

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

# CRETE

17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026





## Crete 2026: trip report and species lists

### Leaders

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Check [www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72177720333442841/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72177720333442841/) for a gallery of photos from our trip.

Front: *Tulipa saxatilis* in the fields of the Omalos plateau. Above: *Orchis italica* on Spili Bumps

## Day One: 17<sup>th</sup> April. Arrival in Crete

An early start for most of us had us on our way, flying across the snowy Alps and then down the coastline of the Adriatic before cutting down to Crete. Chania airport was surprisingly quick and efficient - the dreaded Entry and Exit System obviously hasn't made its way to the Greek islands yet - and after locating our rather recalcitrant driver, we were soon out and on our way west into the Cretan countryside, and our home for the next week where, after settling into our rooms, some of us headed out for a wander around the local area.

Ambling up the lanes above the village, we found the first of many bright *Gladiolus italicus* in the field margins, and had our first introduction to the orchids of Crete, with the less-than-shy Naked Man Orchid *Orchis italica*, surprisingly pale Pyramidal Orchids *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, a few tongue orchids *Serapias lingua* and a little patch of Bumblebee Orchids *Ophrys bombyliflora*.

Near the top of the hill, we found the atmospheric cave-church of Saint John the Hermit, with its stunning views out towards the coast, with Red-rumped Swallows and Alpine Swifts overhead.

Back at the hotel, our first dinner introduced us to the impressive-slash-intimidating Greek portion size...

## Day Two: 18<sup>th</sup> April. Armeni Minoan Cemetery and Spili Bumps

We started our week with the longest bus journey of the trip, headed eastwards towards the limestone foothills of the Psiloritis mountains.

Our first stop was at the archaeological site at Armeni, a Minoan necropolis dating back an almost unfathomable 4,000 years.

Here, amongst the tombs, we found two species of tongue orchid *Serapias lingua* and *Serapias bergonii*, some past-their-best spikes of Giant Orchid *Himantoglossum robertianum* and more of the island's bewildering *Ophrys* bee orchids: *Ophrys lutea* subsp *galilaea*, *Ophrys bombyliflora*, *Ophrys scolopax* subsp *heldreichii* and several spikes of what seems to have been the hybrid between *Ophrys scolopax* subsp *heldreichii* and *Ophrys holosericea*.

Delving into one of the deeper tombs, we found Cretan Cave Slug *Tandonia cretica* and two species of cave cricket: *Gryllomorpha dalmatina* and the endemic *Troglophilus spinulosus*.

Moving on, we made it to one of Europe's classic botanical locations, the famous 'Spili bumps' just beyond the village of the same name. After our picnic lunch, we spent the rest of the day exploring this wonderful area, with orchids very much on our mind...

Great swathes of the pale pink *Orchis italica* were immediately obvious throughout the low-growing, spiny 'phrygana', along with taller darker spikes of Lax-flowered Orchids *Anacamptis laxiflora*. Just a few steps away from the road, we found the first handsome monochrome flowers of *Ophrys cretica*, along with the beautiful local form of Sawfly Orchid *Ophrys tenthredinifera*.

The primrose yellow *Orchis pauciflora* and suitably-named Milky Orchid *Neotinea lactea* were both found lower down the slope, and nearby, we found two endemic purple orchids: *Anacamptis boryi* and *Orchis sitiaca*, along with the similar-looking *Orchis quadripunctata* and *Orchis anatolica*.

There was, of course, much more to the 'bumps' than 'just' the orchids, with the lovely purple *Iris unguicularis* subsp *cretensis*, both Crown Anemone *Anemone coronaria* and the more delicate *Anemone hortensis*, a population of the fragile-looking *Cyclamen creticum* and, along the edge of one of the arable fields along the roadside, the first flowers of the bright scarlet *Tulipa orphanidea*.

### Day Three: 19<sup>th</sup> April. Akrotiri

A shorter bus journey today, back to the Akrotiri peninsula, where we drove past the airport and onwards, to the monastery of Agia Triada, from where we walked through the olive groves into the maquis and then up to the rocky hillsides around the monastery of Gouverneto.

Spring migration was much in evidence this morning. On the telegraph wires near the monastery, a flock of 30 Turtle Doves was an impressive sight, surely the largest number of this internationally-declining species any of us had seen together for a good few years, while a flock of 10 or more Lesser Kestrels were hawking over the nearby vineyard, along with at least three Red-footed Falcons and a handful of Common Kestrels. A Nightingale sang briefly from the depths of the bushes, a female Montagu's Harrier came overhead, and a couple of Whinchats were perched up amongst the maquis, but the bird of the day must surely be Bee-eater, with the lovely prrruping call of large flocks in our ears for much of the morning, as hundreds of these rainbow birds made their way overhead, headed northwards.

Butterflies were mostly fast-flying and brief in their appearances today, including our first Cleopatra, Small Copper and Eastern Bath White, while some of us saw Cretan Wall Lizard scuttling about along the way.

For the botanists, the walk started with a lesson in thistle appreciation, with Milk Thistle *Silybum marinum*, Syrian Thistle *Notobasis syriaca*, Italian Thistle *Carduus pycnocephalus* and Boar Thistle *Galactites tomentosus* all in flower alongside each other. Nearby we all admired the fuzzy pom-poms of Roman Nettle *Urtica pilulifera* and the lovely red flowers of *Echium angustifolium* at the roadside.

Beyond the cultivated areas, we emerged into the shrubby maquis vegetation, where the vague aroma of dead sheep heralded the appearance of the gloriously gory Dragon Arum *Dracunculus vulgaris*, with its magnificent velvety maroon flowers in full bloom. More pleasantly aromatic plants included *Thymbra capitata*, French Lavender *Lavandula stoechas* and Thyme-leaved Savory *Satureja thymbra*, along with the thyme-like *Micromeria nervosa*.

Walking up through the narrower gorge, we got up close to the rock faces, where the lovely endemic *Petromarula pinnata* gave us our first good looks, along with cushion-like *Hypericum empetrifolium* and the bright fairy lights of Cretan Vetch *Vicia cretica* growing up through the roadside shrubs.

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Three species of *Cistus* were seen during the day, with the large pink flowers of *Cistus creticus*, smaller paler pink *Cistus parviflorus* and white flowered *Cistus salvifolius* all common across the hillsides. Amongst the *Cistus* on the edge of the top car park, we ended the walk with an exciting find, the waxy white and pink flowers of *Cytinus ruber*, an obligate parasite of *Cistus creticus*, with flowers pollinated by ants.

Back at the hotel, after dinner some of us had a nocturnal wander, enjoying a European Green Toad by the swimming pool, a chorus of European Tree Frogs singing from the valley below, several Nathusius's Pipistrelles around the village, and a fly past by a Scops Owl.

