



# HOLIDAY CALENDAR 2017 - 2018

Dates	Location	Description	Price
15 – 30 Oct	Peru	Butterflies of Manu in Southern Peru	£4,795
2 – 9 Nov	West Africa	Birds of the Gambia with highly rated guide Malick Suso	£1,350
20 – 27 Nov	Cyprus	Autumn flora and other wildlife in Cyprus	£995
3 Dec	Sheppey, UK	Raptor Spectacular with Richard Taylor-Jones	£90
6 - 13 Jan	Greece	Dalmatian Pelicans & other birds of Lake Kerkini in winter	£995
17 – 31 Jan	South Africa	Flora of The Drakensberg	£3,795
5 – 13 Mar	Cyprus	Cyprus in Spring for flowers, butterflies & birds	£1,245
20 Mar – 3 Apr	South Africa	Butterflies of South Africa with Steve Woodhall	£2,995
5 – 12 Apr	Rhodes, Greece	Orchid Odyssey for a wealth of orchids & other flora	£1,245
9 – 16 Apr	Greece	False Apollo & other spring delights with Martin Warren	£1,245
10 – 17 Apr	Crete, Greece	Exploration of western Crete for its rich spring flora	£1,245
13 – 20 Apr	Samos, Greece	Week of general wildlife on an unspoilt Greek island	£1,245
24 Apr – 1 May	Istria	Spring wildlife in Istria – Flowers, birds and butterflies	£1,195
11 – 25 May	Panama	Butterflies of Panama with Adrian Hoskins	£3,095
12 - 19 May	Greece	The rich birdlife of Lake Kerkini, north Greece, in spring	£995
21 – 25 May	Suffolk, England	Birds of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths	£795
24 – 31 May	France	Eastern French Pyrenees for spring butterflies & flowers	£1,245
1 – 8 Jun	Sweden	Gotland: The Pearl of The Baltic	£1,345
8 – 15 Jun	Greece	A bonanza of butterflies & birds in northern Greece	£1,245
15 – 18 Jun	England	Swallowtail weekend with Patrick Barkham	£695
20 – 27 Jun	France	Explore the wildlife rich area of 'La Brenne at Leisure'	£1,275
20 – 27 Jun	Croatia	Butterflies of Croatia (can be combined with Hungary)	£1,295
22 – 29 Jun	Estonia	A butterfly and botanical tour of Estonia	£1,275
23 – 30 Jun	Greece	Butterflies of southern Greece with Richard Lewington	£1,345
23 Jun - Jul	Bulgaria	Butterflies & Flowers of Bulgaria	£1,245
28 Jun – 5 Jul	Hungary	Butterflies in Bükk and Aggtelek National Parks	£1,245
28 Jun – 8 Jul	Macedonia	Butterfly photography in Macedonia	£1,595
30 Jun – 7 Jul	France	Butterflies & Flowers of the French Alps	£1,295
8 – 15 Jul	France	Moths & Butterflies of Queyras with Tristan Lafranchis	£1,395
14 – 22 July	Turkey	Butterflies of The Kaçkar Mountains	£1,395
28 Jul – 4 Aug	Spain	Butterflies of the Montes Universales	£1,295
27 – 31 Aug	Sweden	Falsterbo – Mass Migration	£895
21 – 28 Oct	Greece	Autumn Flora of the Peloponnese	£1,195











#### **Butterflies of Peru**

**Dates** 15 – 30 October 2017

**Price** £4,795

Leaders: David Geale

- Staggering diversity of butterflies and other wildlife in the Manu Biosphere Reserve - one of the most wildlife rich places in the world!
- Enjoy several hundred butterfly species and perhaps as many as 500, from the 2,500 known species in the part of Peru we'll be exploring
- A not to be missed opportunity to go butterflying with expert guide David Geale, who is also a superb & vastly experienced bird guide
- Relaxed pace ideally suited to photography
- Improve your butterfly photography with hints & tips from David
- Contribute to Butterfly Conservation















# Cyprus in Autumn

**Dates** 20 – 27 November 2017 **Price** £995 Special Birdfair Baraain!

Leaders: Dr Yiannis Christofides (a second guide will accompany large groups)

- Get A chance to relax and enjoy some late sunshine and wildlife
- Led by Yiannis Christofides Cyprus resident and expert on the islands flora
- Enjoy a show of autumn flowering bulbs such as the relatively common Narcissus serotinus, the strange Euphorbia dimorphocaulon, and the endemics Crocus veneris, Taraxacum aphrogenes and Cyclamen
- Plenty of other wildlife of interest to be seen, including resident Tree Frogs at the hotel, Finch's Wheatear, several butterflies on the wing still and Troodos and Snake-eyed Lizards

