the old Roman road, Calzada Romana del Esla. At the start of the walk is a wet rock face with scores of large-flowered butterworts, here perfectly in flower, their pale green leaf rosettes sprinkled with small dead flies that add to the nutrients available for this partly carnivorous plant.

The helpfully flat path ran alongside the river, with a flower-rich slope to our left. Surprisingly, there were a four martagon lilies on the slope, with a single flower open. It was a surprise as we hadn’t seen this beautiful flower here on previous trips. There were many butterflies to see, including pearly heath, idas blue, and high brown fritillary. A firecrest came around, allowing beautiful views, and some of the group had a glimpse of the Iberian chiffchaff.



Firecrest (PL); burnt-tip orchid (BA); owl-fly or ascalaphid *Libelloides coccajus* (PL).

The end point was a dry grassy meadow, which had nice milkwort and two stemless *Centaurea* species. Here we admired a twin-spotted fritillary, and Peter found southern brown argus. On the way back, most of us had good views of black-veined moths.

We had coffee in Las Salas, where we were spoiled with cake and a Spanish omelette for Ken. For lunch, we drove the short distance to a different chapel with picnic tables set in long grass. A short-toed treecreeper sang as we arrived. After lunch, we headed to the remote village of Lois, that feeling of remoteness coming after a drive up a narrow road, mostly single track (‘Lois Lane’), which makes the prominence of Lois in years before motor cars all the more surprising. This time, Maria, Pau’s friend, was at work, so we met Toño, armed with keys for the two main features of Lois. We started in the ‘Catedral de la Montaña’, an apparently oversized church built of pink limestone from a quarry nearby. Its size was linked to the prosperity of the area in the 18th century, built on the rich mountain grazing. The population of Lois was then 800 – and they only counted adult males, so presumably there were three or four times that number. Now there are just 24 residents, who have quite a drive to get to shops, and many of the houses are second homes. The previous prosperity allowed free education for all the children in Lois, and later we saw two former school buildings. The bias towards males in the population survey was offset a little in the church by female figures and artwork showing four women from the Old Testament. Walls and pavement cracks were rich in wild flowers.

We then visited the historic ‘smoke house’, the home of ‘Noris’ – Honorino Alvarez Gonzalez – until he died, aged 90, in 1999. This is a rare surviving example of a house with a thatched roof that was preserved by smoke from a chimney-less house. It was re-roofed a couple of years ago, but it seems not very well, as the roof leaked after a storm a couple of weeks ago.

We had a brief walk through the village, seeing the Latin school where two members of the Spanish Royal Academy had studied during the 18th century. On the walk back to the minibus, we saw a cardinal butterfly.

Day 8: Sunday 14 June – Santander and home

We left the hotel at the usual time, and our flight times allowed for two half-hour stops on route. The first was an open area with singing skylarks and dozens of Iberian marbled and Esper’s marbled white butterflies on the wings. The blackthorn was surrounded by sloe hairstreaks, and Kate found a great banded grayling. Like many areas we’d seen, it was colourful here with white and beautiful flaxes; there were many lizard orchids and stately looking plants of *Salvia aethiopsis*, Mediterranean sage, plus a few dragonflies (red-veined darters and azure bluet). The second stop was twenty minutes before reaching Santander, where we stopped for coffee and facilities. Then it was just steady driving, first to Santander bus station, where Jill, Brennan and Karin would continue their journey, and then to Santander airport, where the rest had to take a flight. Ryanair’s flight to Stansted was on time, as was Pau’s flight to Valencia.



Esper’s marbled white (PL).

Holiday highlights: These are the holiday highlights nominated by group members.

Brennan	Views of the wallcreeper and peregrine falcon
Kate	Wallcreeper, midwife toads, lovely scenery, and the abundance of lizard orchids
Nigel	Blew me away the diversity: butterfly, orchids, particularly the woodcock orchid, the barbel, martagon lily
Jill	Scenery and the canopy
Ken	Firecrest and dipper, snowfinch
Peter	Firecrest, the large number of species of butterflies, particularly skippers and fritillaries.
Karin	Wallcreeper, adult dipper and juveniles, owl-fly, Iberian water frog, and the variety of flowers
Pau	Landscape; meadows with so many butterflies; alpine birds at Fuente Dé.