### Day Four: 20<sup>th</sup> April. Aptera and Chania

This morning we visited the ancient city of Aptera, site of the mythical contest between the Sirens and Muses where, after the victory of the Muses, the Sirens lost their wings and cast themselves into the sea... apparently... Luckily, things were rather more relaxed at Aptera this morning, with bird song, buzzing of bees and a handful of archeologically-minded visitors the only things disturbing the calm.

In the peace of the ancient amphitheatre, Cretan Wall Lizards were much in evidence, posing nicely for everyone. A pair of Blue Rock Thrushes were at home amongst the ruins, along with plenty of the blue, endemic Rock Lettuce *Petromarula pinnata*, while the site was cloaked in the bright white and yellow of Crown Daisies *Glebionis coronaria* and some amazingly vibrant red Corn Poppies *Papaver rhoeas*.

After having our fill of the Greco-Roman era, we moved the short distance down slope to the more recent Ottoman fortress, where we found a spike of the sultry, deep purple *Orobanche lavandulae*, a parasite of the Pitch Vetch *Bituminaria bituminosa*, alongside the more catholic *Orobanche pubescens*.

A handful of Alpine Swifts and a single adult Eleonora's Falcon flew past, as we had our lunch and admired the view across Souda Bay to the Akrotiri peninsula, with Chania laid out to the west...

And it was to Chania that we headed next, with some time in the afternoon to explore the labyrinthine streets of the old town and stroll around the Venetian harbour before we headed back to the hotel for some birthday cake...

### Day Five: 21<sup>st</sup> April. Limni Agia and Omalos

The day started for some with some pre-breakfast Golden Orioles, with a showy group of ten or more perched up in a mulberry tree in the valley below the hotel.

After breakfast, it was back on the bus, and a short journey inland to the small reservoir of Agia Limni, where a Booted Eagle soaring over head as we arrived was the first of a run of interesting raptors: a group of eight Common Buzzards were seen in the distance, soaring over the ridge, while a Marsh Harrier over the reeds at the far side flew up to mob a passing Osprey, followed not long later by a Peregrine...

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On the water we found Little Grebe, Cormorant, Moorhen and Coot, as well as a single female Wigeon amongst the various domestic ducks and geese, with at least a couple of Squacco Herons flushing from the edges.

The reedy fringes of the lake were made up of Giant Reed *Arundo donax*, Southern Bulrush *Typha domingensis*, Great Fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* and Round-headed Clubrush *Scirpoides holoschoenus*, amongst others, with small 'heaps' of terrapins sunbathing: mostly Western Caspian Terrapin, with a handful of non-native Pond Sliders.

A short walk took us into the wet woodland on the eastern margins of the lake, where we were able to get up close to a ridiculously rare tree: fewer than 20 mature individuals of *Salix kaptarae* are known to exist, although the population here is obviously being well looked after, with numerous young saplings apparently having been planted.

Happy with our 'willow twitch', it was back to the bus, and the winding journey up, up, up into the White Mountains.

The switchback roads took us up and over onto the Omalos plateau, a flat basin of agricultural land, from where we climbed a little more to the end of the road, and the gateway to the Samaria Gorge. Here we looked down into the mouth of the gorge, the longest in Europe at 16km, descending some 1,230 metres down to the Libyan Sea at Agia Roumeli.

Crag Martins, Griffon Vultures and Ravens flew overhead, with *Arabis verna*, *Aubrieta deltoidea* and *Aethionema saxatile* subsp. *cretica* growing amongst the rocks around our lunch spot.

Leaving the gorge behind us, we headed back to the flat lands of the plateau, where we spent a blissful hour soaking up the sheets of candy pink *Tulipa saxatilis* growing beneath the goat-pruned trees, amongst Crete's most iconic wild flower displays along with the orchids of Spili. Plenty of purple Crown Anemones *Anemone coronaria* were scattered amongst them, as well as a couple of just-past-their-best Snake's-head Irises *Iris tuberosa*.

The fluting of Woodlarks and ringing song of a Wryneck added to the chorus of birds in the trees, and several Violet Carpenter Bees were acting very territorially, with each individual returning to its favourite warm rock in between chasing after the neighbours.

Our last stop of the day was just after the rise out of the plateau, where a path took us up into the goat-browsed wooded hillsides, home to abundant *Cyclamen creticum* and *Daphne sericea*, while tiny delights came in the form of *Buglossoides incrassata*, *Noccaea perfoliata*, *Orchis quadripunctata* and an absolutely minute grape hyacinth: currently these plants are considered to be *Muscari heldreichii*, although there are some suggestions that the plants from the White Mountains are actually an as-yet-undescribed new species, with true *heldreichii* restricted to the high mountains of the Peloponnese and Sterea Ellas.

## Day Six: 21<sup>st</sup> April. Polyrrhenia and Falassa

After another breakfast on the terrace, we were back on the bus and heading west, for a change. Our destination this morning was the village of Polyrrhenia, the village of 'many sheep', and a site that has been inhabited since at least the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC, with some interesting archaeology scattered across the hilltop.

Wending our way up through the picturesque village, we stopped to admire some particularly splendid clumps of *Petromarula pinnata* and very scenic Tree Spurge *Euphorbia dendroides* growing out from the walls, along with White Henbane *Hyoscyamus albus* and the white spikes of *Stachys spinulosa*.

Emerging higher on the hillside, we found Italian Poppy *Roemeria apulica* and Greater Honeywort *Cerintho major* along the trackside, while exploring amongst the stonecut 'dwellings' along the ridge, we found several very good looking (but most definitely unscented) clumps of the endemic carnation *Dianthus xylorrhizus*, a plant with a tiny world range, restricted to just this rocky hilltop and one other.

Griffon Vultures, Common Buzzards and Alpine Swifts were visible above us for most of the morning, and another endemic, the Cretan Festoon butterfly was noticeable on the wing today, with several individuals flying past us, and one or two stopping long enough for the photographers.

We made our way around to the far side of the hill, where a chapel amongst the trees gave us a suitably shady spot for our lunch, before we headed back down to the bus, passing the impressive, blood-red *Centaurea redempta* subsp *redempta* along the way, a plant restricted to just a few dry, rocky parts of western Crete.

After a refreshing lemonade in the village, we dropped down to the coast at Falassarna, in search of yet another plant with a tiny world range. Here, in a roped off area behind the beach, we found several dried up husks of *Colchicum reichingeri* and just one or two individuals of this winter flowering bulb still with some colour in them. This is a critically endangered plant known from just two or three beach locations in far western Crete, and a couple of spots in Libya, so it was good to see the protection in place here, even if the plants themselves were perhaps a little underwhelming at this time of year...

