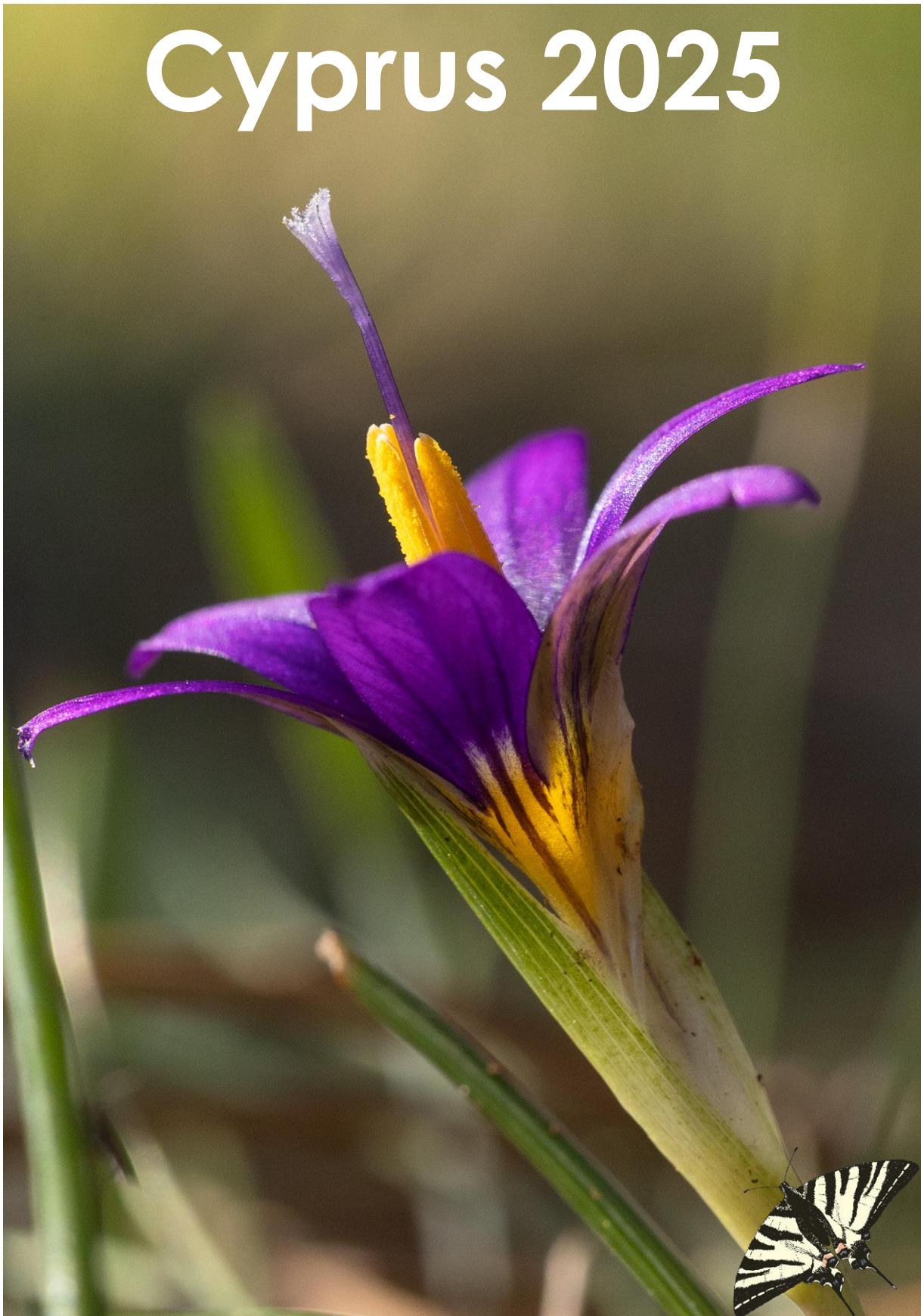


WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Cyprus 2025



Cyprus Christmas 2025: trip report and species lists

#	DATE	LOCATIONS AND NOTES
1	20 th December	Arrival in Cyprus
2	21 st December	Baths of Aphrodite
3	22 nd December	Paphos
4	23 rd December	Mandria and Agia Varvara
5	24 th December	Pegeia Forest and Agios Georgios
6	25 th December	Latchi and Baths of Aphrodite towards Fontana Amorosa
7	26 th December	Smygies and Neo Chorio
8	27 th December	Departure

Leaders

Phil Saunders

Dorset

Sarah Lambert

Cambridgeshire

A gallery of photos from the trip is at Cyprus Christmas 2025 | Flickr, all Sarah Lambert.

Front cover: *Romulea tempskyana*.

Day One: 20th December. Arrival in Cyprus

An afternoon flight for the Gatwick contingent saw us overflying the snowy Alps and then down the coastline of the Adriatic as the sun set, before arriving in Cyprus in the early evening. We quickly passed through Paphos airport and made a rendezvous with our friendly driver for the week, before jumping in the minibus and heading off towards a night-shrouded Akamas peninsula. Following a short and uneventful drive we arrived at the Aphrodite Beach Hotel in Latsi, our home for the next week, where we were welcomed with a late supper. Settling into our rooms subsequently, we fell asleep to the sounds of the ocean and the first of several festive thunderstorms...

Day Two: 21st December. Baths of Aphrodite

Waking bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, we met the rest of our party (having arrived from various points of origin the day before) over our first hearty Cypriot breakfast. The clouds of the previous evening had disappeared and, with picnics and waterproofs (just in case) packed, we set off for our first introduction to the countryside and flora of Cyprus, walking along the coast road to the Baths of Aphrodite. We barely made it out of the hotel before we were already stopping to admire a handsome brace of Banded Garden (Wasp) Spiders, perched on their webs in the garden shrubbery.

The road verges and field edges seemed designed to distract the passing botanist, and we soon spotted several of the characteristic wayside species: low-growing Bur Medick *Medicago polymorpha*, with its spiky spiral seedpods; the reddish flowers of Narrow-leaved Bugloss *Echium angustifolium*; shrubby bushes of the strongly pungent, yellow-flowered *Dittrichia viscosa*; and the charming pink flowers of Round-leaved Crane's-bill *Geranium rotundifolium*, a species which has increased significantly in the UK as a result of warmer, wetter winters. We also had our first encounters with the characterful Friar's Cowl *Arisarum vulgare* in fresh flower, a species that would continue to entrance us all week. Interesting South American 'weeds', including the delicate red trumpets of Scarlet Morning Glory *Ipomoea hederifolia* and lilac-flowered Annual Saltmarsh Aster *Symphyotrichum squamatum*, now a widespread plant of disturbed ground in countries with a sub-tropical climate.

We had a lovely introduction to the local bird life too, getting to know a suite of species that we would see on an almost daily basis throughout the holiday. Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps, and Stonechats seemed ever present, often accompanied by the dry "football rattle" of the more furtive Sardinian Warbler. Several Black Redstarts and Serin also appeared in the roadside fields and groves, with our first Chukar also heard calling from the scrubby hillsides. Those loitering at the back of the group flushed an unexpected pair of Black Francolin from the roadside, and it was most pleasing to watch a pair of Raven flying overhead - a species whose local population is slowly recovering.

Invertebrates also caught our attention, with both Winter Pearl and Tree Mallow Tortrix moths spotted amongst the roadside vegetation, and a number of alien-like cicada exuviae (comprising the shed exoskeletons of the wingless juvenile bugs) were much enjoyed. The sizeable form of a well-camouflaged Radiated Wolf Spider was also noted along a roadside seepage.

An ominous gathering of clouds brought a sudden bout of strong wind with it, and we darted into a scenic taverna overlooking the bay for a welcome caffeine injection. Reinvigorated, and with the weather now (apparently) lifting, we headed onwards a short distance to the botanic gardens, where we admired plenty of flowering Persian Sowbread *Cyclamen persicum* and the lovely red

stems of Eastern Strawberry Tree *Arbutus andrachne*, which was laden with small red fruits. We paid our obligatory visit to the shady 'baths', admiring the extensive deposits of tufa and the sheets of delicate Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum capillus-veneris* before the heavens made their presence felt again, and the resulting rain and thunder found us seeking shelter back within the gardens. Thunder and lightning danced across the hillsides surrounding our covered lunch spot, as several of our party partook of an impromptu Tai Chi session led by Barbara and the rest of us willed the rain to stop. With the wet weather closing in, and temperatures dropping, we decided that an early return to the comfort of the hotel was preferable to further exploration. Piling into one of the comfortable local buses back at the taverna, we were soon back at the hotel discussing the events of the day over a warm drink and crossing our fingers for the morrow...

Day Three: 22nd December. Paphos

A sunny morning greeted us, encouraging some of our party to breakfast on the terrace overlooking the sweep of Chrysochou Bay and make acquaintance with a veritable clowder of local felines. Boarding the minibus, we then set off south for a mixed day of natural history and culture.

