

South of Salamanca Honeyguide holiday 6th - 14th May 2025 Itinerary



Salvatierra de Tormes, the reservoir and the mountains of the Sierra de Bejar

Day 1 Tuesday May 6th – Stansted 09:30 – MAD 12:55. Stop for light lunch on the way. Arrive **Salvatierra de Tormes** late afternoon. Staying at Hotel Salvatierra Rural, Salvatierra de Tormes
Welcoming party at hotel from 5pm. Evening walk around the village.



Hotel Salvatierra Rural



Castle ruins at Salvatierra.

Day 2 Wednesday May 7th – Reservoir and mosaic area, and Tormes riverside area

Walk around Salvatierra area. Coffee back at hotel. Walk through mosaic landscape near village of Navahombela. **Light lunch** at **Restaurante La Pedriza** in La Tala. Down to the river near Cespedosa to check for interesting plants.

Orchids *Orchis champagneuxii* and *Orchis mascula*; Spanish lavender *Lavandula pedunculata*; Grape hyacinth *Muscari comosum*, small white rock-rose *Helianthemum violaceum*, Umbrella milkwort *Tolpis barbata*, Spanish lupin *Lupinus angustifolia*, *Adenocarpus argyrophyllus*.

Brown argus, Clouded yellow, Iberian Knapweed fritillary, Sooty copper
Serin, Black Kite, Booted eagle, Crested lark, Thekla lark, Rock sparrow, Spanish sparrow, Subalpine & W. Orphean warblers, Turtle Dove, Spanish sparrow, Nightingale, Golden eagle, Melodious warbler, Northern wheatear.



Spanish sparrow



Umbrella milkwort



Melodious warbler

Day 3 Thursday May 8th - Miranda del Castañar, San Estéban de la Sierra, Sierra de Francia Natural Park.

We'll head west, stopping off on the way to look at a traditional open-air stone wine-press. Then coffee in the medieval village of **Miranda del Castañar** and a walk between vineyards. Lunch will be at **El Pipero** followed by a visit to the village of San Estéban and a walk near the Alagon river.

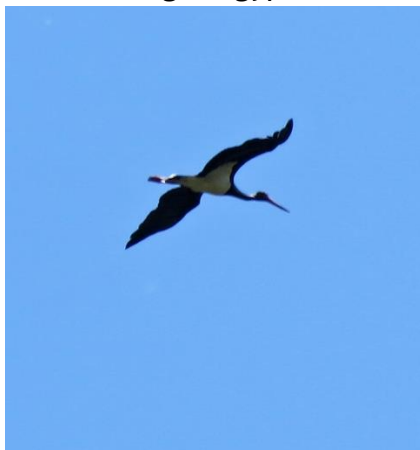
Linaria amethystea; *Aristolochia paucinervis*; Spanish Valerian *Centranthus calcitrapae*, *Arbutus unedo*; *Ruscus aculeatus*; Solomon's seal *Polygonatum odoratum*; Blue pimpernel *Anagallis monelli*, Daisy-leaved toadflax *Anarrhinum bellidifolium*, Narrow leaved helleborine orchid *Cephalanthera longifolia*.

Spanish festoon, Moroccan orange-tip, Scarce swallowtail, Lang's short-tailed blue.

Sardinian warbler, Redstart, Red-rumped swallow, Hawfinch, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Black stork, Iberian magpie, W. Bonelli's warbler, Booted eagle, Egyptian vulture, Griffon vulture, Black Vulture.