More showy were the abundant little purple irises of *Moraea mediterranea* and some nice sprawling Grass Poly *Lythrum hyssopifolia* in the same area, while explorations out in the sand dunes showed the lovely lilac flowers of *Crocodilium pumilio* to be particularly abundant, along with both *Medicago marina* and the less stroke-able *Medicago littoralis*, Cottonweed *Achillea maritima* and Three-horned Stock *Matthiola tricuspicata*, alongside some more familiar coast plants: Sea Holly *Eryngium maritimum*, Yellow Horned-poppy *Glaucium flavum* and Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima*.

At the back of the beach, there was quite a bit of evidence of today's migration, with four Whinchat, a male Northern Wheatear, two Tawny Pipits, a pair of Yellow Wagtails, a little party of Short-toed Larks and a single Red-throated Pipit all busy feeding, ready to push on northwards again.

### Day Seven: 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Delanion Gorge

No visit to Crete would be complete without tackling a gorge walk, and today was our opportunity.

The bus took us up into the hills, to the sleepy village of Mesavlia, from where we dropped down through flower-filled phrygana, home to a very early spike of Violet Birds-nest Orchid *Limodorum abortivum* and a very late spike of Fan-lipped Orchid *Anacamptis collina*, to the cool riverine woodland of Eastern Plane *Platanus orientalis* and Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*. The path had us crossing and recrossing the river reshaped by winter rains, before entering the narrow gorge itself where Griffon Vultures and a pair of Ravens soared overhead, with sheer rock faces riddled with caves and crevices supporting some very special endemic chasmophytes: Cretan Ebony *Ebenus creticus*, Cretan Gorge Laurel *Staezelia petiolata* and Cretan Cabbage *Brassica cretica* subsp *cretica*.

We arrived at the taverna with perfect timing, just as the forecast rain showers arrived, and went on to enjoy a delicious Cretan mezze feast.

### Day Eight: 24<sup>th</sup> April. Souda Bay and home...

The weather gods had smiled on us all week, but this morning the rains finally arrived.

After one last lazy breakfast, we said goodbye to Spilia Village, and headed back eastwards, making a short stop at the Souda Bay Commonwealth Cemetery on the way to the airport, and our flights home at the end of a wonderful week of Wildlife Travelling.

Philip Precey, Wildlife Travel. April 2026



Above (top: left to right): *Ophrys cretica*, *Ophrys scolopax* subsp *heldreichii*, *Ophrys tenthredinifera*.  
(bottom: left to right): *Orchis pauciflora*, *Anacamptis laxiflora*, *Anacamptis boryi*

## PLANTS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
<b>FERNS AND ALLIES</b>		
<b>Aspleniaceae (spleenwort family)</b>		
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rusty-back Fern.	Akrotiri
<b>Dennstaedtiaceae (bracken family)</b>		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken.	Delianon Gorge
<b>Dryopteridaceae (shieldfern family)</b>		
<i>Dryopteris pallida</i>	Pale Male-fern.	Delianon Gorge
<b>Equisetaceae (horsetail family)</b>		
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Agia Limni	
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Great Horsetail.	Agia Limni
<b>Polypodiaceae (polypody family)</b>		
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody.	Delianon Gorge
<b>Pteridaceae (maidenhair fern family)</b>		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern.	Delianon Gorge
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	Delianon Gorge
<i>Hemionitis acrostica</i>	Lip Fern.	Akrotiri, = <i>Oeosporangium acrosticum</i>
<b>Selaginellaceae (lesser clubmoss family)</b>		
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss.	Armeni
<b>CONIFERS</b>		
<b>Cupressaceae (cypress family)</b>		
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Mediterranean Cypress.	Planted around monasteries
<i>Juniperus macrocarpa</i>	Large-fruited Juniper.	eg mouth of Samaria Gorge
<b>Pinaceae (pine family)</b>		
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Turkish Pine.	eg around Spilia
<b>DICOTYLEDONS</b>		
<b>Amaranthaceae (amaranth family)</b>		
<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	Nettle-leaved Goosefoot.	Akrotiri
<b>Anacardiaceae (sumac family)</b>		
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree.	common in maquis
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree.	Polyrrhenia
<b>Apiaceae (carrot family)</b>		
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock.	lunch spot, Polyrrhenia
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire.	Chania old town
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot.	Common roadside plant
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly.	Falassarna
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel.	Common roadside plant
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel.	eg Spilia roadsides
<i>Lagoecia cuminoides</i>	Fluffy Thimbleweed.	Delianon Gorge
<i>Lecokia cretica</i>	Delianon Gorge	

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<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	<b>Corky-fruited Water-Dropwort.</b> Damp places
<i>Scaligeria napiformis</i>	<b>Cretan Pignut.</b> Fine lacy flowers, roadsides near Spilia
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	<b>Shepherd's Needle.</b> Common arable weed
<i>Smyrniium olusatrum</i>	<b>Alexanders.</b> Common roadside plant
<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	<b>Perfoliate Alexanders.</b> eg Armeni
<i>Thapsia garganica</i>	lunch spot, Polyrrhenia
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	<b>Mediterranean Hartwort.</b> Connect Four seeds
<b>Apocynaceae (dogbane family)</b>	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	<b>Oleander.</b> common planted along main roads
<i>Vinca major</i>	<b>Greater Periwinkle.</b> Polyrrhenia
<b>Araliaceae (ivy family)</b>	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	<b>Common Ivy.</b> Common
<b>Aristolochiaceae (birthwort family)</b>	
<i>Aristolochia sempervirens</i>	<b>Climbing Birthwort.</b> Aptera theatre
<b>Asteraceae (daisy family)</b>	
<i>Achillea maritima</i>	<b>Cottonweed.</b> Falssarna
<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	Mexican alien, Agia Limni
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	<b>Chios Chamomile.</b> Common roadside plant
<i>Anthemis rigida</i>	<b>Rayless Chamomile.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i>	Polyrrhenia
<i>Atractylis cancellata</i>	<b>Birdcage Thistle.</b> Akrotiri.
<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Monastery car park, Akrotiri
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	<b>Field Marigold.</b> Aptera
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	<b>Plymouth Thistle.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Carlina graeca</i>	<b>Greek Carline Thistle.</b> Dead heads, Spili
<i>Centaurea raphanina</i>	Rosettes, walls at the entrance to Samaria Gorge
<i>Centaurea redempta</i>	Polyrrhenia
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	<b>Chicory.</b> Roadside
<i>Cichorium spinosum</i>	Falassarna beach
<i>Crocodilium pumilio</i>	Polyrrhenia
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Akrotiri
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	dead, Polyrrhenia
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i>	<b>Spiny Globe-Thistle.</b> Very spiny leaves, Spili
<i>Filago pygmaea</i>	Akrotiri
<i>Galactites tomentosus</i>	<b>Boar Thistle.</b> Common roadside plants
<i>Geropogon hybridus</i>	<b>Slender Salsify.</b> Akrotiri etc
<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>	<b>Crown Daisy.</b> Common roadside weed
<i>Hedypnois rhagdaloides</i>	<b>Cretanweed.</b> Roadside Spilia
<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	<b>Curry Plant.</b> Armeni
<i>Leontodon tuberosus</i>	<b>Tuberous Hawkbit.</b> Armeni, Spili
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	<b>Chamomile.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	<b>Syrian Thistle.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Onopordum bracteatum</i>	<b>Branched Cotton Thistle.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	<b>Spiny Starwort.</b> Common roadside plant, spiky bracts