Our first port of call was the cave church and modern monastery of Agios Neophytos, strangely quiet (in terms of presence, at any rate) at this festive time. A pair of Long-legged Buzzard circled overhead as we entered, before most of the party paid homage to the beatified hermit and man of letters, in his various resting places. A brief Bonelli's Eagle soaring above the cliff face was a welcome bonus for a lucky handful of our group, whilst Paul encountered the first Blue Rock Thrush of the trip amongst the monastery gardens. The increasing sunshine also encouraged a number of butterflies to take to the wing, with a single Painted Lady noted amongst the commoner whites, and Shirley noted the only Cyprus Rock Agama of the trip scuttling across a wall.

Next stop was the Tombs of the Kings, part of the Paphos World Heritage Site, where the Ptolemy rulers of the island were (perhaps) buried in tombs carved from the soft sandstone, and where we found some splashes of colour in the form of the salmon-coloured berries of Joint Pine *Ephedra fragilis*, pinkish Crown Anemones *Anemone coronaria*, mats of cheerful yellow *Ranunculus cythraeus* and sweeps of the delicate flowers of *Narcissus deficiens*, with its narrow white tepals and a tiny deep-orange trumpet. We also found several plants of the impressively tall and spiky *Echinops spinosissimus* in flower, with globular heads of silvery-blue florets.

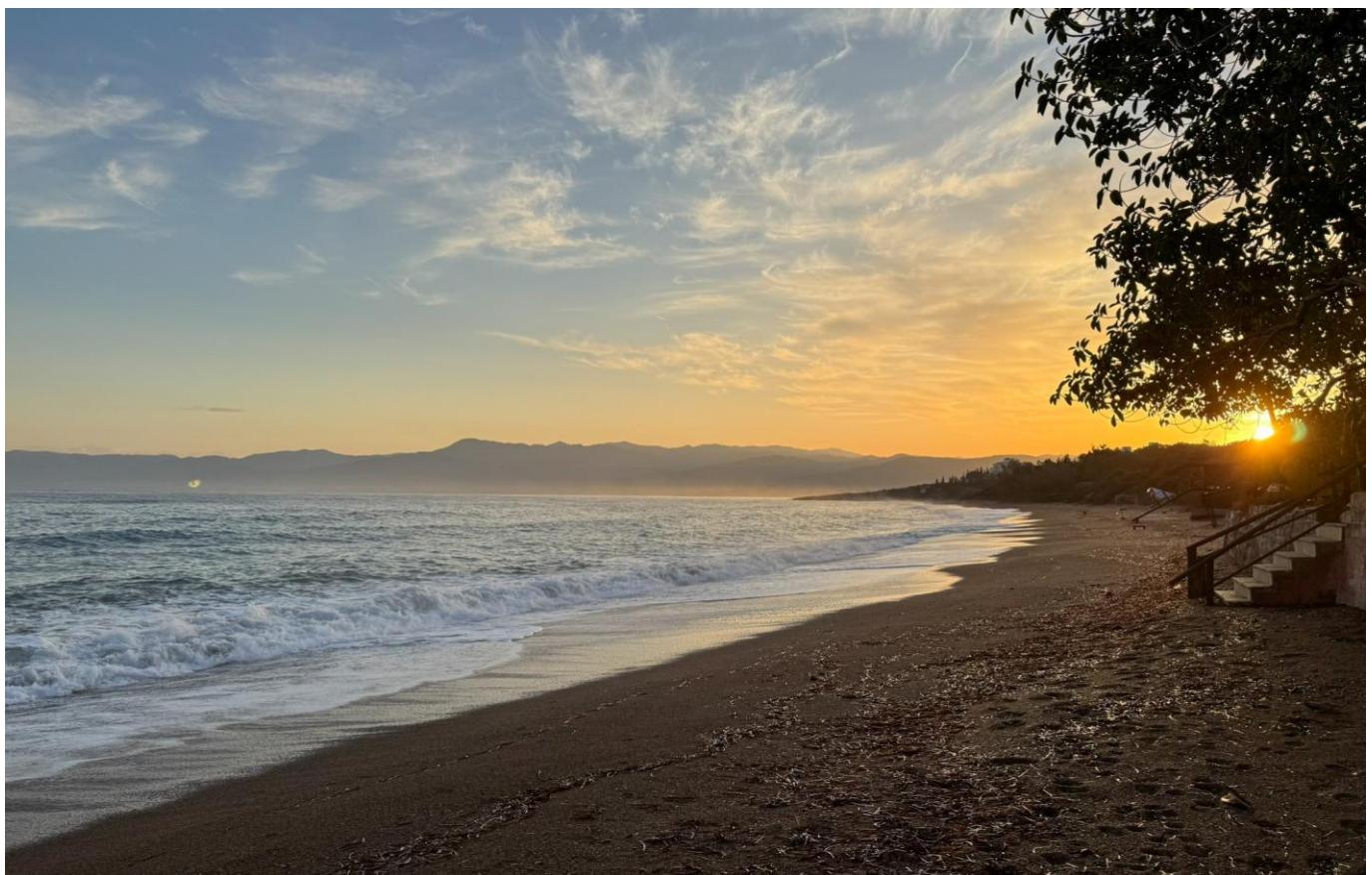
Black Redstarts flicked amongst the vaults, with Sardinian Warblers also proving surprisingly confiding, and a few of us enjoyed the ornately elongate form of a Cyprus Cone-headed Grasshopper amongst the Mediterranean scrub. Paul also again came up trumps, photographing a Schreiber's Fringe-toed Lizard in its sandy refuge.

After a picnic lunch, we headed to Paphos Headland, and the spectacular mosaiced 'houses,' with their illustrations of Greek gods, mythical sea monsters and hunting parties with their quarry, including Cyprus Mouflon, Persian Leopard, Anatolian Bear, Caspian Tiger and Barbary Lion. Bird life was also abundant in quieter areas of the site, and we enjoyed wonderful views of wintering Red-throated Pipits alongside their Meadow Pipit cousins. Impressive numbers of wintering Starling and Skylark were present, with a flighty flock of Woodlark also noted. Careful scrutiny of the large sparrow flock eventually produced several Spanish Sparrows alongside the chunkier forms of Corn Buntings.

Beyond the archaeological site perimeter, a large flock of Golden Plover roosted on the neighbouring rocky shoreline, shining in the late afternoon light, whilst nearby we found one of the headland's real winter specialities: a distantly roosting Greater Sand Plover. This species breeds on the arid Anatolian plateau but chooses to winter amongst the Cypriot sea spray.

Amongst the spectacular archaeology, we also found botanical interest, notably the delicate blue spikes of Autumn-flowered Grape-hyacinth *Muscari parviflorum*, some very thorny *Asparagus horridus* and two interesting members of the poisonous Solanaceae family: broad crinkled rosettes of Mandrake *Mandragora officinarum* and the sleep-inducing *Withania somnifera*.

Heading back to the bus, a trio of Cattle Egret briskly flew to their roost, and an impressive flock of delta-flying Cormorants beat overhead against the darkening sky. Returning to the hotel, we enjoyed another convivial meal before heading to bed, heads full of history.



Above: Aphrodite Hotel.



Top to bottom: *Muscari parviflorum*; *Euphorbia murielii*; Red-throated Pipit.

Day Four: 23rd December. Mandria and Agia Varvara

After another breakfast on the terrace, we were back on the bus and heading south again.

After a short stop at the bakery to re-stock on pastries, we headed towards Mandria Beach, which proved a rich hunting-ground for the more botanically-minded. Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima* and Three-horned Stock *Matthiola tricuspidata* were both flowering profusely, allowing us to note the subtle differences between them. Desiccated plants of Sea Holly *Eryngium maritimum* and Saltwort *Salsola kali* were frequent, while in area of recently disturbed sand, there were sheets of Yellow Horned Poppy *Glaucium flavum* in flower and fruit. At the top of the beach, we found a large population of fruiting Sea Daffodil *Pancratium maritimum* and admired its large shiny black seeds. Other species of note included stroke-able mats of silvery-leaved Sea Medick *Medicago maritima*, leaf rosettes of the near-endemic *Crocodilium creticum* and large clumps of Sea Knotgrass *Polygonum maritimum*, with its tough leathery dark-green leaves and tiny white flowers.

Painted Lady butterflies were abundant along the coastal strip, with several (somewhat worn) Lang's Short-tailed Blues also watched sunning themselves amongst the littoral sward. Several vocal Crested Larks cavorted along the beach and in neighbouring fields, their chunky bills and obvious crests easily separating them from the large wintering flock of Skylark also present along the sandy strip. Our first skittish Snake-eyed Lacertids were a welcome addition to the reptile list, with a quartering female Marsh Harrier much-appreciated by the birding contingent. As we left the beach and headed up onto the low cliffs, we found our first patch of Aphrodite's Dandelion *Taraxacum aphrogenes*, an autumn flowering species which is endemic to a very narrow strip of rocky coastline around the Paphos district.