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

Great crested grebe	Adult and juvenile on the reservoir at Riaño, 10/6.
Cormorant	1-2 flying past the hotel most days, and on the reservoir at Riaño.
Grey heron	Single birds seen daily, especially flying past the hotel.
Cattle egret	Near Santander on both journeys.
Little egret	Near Santander on both journeys.
Great white egret	1 seen on the river at Boca de Huérgano, 8/6.
Grey heron	Single birds are seen daily, especially flying past the hotel.
White stork	Increase from three to four pairs in Boca de Huérgano and regularly elsewhere.
Mallard	Seen on various days.
Black kite	Seen every day
Egyptian vulture	Seen on two days in the Picos.
Griffon vulture	Seen every day, including the travel days.
Booted eagle	A pale phase in two days
Buzzard	Seen every day.
Common kestrel	Seen on various days
Peregrine	One on 9/6
Yellow-legged gull	Recorded on 10/6.
Woodpigeon	Seen on various days.
Collared dove	Seen only at La Ercina.
Cuckoo	Hear almost every day.
Swift	Seen daily.
Bee-eater	At least on 9/6.
Hoopoe	La Ercina on 9/6.
Great spotted woodpecker	Seen on various days.
Iberian woodpecker	Heard or seen almost daily
Red-backed shrike	Seen on 3 days, at first while driving, then at La Ercina.

Golden oriole	Heard La Encina.
Jay	Seen on various days.
Magpie	Seen daily.
Red-billed chough	Fuente Dé.
Alpine chough	Common at Fuente Dé.
Carrion crow	Seen almost daily.
Raven	Seen on various days..
Great tit	Seen on various days
Marsh tit	Valdeón valley 9/6.
Blue tit	Seen on various days.
Long-tailed tit	Good views al Valdeón.
Barn swallow	Daily.
Red-rumped swallow	1 at the bridge at Boca de Huérgano.
Crag martin	Seen on various days, including at the bridge at Boca de Huérgano.
House martin	Seen daily. Nesting near the bridge at Boca de Huérgano.
Woodlark	Heard 11/6.
Skylark	Singing at the stop on the return journey, 14/6.
Cetti's warbler	Heard on various days
Iberian chiffchaff	Seen on 13/6
Blackcap	Heard daily/seen almost every day.
Garden warbler	Heard daily/seen almost every day.
Whitethroat	Seen best at Riaño's reservoir.
Firecrest	Seen on 13/6
Goldcrest	In pines by the ponds
Dipper	Seen on most visits to the bridge in Boca de Huérgano.
Wren	Heard or seen almost every day.
Wallcreeper	Seen at Fuente Dé, 12/6.
Short-toed treecreeper	Heard 13/6
Spotless starling	Heard or seen on journey days and at La Ercina.
Blackbird	Seen every day.
Song thrush	Heard on four days, occasional glimpses.
Robin	Seen or heard daily.
Nightingale	Heard every day, especially opposite the hotel.
Black redstart	Seen every day, including in Boca de Huérgano.
Common redstart	Seen on three days in Boca de Huérgano, Lois and La Uña
Stonechat	Seen on various days
Northern wheatear	Excellent views at Fuente Dé, 12/6.
House sparrow	Seen daily.
Snowfinch	Excellent views at Fuente Dé, 12/6.
Dunnock	Heard or seen on various days
Alpine accentor	Seen at Fuente Dé, 12/6.
Grey wagtail	Seen on various days, especially from the bridge in Boca de Huérgano.
White wagtail	Seen almost every day.
Tree pipit	Seen and heard on two days.
Water pipit	Displaying well at Fuente Dé, 12/6
Chaffinch	Seen on various days.
Serin	Seen daily, lots in Boca de Huérgano.
Greenfinch	Seen almost daily.
Goldfinch	Seen almost daily.
Siskin	Seen by a few in pines by the ponds, 12/6.
Linnet	Seen daily, family parties in Boca de Huérgano.
Crossbill	One juvenile, 10/6.
Yellowhammer	Seen or heard on various days
Rock bunting	Seen well on Valdeón 11/6.
Corn bunting	Seen lots in La Ercina.

MAMMALS	
Common pipistrelle	Southern/Pyrenean chamois (Isard)
Greater noctule	Spanish ibex
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS	
Wall lizard sp (probably common wall lizard)	Schreiber's green Lizard
Common midwife toad	Iberian water frog
DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES	
Azure bluet / damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
Four-spotted chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>
Broad-bodied chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>
Red-veined darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>
Robust spreadwing	<i>Lestes dryas</i>
Beautiful damselfly	<i>Calopteryx virgo meridionalis</i>
Common darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>

Our butterfly checklist is based on species seen on holidays in several previous years, yet we still had three 'write-ins' among our 69 species, in **bold**, some of which relate to the cool and wet spring this year in the Picos.