### **Sheppey Raptor Spectacular!**

Dates 3 December 2017

Price £90

**Leaders:** Richard Taylor-Jones

- Rare & exclusive opportunity to spend the day with leading wildlife cameraman & TV presenter Richard Taylor-Jones
- Visit the Isle of Sheppey one of the best raptor hotspots in the UK!
- Chance of many superb raptor species Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier, Buzzard, Kestrel, Barn Owl etc.
- Elmley National Nature Reserve, including private visit to Marsh Harrier roost site!
- Huge numbers of waders & wildfowl to enjoy too
- As featured on BBC Countryfile Winter Special
- Relaxed style and slow pace perfect for enjoying the birds & being there in a wonderful location!

#### Birds of Lake Kerkini in Winter

**Dates** 6 – 13 January 2018

Price £995 Special Birdfair Bargain!

**Leaders:** George Spiridakis (a second guide will accompany large groups)

- Visit the best site in the world for Dalmatian Pelican
- 100-120 bird species possible during our stay
- Waterfowl include Ferruginous duck, Smew, Red-crested Pochard, Common Merganser, Pygmy Cormorant, Greater Flamingo, Black Stork, White headed
- Raptors such as Greater Spotted Eagle, Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Hen Harrier, Eastern Imperial Eagle
- Woodpeckers Black, Syrian, Middle, Grey, Green, Great Spotted, Lesser Spotted & White-backed
- Other species such as Great Grey Shrike, Rock Nuthatch, Rock Bunting, Hawfinch, Sombre Tit and Eagle Owl















# Flowers of the Drakensberg in South Africa

**Dates** 17 – 31 January 2018

**Price** £3,795

Leaders: Dr Yiannis Christofides + local guide

- A veritable treasure trove of flowers with over 2000 species and several hundred endemics!
- One of the largest alpine zones in South Africa & we'll visit to take advantage of peak summer flowering
- Explore world famous landscapes and locations such as the Sani Pass, Giant's Castle and the Golden Gate National Park
- Plenty of other wonderful wildlife such as the Drakensberg Rockjumper, Bush Beauty butterfly, White Rhino, Malachite and Greater Double-collared Sunbirds plus lots
- Relaxed pace suitable for photography & full enjoyment of the area for its scenery and wildlife

## Cyprus in Spring

**Dates** 5 – 13 March 2018

**Price** £1,245

**Leaders:** Dr Yiannis Christofides

- Get an early spring flower feast in the Med a profusion of flower meadows, orchids and bulbs!
- Endemic Paphos blue, Cleopatra, Eastern Festoon and other butterflies
- Good selection of early migrant and resident birds
- Led by local naturalist, author of 'Orchids of Cyprus' & very popular guide Dr Yiannis Christofides
- Beach front hotel and gentle walks in the spectacular landscape of the Akamas peninsula
- A visit to the Troodos foothills for interesting geology and Moufflon
- Tombs of the Kings and Paphos mosaics

# **Orchid Odyssey**

**Dates** 5 – 12 April 2018

**Price** £1,245

**Leaders:** Dr Yiannis Christofides (a second leader will join for a larger group)

- Visit Rhodes with us to discover its less known parts & wonders of the natural
- Discover 40-50 of the 70+ Orchid species present on the island of Rhodes
- Endemic / regional Orchid species such as the Colossus Orchid and Kina Ferdinand's Orchid
- 1,490 of plant species on a small island, including rare & endemic specialities such as the Rhodes Peony & Rhodes Fritillary
- Enjoy spring butterflies, such as Lesser Fiery Copper, an endemic form of the Cleopatra, Green Underside Blue, Large Wall Brown, and both Scarce and European Swallowtail
- Led by our expert botanist Dr Yiannis Christofides















### False Apollo & Early Spring Butterflies in North Greece

**Dates** 9 - 16 April 2018

**Price** £1,245

Leaders: Dr Martin Warren & Dr Michael de Courcy Williams

- Look for one of the most beautiful and rare butterflies in Europe plenty seen during our 2017 tour
- Numerous other spring butterflies such as Eastern & Southern Festoon, Grecian Copper, Gruner's Orange Tip, Powdered Brimstone, Krueper's Small White, Eastern Greenish Black Tip, Eastern Wood White, Small Bath White, Eastern Baton Blue etc
- Explore a diverse range of habitats in one of the most biodiverse corners of north Greece – forests, gorges, groves, rivers, meadows, maquis & a lot more!
- Led by a local naturalist who knows the area well plus Butterfly Guru Martin Warren – giving you the best chance possible to see False Apollo in all its finery!