Miranda del Castañar



Black stork



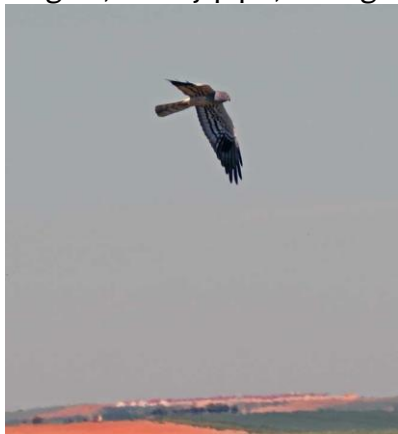
Spanish festoon

Day 4 Friday May 9th - Campo de Alba SPA, River Tormes Alba and Berrocal

We'll go east to a cereal area, via the reservoir dam, with a short stop on banks for wild flowers and aquatics. In the cereal area we'll look out for steppe-land species, including harriers and short-toed larks. We'll have coffee in Alba and then a riverside walk before our **picnic** by the river. After lunch we'll go to Berrocal to look for Black-eared wheatear, Bee-eater and Stone curlew amongst its singular jagged slate outcrops.

Egyptian rockrose *Helianthemum aegyptiacum*, Undulated Bugloss *Anchusa undulata*, Silvery Whitlow wort *Paronychia argentea*.

Montagu's harrier, Hen harrier, Marsh harrier, Lesser kestrel, Calandra lark, Short-toed lark, Yellow wagtail, Tawny pipit, Zitting cisticola, Penduline tit, Bee-eater, Stone curlew, Black-eared wheatear.



Montagu's harrier



Iberian yellow wagtail



Berrocal area

Day 5 Saturday May 10th - Sangusin & Alagon. Sierra de Bejar & Francia Biosphere reserve

We'll head south west towards the Sierras de Bejar, stopping at some granite boulders to look for orchids and warblers. After a coffee break we'll go on to Horcajo de Montemayor in the Sangusin valley, where we'll wander amongst Ash groves, looking out for Bee-eaters, Golden Oriole and the elusive Black stork,

as well as Pond turtles, and a variety of flowers and butterflies. We'll **picnic** by an old mill. After lunch we'll head to the village of Pinedas, for a brief walk overlooking the river Alagon valley.

Orchids *Orchis champagneuxii* and *Serafias lingua*; Rockrose family: *Tuberaria guttata*; *Helianthemum aegyptiacum*; *Cistus ladanifer*; White broom *Retama monosperma*; *Saxifraga geranioides*; Narrow leaved Ash groves: *Paeonia officinalis*; Toad flax *Linaria amethystea* sbsp *amethystea*; *Aristolochia paucinervis*; Alagon valley: Gum rockrose *Cistus ladanifer*; Tree heather; *Pistacia terebinthus*; *Arbutus unedos*.

Iberian Knapweed Fritillary, Nettle-tree butterfly, Two-tailed pasha

Red-rumped swallow, Bee-eater, Rock sparrow, Serin, Melodious warbler, Black stork, Egyptian vulture, Griffon vulture, Black vulture, European and Spanish pond turtle, Ocelated lizard.



Granite landscape



Sangusin valley



Nettle-tree butterfly

Day 6 Sunday May 11th - Monleón and Quilamas mountains, Sierra de Bejar & Francia Biosphere reserve.

We'll head west to the pretty medieval walled village of Monleón, which overlooks the River Alagon, then look in a nearby granite meadow. After coffee we'll look for woodland flowers, orchids and raptors in Honfría oak and chestnut woods, and on Pico Cervero mountainside, where we'll have our picnic.

Yellow rockrose *Halimium lasianthum* subsp. *Alyssoides*, Three birds flying *Linaria triornithophora*, *Orchis champagneuxii*, *Valeriana tuberosa*; *Ornithogalum umbellatum*; *Scilla verna*; *Cistus psilosepalus*; *Anthyllis vulneraria gandogerii*; *Paeonia officinalis*; *Orchis mascula*, *Neotinea maculate*.