Heading back down the beach towards our picnic lunch spot at a deserted beach bar, we encountered an intricately patterned Eastern Bath White amongst the Painted Lady swarm. A handsomely patterned "bee" had us initially scratching our heads before we identified it as *Campsomeriella thoracica*; a bee-like parasitoid wasp that preys upon scarab beetles! Not long had we settled down for lunch when a call of "Pallid Harrier!" went up, and we all enjoyed brief views of this elegant ringtail harrier quartering the neighbouring field margins - a rare wintering record of this usually passage migrant. No sooner had the harrier vanished than a Zitting Cisticola performed its yo-yo display overhead, briefly perching for us in a distant bush. As we headed towards the bus a stand of Squirt Cucumber *Ecballium elaterium* captured our attention - sadly, none of the fruits were ripe enough to demonstrate how it got its name!

Satiated, we headed slightly inland to the outskirts of the quiet village of Agia Varvara. Along the river valley, we checked out a series of agricultural water storage ponds which supported a range of wetland species. Red-veined Darter dragonflies flew over the water's surface, with one individual nicely perching for us on a trackside pebble. A shy pair of Teal were inadvertently flushed from one of the pools, with several squelching Snipe also spooking at our approach, whilst a handful of noisy (but unseen) Cyprus Water Frogs called from the verdant margins. Moorhen, Coot, and Little Grebe made up the remainder of the waterbird contingent, although a showy Long-legged Buzzard, pursued by corvids against a darkening sky, provided more of a spectacle.

Try as we might, we couldn't find any wintering Finsch's Wheatear amongst the hillside boulders - this species being particularly scarce in the Pafos area this winter, but the plaintive calls of unseen

Little Owls provided some recompense. More careful stone turning by Paul did result in our first Eastern (Kotschy's) Bent-toed Gecko of the holiday however, with the delicately patterned lizard posing beautifully for us before scuttling back under cover.

Although the focus at Agia Varvara was on birds, several interesting plants also caught our eye. Much of the disturbed ground was covered with the statuesque, bone-coloured seed heads of *Scolymus maculatus*, a species whose edible leaves are often harvested from the wild. The upper pools were fringed with graceful Brown Galingale *Cyperus longus*, while their banks were dominated by the remains of Rough Cocklebur *Xanthium strumarium*, showing its distinctive hooked fruits.

Our final stop of the day was the slightly less salubrious environs of Pafos Water Treatment Works, where a brief scan from the roadside found a large flock of tri-coloured Spur-winged Lapwing roosting on the building's roof! These attractive waders have an extremely limited European distribution and it's always a pleasure to see them. A solitary Little Egret was also fishing in the treatment cells, a Sparrowhawk shot through, and single Grey Wagtail and Water Pipit were enjoyed flitting around the compound. Following this final ornithological overload, we boarded the bus and headed back north to the welcoming arms of Aphrodite and maybe a drink or two.

Day Five: 24th December. Pegeia Forest and Agios Georgios

Our final day in the minibus "down south", although first we finally got to grips with a showy pair of Laughing Doves in the hotel grounds - a beautiful species that had previously teased us with its chuckling calls (or those of caprine mimics...) Leaving Latsi, our first stop taking in the 'magic oak' of Polis - a stately and particularly long-lived example of the endemic Royal Oak *Quercus infectoria* subsp *veneris*, forests of which once cloaked the lowlands of the island.

Reboarding the bus, we climbed up past the handsome town of Neo Chorio towards our destination of Pegeia Forest, an area of sweetly-scented Turkish Pine *Pinus brutia* and Mediterranean Juniper *Juniperus turbinata* woodland on shallow soils over the limestone.

Just a few steps from the road, the rosettes of various spring-flowering orchid species were immediately obvious on the forest floor, peeking out from lush carpets of the lichen *Cladonia foliacea*. We soon spotted flowering and fruiting spikes of Autumn Ladies-Tresses *Spiranthes spiralis* together with delicate pale-blue spikes of *Hyacinthella millefolium*, a bulb endemic to Cyprus and Türkiye. Along the track edge we found plenty of the beautiful velvety-purple stars of *Romulea tempskyana*, which we named the Cadbury's Sand-crocus!

We then strolled down (through some very sticky mud) to an area of limestone outcrops, with a series of vernal rock pools, home to its own special suite of scarce plants. The late arrival of the autumn rains meant that many of the expected aquatic species were not present, though we did note the green 'hair' of Horned Pondweed *Zannichellia palustris* and after some searching, we managed to find just-germinated greyish seedlings of *Sedum eriocarpum* on the marginal rock. Fronds of Small Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum lusitanicum*, a tiny, winter-'flowering' fern, proved abundant among the mats of *Ranunculus cythraeus* leaves surrounding the pools. Many of the ferns were fertile though photographing them proved to be a knee-soaking occupation!

Snake-eyed Lacertids skittered off amongst the pine needles, and our first Troodos Wall Lizards sunned themselves on a rock. More careful turning of rocks revealed further examples of the lovely Eastern Bent-toed Gecko, although pride of place goes to the several fabulously large and hairy European Tarantulas enjoying a subterranean sojourn.

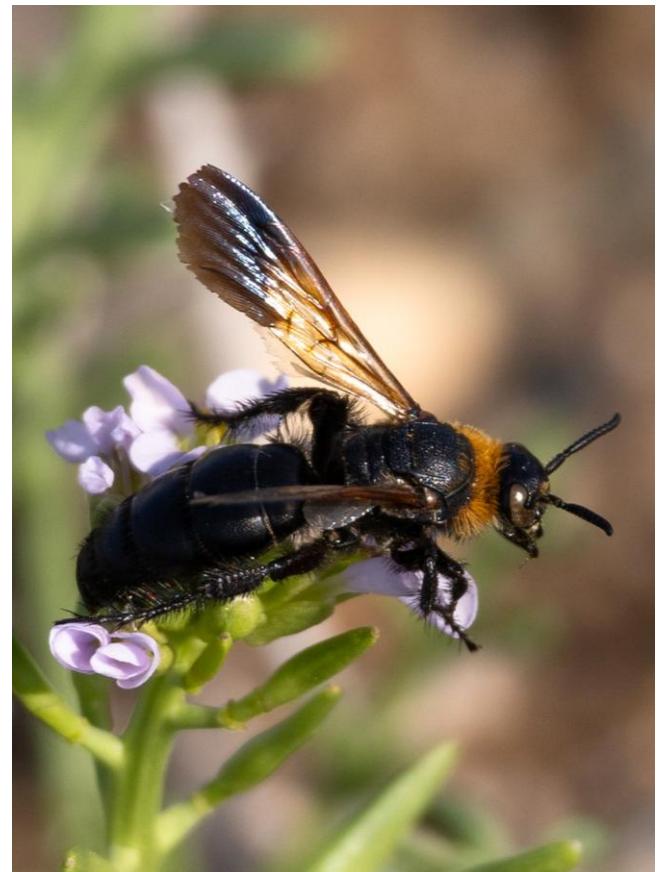
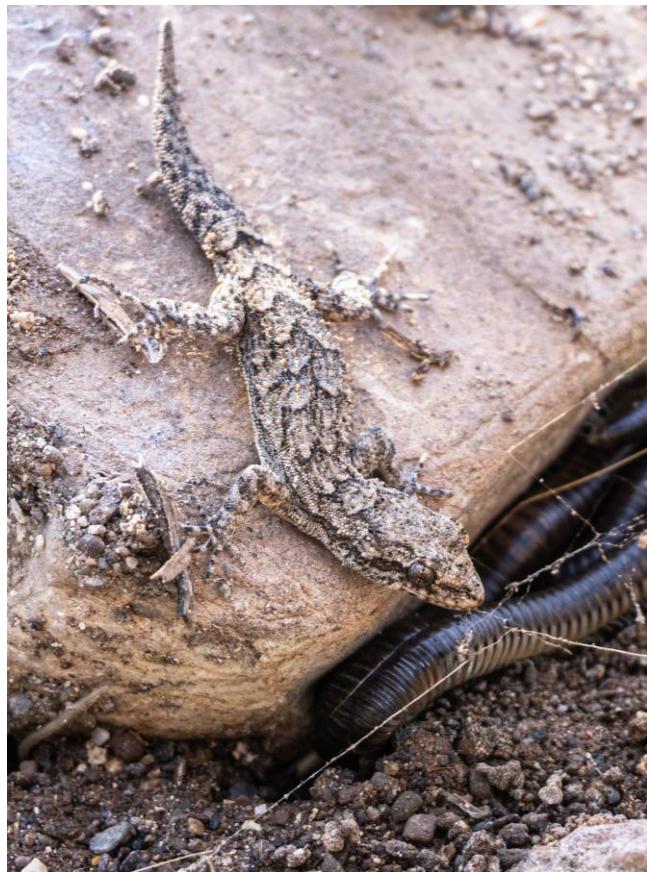
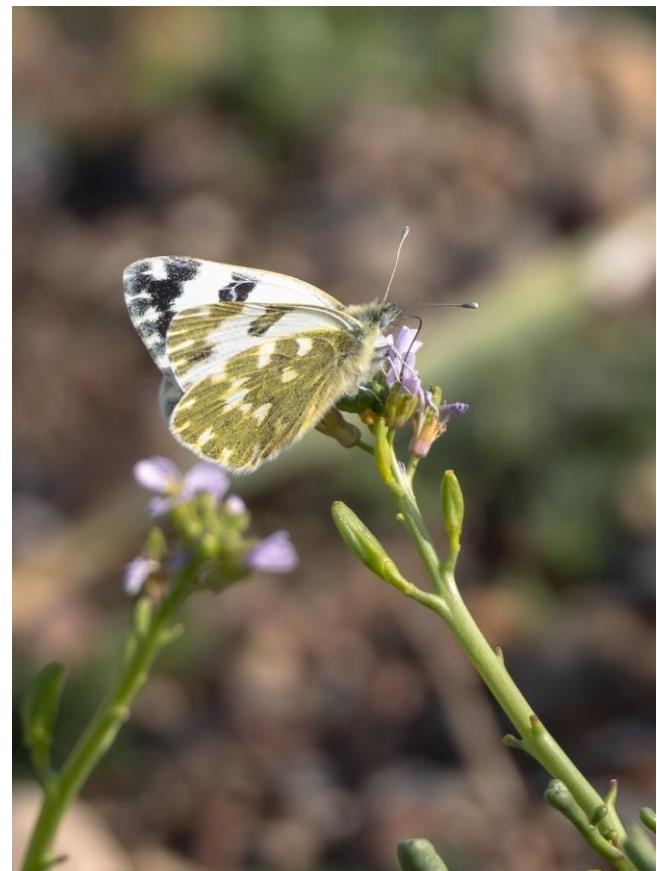
A walk along the broad main track took us to a wonderful lunch spot on the edge of the escarpment, giving us great views down towards the coast. Better yet, Penny discovered our first examples of *Colchicum pusillum*, another delicate winter-flowering bulb with whitish petals and contrasting black anthers, apparently particularly favouring areas of bare, trampled soil. Attractive Red-winged Grasshoppers whizzed away underfoot, whilst a pair of Long-legged Buzzards soared distantly against the clouds, and a small covey of Chukar called distantly from the rocky hillside below us. Perhaps our most exciting/disgusting find though (take your pick!) was the large Praying Mantis watched devouring a very active cricket - despite the fact that the latter's head had already been consumed...