### Flowers of Crete

**Dates** 10 – 17 April 2018

**Price** £1,245

Leaders: Sotiris Alexiou (a second guide will accompany large groups)

- See 25+ species of Orchid, including endemic / regional Orchid species such as Orchis prisca, Orchis sitiaca & Ophrys cretica
- 1,600 plant species on the island, including many endemics
- Beautiful carpets of Tulips and Anemones
- Spring butterflies such as the endemic Cretan Festoon
- Walk deep amongst limestone gorges and on high plateaus for a wide range of flora & fauna
- Visit the beautiful old town of Chania, with time to soak up the history & culture of the area
- English speaking guide with bags of knowledge & enthusiasm!

#### Samos

**Dates** 13 – 20 April 2018

**Price** £1,245

**Leaders:** Terry Goble & Dr Yiannis Christofides

- Enjoy a relaxing week on the peaceful & wildlife rich island of Samos
- Great mix of orchids & other spring flowers, butterflies, birds and reptiles
- Some interesting butterflies such as Samos Eastern Festoon, Green-underside Blue & Aegean Meadow Brown. False Apollo may still be on the wing & we Samos Grayling also possible. Moth trapping sessions available at the hotel
- Some great birding Short-toed and Bonelli's Eagles, Long Legged, Common and Honey Buzzard, Eleanora's Falcons and the colour supplied by the European Roller, Bee-eater, Hoopoe and Black-headed Bunting. Other notable species includes Ruppells and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers, Blackeared Wheatears, Masked and Woodchat Shrikes
- Stay in a friendly and family run hotel, serving home cooked using locally sourced ingredients

















## **Butterflies of South Africa**

Dates 20 March – 3 April 2018

**Price** £2.995

Leaders: Steve Woodhall & Callan Cohen

- Exclusive opportunity to go butterflying with Steve Woodhall, the leading butterfly expert in South Africa
- Enjoy a good sample (150 or more) from the 660+ species in South Africa
- Many special species Gold-banded Forester, Emperor Swallowtail, Zulu Shadefly, Forest Queen & King Emperors, Paradise Skipper, Mottled-green Nymph, Fiery Acraea and many more!
- 23 stunning Emperor (Charaxes) species in South Africa we'll see a good number of these!
- Relaxed pace ideally suited to photography
- Possible visit to Kruger National Park for some iconic mammals too!
- Contribute to butterfly conservation in South Africa with LepSoc

### Wildlife of Istria

**Dates** 24 April – 1 May 2018

**Price** £1,195

Leaders: Paul Tout (a second guide will accompany large groups)

- Spring butterflies including Large Tortoishell, Nettle-tree Butterfly, Cleopatra, Small Blue and Southern Festoon
- Spring floral displays in the woods and forests will be at their peak in the second half of April and many migrant birds will also be passing through
- Local breeding birds, including woodpeckers & owls Superb pre-breakfast birding from our hotel, especially woodpeckers
- Led by local guide who knows the area intimately

### Birds of Lake Kerkini in Spring

**Dates** 12 - 19 May 2018

**Price** £995 Special Birdfair Bargain! **Leaders:** Steve Mills & Hilary Koll (BirdWING)

- Visit the best area in Greece for birds
- 150+ bird species possible at a relaxed pace
- Special birds such as Dalmatian Pelican, White Pelican, Pygmy Cormorant, Little Bittern, Squacco Heron, Great Egret and Black & White Stork
- Boat trip on the lake an unforgettable experience!
- Raptors such as Honey Buzzard, Levant Sparrowhawk, Black Kite, Golden, Lesser spotted, White-tailed, Bonelli's & Booted Eagle
- 4 species of shrike
- Possible Eagle Owl, Black Woodpecker, Rock Nuthatch & Alpine Chough
- Led by conservationist team who know the area & its birdlife intimately
- Contribute towards conserving the birds of this special part of Greece













# **Butterflies of Panama**

**Dates** 11 – 25 May 2018

**Price** £3.095

**Leaders:** Adrian Hoskins

- Stay at the famous Canopy Tower & other locations in the Canopy family
- Panama has over 1500 butterfly species & over 700 have been recorded in the areas we'll stay and explore
- Led by Adrian Hoskins butterfly expert, photographer & author of 1000 Butterflies & Butterflies of the World
- Special species are too many to list but a few highlights include Green Regal Hairstreak, Balint's Hairstreak, Glorious Blue-skipper, Blue Doctor, Blomfild's Beauty, Barcastus Firetip, 5 species of Cracker & 4 species of Morpho!
- Other fascinating wildlife such as Sloths, Iguanas, Tanagers, Hummingbirds & other great birds