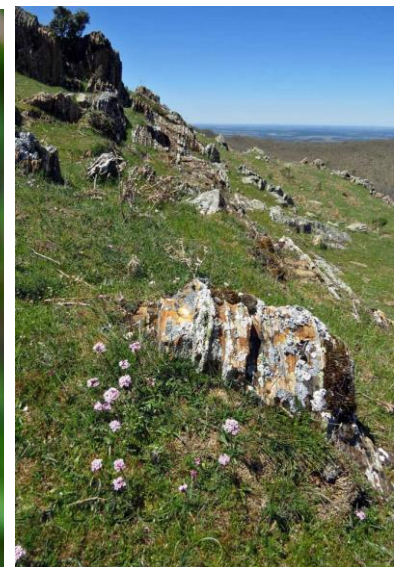
Spanish festoon, Clouded yellow *Colias*, Long-tailed blue, Glanville, Lesser spotted and Niobe fritillaries Nightingale, Red-rumped swallow, Cirl bunting, Blue rock thrush, Woodchat shrike, Firecrest, Bee-eater, Booted eagle, Griffon, Black and Egyptian vulture.



Castle at Monleon



Three birds flying toadflax



Pico Cervero

Day 7 Monday May 12th - River Tormes & Neila de San Miguel

Puente del Congosto, medieval bridge and tower. **Coffee at El Nido.** River Tormes walk amongst Mediterranean maqui. Light **lunch** in the gardens of **El Nido.** Walk amongst ancient chestnuts at village of Neila de San Miguel, peculiar bell tower on top of rock. Riverine woodland, mediterranean scrub,

ancient chestnut groves. *Ornithogalum concinnum* and *Ornithogalum umbellatum*, *Astragalus incanus*, *Matthiola fruticulosa*, *Filago carpetana*, *Brassica oxyrrhina*. Mountain: *Veronica nevadensis*; *Linaria elegans*; *Orchis champagneuxii*, Pale flax *Linum bienne*. *Hispidella hispanica*, *Thapsia villosa*
 Queen of Spain fritillary, Small copper, Lesser spotted fritillary, Bath white, Western dappled white, Cardinal, Scarce swallowtail. Ocelated lizard.
 Subalpine & W. Bonelli's warblers, Black Kite, Booted eagle, Iberian magpie, Thekla lark, Golden Eagle, Black vulture, Melodious warbler, Golden Oriole, Crag martin, Blue rock thrush, Serin, Short-toed eagle, Rock bunting, Nightingale.



Medieval bridge Puente del Congosto



Astragalus and Rockrose



Lesser spotted fritillary

Day 8 Tuesday May 13th - Sierra de Bejar, Biosphere Reserve & Candelario

Trip up the Sierra de Bejar mountain to look for Bluethroat and Ortolan bunting, followed by a butterfly and botanical walk in the nearby village of Navacarros. **Coffee in Candelario.** Explore on edge of Pine forest where we will have **picnic** halfway up Candelario mountain. Up to the top for views and birds, then if there's time a brief woodland walk in the Dehesa de Candelario.

High mountain, mountain pasture Pine & Oak forests.

Narcissus rupicola and *Narcissus bulbocodium* *Leucanthemopsis pulverulenta* *Ranunculus abnormis*; *Pedicularis sylvatica*; *Gagea (nevadensis?)* Insect: *Pycnogaster sp.cf. jugicol*

Queen of Spain, Glanville, Marsh and Knapweed fritillaries, Green-underside blue

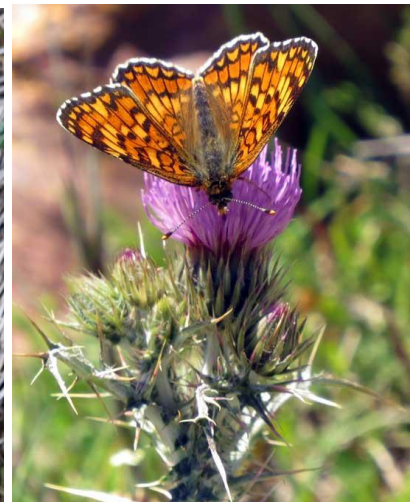
Rock thrush, Ortolan bunting, Bluethroat, Pallid swift, Water pipit, Black vulture, Crested tit, Iberian Pied flycatcher, W. Bonelli's warbler.



Rock thrush



Narcissus rupicola



Iberian Knapweed Fritillary

Day 9 Wednesday May 14th – Departure to Madrid. MAD 19:50 – arrive Stansted 21:20