Leaving the forest, we drove downhill to the pretty little harbour of Agios Georgios. The archaeological site was unexpectedly closed, so we enjoyed exploring the beautiful Orthodox church and a welcome coffee and ice cream combo on the sunny terrace of a neighbouring bar. Phil spotted a Blue Rock Thrush flitting about the roadside crags further downhill towards Cape Drepanum, and some of us later enjoyed much closer views of the deeply blue, young male, bird as he foraged alongside a Black Redstart.

Much refreshed, we proceeded down the winding road to Cape Drepanum and the harbour, where we had good views of the rock-cut burial chambers in the cliff face above the harbour, which date back to the Hellenistic period and are part of a larger necropolis connected to an ancient quarry and settlement. Most notable amongst the interesting coastal vegetation was a huge population of Aphrodite's Dandelion, but other coastal species also captured our attention, including mats of Hairy Sea-heath *Frankenia hirsuta* and succulent Shrubby Sea-blite *Suaeda vera* on the sand, a fine stand of Rock-samphire *Crithmum maritimum* in flower and fruit, and rosettes of the sea-lavender *Limonium virgatum* on the cliffs.

Out to sea, a number of Shags could be made out on the offshore island of Geronissos, whilst a Common Sandpiper bobbed along the edge of a rocky pool. A variety of sponges and other marine life were found along the tideline, although the mummified corpse of a Long-eared Hedgehog was slightly less expected!

Back at the hotel, we enjoyed a Christmas turkey buffet (complete with Brussel sprouts!) before several of us chanced our arm at locating nocturnal wildlife outside the hotel, using thermal imagers and UV torches. The latter produced little of note but certainly provided entertainment for several bystanders.



Top to bottom: *Taraxacum aphrogenes*; Eastern Bath White; Eastern Bent-toed Gecko; *Campsomeriella thoracica*.



Top to bottom: *Hyacinthella millingenii*; *Spiranthe spiralis*; *Ophioglossum lusitanicum*; *Arisarum vulgare*.

Day Six: 25th December. Latchi and Baths of Aphrodite towards Fontana Amorosa

The morning began gently with a walk along the lanes and paths that wind over the hillsides behind the hotel, often in the company of another hotel group and the friendly resident dog. Our outing was cut abruptly short by the rapid build-up of rain clouds.

Among the numerous rosettes of orchids preparing for their spring flowering, we found several spikes of the early-flowering Fan-lipped Orchid *Anacamptis collina*, their first flowers just opened. Other highlights included Crown Anemones in shades of white, pink and mauve, swathes of sweetly scented *Narcissus tazetta*, and the prickly leaves and scaly acorns of Kermes Oak *Quercus coccifera*. A Common Buzzard soared against the darkening sky, while a Red-throated Pipit called stridently as it flew overhead.

Descending back towards the coast, we reached another area of exposed limestone with ephemeral rock pools. Here the flora was sparse, with only the floating leaves of a water-starwort *Callitrichie* sp. in evidence, accompanied by recently drowned rosettes of Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus*. As the rain set in, some of the group sensibly made a beeline for the hotel, while a few of us lingered behind. Passing through an avenue of eucalypts near the hotel, we noticed an abundance of cicada exuviae clinging to the branches and countless holes in the soil - clear evidence of a large emergence earlier in the year.

After the rain-induced hiatus, improving afternoon weather tempted some of the group back out towards the Baths of Aphrodite and the Fontana Amorosa track, while others chose to relax at the hotel. On arrival, we paused to admire the striking, statuesque seed heads of the endemic thistle *Onopordum cyprium*, before examining a rocky, north-facing slope rich in plant life. Here we found a profusion of Mediterranean Clubmoss *Selaginella denticulata*; tiny, frilled rosettes of the leafy liverwort *Fossombronia*; and a scatter of bulbs including further *Romulea tempskyana* and *Narcissus tazetta*. A tiny fungus with a scaly brown cap proved to be Spring Polypore *Lentinus arcularius*, a species with a remarkably wide global distribution.

The coastal track offered stunning views across Chrysochou Bay, with the blues and greens of the sea mirrored in the striking serpentinite rocks. Near the end of the track, a group of goats with two tiny black kids provided welcome entertainment, especially when they began playing an energetic game of "king of the castle".

On our return, we revisited the Baths of Aphrodite, noting a few species missed on our earlier visit, including Brookweed *Samolus valerandi* and the first delicate fronds of Annual Fern *Anogramma leptophylla* growing on shaded rocks. The settled weather also allowed us to explore the botanic gardens more thoroughly, where we encountered two Cypriot endemic plants - *Centaurea akamantis*, known only from three steep gorges on the island, and *Phlomis cypria* - as well as an unexpected flowering spike of Hollow-stemmed Asphodel *Asphodelus fistulosus*.

Back at the hotel, we enjoyed further helpings of Christmas cake alongside the usual delicious mix of salads and local produce, with several of our group sporting some fabulously festive knitwear.

Day Seven: 26th December. Smygies and Neo Chorio

Back on board the bus, we started our day up on the ridge of the Akamas, above the Smygies picnic site, from where we spent the rest of our day walking gently back downhill all the way to the coast, pausing en route for a taverna lunch in the sleepy 'new' (yet clearly old) village of Neo Chorio. Dark skies and thunderous outbursts accompanied the start of our walk, but they thankfully soon cleared and we ultimately enjoyed a lovely sunny day in the hills.

At the top of the ridge, we first checked the serpentine rocks for a suite of endemic plants, with the grey rosettes of *Centaurea cyprensis*, the woody *Thymus integer* and the small, speckled leaves and seedheads of *Alyssum akamasicum* all present. A little further along we stopped at a bank where we saw the spotted leaf-rosette of Anatolian Orchid *Orchis anatolica* with last year's seedhead attached.

After soaking up the spectacular view across to the undeveloped western side of the Akamas, we turned and began our descent. The discovery of a "funny pink spider" running across the path ahead and disappearing under a rock soon had Phil and Sarah squealing with delight, when a beautifully ugly Sun Spider (or Solifuge) was carefully unearthed. These bizarre looking spider relatives have hugely disproportionate mouthparts, suction pads on their pedipalps ("front legs"), and chase after their prey rather than spinning silk. Altogether wonderful creatures.