### **Butterflies & Botany of the French Pyrenees**

**Dates** 24 – 31 May 2018

**Price** £1,245

**Leaders:** David Moore & Dr Yiannis Christofides

- Visit one of the best areas in France for spring butterflies & flowers
- Enjoy 80+ species of butterfly
- Special species Spanish Fritillary, Provencal Fritillary, Spanish Festoon, Chequered Blue, Violet Copper, Spanish Swallowtail and lots more!
- Beautiful mountain scenery adorned by spring flowers
- Natural rock gardens festooned with Saxifrages, Sempervivums, Globularias, Saponaria ocymoides, Dianthus, Gentians, Rampions, Aster alpinus, Rhododendron ferrugineum etc!
- Relaxed pace ideally suited to photography & enjoyment of the wildlife

### Gotland: Pearl of the Baltic

**Dates** 1 - 8 June 2018

**Price** £1,295

**Leaders:** Jon Dunn (a second leader will join larger groups)

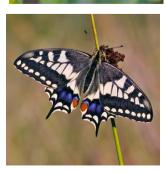
- Visit Gotland, an isolated limestone island that has formed a rich and unique flora & fauna
- 37 out of Sweden's orchids can be found here, including the rare Spitzel's Orchid and the lovely Lady's Slipper Orchid
- Famous seabird colony with thousands of breeding pairs of Guillemots (around 10,000), Black Guillemots, Razorbills (around 8,500 pairs) and a colony of Lesser Black-Backed Gull (ssp fuscus)
- Ruins of Viking Forts, Gothic Churches & medieval villages decorate the landscape, against a floristic backdrop of meadows, woodlands & fens











# **Butterflies & Birds of North Greece**

**Dates** 8 – 15 June 2018

**Price** £1.245

Leaders: Julian Dowding with Steve Mills & Hilary Koll (Birdwing)

- See 80-100+ butterfly species and over 100 bird species in a week of leisurely exploration in a beautiful and habitat diverse part of Greece
- Special species to see, such as Nettle-tree butterfly, Camberwell Beauty, Purple-shot Copper, Eastern Baton Blue, Marbled Fritillary, Freyer's Purple Emperor and Balkan Marbled White.
- Enjoy being serenaded by Golden Orioles and Nightingales, whilst watching birds such as Dalmatian Pelican, Bee-eater, Hoopoe, Lesser Grey Shrike, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Lesser spotted Eagle, Black Kite & Shorttoed Eagle

### Swallowtail Weekend with Patrick Barkham

**Dates** 15 – 18 June 2018

Price £695

**Leaders:** Patrick Barkham

- Explore the Norfolk Broads for the iconic & beautiful British Swallowtail
- Go Led by Patrick Barkham, author of The Butterfly Isles
- Great chance to spend time observing and photographing the British Swallowtail in its only natural habitat in the country
- Visit numerous nature reserves and broads to get a real taste of the areas unique and wonderful habitats
- Other great wildlife to enjoy such as Norfolk Hawker dragonfly, Fen & other Orchids, Milk Parsley, Marsh Harrier, Bittern, Bearded Tit and much more
- At least one moth trapping session to open & view a previous night's catch
- Tranquil trip on an electric 'Swallowtail Safari' boat trip on one of the broads

#### La Brenne at Leisure

**Dates** 20 – 27 June 2018

**Price** £1.295

Leaders: Jason Mitchell

- Enjoy a truly relaxed wildlife holiday with minimal travelling and maximum time in the field
- Rich birdlife, including Bee-eater nesting colonies, Hoopoe, Golden Oriole, Black Kite, Hen Harrier, up to 9 members of the heron family, Whiskered Tern & many more!
- See a good number of the 97 butterfly species recorded in the area such as Camberwell Beauty, Large Chequered Skipper, Lesser Purple Emperor, Map, Woodland Brown, Large & Alcon Blue
- Dragonflies! Almost 70 recorded in La Brenne
- Plenty of flowers too. 36 orchid species recorded in the Park & we should see around 20 of those
- Led by Jason Mitchell, who lives and works in the areas so knows it wildlife intimately















# **Butterflies of Croatia**

**Dates** 20 – 27 June 2018

**Price** £1,245

**Leaders:** Terry Goble (a second guide will join for a larger group)

- See 80 100+ butterfly species from the rich palette of almost 200 in Croatia
- Special species Clouded Apollo, Common Glider, Bright-eyed Ringlet, Little Tiger Blue, Map, Reverdin's Blue, some fantastic fritillaries, and many more!
- Enjoy a diverse mountain flora and spectacular carpets of meadow flowers
- Relaxed pace ideal for photography & just enjoying the wildlife and wonderful surroundings
- Chance to combine with our Hungary butterfly holiday, transfer by road
- Contribute to Butterfly Conservation