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<i>Pentenema verbascifolium</i>	<b>Snow Samphire.</b> Delianon Gorge
<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>	<b>Eastern Phagnalon.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	<b>Shrubby Knapweed.</b> Polyrrhenia
<i>Pulicaria odora</i>	tall fleabane, Polyrrhenia
<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	<b>Common Golden Thistle.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Staelina petiolata</i>	Delianon Gorge
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	<b>Purple Salsify.</b> Purple 'goats beard'
<b>Berberidaceae (barberry family)</b>	
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	<b>Cretan Barberry.</b> Omalos
<b>Boraginaceae (forget-me-not family)</b>	
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	<b>Large Blue Alkanet.</b> Field margins, Spili
<i>Anchusa variegata</i>	Striped purple and white flowers, roadside, Akrotiri
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	<b>Borage.</b> Common field margins
<i>Buglossoides incrassata</i>	<b>Blue Field Gromwell.</b> tiny, blue flower, Omalos rocky walk
<i>Cerinthe major</i>	<b>Greater Honeywort.</b> Polyrrhenia
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	<b>Cretan Hound's-tongue.</b> eg Armeni
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	<b>Narrow-leaved Viper's-Bugloss.</b> deep red flowers, Akrotiri
<i>Echium parviflorum</i>	Polyrrhenia
<i>Echium italicum</i>	<b>Pale Bugloss.</b> Aptera, inside the ottoman fortress
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	<b>Purple Viper's-Bugloss.</b> eg Armeni
<i>Myosotis incrassata</i>	overlooking Samaria Gorge
<i>Neatostema apulum</i>	Yellow-flowered annual, Akrotiri.
<i>Onosma graeca</i>	<b>Greek Goldendrop.</b> Armeni
<b>Brassicaceae (cabbage family)</b>	
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i> subsp <i>cretica</i>	<b>Burnt Candytuft.</b> Omalos, overlooking Samaria Gorge
<i>Arabis verna</i>	<b>Spring Cress.</b> Omalos and Delianon Gorge
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	<b>Purple Rock-cress.</b> Omalos
<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> subsp <i>megalocarpa</i>	yellow 'Alyssum', Polyrrhenia
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	<b>Mediterranean Buckler-Mustard.</b> Common roadside weed
<i>Brassica cretica</i> subsp <i>cretica</i>	Delianon Gorge
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	<b>Sea Rocket.</b> Falassarna
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	<b>Shepherd's-purse.</b> Omalos
<i>Cardamine graeca</i>	<b>Southern Bittercress.</b> Omalos
<i>Erophila verna</i>	<b>Common Whitlow-grass.</b> Omalos
<i>Erysimum raulinii</i>	Yellow wallflower on rocks at Spili chapel, endemic to W. Crete
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	<b>Annual Honesty.</b> Aptera
<i>Malcolmia chia</i>	<b>Aegean Stock.</b> Aptera – in fort
<i>Malcolmia flexuosa</i>	<b>Nodding Stock.</b> Chania old town walls
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	<b>Three-horned Stock.</b> Falassarna beach
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	<b>Water-cress</b>
<i>Noccaea cretica</i>	Omalos
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	<b>Wild Radish.</b> Field margin, Spili
<i>Sinapis alba</i>	<b>White Mustard.</b> Very common roadside weed

<b>Cactaceae (cactus family)</b>	
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	<b>Prickly Pear.</b> roadside weed
<b>Campanulaceae (bellflower family)</b>	
<i>Campanula erinus</i>	<b>Small Bellflower.</b> Roadside weed
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	<b>Large Venus's Looking-Glass.</b> Delianon Gorge
<i>Petromarula pinnata</i>	<b>Rock Lettuce.</b> Common in rocky places
<i>Solenopsis minuta</i> agg.	Spilia rock church
<b>Capparaceae (caper family)</b>	
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	<b>Caper.</b> Delianon Gorge
<b>Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle family) (includes former Dipsacaceae)</b>	
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>	Common roadside plant
<i>Lomelosia brachiata</i>	Akrotiri
<i>Valeriana asarifolia</i>	<b>Cretan Valerian.</b> eg Spili rocks
<i>Valeriana calcitrapae</i>	<b>Annual Valerian.</b> Akrotiri, on the rocks
<i>Valeriana discoidea</i>	<b>Disk Cornsalad.</b> Akrotiri
<b>Caryophyllaceae (carnation family)</b>	
<i>Cerastium comatum</i>	Omalos. Very hairy annual on tracks.
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	<b>Sticky Mouse-ear.</b> Omalos
<i>Cerastium scaposum</i>	Big white mouse-ear, Omalos
<i>Dianthus xylorrhizus</i>	Polyrrhenia: endemic to just the one hilltop!
<i>Holosteum umbellatum</i>	Omalos
<i>Sabulina mediterranea</i>	Akrotiri
<i>Sabulina tenuifolia</i>	Omalos
<i>Silene behen</i>	Polyrrhenia
<i>Silene colorata</i>	<b>Mediterranean Catchfly.</b> bright pink, low growing, very common
<i>Silene cretica</i>	<b>Cretan Catchfly.</b> Polyrrhenia
<i>Silene gallica</i>	<b>Small-flowered Catchfly.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Spergulara bocconeii</i>	<b>Greek Sea Spurrey.</b> Falassarna beach
<i>Spergularia marina</i>	<b>Lesser Sea Spurrey.</b> Chania harbour
<i>Stellaria cupaniana</i>	<b>Southern Chickweed.</b> Polyrrhenia
<b>Cistaceae (rock-rose family)</b>	
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	<b>Hoary Cistus.</b> Large pink flowers
<i>Cistus parviflorus</i>	<b>Small-flowered Cistus.</b> Small pink flowers
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	<b>Sage-leaved Cistus.</b> White flowers
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	<b>Spotted Rock-rose.</b> Delianon Gorge
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	<b>Mediterranean Rock-rose.</b> Akrotiri
<b>Convolvulaceae (bindweed family)</b>	
<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	<b>Blue Morning Glory.</b> Village weed
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	<b>Mallow-leaved Bindweed.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Convolvulus oleifolius</i>	<b>Pink Bindweed.</b> Shrubby with silver leaves
<b>Crassulaceae (stonecrop family)</b>	
<i>Crassula alata</i>	Spilia
<i>Petrosedum sediforme</i>	<b>Pale Stonecrop.</b> Polyrrhenia
<i>Rosularia serrata</i>	<b>Saw-leaved Liveforever.</b> Rockface at Akrotiri

