

Southern Portugal

Wildlife at Leisure

A Greentours Trip Report

24th – 31st March 2026

Led by Lara Broom



Pictures: upper by client Eric, below by Lara

Tuesday - day 1

All the flights arrived in time after lunch and very quickly we headed into Alte hotel, a 40min drive from Faro airport. Our rooms were ready so we checked in and after a beer and coffee at the hotel bar, we had time for a walk behind the hotel where we saw our first orchids of the trip as well as butterflies, Spanish Festoon being the highlight.

Wednesday - day 2

Our first full day started in Fonte Benémola. A couple of Great-spotted woodpeckers greeted us as we initiated our walk which ran along a path full of wild orchids and the constant sound of Serins.

We had coffee in a local café in a new golf resort and then headed to Barranco do Velho where we had our picnic lunch surrounded by cork oak trees near a church. We then explored from there and walked along a path with boards set up by a butterfly conservation NGO.

On the way back to Alte we stopped to admire a wild peony in flower by the road, and later on, we stopped again to look at a big patch of nice orchids where we met an English couple also looking at them.

Thursday - day 3

The day was going to be very warm, and we started by going up to Paderne castle. Back down, we parked the car under the motorway and walked along the river to the old bridge. Just as we arrived at our picnic spot one Hoopoe showed well but flew away as soon as we left the van. We had coffee in Alte at a local coffee shop owned by some nice ladies and tried their cakes made out of carob flour. We went to Rocha da Pena where one single Griffon Vulture flew over, and we saw more peonies in flower.

Friday – day 4

We started the day by heading to Monchique but before arriving at the top we stopped in Meia Viana, at a small cork oak forest, where we had amazing views of Common Redstart, and saw some fritillarias that were just about to flower. We arrived at the top, the Fóia viewpoint and a Rock Bunting greeted us. We admired the clear views from the top, and had a wander around seeing Ring Ouzel and Dartford Warbler. We had our picnic and went for a coffee whilst the Rock Bunting behaved like House Sparrows under the café tables. We then headed to Lagoa dos Salgados, and stopped on the way to admire the White Storks nests. The Salgados lagoon was quiet bird-wise but we still managed to see a recently arrived Purple Heron, a Yellow Wagtail, and a few Pochards and Audouin's gulls and the small endemic flower *Linaria Algarviana*.

Saturday - day 5

Today we headed south-west to explore the Sagres peninsula. Our first stop was a strategic one by a coffee shop, but that also had an orchid hiding under a bush, *Gennaria Dyphila* and a very nice Woodchat Shrike. We then headed to the Cape St Vincent, before it got busy with tourists. One juvenile Peregrine Falcon was around and we admired the Gannets passing through as well as a Shag on the rocks. We had our lunch at the famous Cabranosa spot, where Bee-eaters were flying by and the small pond was attracting the birds. We had coffee and ice cream in town and then headed to Budens to explore the marsh. Just as we arrived we could hear the Savi's warbler.

Sunday – Day 6

Today we headed north to Castro verde where our goal was to see Great Bustards and the many other birds that inhabit this steppe-like habitat. We started by going to Viseu and Guerreiros where on the way we had amazing views of Montagu's Harrier, and fleeting views of Spanish Imperial Eagle and Little Bustard. We stopped briefly in São Marcos and then headed up into Aracelis Church for a picnic and a coffee at the nearby town. We headed to Entradas where we stopped at Ribeira de Cobres when a Golden Eagle and a Cinereous Vulture flew over. On the way back we had a brief stop at a dam, not much of note on the water, but Lara's colleague, Hugo, who had joined us for the day, found an Iberian Ribbed Newt under a rock!

Monday – Day 7

On our last day in the Algarve we went to Quinta do Lago. We arrived and saw a group of Spoonbills at the beach, then went to the lake. There was a big group of children at the bird hide so we decided to go look for the chameleon, but no luck there. We continued on and had lunch at the old fish salt tanks. Further on we encountered a big group of Flamingos at the salt pans, as well as Black-winged Stilts. One Alpine Swift flew over. Back at the lake, the big group had left and finally we had views of one Little Bittern and a big group of Night Heron going over the lake. We ended the day and the week in Alte town where we had coffee and cake and then walked to the famous water fountains in town.

Tuesday – Day 8

It was unfortunately time to leave the group at the airport as everyone had morning flights back home.

Systematic List Number 1 Birds

1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>							X	
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>								
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>								
4	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>								
5	Mediterranean Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>								
6	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>					X			
7	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>							X	
8	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>					X			

9	Common Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>								
10	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>							X	
11	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>							X	
12	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>								
13	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			X		X	X		
14	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						X	X	
15	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					X			
16	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				X				
17	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>								
18	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>				X	X	X	X	
19	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>								
20	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						x	X	
21	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>							X	

GREAT WHITE EGRET

X

22	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>								
23	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>							X	
24	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>								

25	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>							X	
26	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>							X	
27	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				X	X	x	X	
28	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>								
29	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>								
30	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>							X	
31	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>								
32	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>							X	
33	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				X			X	
34	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>								
35	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>								
36	White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>								

37	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>								
38	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>						X		
39	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>						X		
40	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>								
41	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			X			X		
42	Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>						X		
43	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		X	X		X	X		
44	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>								
45	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>								
46	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						x		
47	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>								
48	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>								
49	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>						X		
50	Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila (heliaca) adalberti</i>						X		
51	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>						X		