Amongst the pine trees we heard singing Serin, found good populations of both the powder-blue *Hyacinthella millingenii* and Autumn Lady's-tresses and were able to admire a single pink flower of *Thymus integer*. Further down the track we found a series of large rocks which were home to many leaf-rosettes and seed-heads of the endemic *Sedum cyprium*, as well as good numbers of the tiny, deep-purple flowered *Muscari inconstictum*. There were also two lithophytic ferns - the deeply indented fronds of Rustyback *Asplenium ceterach* (a species associated with limestone walls and rock faces in the UK) and the much more finely divided *Hemionitis acrostica*, a widespread subtropical species.

A little way further on we found (with a little help) a wonderful grove of newly flowering *Ophrys omegaifera* subsp. *israelitica*, one of the first of the 'spring' orchids. It was some way up the bank and many of the group scrambled up the slope to get a closer look. Coming down was trickier, but all made it unscathed!

During our descent we had spotted several locals gathering mushrooms, and we too added a few fungi to our list. Another tiny Spring Polypore was seen as well as a pair of intensely purple Wood Blewit *Collybia nuda*. But Neil found the prize fungus of the day - a beautiful orange and purplish Copper Spike *Chroogomphus rutilus*, with elegant decurrent gills. This fungus is an ectomycorrhizal associate of Turkish Pine.

A lonely Levant Freshwater Crab *Potamon potamios* was spotted loafing in the spring-fed stream, alongside many introduced Mosquitofish which are hopefully not having a detrimental impact on the handsome crustaceans. A herd of photogenic donkeys was enjoyed further along the track (albeit with one being a little too friendly) and a Common Buzzard circled over the neighbouring hillside as the sun rose.

A Hummingbird Hawkmoth and an ichneumonid wasp both joined us during our delicious meze lunch. After eating our fill, we wandered slowly through the village of Neo Chorio towards the church, pausing to admire the many garden plants in flower. The large yellow-and-purple blooms of a particularly vigorous Golden Chalice Vine *Solandra maxima* growing along a side street drew special admiration. Other eye-catching species included *Kleinia fulgens*, a succulent member of the Asteraceae with intense orange-red flowers; the white-flowered *Kalanchoe marmorata*, notable for its attractively marbled leaves; and the vivid, purple-flowered Potato Vine *Lycianthes rantonnetii*.

As arranged, a taxi arrived to take some of the group back to the hotel, while the rest of us continued walking downhill. Along the way, we stopped to admire a roadside stand of Corn Gromwell *Buglossoides arvensis* and to inhale the distinctive spicy, floral scent of grey-leaved Cypriot Oregano *Origanum majorana* lining the steep valley. This species, endemic to Cyprus and Türkiye, is widely used both as a food and a medicine. A solitary Woodlark fluted as it settled in a nearby olive grove, and we also examined a bizarre female False Firefly, which resembled a caterpillar, completely lacking wings and other typical adult features.

Our final night together at the hotel was spent in the usual merriment, alongside a roaring open fire.

Day Eight: 27th December. Departure

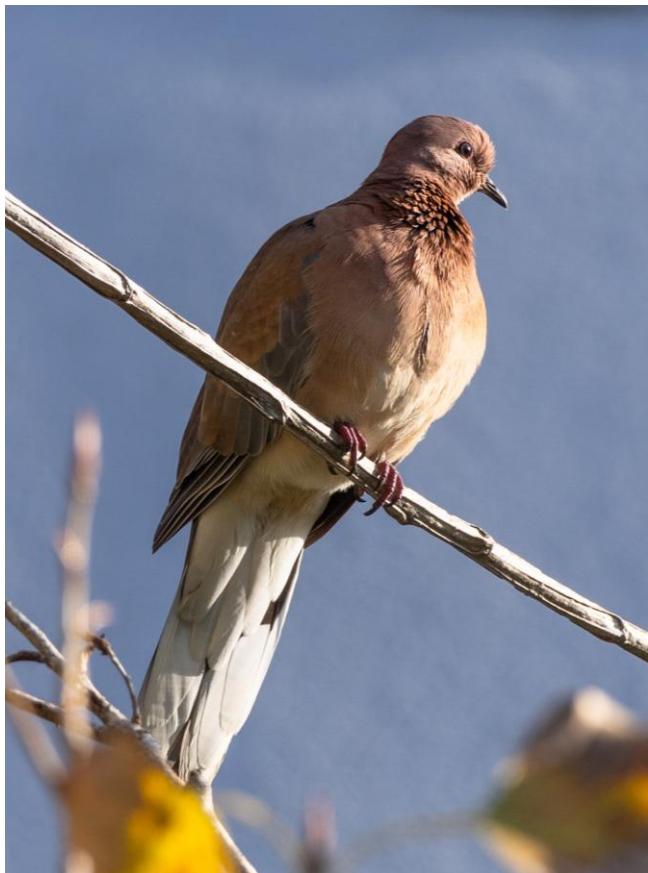
With departures staggered throughout the day, participants pursued a range of activities. Several opted to take the bus to Polis to explore the town and its local museum, while others joined Sarah and Phil for a return visit to the Fontana Amorosa track. This group encountered many of the same botanical highlights as the previous day, supplemented by some avian interest, including a distant Kingfisher hunting along the beach and another striking Black Redstart perched on trackside wires.

Back at the hotel, a final group meal was followed by a round of farewells as taxis arrived to take away those with earlier flights. Those of us departing later in the afternoon took the opportunity to explore the hotel grounds and surrounding area, adding further species to an already impressive plant list. Highlights included swathes of Blue Morning Glory *Ipomoea caerulea* and several self-seeded Red Bottlebrush *Melaleuca viminalis* in the valley west of the hotel, a stand of fluffy-seeded Fountain Grass *Cenchrus setaceus* along the coastal promenade, and abundant fine-stemmed Graceful Spurge *Euphorbia hypericifolia* lining a nearby track.

This same track also produced the final fungal records of the trip: some handsome mustard-yellow boletes with fibrillose caps, identified as *Suillus collinitus*, a widespread pine-associated species, and a rather weathered Frayed Parasol *Macrolepiota excoriata*.

The final Gatwick and Bristol contingent bid farewell to the wonderful Aphrodite Beach Hotel in the early evening, with Grey Heron a final addition to the species list as we negotiated our way in the minibus through Polis. We were soon back at Pafos Airport however, and all set for the flight home.

Phil Saunders and Sarah Lambert, Wildlife Travel, December 2025.



Top to bottom: Laughing Dove; *Anacamptis collina*; *Narcissus tazetta*; *Cyclamen persicum*.

PLANTS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published by the Royal Botanic Gardens; Kew **Plants of the World Online** as updated by <https://powo.science.kew.org>

Most plant species do not have English names and even when they do, these vary according to author. A common name is given as a guide to help those who are not familiar with the scientific name. Plant families are in alphabetical order, for simplicity: the English name of a family member is also given so you can relate the family to plants you may know.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
FERNS			
Aspleniaceae (asplenium fern family)			
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback. On large rock at Smygies		26 th
Equisetaceae (horsetail family)			
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Branched Horsetail. By the spring at Agios Minas		26 th
Ophioglossaceae (adder's-tongue family)			
<i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i>	Small Adder's-tongue. Tiny fronds amongst the <i>Ranunculus cythraeus</i> rosettes by the rock pools, Pegeia		24 th
Polypodiaceae (polypody fern family)			
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	Ladder Fern. Planted at Agios Neophytos and Neo Chorio	22 nd	
Pteridaceae (maidenhair fern family)			
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern. abundant around the Baths of Aphrodite and along the water channel below Smygies		21 st
<i>Anagramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern. Just starting to grow on rocks at Baths of Aphrodite and Smygies		21 st
<i>Hemionitis acrostica</i>	On large rocks at Smygies		26 th
Selaginellaceae (spikemoss family)			
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss. creeping across the rocks along Fontana Amorosa		25 th
CONIFERS			
<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>	Norfolk Island Pine. Widely planted.		21 st
Cupressaceae (cypress family)			
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Mediterranean Cypress.		22 nd
<i>Juniperus turbinata</i>	Mediterranean Juniper. Widespread e.g. the understorey in Pegeia Forest		24 th
Ephedraceae (joint-pine family)			
<i>Ephedra foemina</i>	Jointed Pine. Baths of Aphrodite, Tombs of the Kings		21 st
Pinaceae (pine family)			
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Turkish Pine. In the pine forests at Pegeia and Smygies		24 th
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine. Agios Neophytos monastery, planted		22 nd
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Black Pine. Agios Neophytos monastery, planted		22 nd