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<i>Sedum creticum</i>	Akrotiri
<i>Sedum litoreum</i>	<b>Coastal Stonecrop.</b> Spilia etc.
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	<b>Narrow Navelwort.</b> Aptera
<i>Sedum rubens</i>	Akrotiri: pinkish leaves
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	<b>Navelwort.</b> Spilia rock church
<b>Cucurbitaceae (gourd family)</b>	
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	<b>White Bryony.</b> Aptera
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	<b>Squirting Cucumber.</b> Chania
<b>Ericaceae (heather family)</b>	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	<b>Strawberry Tree.</b> Akrotiri and Delianon Gorge
<i>Erica arborea</i>	<b>Tree Heather.</b> Delianon Gorge
<b>Euphorbiaceae (spurge family)</b>	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	<b>Greek Spiny Spurge.</b> eg Spili
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	<b>Mediterranean Spurge.</b> eg Spili
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	<b>Tree Spurge.</b> eg Spili
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	<b>Dwarf Spurge.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	<b>Sun Spurge.</b> eg Spili
<i>Euphorbia hypericifolia</i>	Monastery carpark, Akrotiri
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	<b>Sea Spurge.</b> Falssarna beach
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	<b>Annual Mercury.</b> Common trackside plant
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	<b>Castor Oil Plant.</b> Common roadside plant
<b>Fabaceae (pea family)</b>	
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	<b>Bean Trefoil.</b> Aptera
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp <i>rubriflora</i>	<b>Kidney Vetch.</b> eg Armeni, with red flowers
<i>Astragalus hamosus</i>	<b>Southern Milk-vetch.</b> Aptera, curly pods
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	<b>Pitch Vetch.</b> Common roadside plant
<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	<b>Spiny Broom.</b> Sweetly smelling
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	<b>Carob Tree.</b> Common village tree
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	<b>Judas Tree.</b> Agia Limni
<i>Coronilla cretica</i>	Small pale-pink flowered crown-vetch. Spilia
<i>Coronilla rostrata</i>	Pink and yellow-flowered crown-vetch. Rock church, Spilia
<i>Coronilla securidaca</i>	Larger, bright-yellow flowered crown-vetch. Widespread.
<i>Ebenus cretica</i>	<b>Cretan Ebony.</b> Delianon Gorge
<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>	<b>Thorny Broom.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>	Agia Limni
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	red pea, Omalos
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Deep red flowers, narrow leaves: eg Spilia
<i>Lotus edulis</i>	Falassarna beach
<i>Lotus ornithopodiodes</i>	<b>Southern Bird's-foot-trefoil.</b> Widespread eg Spilia
<i>Lotus tetragonolobus</i>	<b>Asparagus Pea.</b> Spilia
<i>Lupinus gussoneanus</i>	<b>Hairy Lupin.</b> Olive grove at start of Delianon Gorge
<i>Lupinus pilosus</i>	<b>Blue Lupin.</b> Armeni
<i>Medicago arborea</i>	<b>Tree Medick.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Medicago littoralis</i>	<b>Shore Medick.</b> Falassarna beach

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<i>Medicago marina</i>	<b>Coastal Medick.</b> Falassarna beach
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	<b>Button Medick.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Onobrychis aequidentata</i>	Cerise flowers
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	<b>Cockscomb Sainfoin.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Ononis ornithopodioides</i>	Akrotiri. Yellow flowers
<i>Ononis reclinata</i>	<b>Small Restharrow.</b> Akrotiri and Falassarna beach
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	<b>Spanish Broom.</b> Common on rocky hillsides
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	<b>Hop Trefoil.</b> Akrotiri etc
<i>Trifolium infamia-ponertii</i>	Very like <i>Trifolium angustifolium</i> , Falassarna beach
<i>Trifolium physodes</i>	<b>Bladder Clover.</b> Armeni
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	<b>Reversed Clover.</b> Falassarna beach
<i>Trifolium scabrum</i>	<b>Rough Clover.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	<b>Starry Clover.</b> Common roadside plant
<i>Trifolium uniflorum</i>	<b>One-flowered Clover.</b> Spili
<i>Tripodion tetraphyllum</i>	<b>Bladder Vetch.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Vicia cretica</i>	<b>Cretan Vetch.</b> 'fairy lights', Akrotiri
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	<b>Hairy Yellow-vetch.</b> Spilia etc
<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	<b>Spring Vetch.</b> Omalos
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	<b>Hairy Vetch.</b> Delianon Gorge
<b>Fagaceae (beech family)</b>	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	<b>Sweet Chestnut.</b> Delianon Gorge
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	<b>Kermes Oak.</b> Spili chapel etc
<i>Quercus ithaburensis</i>	<b>Mount Tabor Oak.</b> Armeni
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	<b>Downy Oak.</b> Armeni
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	<b>Holm Oak.</b> Delianon Gorge
<b>Gentianaceae (gentian family)</b>	
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	<b>Yellow-wort.</b> Olive groves above the hotel
<i>Centaurium tenuiflorum</i>	<b>Slender Centaury.</b> Falassarna beach
<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Akrotiri
<b>Geraniaceae (geranium family)</b>	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	<b>Common Stork's-bill.</b> Omalos
<i>Erodium gruinum</i>	<b>Long-beaked Stork's-bill.</b> common roadside plant
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	<b>Soft Stork's-bill.</b> Spilia
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	<b>Musk Stork's-bill.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	<b>Long-stalked Crane's-bill.</b> Armeni
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	<b>Cut-leaved Crane's-bill.</b> common
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	<b>Shining Crane's-bill.</b> Omalos
<i>Geranium molle</i>	<b>Dove's-foot Crane's-bill.</b> common
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	<b>Little Robin.</b> common
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	<b>Round-leaved Crane's-bill.</b> common
<b>Hypericaceae (St John's-wort family)</b>	
<i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i>	Akrotiri
<b>Lamiaceae (mint family)</b>	
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	<b>Henbit.</b> Common arable plant