### **Butterflies of Estonia**

**Dates** 22 – 29 June 2018

**Price** £1.275

Leaders: Erki Õunap + Jon Dunn

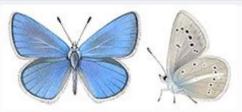
- Enjoy butterflies such as Baltic Grayling, Scarce Heath, Scarce Fritillary, Bog Fritillary, Cranberry Blue, Woodland Brown, Large Copper, Clouded Apollo, Northern Chequered Skipper, Poplar Admiral etc
- A wildlife wilderness featuring a diverse range of habitats including flower rich meadows, natural forests and massive bogs
- Led by the leading lepidopterist in Estonia
- Floral delights too including several orchids such as the beautiful Lady's Slipper Orchid& endemic Saaremaa Marsh Orchid
- Contribute to Butterfly Conservation

#### **Butterflies of Southern Greece**

**Dates** 23 – 30 June 2018

**Price** £1,345

Leaders: Richard Lewington & Julian Dowding



- Visit two famous butterfly rich mountains in southern Greece Mt. Chelmos & Mt. Parnassos
- Rare opportunity to go butterflying with celebrated illustrator & naturalist Richard Lewington!
- See 80 100+ butterfly species
- A good number of local and endemic species to encounter
- Special species Chelmos Blue, Zephyr Blue, Iolas Blue, Pontic Blue Odd-spot Blue, Grass Jewel, Southern Swallowtail, Two-tailed Pasha and many more!
- Enter the centre of the classical Greek world at Delphi and visit the Temple of Apollo
- Contribute to Butterfly Conservation















# **Butterflies of Hungary**

**Dates** 28 June – 5 July 2018

**Price** £1,245

**Leaders:** Terry Goble (a second guide will join for a larger group)

- Enjoy a good number of the near 200 butterfly species in Hungary
- Special species include Hungarian & Common Glider, Pallas's Fritillary, Poplar Admiral, Woodland Brown, Large Blue, Iolas Blue & Turquoise Blue!
- Visit two stunning National Parks in some of the best butterflying areas in Central Europe
- Small group and relaxed pace
- Ideal for photography
- Chance to combine with our Crotia butterfly holiday, transfer by road
- Contribute to Butterfly Conservation

### **Butterflies of Macedonia**

**Dates** 28 Jun – 8 July 2018

**Price** £1.545

**Leaders:** Adrian Hoskins

- A gentle paced butterfly photography tour, visiting 3 of the best butterfly areas of Macedonia
- Macedonia has 202 butterfly species of which about 150 occur at the sites we visit
- Visit Pletvar Pass, Pelister National Park and Galichicha National Park
- Led by Adrian Hoskins photographer & author of 1000 Butterflies & Butterflies of the World
- Specifically designed for photographing butterflies
- Very small group size

## **Butterflies of the French Alps**

**Dates** 30 June – 7 July 2018

**Price** £1,295

Leaders: David Moore (a second guide will join larger groups)

- See 100+ butterfly species in a week (120+ species were recorded by our aroups in 2016 & 2017)
- Led by David Moore, a specialist in French butterflies
- Special species Glandon Blue, Mountain Fritillary, Peak White, Apollo, Small Apollo, Safflower Skipper, Large Blue, Alpine Blue, Purple-edged Copper, Mountain Clouded Yellow, Alpine Heath and many more!
- Stunning scenery and rich flora & fauna of the Alpes-Maritimes & Alpes de Haute Provence
- Plenty of time to enjoy the butterflies for recording, photography and just to sit and watch!
- Contribute to Butterfly Conservation



**Dates** 8 – 15 July 2018

**Price** £1.395

Leaders: Tristan & Tatiana Lafranchis

- Enjoy a week in the company of the best butterfly & moth guide in Europe Tristan Lafranchis!
- Explore the jagged peaks and rolling hills of the Queyras, one of the oldest mountain ranges of the Alps and one of the least well known or visited
- Huge range of butterflies to see 137 recorded in 2017!
- Special butterflies to see include Mountain Alcon Blue, Silvery Argus, Apollo, Small Apollo, Mountain and Shepherd's Fritillaries, Cynthia's Fritillary & Alpine Grayling
- Moth trapping sessions every night and relaxed daily excursions
- Contribute to Butterfly Conservation

