



LESVOS Orchid & Wildflower extension

April 24 – 27, 2025 REPORT & PHOTOS BY PAUL MANNING



Wild poppies set fire to the fields of Lesvos

Lesvos Orchid & Wild flower extension

24th April – 27th April, 2025

TOUR SUMMARY:

Preceding our Lesvos Spring Migration Magic tour and led by Paul Manning, our time was split between the west of the island and the center of the island and conveniently centered in the same hotel in the beautiful fishing village of Skala Kallonis.

The west of the island is dominated by the UNESCO Geopark with its internationally important Petrified Forest and some of the most extraordinary volcanic landscape features. This harsh landscape appears almost devoid of flora of any note, but a closer look by the group uncovered discreet populations of orchids and other flora tucked away if you knew where to look! A little closer to home the mountain streams that have cut steep valleys through ancient volcanoes were a riot of color with the Yellow Rhododendron and Royal Ferns taking pride of place beside a babbling brook.

In complete contrast, the center of the island is heavily forested with Calabrian Pine and stepped olive groves and here we spent the day going from one habitat to another searching out the species that occur in these localities.

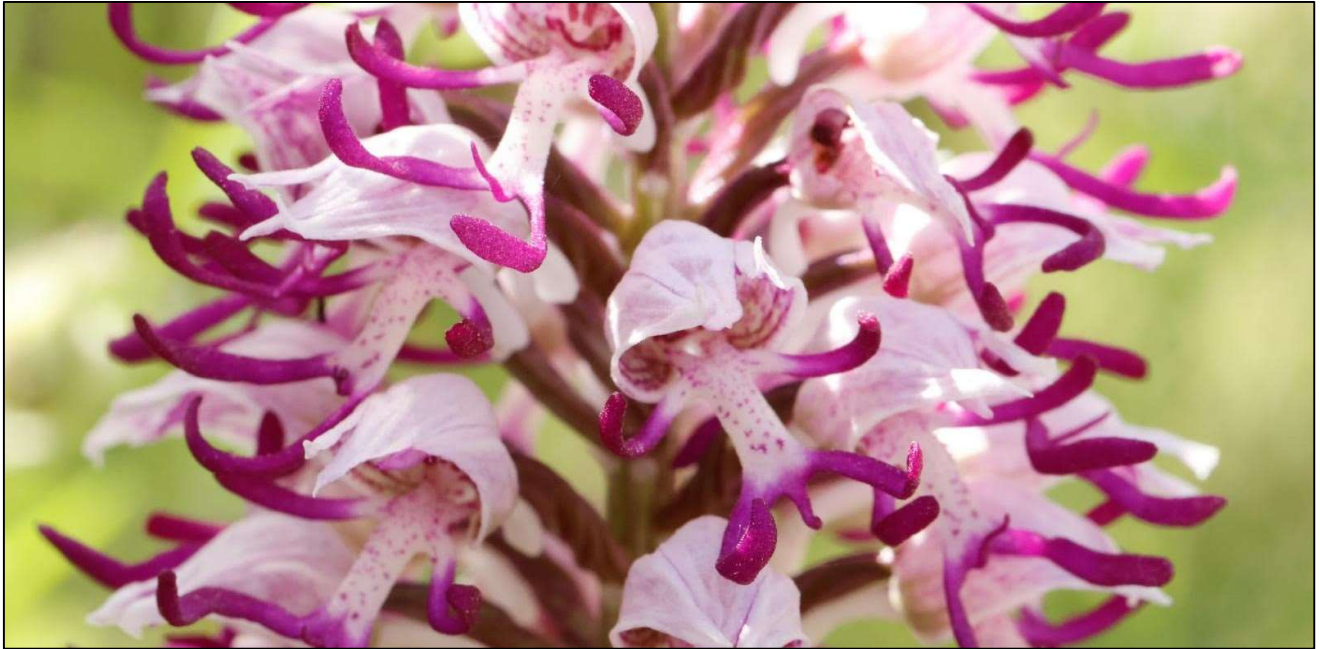
Picnic lunches and coffee stops were the order of the day on this relaxing but very rewarding adventure!

HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- **Yellow Rhododendron and Royal Fern beside a mountain stream whose bed was polished bronze, yellow and brown**
- **Lesvos Orchid hidden amongst the Spiny Burnet and Giant Fennel**
- **Naked Man Orchid whose name makes everyone giggle...**
- **30 species of orchid!**
- **A mountain stepped olive grove full of orchids, anemones and other wild flowers where we had to be careful where we stood!**
- **Tracks winding through rocky sloped olive groves with new finds around every corner**
- **Greek coffee in mountain village squares!**

The UNESCO Geopark is home to the endemic Lesvos Orchid and much more,
such as this Monkey Orchid



Hampe's Tamarisk border the streams



Lesvos Orchid is restricted to a very small area
in the west of the island

Yellow Rhododendron and Giant Fern lining a mountain stream





The group enjoying our trip's first orchid, Roman Orchid

Moving to the central part of the island, from sea-level to mountain olive groves on our second day



European Birthwort



Reinhold's Orchid



Greek Camomile



Loose-flowered Orchid



Sword-leaved Helleborine



Green-winged Orchid



Naked Man Orchid



Woodcock Bee Orchid



One hillside we visit is full of
Balkan Peony

SPECIES LIST: Orchid & Wildflower ext.

* Introduced species

	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Yellow Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron luteum</i>
2	Balkan Paeony	<i>Paeonia mascula</i>
3	Nodding Star of Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum nutans</i>
4	Narbonne Star of Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>
5	Aegean Tulip	<i>Tulipa aegenensis</i>
6	Hairy Birthwort	<i>Aristolochia hirta</i>
7	Leopard's Bane	<i>Doronicum orientale</i>
8	Coastal Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium arenarium</i>
9	Oriental Iris	<i>Iris orientalis</i>
10	Hellenic Iris	<i>Iris hellenica</i>
11	Cemetery Iris	<i>Iris albicans</i>
12	Barbary Nut Iris	<i>Iris Gynandiris sisyrinchium</i>
13	Narrow-leaved Lupin	<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>
14	Eastern (Rock) Arum	<i>Arum rupicola</i>
15	Peacock Anemone	<i>Anemone pavonina</i>
16	French Lavender	<i>Lavendula stoechas</i>
17	Dark Grape Hyacinth	<i>Muscari commutatum</i>
18	Tassel Hyacinth	<i>Muscari comosum</i>
19	Pontic Fritillary	<i>Fritillaria pontica</i>
20	Greek Cyclamen	<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>
21	Brass Buttons	<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>
22	Flexible Sand Stock	<i>Malcolmia flexuosa</i>
23	Sickle-fruited Hypecoum	<i>Hypecoum procumbens</i>
24	Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
25	Pink Hawksbeard	<i>Crepis rubra</i>
26	Birdsfoot Trefoil	Many species present
27	Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>
28	Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
29	Maritime (Spiny) Knapweed	<i>Centaurea spinosa</i>
30	Scentless Curry-plant	<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i> ssp. <i>barrelieri</i>
31	Giant Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
32	Wavy-leaved Mullein	<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>
33	Field Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
34	Giant Fennel	<i>Ferula communis</i>
35	Aegean Alexander's	<i>Smyrnium creticum</i>
36	Round-leaved (Perforate) Alexander's	<i>Smyrnium perfoliatum</i>
37	Milk Thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>
38	Greek Musk Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i> ssp. <i>taygeteus</i>
39	Spotted Rock-rose	<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>
40	Hairy Pink	<i>Kohlrauschia dubia</i> (veluntina)
41	Short Pod Mustard	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>
42	Common Rocket	<i>Eruca vesicaria</i>
43	Yellow-juiced (Pale) Poppy	<i>Papaver lecoqii</i>
44	Common Field Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
45	Yellow-horned Poppy	<i>Glaucium flavum</i>
46	Rough Poppy	<i>Roemeria sicula</i>
47	Corn Camomile	<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>
48	Rayless Camomile	<i>Anthemis rigida</i>
49	Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>
50	Purple Clover	<i>Trifolium purpureum</i>
51	White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>

