



'Flowers of Crete' Flower Finding Trip 20th - 27th March, 2018



Day One:

Arrivals

7.00 p.m. Welcome drinks at the Pool Bar followed by dinner at nearby Vachus Taverna,

Day Two:

9.00 a.m. Breakfast at the Pool Bar

10.00 a.m. Depart to nearby Plaka for impressive orchid meadows and to the north coast for a variety of maritime plants.

Coffee break en route and lunch at Psomi kai Alati taverna in Vrouhas.

Free evening

Himantoglossum robertianum, *Anacamptis papilionacea* ssp *alibertis* and *heroica*,
Ophrys cretica, *Ophrys bombylifera*, *Ophrys tenthredinifera*, *Ophrys spruneri*, *Ophrys mesaritica*.

Day Three:

8.00 a.m. Breakfast at the Pool Bar

10.00 a.m. Depart for Katharo Plateau. Coffee en route at Panagia Kera cafe followed by picnic lunch on the plateau. A day for finding endemic plants.

8.00 p.m. Dinner at 'The Hope' Taverna at Mavrikiano, Elounda.

Paeonia clusii, *Arum creticum*, *Trifolium uniflorum*, and orchids *Ophrys pauciflora*, *Orchid boryi*, as well as *Onosma erecta* and *Oreganum microphyllum*.



Day Four:

8.00 a.m. Breakfast at the Pool Bar

10.00 a.m. Depart for the south slopes of Thripti mountains. Coffee en route and late lunch at beachside taverna in Pachia Ammos with beautiful views over Psira island. We will be searching the ancient woodlands for a variety of orchids.

Free evening.

Orchis anatolica, Orchis anthropophora, the endemic Tulipa cretica, Aristolochia cretica, Campanula pelviformis

Day Five:

8.00 a.m. Breakfast at the Pool Bar.

10.00 a.m. Depart for north slopes of Thripti mountains, famous for their orchids We will also visit the ancient olive tree of Vrondda. Coffee en route and lunch in a traditional mountain taverna on the Thripti high pasture.

Free evening.

Ophrys bassilissa, Orchis thriptiensis, Ophrys thriptiensis and rare endemics Fritillaria sphaciotica, Ornithogalum sibthorpii, also Tulipa saxatalis, Asphodeline lutea, Daphne sericea.

Day Six:

8.00 a.m. Breakfast at the Pool Bar.

9.00 a.m. Depart for Mount Oxa and the north slopes of Mount Dikte for some unusual finds for east Crete. Coffee in Neapoli and an *al fresco* picnic lunch.

Free evening.

Cyclamen creticum, Dracunculus vulgaris, Anacamptis collina, Ophrys grammica ssp knossia, Orchis intacta.

Day Seven

8.00 a.m. Breakfast at the Pool Bar

9.00 a.m. Depart for Kroustas and mountain road to Prina and Kalamafka (another orchid 'hot spot') Coffee en route. Lunch at the delightful Panorama Taverna, with stunning views of the south coast.

8.00 p.m. Farewell gala dinner and drinks at Lotus Eaters Taverna in Elounda.

Ophrys fleischmanii, Ophrys iricolor, Orchid italica and Cistus creticus, Cistus salvifolia.



Day 8:

8.00 a.m. Breakfast, farewells and departures.

INFORMATION: Cost per person: (single occupancy) 1,400 euros; twin occupancy 1,180 euros Including airport transfers, but excluding flights. All meals as described, but excluding alcoholic drinks. Unlike other flower finding trips which are organised in the west of the island, in order to find rare and interesting species, all trips will be taken in off road vehicles. Guests will travel with experienced English drivers in jeeps in groups of three. This is an unique opportunity to see the best of eastern Crete's flora with acknowledged experts in the field.

The lists of flowers given at the end of each day are just a small example of species we are likely to find. On arrival in Crete, a check list of species will be provided, so that you will be able to make a record of those we have seen.

For any queries please contact Julia at julia@flowersofcrete.info.