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
DICOTYLEDONS			
Aizoaceae			
<i>Mesembryanthemum cordifolium</i>	Heartleaf Ice-plant. Established at Mandria Beach		23 rd
Amaranthaceae (amaranth family) (includes former Chenopodiaceae)			
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	Common Amaranth. Roadside weed.		21 st
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i>	Sea Beet. Mandria, Agios Giorgios beach		23 rd
<i>Bosea cypria</i>	The privet-like shrub, on the way to Baths of Aphrodite Genus has an interesting distribution, with 3 species: one in the Himalayas, one in Cyprus, one in the Canary Islands, a distribution which mirrors that of the cedars		21 st
<i>Chenopodiastrum murale</i>	Nettle-leaved Goosefoot. Widespread weed		21 st
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Prickly Saltwort. Mandria Beach		23 rd
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Seablite. Agios Giorgios beach		24 th
Anacardiaceae (sumac family)			
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree. Common evergreen shrub on dry hillsides, with pinkish-red berries.		21 st
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree. Common deciduous shrub with yellowing leaves and reddish berries.		21 st
Apiaceae (carrot family)			
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire. Agios Giorgios beach		24 th
<i>Daucus carota</i> ssp. <i>maximus</i>	Wild Carrot. Frequent on field margins – very large!		21 st
<i>Eryngium creticum</i>	Latchi – leaf rosettes and seedheads		25 th
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly. Mandria beach		23 rd
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel. Widespread - leaves and seedheads		24 th
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Wild Fennel. Waysides, still flowering		21 st
<i>Scaligeria napiformis</i> / <i>alziarii</i>	Locally frequent in maquis. <i>S. alziarii</i> is a newly separated endemic species which occurs in pine forest. Possibly both were seen in leaf.		25 th
<i>Smyrnium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders. Baths of Aphrodite – leave rosettes and seeds		21 st
Apocynaceae (dogbane family) (includes former Asclepiadaceae)			
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander e.g. planted around towns/villages		21 st
Asteraceae (daisy family)			
<i>Anthemis rigida</i>	Rayless Chamomile. Mandria beach		23 rd
<i>Atractylis cancellata</i>	Cage Thistle. On path to Fontana Amorosa		25 th
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Autumn Daisy. Widespread		21 st
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold. Frequent species of disturbed ground		22 nd
<i>Carlina libanotica</i>	Seedheads at Tombs of the Kings and Agia Varvara		22 nd
<i>Centaurea akamantis</i>	Botanic Gardens. Endemic to serpentinite in Akamas at three sites only		25 th

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
<i>Centaurea cyprensis</i>	Smygies. Endemic to serpentenite in Akamas		26 th
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory. Mandria beach		23 rd
<i>Crocodilium creticum</i>	Beaches e.g. Tombs of the Kings, Mandria		22 nd
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	Roadsides and beaches; annual		21 st
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Roadsides and beaches; perennial, some in flower		21 st
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i>	Waysides, frequent. Mostly dead but some flowering. Very tall!		21 st
<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i>	Argentine Fleabane. Neo Chorio		26 th
<i>Erigeron sumatrensis</i>	Guernsey Fleabane. Road verge near hotel.		21 st
<i>Filago eriosphaera</i>	Fluffy grey hummocks at Mandria beach		23 rd
<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>	Crown Daisy. Abundant on waysides but few flowering.		21 st
<i>Hedypnois rhagadioloides</i>	On the road to Fontana Amorosa		27 th
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i> ssp. <i>barrelieri</i>	Silvery-leaved low shrub on path to Fontana Amorosa.		26 th
<i>Kleinia fulgens</i>	Coral Senecio. Orange-flowered succulent growing in Neo Chorio garden		27 th
<i>Leontodon tuberosus</i>	Tuberous Hawkbit. Pegeia Forest and Latchi		24 th
<i>Onopordum cyprium</i>	Architectural thistle on path to Fontana Amorosa with big, chunky seed heads. Endemic to Cyprus		25 th
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Low shrub with yellow 'shaving brush' flowers		22 nd
<i>Phonus lanatus</i>	Rosette of leaves on clifftop at Mandria		23 rd
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	Shrubby species at Smygies		26 th
<i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	Star-shaped seed heads		
<i>Scolymus maculatus</i>	Lots of pale-ochre seedheads at Agia Varvara		23 rd
<i>Senecio angulatus</i>	Climbing Groundsel. South African species established locally including at Aphrodite Hotel		25 th
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel. Frequent weed.		21 st
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle. White-blotched leaves		22 nd
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle.		21 st
<i>Symphyotrichum squamatum</i>	Annual Saltmarsh Aster. South American species widely established in disturbed habitats		21 st
<i>Taraxacum aphrogenes</i>	Aphrodite's Dandelion. Endemic to south-west Cyprus, found at Mandria and abundant at Agios Giorgios beach		23 rd
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Rough Cocklebur. Frequent round upper pools at Agia Varvara		23 rd
Bignoniaceae (bignonia family)			
<i>Podrania ricasoliana</i>	Pink Trumpet Vine. Growing in Neo Chorio garden		27 th
<i>Tecomaria stans</i>	Yellow Bells. Planted trees in Paphos and Neo Chorio		22 nd
Boraginaceae (forget-me-not family)			
<i>Anchusa aegyptiaca</i>	Eastern Alkanet Bristly, pale-spotted leaves		27 th
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	Corn Gromwell. On roadside near Neo Chorio		26 th
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss. Reddish flowers		21 st

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<i>Heliotropum hirsutissimum</i>	Hairy Heliotrope. At Paphos Headland, small whitish flowers.		22 nd
<i>Lithodora hispidula</i>	Pink and white flowers. Pegeia Forest and Smygies		24 th
Brassicaceae (cabbage family)			
<i>Alyssum akamasicum</i>	Small speckled leaves with seedpods at Smygies. On Serpentine in Akamas. Endemic		26 th
<i>Cakile maritime</i>	Sea Rocket. Flowering profusely at Mandria.		23 rd
<i>Erucaria hispanica</i>	Spanish Mustard. Pink-flowered bushy plants at Mandria		23 rd
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned Stock. Agios Giorgios and Mandria, purple-lilac flowers		23 rd
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish.		22 nd
<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard. Yellow-flowered crucifer everywhere...		21 st
Cactaceae (cactus family)			
<i>Austrocylindropuntia subulata</i>	Eve's Pin. At Paphos Headland and taverna at Neo Chorio		22 nd
<i>Cylindropuntia cf imbricata</i>	Tree Cholla. At Paphos Headland.		22 nd
<i>Mamillaria hahniana</i>	Old Lady Cactus. Growing in Neo Chorio garden		27 th
<i>Opuntia maxima</i>	Prickly Pear. Frequent		21 st
<i>Opuntia microdasys</i>	Bunny-ears Prickly-pear. By promenade near hotel.		22 nd
Capparaceae (caper family)			
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper. At Paphos Headland and Latchi		22 nd
Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle family) (includes former Dipsacaceae)			
<i>Valeriana italica</i>	Young plant on rocks at Smygies		24 th
Caryophyllaceae (carnation family)			
<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	Tombs of the Kings, on the beach		22 nd
Cistaceae (rock-rose family)			
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Grey Cistus Frequent in forests including Pegeia and Smygies		24 th
<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Botanic Gardens. Flower white with a dark red spot		27 th
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus		24 th
<i>Cistus parviflorus</i>	Small-flowered Cistus Small pink flowers at Smygies.		26 th
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus.		24 th
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	Arabian Rock-rose. Yellow flowers at Pegeia Forest		24 th
Convolvulaceae (bindweed family)			
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed. Leaves at Tombs of the Kings and Paphos Headland		22 nd
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed		22 nd
<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	Blue Morning Glory. Established in valley adjacent to hotel.		27 th
<i>Ipomoea hederifolia</i>	Scarlet Morning Glory. By road to Baths of Aphrodite.		21 st
Crassulaceae (stonecrop family)			
<i>Kalanchoe marmorata</i>	Penwiper Plant. Growing at taverna in Neo Chorio, with		26 th

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
spotted leaves and white flowers.			
<i>Sedum cyprium</i>	On large rocks at Smygies, leaf rosettes and seedheads. Endemic.		26 th
<i>Sedum eriocarpum</i> ssp. <i>porphyreum</i>	Tiny greyish seedlings at Pegeia rock pools. Endemic		24 th
<i>Sedum microcarpum</i>	Narrow-leaved red succulent, Latchi rock pools		25 th
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort. Near springs at Baths of Aphrodite and Smygies.		21 st
Cucurbitaceae (gourd family)			
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony.		25 th
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber. Near beach bar at Mandria		23 rd
Ericaceae (heather family)			
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	Eastern Strawberry Tree. Baths of Aphrodite botanic garden with small red fruit		21 st
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree. Baths of Aphrodite botanic garden with larger red fruit		21 st
Euphorbiaceae (spurge family)			
<i>Euphorbia dimorphocaulon</i>	Flat, spreading spurge at Pegeia and Smygies		24 th
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge. Leaves only.		25 th
<i>Euphorbia hypericifolia</i>	Graceful Spurge. Introduced from America.		27 th
<i>Euphorbia murielii</i>	Candelabra Spurge. Huge plant in field near hotel.		21 st
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge. Frequent on waysides.		25 th
<i>Euphorbia prostrata</i>	Prostrate Sandmat. Wayside near Neo Chorio. From America.		26 th
<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>	Poinsettia. Gardens in Latchi and Neo Chorio. Native to Mexico and Guatemala.		21 st
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury. Frequent on waysides.		21 st
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant. Near hotel.		21 st
Fabaceae (pea family)			
<i>Calycotome villosa</i>	Spiny Broom. A few with yellow flowers.		21 st
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob. Widely planted.		21 st
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling. No leaves, just stipules and tendrils.		25 th
<i>Lathyrus ochrus</i>	Cyprus Vetch. 'Leaves' are wide winged stems.		25 th
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick. Silvery, strokable leaves at Mandria		23 rd
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Toothed Medick. Widespread		21 st
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa. Established at Mandria, purple flowers		23 rd
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Disturbed ground near hotel		25 th
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cockscomb Sainfoin. Widespread on waysides, not flowering		21 st
<i>Vicia sativa</i> ssp. <i>sativa</i>	Common Vetch.		25 th
Fagaceae (beech family)			
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> ssp.	Kermes Oak. Prickly leaves and acorns with scaly cap		25 th .