52	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								
53	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>								
54	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							X	

55	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>						X		
56	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X	X		X	X		
57	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>								
58	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					x			

59	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		H			X	x		
60	Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>								
61	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>								

62	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>								
63	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>								
64	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				X			X	
65	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>								
66	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>								
67	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>								

68	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>								
69	Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>						X		
70	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>						x		

71	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>								
72	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>							X	
73	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>							X	
74	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>								
75	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>								

76	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				X				
77	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							X	
78	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>							X	
79	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							X	
80	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>								
81	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							X	
82	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>								
83	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>								
84	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								
85	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>							X	
86	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>								
87	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>								
88	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>								
89	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>								
90	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>							X	
91	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								
92	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>								
93	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							X	
94	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								
95	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>								
96	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>								
97	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							X	
98	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>							X	

99	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>								
100	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>								
101	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>							X	
102	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>								
103	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>								

104	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>								
105	Yellow-legged Herring Gull	<i>Larus (argentatus) cachinnans</i>				X	X		X	
106	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>								

Audouin's gull

X

X

107	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>								
108	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>								
109	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>								
110	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>								
111	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>								
112	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>								
113	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>								
114	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>								
115	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>								

116	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>								
117	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>								

118	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>								
119	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>								
120	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			X					
121	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>								
122	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			X			X	X	
123	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	x	X	X	x	X	X	X	
124	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>								

125	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>								
126	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>					H			

127	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>								
128	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>								
129	Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>								
130	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		H	H	H	H			
131	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>								
132	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>								
133	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>								
134	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>								

135	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>								
136	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>			X					
137	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>							X	
138	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>								

139

140	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>								
141	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>						x		
142	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>								
143	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		X	X		X		X	
144	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>								
145	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridus</i>		H		H				
146	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		X		X				

147	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>						X		
148	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>								
149	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>								
150	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			X	X				
151	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>					X	x		

152	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				X	X			
153	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>								

154	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>								
155	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonopragne rupestris</i>		X						
156	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
157	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
158	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	X	X	X				X	

159	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								
160	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>								
161	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>								
162	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>								
163	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>								
164	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergii</i>				X				
165	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			X					
166	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		X						

167	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				X				
168	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>								
169	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>								

170	Rufous Bush Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>								
171	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		X						
172	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>						H		
173	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochuros</i>								
174	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				X				
175	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>								

176	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>				X	X	X		
177	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						X		
178	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>								
179	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>								
180	Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>								
181	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			X	X				
182	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
183	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>								
184	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>								

185	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	H				H	
186	Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		X		X	X	X		
187	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					X			
188	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>								
189	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>								
190	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			X	X			H	
191	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>								
192	Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>								
193	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>								
194	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>				X				
195	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>								
196	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>					X			
197	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	
198	Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>								
199	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>								
200	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>								

201	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>								
202	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		X					H	
203	Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>								
204	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>								
205	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	X		X		X	X	X	
206	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							X	

IBERIAN

X

CHIFFCHAFF

207	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>								
208	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>								

209	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>								
210	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>								

211	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>								
212	Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>								
213	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>								
214	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	X	X	X	X				
215	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	x	X	X	X				
216	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				X				
217	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		X		H				
218	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulnius</i>								

219	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>								
220	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>								
221	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>L. excubitor meridionalis</i>						X		
222	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>					X	X		

223	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	x	X		X	X			
-----	-----	----------------------------	---	---	--	---	---	--	--	--

224	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	
225	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			X	X		X	X	
226	Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>					X			
227	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>								
228	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>								
229	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>						X		
230	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		H				X		
231	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>								
232	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>			X	X	X	X	X	

233	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
234	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		X				X		
235	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>								
236	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>								

237	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				H				
238	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>								
239	Serín	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		X	X				X	
240	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		X			H			
241	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	
242	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>								
243	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				X		X		
244	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>								
245	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>								

246	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>								
-----	--------------	----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

247	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>								
248	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				X				

Systematic List Number 2 Flowers

A list of species recorded

Boraginaceae

Lithodora prostrata

Orobanchaceae

Cistanche phelypaea

Paeoniaceae

Paeonia broteri

Scrophulariaceae

Linaria algarviana

Amaryllidaceae

Narcissus bulbocodium

Narcissus jonquilla

Iridaceae

Gynandriris sisyrinchium

Liliaceae

Scilla peruviana

Orchidaceae

Cephalanthera longifolia

Limodorum abortivum

Aceras anthropophorum

Gemmaria diphylla

Ophrys bombyliflora

Ophrys speculum

Ophrys tenthredinifera

Ophrys fusca

Ophrys lutea

Orchis morio

Orchis italica

Serapias lingua

Serapias parviflora

Systematic List Number 3 Butterflies

	Papilionidae														
1	Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	X	X		X	X								
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>													
3	Spanish Festoon	<i>Zerynthia rumina</i>	X	X	X				X						

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]

Others:

Indian milkweed bug

Iberian water frog

Oil Beetle sp.

Egyptian locust (*Anacridium aegyptium*)

Moorish gecko

Striped shield bug

Emperor dragonfly

Spanish terrapin

Viperine water snake

Scolopendra cingulata

Iberian Ribbed Newt

Iberian Hare

Western Psammmodromus

Goblet-marked Damselfly (*Erythromma lindenia*)

Black-tailed skimmer

Red-veined darter

Florida pond turtle

Jumping Spider (*Carrhotus xanthogramma*)