BUTTERFLIES	
Mallow skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>
Dingy skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
Iberian grizzled skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>
Oberthur's grizzled skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricus</i>
Olive skipper	<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>
Rosy grizzled skipper	<i>Pyrgus onopordi</i>
Safflower skipper	<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>
Red underwing skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>
Small skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>
Essex skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>
Lulworth skipper	<i>Thymelicus action</i>
Large skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvanus</i>
[Common] swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce swallowtail	<i>Iphiclidus podalirius</i>
Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Black-veined white	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Provence orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis euphenoides</i>
Clouded yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Berger's clouded yellow	<i>Colias australis</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
Cardinal	<i>Pandoriana pandora</i>
Small pearl-bordered fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>
Marsh fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ssp <i>beckeri</i>
Dark green fritillary	<i>Mesoacidalia aglajae</i>
High brown fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>
Queen of Spain fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Twin-spot fritillary	<i>Brenthis hecate</i>
Knapweed fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>

Glanville fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>
Provençal fritillary	<i>Melitaea dejone</i>
Lesser spotted fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>
Meadow fritillary	<i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>
Marbled fritillary	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
Iberian marbled white	<i>Melanargia lachesis</i>
Esper's marbled white	<i>Melanargia russiae</i>
Chapman's ringlet	<i>Erebia palarica</i>
Great banded grayling	<i>Britesia circe</i>
Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Spanish gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>
Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Pearly heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>
Spanish chestnut heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>
Southern speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>
Large wall brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>
Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Spanish purple hairstreak	<i>Lacosopsis roboris</i>
Sloe hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>
Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Small copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Iberian sooty copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>
Purple-shot copper	<i>Heodes alciphron</i>
Long-tailed blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
Small blue/Little blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Silver-studded blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>
Idas blue	<i>Lycaedes idas</i>
Southern brown argus	<i>Aricia cramera</i>
Mazarine blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>
Black-eyed blue	<i>Glaucopsyche melanops</i>
Common blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Chapman's blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>
Adonis blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>
Gavarnie blue	<i>Agriades pyrenaicus</i>



Meadow fritillary (left) and Glanville fritillary (PL).

MOTHS	
Black-veined white	<i>Siona lineata</i>
Speckled yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>
Southern 6-spot burnet	<i>Zygaena transalpina</i>
Other invertebrates	
Violet carpenter bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Owl-fly or ascalaphid	<i>Libelloides coccajus</i>
A burnet moth	<i>Zygaena fausta</i>
Hummingbird hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Chimney sweeper	<i>Odezia atrata</i>
Forester moth	<i>Adscita sp</i>
Wood tiger moth	<i>Parasemia plantaginis</i>
Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>

PLANTS

Any plant list relates partly to what you find but also how much effort is put into naming and listing. So, for example, we didn't put much effort into trees, or speedwells, or grasses.