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
<i>calliprinos</i>			
<i>Quercus infectoria</i> ssp. <i>veneris</i>	Deciduous or Royal Oak. Large tree at Polis with very long acorns		24 th
Frankeniaceae (sea-heath family)			
<i>Frankenia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Sea-heath. Mats of dark-green 'revolute' leaves on shore at Agios Giorgios		24 th
Geraniaceae (geranium family)			
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill		23 rd
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Soft Stork's-bill		27 th
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	Musk Stork's-bill		21 st
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin. Leaves at Baths of Aphrodite		25 th
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill		21 st
Juglandaceae (walnut family)			
<i>Carya illinoiensis</i>	Pecan. Planted in hotel grounds and at Agia Varvara		23 rd
Lamiaceae (mint family)			
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle		21 st
<i>Micromeria nervosa</i>	Low-growing plant with tiny mauve flowers		25 th
<i>Origanum majorana</i>	Cypriot Oregano. Small shrub along step track down from Neo Chorio, very fragrant, greyish leaves. Endemic to Cyprus and Türkiye.		25 th
<i>Prasium majus</i>	White Hedge-nettle. Very common shrub with white flowers		21 st
<i>Phlomis cypria</i>	Botanic Gardens. Endemic to Cyprus.		27 th
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Greek Sage. Shrubby wild sage on path to Fontana Amorosa		25 th
<i>Salvia rosmarinus</i>	Rosemary. Mostly planted		21 st
<i>Salvia viridis</i>	Small annual sage with seed heads at Pegeia		24 th
<i>Thymbra capitata</i>	Mediterranean Wild Thyme. Shrubby, strongly scented leaves, only one or two flowers		22 nd
<i>Thymus integer</i>	Serpentine thyme at Smygies, with elongate pink flowers. Endemic		26 th
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste Bush.		21 st
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate		21 st
Meliaceae (mahogany family)			
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Persian Lilac. Tree with abundant pale-orange berries		21 st
Moraceae (mulberry family)			
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig		21 st
Myrtaceae (myrtle family)			
<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i>	Red Bottlebrush. Self-set in valley near hotel		27 th
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Myrtle.		25 th

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Nyctaginaceae (four o'clock family)			
<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Bougainvillea. Naturalised		21 st
Oleaceae (olive family)			
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive. Everywhere...		21 st
Oxalidaceae (wood-sorrel family)			
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup. Yellow flowers – an invasive species originally from South Africa. Everywhere!		21 st
Papaveraceae (poppy family)			
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory		26 th
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned Poppy. Lots in flower at Mandria		23 rd
Plantaginaceae (plantain family)			
<i>Limosella aquatica</i>	Mudwort. In rockpools at Pegeia		24 th
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Weasel Snout. Not flowering.		23 rd
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Bucks'-horn Plantain		25 th
Platanaceae (plane family)			
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane Agios Neophytos monastery		22 nd
Plumbaginaceae (leadwort family)			
<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	Statice. Broad wavy leaves seen at various coastal sites		22 nd
<i>Limonium virgatum</i>	At top of shore at Agios Giorgios		24 th
<i>Plumbago europaea</i>	Leadwort. In Paphos and on coast at hotel		23 rd
Polygonaceae (dock family)			
<i>Polygonum maritimum</i>	Sea Knotgrass. Dark-green leathery leaves and tiny white flowers on beach at Mandria		23 rd
Portulacaceae (purslane family)			
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Common Purslane. On Mandria beach		23 rd
Primulaceae (primrose family)			
<i>Cyclamen persicum</i>	Persian Sowbread.		21 st
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed Baths of Aphrodite		25 th
Ranunculaceae (buttercup family)			
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemone. Flowers in pink, purple and white		22 nd
<i>Ranunculus cythraeus</i>	Flat leaves. Frequent in undisturbed habitats		22 nd
Resedaceae (mignonette family)			
<i>Reseda minoica</i>	Small brown and white flowers at Paphos Headland.		22 nd .
Rhamnaceae (buckthorn family)			
<i>Rhamnus lycoides</i> ssp. <i>graeca</i>	Spiny shrub with dark green leaves. Mandria cliff edge		23 rd
Rosaceae (rose family)			
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat. Widely grown for fruit.		21 st
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond. Neo Chorio		26 th
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	Holy Bramble. With deep-pink flowers		21 st
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet. Abundant in phrygana		21 st

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Rubiaceae (madder family)			
<i>Crucianella latifolia</i>	Upright with dead flower spikes on path to Fontana Amorosa		25 th
<i>Rubia tenuifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Madder		21 st
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder. Near donkey field, not flowering		26 th
<i>Theligonum cynocrambe</i>	Dog's Cabbage. On rocks and rock faces		21 st
<i>Valantia hispida</i>	Dead remains on rock faces		25 th
Salicaceae (willow family)			
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar. Columnar trees at Agios Neophytos		22 nd
Sapindaceae (soapberry family)			
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Broadleaf Hopbush. Naturalised at Tombs of the Kings		22 nd
Scrophulariaceae (figwort family)			
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein. Mostly coastal sites		22 nd
Solanaceae (nightshade family)			
<i>Lycianthes rantonneti</i>	Blue Potato-bush. Growing in Neo Chorio garden.		26 th
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	African Boxthorn. Spiky bush growing in Botanic Garden		21 st
<i>Mandragora officinarum</i>	Mandrake. Non-flowering rosettes of crinkled leaves with purplish veins.		22 nd
<i>Solandra maxima</i>	Golden Chalice Vine. Vine with large yellow flowers in Neo Chorio - introduced		26 th
<i>Solanum eleagnifolium</i>	Silverleaf Nightshade. Yellow-berried plants in field margin at Mandria		23 rd
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade.		23 rd
<i>Withania somnifera</i>	Ashwagandha. Paphos Headland, red berries		22 nd
Styracaceae (storax family)			
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax. Road to Baths of Aphrodite		21 st
Tamaricaceae (tamarisk family)			
<i>Tamarix tetragyna</i>	Road to Baths of Aphrodite		21 st
Urticaceae (nettle family)			
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small Nettle. Hotel grounds		27 th
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-Wall. Baths of Aphrodite		21 st
Verbenaceae			
<i>Duranta erecta</i>	Pigeonberry. Planted along track opposite hotel entrance		27 th
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana. Planted and naturalised		21 st
Zygophyllaceae (caltrop family)			
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Caltrop. Flowering at Paphos Headland, seeds at Mandria		23 rd

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MONOCOTYLEDONS			
Agavaceae (agave family)			
<i>Agave americana</i>	Naturalised on slopes below cafe		21 st
Amaryllidaceae (daffodil family)			
<i>Narcissus deficiens</i>	Tiny narcissus at Tombs of the Kings and Mandria		22 nd
<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	Bunch-flowered Narcissus. Fragrant species on north coast.		25 th
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil. Seedheads at Mandria Beach		23 rd
Araceae (arum family)			
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl. Frequent in shady places		21 st
Arecaceae (palm family)			
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Date Palm. Planted		21 st
<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	Washington Fan Palm. Planted and naturalised		21 st
Asparagaceae (asparagus family)			
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Wild Asparagus. Delicate ferny foliage		21 st
<i>Asparagus horridus</i>	Very spiny plant at Tombs of the Kings and elsewhere		22 nd
<i>Drimia maritima</i>	Sea Squill. Leaves and seedheads only - frequent		21 st
<i>Hyacinthella millefolium</i>	Pale-blue flowered bulb in forests at Pegeia and Smygies, endemic to Cyprus and Türkiye		24 th
<i>Muscari inconstictum</i>	Deep-purple flowered muscari on rocks at Smygies and along Fontana Amorosa path		26 th
<i>Muscari parviflorum</i>	Autumn Grape-hyacinth. Blue-flowered muscari at Tombs of the Kings and Paphos Headland		22 nd
<i>Prospero autumnale</i>	Autumn Squill. Pale brown seedheads only.		24 th
Asphodelaceae (asphodel family)			
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-stemmed Asphodel. Flowering in Botanic Gardens		25 th
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Branched Asphodel. Leaves and seedheads only - frequent		21 st
Cyperaceae (sedge family)			
<i>Cyperus longus</i>	Brown Galingale. Fringing upper pools at Agia Varvara		23 rd
Colchicaceae (colchicum family)			
<i>Colchicum pusillum</i>	Tiny whitish-pink flowers on bare soil at Pegeia Forest – only found in Greece, Crete and Cyprus		24 th
Iridaceae (iris family)			
<i>Romulea tempskyana</i>	Tempsky's Sand-crocus. Purple sand-crocus with yellow stamens at Pegeia and Fontana Amorosa path.		24 th
Orchidaceae (orchid family)			
<i>Anacamptis collina</i>	Fan-lipped Orchid. First few flowers seen on rocky path at Latchi		25 th
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid. Leaves and seedheads seen at Smygies		27 th