# **Butterflies of the Kaçkars**

**Dates** 15 – 24 July 2018

**Price** £1.395

Leaders: Dr Martin Warren & Yasemin Konuralp

- 200+ butterfly species have been recorded in the region more than half of Turkey's impressive total number of around 380! (134 seen by us in 2017)
- Species include Ionian Emperor, Little Tiger Blue, Grass Jewel, Turkish Fiery Copper, Balkan Copper, Hi Blue, Odd-spot Blue, Bosnian Blue, Aedon Blue, False Chalk-hill Blue, Chelmos Blue, Orange Hermit, Syrian Grayling, Whitebordered Grayling, Iranian Argus, Russian Heath, Scotch Argus, Mountain Small White, Northern Wall Brown & Geyer's Tawny Rockbrown
- Stunning landscapes of imposing mountains, alpine & subalpine meadows, woodland, rivers & Mediterranean habitats – home to an extraordinary diversity of flowers, insects and other wildlife!















## Butterflies and Flowers of Bulgaria

**Dates** 21 – 29 June 2018

**Price** £1.245

Leaders: Simeon Gigov & Dr Yiannis Christofides

- Midsummer mix of butterflies & botany
- See 100+ butterfly species & some wonderful mountain flora
- Visit the stunning Rila and Pirin National Parks with their lofty peaks & wonderful array of wildlife
- Special butterflies Apollo, Balkan Copper, Little Tiger Blue, Higgin's Anomalous Blue, False Eros Blue, Common Glider, Balkan Fritillary, Cynthia's Fritillary, Bulgarian Ringlet, Dewy Ringlet, Eastern Large Heath
- Explore various habitats from 150m to at least 2,600m
- Rich and diverse flora to enjoy, with a many local and Balkan endemics, most being found in the mountains we shall be visiting.



Dates 28 July – 4 August 2018

**Price** £1,295

Leaders: Dr Simon Spencer & David Moore

- Join us in an exciting new and rarely visited location in central Spain!
- Special species possible to see include the rare local endemic Zapater's Ringlet, plus Spanish and Azure Chalkhill Blues, Mother of Pearl blue, Southern Hermit, Striped Grayling, Esper's Marbled White, Apollo & many more!
- Led by European butterfly expert Dr Simon Spencer (Chair of Butterfly Conservation European Interests Group) and our popular butterfly guide David Moore
- Stay in the delightful old walled Moorish town of Albarracín
- Contribute to Butterfly Conservation

### Falsterbo – Mass Migration!

**Dates** 27 – 31 August 2018

Price £895 Leaders: Chris Hall

- See one of nature's great spectacles as thousands of migrants pass through
- Staggering numbers of raptors virtually every European raptor is regularly recorded here, including rarities such as Spotted and Lesser Spotted Eagles and Pallid Harrier!
- Honey Buzzard numbers will be at a peak hundreds passing through each
- Visible migration of passerines and wildfowl too, plus plenty of waders
- See approximately 100 120 species but it is the sheer numbers of individual species you will remember most















#### ABOUT GREENWINGS

Greenwings was founded by Matt Berry & Julian Dowding. They have both always been fascinated with all things wild & wonderful!

Matt made a career in nature conservation, where he has spent 20 years trying to protect, promote and enhance the natural world in his local area. His latest project is the design and implementation of an ecological network for lpswich, County town of Suffolk.

Similarly Julian has been involved in conservation as a volunteer for various organisations during the past 20 years and is currently warden for a SSSI heathland site and secretary for the Suffolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation.

They have both always believed that one of the best ways to protect the natural world is by inspiring people to care for it and that the best way to inspire people is by showing them the wonders that the natural world has to offer and letting them experience it for themselves. In other words, helping people to observe & conserve wildlife...

And so Greenwings was born!

The Greenwings team aim to provide you with high quality, rewarding and, above all, enjoyable guided wildlife holidays.

All of our leaders are professional and experienced. They are also friendly and caring, with a flexible approach – important qualities in making sure holidays are a success for our guests. They will make it their number one objective for you to get the most out of your holiday.

At the very heart of the company is conservation. That is why from every holiday we host at least 10% of the profits are invested in conservation projects or donated to wildlife charities. We like to think that Greenwings and its guests can make a positive contribution together in this way.

There are also other ways in which we endeavour to use Greenwings to help protect the natural world; from providing valuable species records, using of our photos to promote wildlife and by getting physically involved in conservation projects ourselves!

### **OUR HOLIDAYS**

Greenwings holidays generally include accommodation, meals, ground transfers and transport throughout the holiday, services of leaders, a 10% charitable donation to a good cause and site or attraction entry fees.