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<i>Lamium garganicum</i> subsp <i>striatum</i>	<b>Large Red Deadnettle.</b> Omalos
<i>Lamium hybridum</i>	<b>Cut-leaved Deadnettle.</b> Omalos
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	<b>French Lavender.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	<b>White Horehound.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Micromeria nervosa</i>	Pink-flowered savory. Frequent.
<i>Nepeta scordotis</i>	Aptera
<i>Phlomis cretica</i>	Akrotiri
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	<b>Jerusalem Sage.</b> Common rocky hillsides
<i>Prasium majus</i>	<b>White Hedge-nettle.</b> Common scrambling in maquis
<i>Pseudodictamnus acetabulosus</i>	<b>False Dittany.</b> eg Aptera and Akrotiri
<i>Pseudodictamnus mediterraneus</i>	Akrotiri, Polyrrenia
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	<b>Greek Sage.</b> Delianon Gorge
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	<b>Common Clary.</b> eg Armeni
<i>Salvia viridis</i>	<b>Annual Clary.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Satureja thymbra</i>	<b>Thyme-leaved Savory.</b> Purple flowered bush, Akrotiri
<i>Sideritis curvidens</i>	Akrotiri
<i>Stachys cretica</i>	Delianon Gorge
<i>Stachys ocymastrum</i>	<b>Italian Woundwort.</b> Aptera
<i>Stachys spinulosa</i>	Polyrrenia
<i>Teucrium flavum</i>	Leaves on rocks at Spili bumps chapel.
<i>Thymbra capitata</i>	Spiky bush
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	<b>Chaste Tree.</b> Agia Limni
<b>Linaceae (flax family)</b>	
<i>Linum bienne</i>	<b>Pale Flax.</b> Common roadside plant
<i>Linum strictum</i>	<b>Upright Yellow-Flax.</b> Akrotiri
<b>Lythraceae (purple loosestrife family)</b>	
<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	<b>Grass-Poly.</b> Falassarna beach
<i>Lythrum junceum</i>	<b>False Grass-Poly.</b> Agia Limni
<i>Punica granatum</i>	<b>Pomegranate.</b> Village tree
<b>Malvaceae (mallow family)</b>	
<i>Malva arborea</i>	<b>Tree Mallow.</b> Spili
<i>Malva multiflora</i>	<b>Cretan Mallow.</b> Very common, roadsides
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	<b>Least Mallow.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	<b>Common Mallow.</b> Roadsides etc
<b>Meliaceae (mahogany family)</b>	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	<b>Persian Lilac.</b> Hotel garden
<b>Moraceae (fig family)</b>	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	<b>Common Fig.</b> Everywhere
<i>Morus alba</i>	<b>White Mulberry.</b> Delianon Gorge
<b>Myrtaceae (myrtle family)</b>	
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	<b>Myrtle.</b> Church in Spilia
<b>Oleaceae (olive family)</b>	
<i>Olea europaea</i>	<b>Olive.</b> Everywhere

<b>Orobanchaceae (broomrape family)</b>	
<i>Orobanche lavandulacea</i>	Deep purple, parasitising Pitch Vetch: Aptera
<i>Orobanche nana</i>	<b>Dwarf Sorrel Broomrape.</b> On Oxalis, common
<i>Orobanche pubescens</i>	<b>Hairy Broomrape.</b> Common in olive groves, eg Aptera
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	<b>Southern Red Bartsia.</b> Common everywhere
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	<b>Yellow Bartsia.</b> Agia Limni
<b>Oxalidaceae (wood-sorrel family)</b>	
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	<b>Bermuda Buttercup.</b> Invasive horror
<b>Papaveraceae (poppy family)</b>	
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	<b>Common Fumitory.</b> Polyrrhenia
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	<b>White Ramping Fumitory.</b> Widespread
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	<b>Yellow Horned Poppy.</b> Falassarna beach
<i>Glaucium corniculatum</i>	<b>Red Horned Poppy.</b> Chania old town walls
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	<b>Long-headed Poppy.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	<b>Corn Poppy.</b> Aptera
<i>Roemeria apula</i>	<b>Italian Poppy.</b> Polyrrhenia
<b>Plantaginaceae (plantain family)</b>	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	<b>Ivy-leaved Toadflax.</b> Chania town walls
<i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>	<b>Jersey Toadflax.</b> Deep purple flowers, eg Akrotiri
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	<b>Weasel Snout.</b> Common field margin plant
<i>Plantago afra</i>	<b>Branched Plantain.</b> common field margin plant
<i>Plantago bellardii</i>	<b>Hairy Plantain.</b> Agia Triada car park
<i>Plantago cretica</i>	<b>Cretan Plantain.</b> Low growing, very fuzzy: eg Akrotiri
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	<b>Bucks'-horn Plantain.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	<b>Hare's-foot Plantain.</b> eg Akrotiri
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	<b>Pale Speedwell.</b> Common on walls
<i>Veronica persica</i>	<b>Common Field-speedwell.</b> Delianon Gorge
<b>Platanaceae (plane family)</b>	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	<b>Oriental Plane.</b> Spili chapel, Delianon Gorge etc
<b>Polygonaceae (dock family)</b>	
<i>Rumex spinosus</i>	<b>Devil's Thorn.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Rumex tuberosus</i>	<b>Tuberous Dock.</b> Polyrrhenia
<b>Primulaceae (primrose family)</b>	
<i>Cyclamen creticum</i>	<b>Cretan Sowbread.</b> Spili
<i>Cyclamen graecum</i>	<b>Greek Sowbread.</b> Spilia cave church: leaves only, autumn flowering
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>	<b>Scarlet Pimpernel</b>
<i>Lysimachia loeflingii</i>	<b>Blue Scarlet Pimpernel.</b> Common roadside.
<b>Rafflesiaceae (rafflesia family)</b>	
<i>Cytinus ruber</i>	Parasitic on <i>Cistus creticus</i> . Akrotiri and Delianon Gorge
<b>Ranunculaceae (buttercup family)</b>	
<i>Adonis microcarpa</i>	<b>Yellow Pheasant's-eye.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	<b>Crown Anemone.</b> Spili and Omalos
<i>Anemone hortensis</i>	<b>Broad-leaved Anemone.</b> Spili
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	<b>Virgin's Bower.</b> Aptera