52	Star Clover	<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>
53	One-flowered Clover	<i>Trifolium uniflorum</i>
54	Mediterranean Hartwort	<i>Tordylium apulum</i>
55	Common Navelwort	<i>Umbilicus ispanicum</i>
56	Corn Marigold	<i>Glebionis segetum</i>
57	Five-angled Venus' Looking Glass	<i>Legousia pentagonia</i>
58	Pale Hollyhock	<i>Alcea biennis</i>
59	Lyrate Bellflower	<i>Campanula lyrata</i>
60	Henbit Hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrait</i>
61	Shining Cranesbill	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>
62	Pale Flax	<i>Linum bienne</i>
63	Common Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>
64	Entire-leaved Scabious	<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>
65	Purple Salsify	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>
66	Italian Catchfly	<i>Silene italica</i>
67	Mediterranean Catchfly	<i>Silene colorata</i>
68	Wild Pea	<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>
69	Crimson Pea	<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>
70	Wild Vetch	<i>Many species present</i>
71	Wild Vetchling	<i>Many species present</i>
72	Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>
73	Branched Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>
74	Cretan Rock-rose (Cistus)	<i>Cistus creticus</i>
75	Sage-leaved Rock-rose (Cistus)	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>
76	Narrow-leaved Euphorbia (Spurge)	<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>
77	Lesvos Alyssum	<i>Alyssum lesbiacum</i>
78	Spiny Burnet	<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>
79	Greek Horehound	<i>Pseudodictamnus acetabulosus</i>
80	Greek Oregano	<i>Origanum onites</i>
81	Perforate St. John's-Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
82	Common Dog Rose	<i>Rosa anina</i>
83	Calabrian Pine	<i>Pinus brutia</i>
84	Black Pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>
85	Stone Pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>
86	Hampe's Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix hampeana</i>
87	Common Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>
88	Common Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>
89	Pomegranate	<i>Punica granatum</i>
90	European Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
91	Common Quince	<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>
92	White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>
93	Almond-leaved Pear	<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>
94	Oriental Plane	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>
95	Downy Oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>
96	Valonia Oak	<i>Quercus ithaurensis ssp. macrolepis</i>
97	Kermes Oak	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>
98	Turpentine Tree	<i>Pistacia tereinthus</i>
99	Judas Tree	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>
1	*Red Hottentot Fig	<i>Carpobrtus edulis</i>
2	*Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
3	*Wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>
4	*Blue-leaved Wattle	<i>Acacia saligna</i>
5	*Bermuda Buttercup	<i>Oxalis pes-capre</i>
6	*Indian Bead Tree	<i>Melia azedarach</i>

	ORCHIDS: English Name	Scientific Name
1	Sword-leaved Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>
2	Violet Limodore	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>
3	Holmboë's Butterfly	<i>Platanthera holmboei</i>
4	Roman Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i>
5	Roman Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i> var. <i>albiflora</i>
6	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	<i>Serapias parviflora</i>
7	Plough-share Tongue Orchid	<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>
8	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
9	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> var. <i>albiflora</i>
10	Bog Orchid	<i>Anacamptis palustris</i>
11	Elegant Orchid	<i>Anacamptis palustris</i> subsp. <i>elegans</i>
12	Green-winged Orchid	<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>caucasica</i>
13	Holy Orchid	<i>Anacamptis sancta</i>
14	Loose-flowered Orchid	<i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i>
15	Four-spotted Orchid	<i>Orchis quadripunctata</i>
16	Provence Orchid	<i>Orchis provincialis</i>
17	Monkey Orchid	<i>Orchis simia</i>
18	Naked Man Orchid	<i>Orchis italica</i>
19	Toothed Orchid	<i>Neotinia tridentata</i>
20	Ashy loving Orchid	<i>Ophrys fusca</i> subsp. <i>cinereophila</i>
21	Carmel Orchid	<i>Ophrys umbilicata</i>
22	Bull-headed Orchid	<i>Ophrys umbilicata</i> subsp. <i>bucephala</i>
23	Miniature Orchid	<i>Ophrys scolopax</i> var. <i>minutula</i>
24	Woodcock Orchid	<i>Ophrys scolopax</i> subsp. <i>cornuta</i>
25	Homer's Orchid	<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i> ('homeri')
26	Lesbos Orchid	<i>Ophrys argolica</i> subsp. <i>Lesbis</i>
27	Horseshoe Orchid	<i>Ophrys ferrum-equinum</i>
28	Mammosa Orchid	<i>O. sphegoides</i> subsp. <i>mammosa</i>
29	Reinhold's Orchid	<i>Ophrys reinholdii</i>
30	Helen's Orchid	<i>Ophrys helenae</i>

For information on future trips, contact gina@sunrisebirding.com