In addition you will also be presented with a comprehensive report of the holiday as a keepsake. This will contain a summary of each day, photos and a species list. We take pride in producing high quality reports and our guests often give us very positive feedback and are surprised at how in depth and well-presented they are compared to those offered by other holiday companies.

We don't include flights in our holiday packages, so they will need to be booked and paid for separately if that is your preferred travel option. We do help with flight information and booking though, to make the process as easy as possible. In addition, our packages generally exclude alcoholic drinks and other items of a personal nature.

Where any of the above differs it will be in the holiday information and we will advise you as well.

Your holiday with us is fully insured against financial failure of the company with "International Passenger Protection", who are underwritten by Lloyds. Be very wary of other tour operators who may not cover you financially – a legal requirement under the package travel regulations.

You must also arrange your own travel insurance with adequate cover for personal and medical liability risks.



We hope to welcome you on a Greenwings holiday soon!

# WHY CHOOSE GREENWINGS?

The best guides: We've deliberately placed this top of the list as we believe this is one of the main things that set us apart from other companies. We work with exceptionally talented and experienced leaders. They are usually highly acclaimed expert naturalists and authors and have a huge amount of knowledge. Equally as important, they are also passionate about wildlife and enjoy sharing that and their knowledge with our guests.

**Knowledge:** our ever expanding network of local contacts and experience means we can provide the best chances of seeing the wildlife you want to see. It also means we can offer you a genuine flavour of the places we visit and you'll feel more at home like a local, often travelling with locals, on our holidays.

Conservation ethos: what kind of wildlife holiday company could ignore conservation! Greenwings is owned and run by people who love the natural world and want to protect it, so on our holidays we offer you the chance to 'observe & conserve' wildlife. We donate at least 10% profits from all our holidays to wildlife charities and projects, often in the locations we visit.

**Small groups:** we usually have between 4-10 people on our holidays and not normally more than 12 people. This helps maximise your quality of wildlife experience, minimises impact on habitats visited and gives you more time with the leaders.

**Easy pace:** you're on holiday with Greenwings and we like to remember that! Although we want to show you as much wonderful wildlife as we can, we aim to do so without rushing around or being obsessed with lists. This means more time in the field than in the vehicles and adequate time to soak up that feeling of simply 'being there'.

**Friendly groups:** in our experience the people who join our holidays are very friendly and gregarious and enjoy the social aspects of the trip alongside the wildlife. It is an important part of our holidays that we like to highlight.

**Fun & informative**: it is our aim to give you both on our holidays and to inspire you to return to us and to the locations we take you to again in the future.

Variety: we specialise in butterflies, moths, birds and flowers. However on nearly all our holidays we'll take time to observe anything and everything of interest. The range of our holidays is growing all the time and so are the locations we'll take you, so we're sure you'll find something of interest!

**Professional reports:** many of our guests comment on how in depth and attractive our holiday reports are. We believe you deserve a professional and photographically rich record & souvenir of your holiday, so we spend a lot of time and effort in producing them for you.

**Personal service**: we like to treat our guests as friends and do our very best to ensure you receive a very personal (but still professional) service.

Flexibility: we don't include flights in our holiday packages. That means we can work with you to plan the best travel options to your holiday destination. That can sometimes benefit you by enabling travel from your own regional airports or by train, coach or by sea.

For you: we strongly believe that our holidays will be enjoyed by anyone who has an interest in the natural world. There is also no need to be an expert or be worried about everyone else in the group being an expert – everyone's level of knowledge is carefully catered for by our auides.

#### **OUR LEADERS**

We are proud to work with some exceptionally talented leaders. They include several highly acclaimed expert naturalists and authors who have a huge amount of knowledge and experience. Equally as important, they are passionate about sharing their knowledge and love of the natural world with our guests.

Here we highlight a few of our most popular leaders, see our website for more information about the rest of our team.



**Tristan Lafranchis** is a celebrated expert and author of Lepidoptera. His published works include the highly acclaimed field guide

"Butterflies of Europe" and the wonderfully illustrated two-volumed work "Flora of Greece". Tristan's knowledge of the wilder parts of France, Spain & Greece, particularly their butterflies and plants, is second to none. This and his friendly and easy-going manner make him an invaluable and much sought after leader.



**Dr Yiannis Christofides** is a botanist living in the Troodos Mountains of Cyprus. His interests include Orchids round the Mediterranean, the Floras

of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey and also the flora of European Mountains. He takes a keen interest in other life-forms such as Butterflies and other Insects, Reptiles, Dragonflies and even Lichens. He likes to share his knowledge with members of his groups and his infectious enthusiasm makes him one of our most popular leaders.