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<i>Delphinium ajacis</i>	Larkspur. Polyrrenhia
<i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i>	Turban Buttercup. Akrotiri and below Aptera, on the roadside
<i>Ranunculus bullatus</i>	Autumn Buttercup. Delianon Gorge
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine. Omalos etc
<i>Ranunculus muricatus</i>	Rough-fruited Buttercup. Widespread
<i>Staphisagria macrosperma</i>	Licebane. looked like Wolfsbane, Delianon Gorge
<b>Rosaceae (rose family)</b>	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Common Hawthorn. Omalos etc
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat. Common village tree
<i>Prunus amygdalus</i>	Almond. Aptera
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Almond-leaved Pear. Omalos
<i>Rubus creticus</i>	Holy Bramble
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet. Chicken wire bush, common in phrygana
<b>Rubiaceae (madder family)</b>	
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder. Delianon Gorge
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder. Armeni etc
<i>Theligonum cynocrambe</i>	Dog's Cabbage. very common on walls, eg Delianon Gorge
<i>Valantia hispida</i>	common on walls
<b>Salicaceae (willow family)</b>	
<i>Salix kaptarae</i>	endemic willow, Agia Limni
<b>Santalaceae (sandalwood family)</b>	
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Poet's Cassia. Armeni
<b>Sapindaceae (soapberry family)</b>	
<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	Cretan Maple. Omalos
<b>Saxifragaceae (saxifrage family)</b>	
<i>Saxifraga rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Saxifrage. Omalos
<b>Scrophulariaceae (figwort family)</b>	
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein. Rosettes
<i>Verbascum arcturus</i>	Bear's-tail Mullein. Delianon Gorge
<i>Verbascum macrurum</i>	large flower spikes, Aptera
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Pale Figwort. Spilia cave church
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved Figwort. Agia Triada car park
<b>Solanaceae (nightshade family)</b>	
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	White Henbane. Chania walls
<i>Mandragora officinarum</i>	Mandrake. Akrotiri
<b>Styracaceae (storax family)</b>	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Delianon Gorge
<b>Thymelaeaceae (mezereon family)</b>	
<i>Daphne sericea</i>	Spili and hillsides above Omalos
<b>Urticaceae (nettle family)</b>	
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Mediterranean Nettle. Village weed
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman Nettle. Akrotiri: fuzzy pom poms
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small Nettle. Agia Triada car park
<i>Parietaria cretica</i>	Chania walls

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<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	<b>Pellitory-of-the-Wall.</b> Common, on walls
<i>Parietaria lusitanica</i>	<b>Chickweed-leaved Pellitory.</b> Common, on walls
<b>MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>	
<b>Amaryllidaceae (daffodil family)</b>	
<i>Allium roseum</i>	<b>Rosy Garlic.</b> Common
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i>	<b>Hairy Garlic.</b> Delianon Gorge
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	<b>Sea Daffodil.</b> Falassarna beach
<b>Araceae (arum family)</b>	
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	<b>Friar's Cowl.</b> Spili
<i>Arum concinatum</i>	Akrotiri, Delianon Gorge
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	<b>Dragon Arum.</b> Common on rocky hillsides
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	<b>Altar Lily.</b> Introduced, damp places
<b>Asparagaceae (asparagus family)</b>	
<i>Asparagus aphyllus</i>	<b>Mediterranean Asparagus.</b> Polyrrhenia
<i>Drimia numidica</i>	Common on rocky hillsides: broad leaves, not flowering
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	<b>Tassel Hyacinth.</b> Common roadside plant
<i>Muscari heldreichii</i>	Omalos
<i>Muscari spreitzenhoferi</i>	Akrotiri
<i>Ornithogalum collinum</i>	Armeni
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	Spilia
<b>Asphodelaceae (asphodel family)</b>	
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	<b>King's-Spear.</b> common
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	<b>Branched Asphodel.</b> common
<b>Colchicaceae (colchicum family)</b>	
<i>Colchicum rechingeri</i>	<b>Libyan Meadow Saffron.</b> Falassarna beach
<b>Cyperaceae (sedge family)</b>	
<i>Carex divulsa</i> subsp <i>divulsa</i>	<b>Grey Sedge.</b> Agia Limni
<i>Cladium mariscus</i>	<b>Great Fen-sedge.</b> Agia Limni
<i>Cyperus longus</i>	<b>Galingale.</b> Agia Limni
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	<b>Black Bog-rush.</b> Roadside rock, Spili
<i>Scirpoides holoschoenus</i>	<b>Round-headed Clubrush.</b> Agia Limni
<b>Iridaceae (iris family)</b>	
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	<b>Field Gladiolus.</b> Common field margin plant
<i>Iris tuberosa</i>	<b>Snake's-head Iris.</b> Omalos
<i>Iris unguicularis</i> subsp <i>cretensis</i>	<b>Cretan Iris.</b> Spili
<i>Moraea mediterranea</i>	Falassarna beach
<i>Moraea sisyrinchium</i>	<b>Barbary Nut.</b> eg Armeni
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	<b>Sand Crocus.</b> Falassarna beach
<b>Liliaceae (lily family)</b>	
<i>Tulipa saxatilis</i>	pink tulip, Omalos
<i>Tulipa orphanidea</i>	red tulip, Spili
<i>Gagea graeca</i>	<b>Greek Star-of-Bethlehem.</b> Common rocky places
<i>Gagea peduncularis</i>	Yellow-flowers. Omalos
<i>Fritillaria messanensis</i>	Spili