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<i>Ophrys omegaifera</i> ssp. <i>israelitica</i>	Sombre orchid with whitish 'W' on lip, in flower at Smygies		27 th
<i>Orchis anatolica</i>	Anatolian Orchid. Leaves and seedhead seen at Smygies		27 th
<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	Autumn Lady's-tresses. Pegeia Forest and Smygies		24 th
Poaceae (grass family)			
<i>Aegilops geniculata</i>	The 'spreading spiky-flowered' grass		25 th
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed. River valleys and wetlands		21 st
<i>Avena barbata</i>	Slender Wild-oat. Arable margins		25 th
<i>Cenchrus cf. setaceus</i>	Fountain Grass. Beach esplanade near hotel		27 th
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda Grass. 'Fingered' grass on beach at Mandria		23 rd
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	South African Bluestem. Tussocky perennial grass on field margins and waysides		21 st
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail Grass. On path to Fontana Amorosa		25 th
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed. Ponds at Agia Varvara		23 rd
<i>Polypogon viridis</i>	Water Bent. In rivulet near taverna at Baths of Aphrodite		21 st
Posidoniaceae (seagrass family)			
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Neptune Grass. Remains on beaches		23 rd
Smilacaceae (greenbriar family)			
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax. Spiny scrambler with heart-shaped leaves		21 st
Typhaceae (bulrush family)			
<i>Typha dominengis</i>	Southern Cat-tail. Latchi		21 st

MISCELLANEOUS PLANTS AND FUNGI

Bryophytes (Liverworts and mosses)

<i>Fossombronia</i> sp.	Tiny frilly lettuce-like liverworts on north-facing rockfaces by path to Fontana Amorosa	25 th
<i>Tortella squarrosa</i>	Side-fruited Crisp-moss. Golden-leaved moss, like tiny stars, growing with <i>Fossombronia</i>	25 th
<i>Lunularia cruciata</i>	Crescent-cup Liverwort. Thallose liverwort with crescent cups containing disc-like gemmae, on shaded rocks	25 th
<i>Targionia hypophylla</i>	Orobus-seed Liverwort. Forking thallose liverwort on shaded rocks	27 th
Fungi		
<i>Lentinus arcularius</i>	Spring Polypore. Tiny polypore fungus found on Fontana amorosa path and at Smygies.	25 th
<i>Chroogomphus rutilus</i>	Copper Spike. Orange and purplish fungus with decurrent gills. Mycorrhizal associate of Turkish Pine at Smygies.	26 th
<i>Collybia nuda</i>	Wood Blewit. Purple fungus at Smygies.	26 th
<i>Macrolepiota excoriata</i>	Frayed Parasol. Rather sad-looking parasol mushroom along the track opposite the hotel.	27 th

<i>Suillus collinitus</i>	Lumpy, yellowish bolete, mycorrhizal associate of pine along the track opposite the hotel.	27 th
Lichens		
<i>Cladonia foliacea</i>	Pine forest at Pegeia and Smygies	24 th
<i>Cladonia rangiformis</i>	Coastal cliffs near hotel	25 th

BIRDS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published in the **HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World**, as updated by www.birdsoftheworld.org

English names follow those used in the **Collins Bird Guide** (3rd edition).

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse and allies)										
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					X				
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse and allies)										
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>			X		H				
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			H			X	X	H	
Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)										
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					X				
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)										
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>				X	X	X	X	X	
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>						X	X	X	
Family Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules and Coots)										
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					X				
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						X			
Family Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)										
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>					X				
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>						X			
Greater Sand-plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>					X				
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and allies)										
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>					X				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							X		
Family Laridae (Gulls, Terns and Skimmers)										
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)										
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				X					
Mediterranean Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis desmarestii</i>			X	X		X			X

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Family Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets and Bitterns)										
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					X				
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>				X					
Great Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>									X
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Kites)										
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>			X						
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				X					
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>					X				
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			X	X					
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>						X	X		
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			X	X	X				
Family Strigidae (Owls)										
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				H					
Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)										
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>									X
Family Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)										
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Corvidae (Crows, Jays and Magpies)										
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			X	X	X			X	
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		X							
Family Paridae (Tits)										
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			X	X		X		X	X
Family Alaudidae (Larks)										
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			X	X					X
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				X	X				
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata riggenbachi</i>				X	X				
Family Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and allies)										
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			X		X	X			
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)										
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Scotoceridae (Bush Warblers and allies)										
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			X	X	X		X	X	
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers and allies)										
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)										
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				X		X			
Family Turdidae (Thrushes and allies)										
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			X						
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		X	X				X	X	

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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)										
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				X		X			
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)										
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				X					
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)										
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					X	X			
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>			X	X	X			X	X
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			X	X	X	X			
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>				X				X	
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>						X			
Family Fringillidae (Finches and allies)										
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				X	X				X
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			X	X		X	X	X	
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)										
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>					X	X			

AMPHIBIANS										
Cyprus Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax cypriensis</i>						H			
REPTILES										
Family Agamidae (Agamids)										
Cyprus Rock Agama	<i>Laudakia cypriaca</i>					X				
Family Gekkonidae (Geckos)										
Eastern Bent-toed Gecko	<i>Mediodactylus orientalis</i>						X	X		
Family Lacertidae (Lizards)										
Snake-eyed Lacertid	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>						X	X	X	
Schreiber's Fringe-toed Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus schreiberi</i>						X			
Troodos Wall Lizard	<i>Lacerta troodica</i>							X	X	

MAMMALS										
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>						F			
Long-eared Hedgehog	<i>Hemiechinus auritus</i>						D			

FISH

Mosquitofish

Gambusia sp.

X

BUTTERFLIES

Family Pieridae (Whites)

Large White *Pieris brassicae*Small White *Pieris rapae*Eastern Bath White *Pontia edusa*Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*

Family Lycaenidae (Blues, Coppers, and Hairstreaks)

Lang's Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithous*

Family Nymphalidae (Admirals and Fritillaries)

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

MISCELLANEOUS

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Beet Webworm Moth	<i>Spoladea recurvalis</i>				X				
Hummingbird Hawk Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		X					X	X
Geometrid moth species	<i>Apochima flabellaria</i>					X			
Tree Mallow Tortrix	<i>Crocidosema plebejana</i>		X						
Winter Pearl	<i>Evergestis pallidata</i>		X						
Lantana Plume	<i>Lantanophaga pusilliadactyla</i>								X
Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>					X			X
African Giant Mantis	<i>Sphodromantis viridis</i>						D		X
Mantis species (nymph)					X				X
Marmalade Hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>		X						
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>					X			
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>				X		X		
Honeybee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bee Wolf	<i>Philanthus species</i>				X				
Scarab parasitoid wasp	<i>Campsomeriella thoracica</i>				X				
Paper Wasp species (empty nest)					F				
Ichneumonid wasp species									X
Cyprus Cone-headed Grasshopper	<i>Truxalis exima cypria</i>			X					
Red-winged	<i>Oedipoda miniata</i>					X			

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Grasshopper							
Cicada species (exuviae)			F		F	F	F
Indian Milkweed Bug	<i>Spilostethus pandurus</i>			X			
European Fire Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>				X		
False Firefly species	<i>Drilus sp.</i>						X
Levant Freshwater Crab	<i>Potamon potamios</i>						X
Shore crab species					X		
Sun Spider (Solifuge) species							X
Banded Garden (Wasp) Spider	<i>Argiope trifasciata</i>		X	X	X	X	X
Garden Spider	<i>Araneus diadematus</i>		X				
Radiated Wolf Spider	<i>Hogna radiata</i>		X				
European Tarantula	<i>Chaetopelma olivaceum</i>					X	
Eastern Banded Snail	<i>Monacha syriaca</i>		X				

thank you for travelling with us

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