



## **Autumn Bulb Finding Trip 2018**

1 week -13th - 20th November £950



*Crocus oreocreticus*

**Day One:** Guests will be collected from the airport and taken to their accommodation to settle in. The first week's accommodation is on a self-catering basis at Corali Studios in Elounda. Evening welcome 'get together' at the traditional taverna in Mavrikiano.

**Day Two:** After a not too early breakfast, we get together to take a short drive high into the mountains above Aghios Nikolaos, stopping on the way to find species of interest. Look out for colchicum and crocus, especially the rare and beautiful endemic, *Crocus oreocreticus*. We take a delicious lunch at a nearby taverna where there is a chance to look through a catalogue of Flowers of the Katharo and to talk to Flowers of Crete supporter Yianni, who has lived here all his life. Expect to find *Sternbergia greuteriana*, *Colchicum cretense*, *Crocus oreocreticus* and *Scilla autumnalis*.

**Day Three:** An earlier start and a slightly longer drive will take us to the north coast to find the rare *Colchicum cupanii*, *Crocus tournefortii* and many, many more delightful flowering bulbs. We will then turn inland to admire *Sternbergia*, *colchicum* and *Narcissus obsoletus* on the way. We will spend time on the Lassithi plateau for botanising, photography and maybe some sketching, then will take a detour to visit a little known area. Expect to find *Colchicum cupanii*, *Crocus boryi* and *Crocus laevigatus*.



**Day Four:** Plaka and the North coast. Another short drive will take us to the famous fishing village of Plaka, with stunning views across the water to Spinalonga island, the setting for Victoria Hislop's best selling novel, *The Island*. In the hills above Elounda there are many wonderful flowers to be found. Further around the coast we will find *Narcissus tazetta* and the rare, endemic, *Biarum davisii*.



Expect to find *N. serotinus*, *N. tazetta*, *B. davisii* ssp. *davisii*, *C. tournefortii*, *Spiranthes spiralis*.

**Day Five:** Today we will drive to the eastern tip of Crete to visit the remote Cavo Sidero and the palm forests of Vai. The flora of this part of the island is very different from anything

we have yet seen and we may be lucky enough to find some elusive crocus amongst the many other wonderful discoveries. For those interested in birdlife, there may be the opportunity to spot an Eleanor's falcon around the monastery at Toplou. On the way home we will stop at the small fishing village of Mochlos to take dinner overlooking the island of Psira, famous for its Minoan lighthouse and archaeological digs. Expect to find *Arisarum vulgare*, *Colchicum macrophyllum*, *Sternbergia sicula*, *Cyclamen persicum*.

**Day Six:** A visit to the east of the island would not be complete without a visit to the Thripti mountains. These areas are renowned for their orchids in springtime, and in autumn they are bright with countless flowers, including crocus, colchicum and sternbergia. Expect to find *Sternbergia lutea*, *Colchicum pusillum* and *Allium tardens*.

**Day Seven:** On our last day, we will travel east to search for the beautiful *Colchicum macrophyllum* which is only known for a handful of sites in east Crete. We will end the day with a farewell meal at Natasha's wonderful taverna next to the beach in Pachia Ammos.

**Information:** The cost of the holiday includes all guide accompanied trips and transfers, and accommodation including breakfast and lunch. It does not include flights, evening meals or independently ordered drinks, telephone calls charged to the room or travel insurance.