Richard Lewington is a full-time freelance illustrator, specialising mainly in insects and other invertebrates. Richard's exquisite and amazingly detailed work is highly

acclaimed. The chances are that if you have field guides in your home you have a wealth of Richard's artwork on your shelf! It graces the pages of many publications featuring butterflies, moths, dragonflies, bumblebees and more! His attention to detail and skilful study of the subjects he illustrates transfer into the field and he delights in sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge of wildlife with others.



**Richard Taylor-Jones** is a wildlife television presenter, film maker, cameraman and photographer. He regularly appears on BBC

Countryfile, The One Show, Coast and Springwatch. He uses his expertise to capture images of some of the best of British Wildlife.

Richard has been working in this field for almost 20 years and has an in-depth knowledge of both natural history and all forms of camerawork. His experience and deep appreciation of Britain's wilder landscapes and British wildlife make him the perfect host for some of our 'British Wildlife Breaks'.



**David Geale** has led nature (especially birdwatching) tours in the Neotropics since 2001, but began specializing in butterflies in 2011. Since that time he has become one of the most prolific

photographers of wild butterflies in the Andean countries especially, where he has led more butterfly photography tours than anyone else over that time period. David will be leading our exciting new butterfly tour to Peru in October 2017!



**Dr Martin Warren** is one of Europe's leading butterfly ecologists, having studied butterflies for over 40 years. Following a research career at London and Cambridge,

Martin became a butterfly specialist with Butterfly Conservation as their first Conservation Officer in 1993. Later, as Chief Executive, he helped the charity grow to become the largest insect NGO in the world with over 75 staff and 30,000 members.



**Patrick Barkham** is Natural History Writer for the Guardian and the author of *The Butterfly Isles*.

Patrick was born in Norfolk and was educated at Cambridge University. He developed a passion for butterflies as an eight-year-old searching for the Brown Argus but only completed his boyhood mission in 2009, when he saw all 59 species of British butterfly in one summer and wrote a book about it. In 2012 he received The Marsh Award for the Promotion of Lepidoptera Conservation from Butterfly Conservation.

### CONSERVATION

Money raised from our holidays is used to support wildlife projects undertaken at home and abroad by various organisations, such as Butterfly Conservation and Birdwing (Birdwatching in northern Greece). The following provide some examples of projects we are proud to be involved in.

#### Caffield Fen

Catfield Fen is a Butterfly Conservation reserve and forms part of the Ant Broads and Marshes National Nature Reserve, one of the best and largest remaining areas of fen habitat in Western Europe.

Funds from our butterfly holidays have been donated to help towards the care and protection of the site. Special thanks is due to all our butterfly watching guests, who by taking a Greenwings holiday are making a direct contribution towards the conservation of an important habitat for rare and endangered species, such as the British Swallowtail and the Fen Orchid.

#### **Anti-Poison Dog Unit in Greece**



Until recently, poisoned baits and carcasses were only discovered after horrific incidents involving the death of significant numbers of birds and mammals, such as at Nestos in 2012 where the death toll included 30 - 40 Griffon Vultures and 4 Golden Eagles - that's around 40% of the Greek Griffon population in one go.

At that rate it wouldn't have been long before all Greek vultures were a thing of the past.

Now, however, poisoned baits can be discovered before they have time to cause major damage to wildlife. How? ... well, say hello to Kiko and Kuki!

These highly-trained anti-poison dogs have, in only nine months, found 30 poisoned carcasses and over 10 kg of poisoned baits. They and their handlers have carried out nearly 100 patrols covering hundreds of kilometres.

The anti-poison dogs find the poison, allowing it to be removed and disposed of quickly before causing devastation to wildlife.

Funds raised from our holidays in north Greece are donated to Birdwing, who in turn are supporting the Greek Birdlife partner (Hellenic Ornithological Society) and the Return of the Neophron project in this work.

#### Dalmatian Pelican Project

We offer bird watching holidays in north Greece, in conjunction with the great team of Steve and Hilary from the bird charity Birdwing. Since 2013 we've been donating money raised from tours in the area to help fund their project to provide nesting platforms for the internationally endangered Dalmatian Pelican. They are proving successful and we're delighted to be part of a project that demonstrates a direct link can be made between ecotourism and conservation.

#### **Ipswich Heaths Project**

Aside from financial support, members of the Greenwings team have been investing hundreds of hours by volunteering to help with practical habitat management for this landscape level project managed by Butterfly Conservation. The aim is to enhance habitat for Silver-studded Blue butterflies & other Lepidoptera associated with heathland.