NiF = not in flower		Fagaceae Oak and Beech Family	
FERNS		<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair spleenwort	<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean oak
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	Moonwort	Gentianaceae Gentian Family	
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rusty-backed fern	<i>Gentiana angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>corbariensis</i>	Pyrenean Trumpet Gentian
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad buckler fern	<i>Gentiana lutea</i>	Great Yellow Gentian NiF
CONIFERS		Globulariaceae Globularia Family	
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	<i>Globularia repens</i>	Creeping globularia
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	Hypericaceae St. John's Worts	
<i>Pinus (mugo) uncinata</i>	Creeping or mountain pine	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's wort
Dicotyledons		Lamiaceae (=Labiatae) Mint Family	
Apiaceae (Umbellifers) Carrot Family (incomplete)		<i>Prunella laciniata</i>	Cut-leaved self-heal
<i>Eryngium bourgatii</i>	Pyrenean sea holly	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	Mediterranean sage
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	<i>Teucrium pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean germander NiF
<i>Astrantia major</i>	Masterwort	<i>Thymus</i> sp	Wild thyme
<i>Thapsia villosa</i>	Villous deadly carrot	<i>Thymus camphorus</i>	Camphor thyme
Asteraceae (Compositae) Daisy family		Lentibulariaceae Butterwort Family	
<i>Andryala integrifolia</i>		<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered butterwort
<i>Catananche caerulea</i>	Cupideon	Linaceae Flax Family	
<i>Centaurea lagascana</i>	(yellow, stemless)	<i>Linum narbonense</i>	Beautiful flax
<i>Centaurea montana</i>	Perennial (or mountain) cornflower	<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale flax
<i>Crepis pygmaea</i>		<i>Linum (suffruticosum).</i> <i>salsoloides</i>	Pyrenean/white flax
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard	Oleaceae Olive & Lilac Family	
Boraginaceae Forget-me-not Family		<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	Onograceae Willowherb Family	
<i>Lithodora difussa</i>	Purple Gromwell	<i>Oenothera glazoviana</i>	Large-flowered evening primrose
<i>Myosotis alpina</i>	Alpine forget-me-not	Orobanchaceae Broomrape Family	
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green alkanet	<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater broomrape
Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) Cabbage Family		Papaveraceae Poppy Family	
<i>Cardamine raphanifolia</i>	Large (or radish-leaved) cuckoo flower	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine
<i>Erysimum mayorii</i>	A wallflower	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy
Campanulaceae Bellflower Family		Plantaginaceae Plantain Family	
<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	Peach-leaved Bellflower	<i>Plantago alpina</i>	
<i>Jasione laevis</i> ssp. <i>carpentana</i>	a local sheep's-bit, 'botón azul'	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family (inc. Adoxaceae)		<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	Plumbaginaceae Thrift Family	
Caryophyllacea Pink Family		<i>Armeria cantabrica</i>	(= <i>Armeria maritima</i> ssp. <i>alpina</i>)
<i>Arenaria purpurascens</i>	Pink sandwort	Polygonaceae Knotweed Family	
Cistaceae Rock-rose family		<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	Bistort
<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White rockrose	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's sorrel
<i>Helianthemum nummularian</i>	Common rockrose	Primulaceae Primrose Family	
Convolvulaceae Bindweed Family		<i>Androsace villosa</i>	Ciliate rock-jasmine
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder	<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip NiF
Corylaceae Hazel Family		Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family	
<i>Corylus avellane</i>	Hazel	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine
Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family		<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking hellebore
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting stonecrop	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup
Disacaceae, Teasel/scabious Family		<i>Ranunculus</i> sp	Water crowfoot
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	<i>Ranunculus bulbosa</i>	Bulbous buttercup
Ericaceae, Heath Family		<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling	Resedaceae Mignonette Family	
Fabaceae (Leguminosae) Pea Family		<i>Reseda alba</i>	White mignonette
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>pyrenaica</i>	Kidney vetch (pink)	Rhamnaceae Buckthorn Family	
<i>Genista legionensis</i>	Picos greenweed, small, highly branched, semi-woody thorny shrub	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	Alder buckthorn
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> ssp. <i>carpentanus</i>	Birdsfoot trefoil	Rosaceae Rose Family	
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>		<i>Agrimonia euphatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water avens
		<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
		<i>Potentilla repens</i>	Creeping cinquefoil
		<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn

<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	MONOCOTYLEDONS	
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet	Liliaceae Lily Family	
Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family		<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White asphodel
<i>Asperula hirta</i>	Squinancywort	<i>Erythronium dens-canis</i>	Dog's-tooth violet NiF
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath bedstraw	<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon lily NiF
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Verbatrum album</i>	False white helleborine
Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family		Orchidaceae Orchid Family	
<i>Saxifraga canaliculata</i>	Cantabrian saxifrage	<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man orchid
Scrophulariaceae (inc. Antirrhinaceae) Figwort Family		<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid
<i>Digitalis parviflora</i>	Small-flowered foxglove	<i>Dactylorhiza elata</i>	Robust marsh orchid
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	var. <i>iberica</i>	
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy foxglove	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath spotted orchid
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp	Eyebright	<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	Broad-leaved marsh orchid
<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine toadflax	<i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>	Dark red-leaved helleborine
<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	Small cow-wheat	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant orchid
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Common lousewort	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard orchid
<i>Pedicularis verticillata</i>	Whorled or verticillate lousewort	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee orchid
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow rattle	<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock orchid
<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	Hoary mullein	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early spider orchid
Tiliaceae Lime Family		<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly orchid
<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Common lime	<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged orchid
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver lime (planted)	<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt-tip orchid
Valerianaceae Valerian Family		<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser butterfly orchid
<i>Centranthus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved red valerian	<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue orchid
<i>Valeriana pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean valerian	Sedge and grasses (very incomplete)	
Violaceae Violet Family		<i>Aegilops geniculata</i>	Ovate goatgrass
<i>Viola cornuta</i>	Horned pansy	<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass
Viscaceae Mistletoe Family		<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's tail
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot



Flower collage, photos by Kate Thompson and Nigel Harding. Top: heath spotted orchid (NH), martagon lily (KT), lizard orchid (KT), bistort (KT). Bottom: horned pansy (NH), *Erysimum mayorii*, a wallflower (NH), a squinancywort *Asperula hirta* (NH), man orchid (KT).