<b>Orchidaceae (orchid family)</b>	
<i>Anacamptis boryi</i>	Spili
<i>Anacamptis collina</i>	Delianon Gorge
<i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i>	<b>Loose-flowered Orchid.</b> damper bits Spili
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	<b>Pyramidal Orchid.</b> common
<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	<b>Giant Orchid.</b> going over.
<i>Neotinea lactea</i>	<b>Milky Orchid.</b> past best, Spili
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	<b>Bumblebee Orchid.</b> Armeni
<i>Ophrys cretica</i>	Spili
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> subsp <i>fusca</i>	= <i>Ophrys creberimma</i> . Spili
<i>Ophrys holosericea</i> subsp <i>holosericea</i>	= <i>Ophrys episcopalis</i> . Spili
<i>Ophrys lutea</i> subsp <i>galilaea</i>	= <i>Ophrys sicula</i> . Armeni, Spili
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i> subsp <i>heldreichii</i>	Armeni
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp <i>gortynia</i>	= <i>Ophrys gortynia</i> , Delianon Gorge
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	<b>Sawfly Orchid.</b> Spili
<i>Orchis anatolica</i>	<b>Anatolian Orchid.</b> Spili
<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	<b>Man Orchid.</b> Spili
<i>Orchis italica</i>	<b>Naked Man Orchid.</b> Spili
<i>Orchis pauciflora</i>	<b>Few-flowered Orchid.</b> primrose yellow, Spili
<i>Orchis quadripunctata</i>	<b>Four-spotted Orchid.</b> Spili
<i>Orchis sitiaca</i>	Spili
<i>Orchis anatolica</i>	Spili
<i>Serapias bergonii</i>	eg Armeni
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	eg Armeni
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	<b>Violet Bird's Nest Orchid.</b> Delianon Gorge
<b>Poaceae (grass family)</b>	
<i>Aira elegans</i>	<b>Elegant Hair-grass.</b> Akrotiri
<i>Andropogon distachyos</i>	<b>Mediterranean Beard-grass.</b> Polyrrhenia
<i>Anisantha rigida</i>	<b>Ripgut Brome.</b> Very common
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	<b>Sweet Vernal-grass</b>
<i>Arundo donax</i>	<b>Giant Reed.</b> Rivers and wet places
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	<b>Animated Oat.</b> Very common
<i>Briza maxima</i>	<b>Greater Quaking-grass.</b> Large florets, common
<i>Catapodium rigidum</i>	<b>Fern-grass.</b> Polyrrhenia
<i>Hordeum bulbosum</i>	<b>Bulbous Barley.</b> Very common
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	<b>Hare's-tail Grass.</b> Akrotiri etc.
<i>Melica minuta</i>	<b>Small Melick.</b> Delianon Gorge
<i>Phalaris paradoxa</i>	<b>Awed Canary-grass.</b> Spilia, near river
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	<b>Bulbous Meadow-grass.</b> Omalos
<i>Polypogon maritima</i>	<b>Southern Beard-grass.</b> Falassarna beach: purple flowers
<i>Polypogon viridis</i>	<b>Water-bent.</b> Spilia, road edges
<i>Rostraria cristata</i>	<b>Mediterranean Hair-grass.</b> Apta etc.
<b>Smilacaceae (greenbriar family)</b>	
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	<b>Rough Bindweed.</b> Common scrambling plant

## BIRDS

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<b>Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl)</b>										
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	domestic					X			
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	domestic					X	X		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	domestic					X			
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>						X			
<b>Family Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse and allies)</b>										
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>				X					
<b>Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>										
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>						X			
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				X	X	X	X	X	
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Apodidae (Swifts)</b>										
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>		X			X	X	X		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>					X				
<b>Family Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules and Coots)</b>										
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>			X	H			X		X
Little Crake	<i>Zapornia parva</i>							X	X	X
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						X			
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						X			
<b>Family Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)</b>										
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Thinornis dubius</i>							X		
<b>Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and allies)</b>										
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>						X			
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>								X	X
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>								X	
<b>Family Laridae (Gulls, Terns and Skimmers)</b>										
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)</b>										
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						X			
<b>Family Ciconiidae (Storks)</b>										
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>							X		
<b>Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)</b>										
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						X			
<b>Family Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns)</b>										
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				X		X			

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Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X		X					
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>						X	X	X	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X					X		
<b>Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Kites)</b>										
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			X		X	X	X	X	
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				X					
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X		X	X	X			
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				X	X				
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	A dark phase adult over Agia Limni, 21 <sup>st</sup>								
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Strigidae (Owls)</b>										
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Tytonidae (Barn Owls)</b>										
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	one heard calling by the hotel on the first evening								
<b>Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)</b>										
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			H	H	H	H	X	X	X
<b>Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)</b>										
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)</b>										
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			H	H		H		H	H
<b>Family Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)</b>										
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				X					
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				X		X			
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>					X				
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						X			
<b>Family Oriolidae (Orioles)</b>										
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	An amazing run of sightings, with up to 15 together in the mulberry bushes close to the hotel		H	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Laniidae (Shrikes)</b>										
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			X	X		X			
<b>Family Corvidae (Crows, Jays and Magpies)</b>										
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			X			X			
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			X					X	
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			X	X		X	X	X	
<b>Family Paridae (Tits)</b>										
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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<b>Family Alaudidae (Larks)</b>										
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			X	X		H			
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				X	X		X		
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>							X		
<b>Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers and allies)</b>										
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoebanus</i>			X			X	X	X	X
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			X	X	X		X		
<b>Family Hirundinidae (Swallows)</b>										
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					X		X		
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			X			X		X	
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)</b>										
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				X					
<b>Family Scotoceridae (Bush Warblers and allies)</b>										
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
<b>Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers and allies)</b>										
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>				X					
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>						X		X	X
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>					X				
<b>Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)</b>										
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			X			X		X	
<b>Family Turdidae (Thrushes and allies)</b>										
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)</b>										
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				X		X	X		
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>						X	X		
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>				H					
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					X				
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				X			X		
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>			X		X	X			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>							X		
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>			X	X		X			
<b>Family Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)</b>										
Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)</b>										
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			X				X		
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							X		

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Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			X				X		X
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>							X		
<b>Family Fringillidae (Finches and allies)</b>										
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				X	X	X	X	X	
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>				X					
<b>Family Emberizidae (Buntings)</b>										
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			X						
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		X							
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>								H	

**REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

**AMPHIBIANS**

Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>		H		X	H				
European Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>		H	H	H	H				

**REPTILES**

Western Caspian Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>						X			
Red-eared Terrapin	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>						X			

**Family Lacertidae (Lizards)**

Cretan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis cretensis</i>				X	X	X	X	X	
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>			X			X	X	X	

**Family Colubridae (Colubrid Snakes)**

Balkan Whip Snake	<i>Hierophis gemonensis</i>							D		
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**MAMMALS**

Kuhl's Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>		X		X					
Beech Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>		D	D	D	D	D			D
Northern White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>			D	D	D	D			D
Cretan Spiny Mouse	<i>Acomys minous</i>							X		
Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>					D				

**BUTTERFLIES**

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<b>Family Hesperidae (Skippers)</b>										
Pygmy Skipper	<i>Gegenes pumilio</i>				X		X			
<b>Family Papilionidae (Swallowtails)</b>										
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
Cretan Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cretica</i>					X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Pieridae (Whites)</b>										
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>			X	X	X		X		
Cleopatra	<i>Gonopteryx cleopatra</i>				X					
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>				X	X		X		
<b>Family Lycaenidae (Blues, Coppers and Hairstreaks)</b>										
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>									X
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			X	X		X			
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			X	X	X				
Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama clara</i>					X				
<b>Family Nymphalidae (Admirals and Fritillaries)</b>										
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>					X		X		
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			X	X		X	X	X	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		X		X	X				



Above: Cretan Wall Lizard (left) and Cretan Festoon (right)



(clockwise, from top left): *Centaurea redempta* subsp *redempta* at Polyrrenhia; *Cyclamen creticum* in the Delianon Gorge; *Anemone coronaria* on the Omalos plateau; *Petromarula pinnata* on the Akrotiri peninsula.

*thank you for travelling with us*

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