

The butterflies of Sierra Nevada (Spain) Trip Report

9 - 15 July, 2023



Desert Orange Tip -*colotis evagore*-, one of the many tour highlights

Report and all images by tour leader Álvaro Peral



Wild Andalucía® Birding & Nature Tours

Your wildlife experts in Southern Spain
wildhola@gmail.com

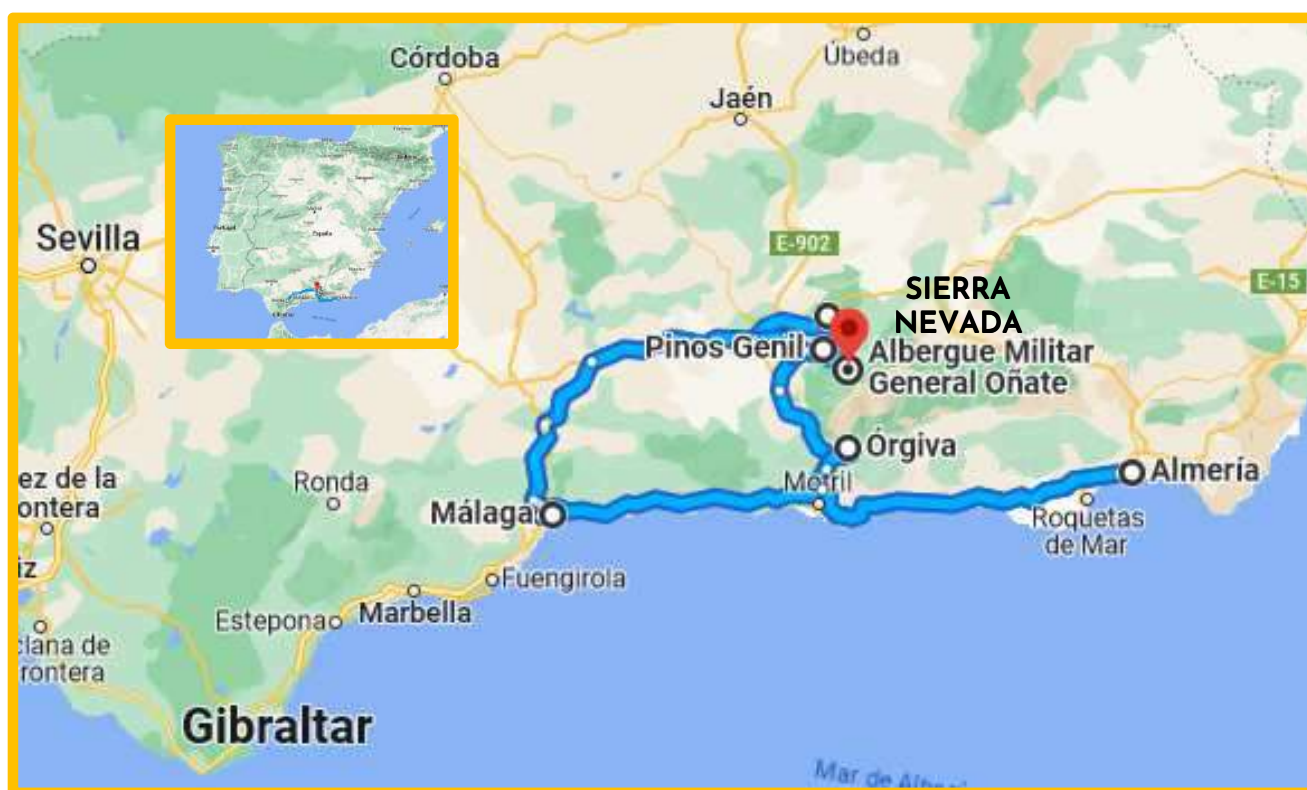
(+34) 650785926
www.wildandalucia.com

Sierra Nevada and its butterflies

The Sierra Nevada is the most striking mountain range in Southern Iberia and includes the largest peaks in the Iberian Peninsula, with several summits over 3300 m above sea level. It is covered in snow several months a year and homes a very interesting number of endemic species and subspecies of plants and insects.

Sierra Nevada's mountains run East to West and are located in Andalucía –Southern Spain-, more precisely in the provinces of Granada and Almería. The closest large population is the historical city of Granada, together with a plethora of small white hill towns with a strong Moorish-age legacy.

Sierra Nevada is protected under the figure of a National Park surrounded by a perimetral Natural Park. It is therefore of great interest from a naturalist's point of view as some of the landscapes are very well preserved or at least show too little man interaction. Its geographical isolation, decent size and altitude make this one of the top butterfly hotspots in Western Europe.



Sierra Nevada and its immediate surroundings home **127** species of butterflies. To have an idea, this is 84% of the butterflies in Andalucía -153 sp-, or more than the half of the butterflies in the Iberian Peninsula -233 sp-.

Foreword

It is the first fortnight of July that overall brings the core of the Sierra Nevada's iconic butterflies on the wing. The spring arrives late to these high territories and this tour targets a good array of difficult or scarce butterfly species with a patchy / restricted geographical distribution.

The tour aims to enjoy butterflies and **impressive scenery** under reasonable logistics, avoiding long drives whenever possible. For the same reason some of the extremely localized species are not covered on this tour, such as Nevada Grayling or Zullichí's Blue. This was the case for 6 of the days out, as the day in the Alpujarras did involve substantial time driving, but fortunately produced the very rare Andalusian Anomalous Blue.

Likewise, the itinerary was designed to enjoy staying in a comfortable **single base** throughout the tour.

While the tour is focused on the Spanish **Sierra Nevada** mountain range, it also includes a foray to the **Mediterranean coast** as there are some very interesting butterflies that occur there.

A complete and annotated checklist of the 78 species seen can be found at the end of the report.

Acknowledgements

The great success of this week in the look for butterflies has been possible thanks to **José Miguel Barea, Javier Olivares, Miguel Olvera, Mick Richardson, Florent Prunier** and **José Manuel Moreno Benítez**. Over the last years they were always happy to give a helping hand with some of the tricky species listed –or not- in the tour.

TRIP REPORT

Day 1 (July 9) - Arrival to Granada and the Sierra de Huétor

After some minor delays on the Easyjet flight I was able to meet Janet & Neil at Málaga airport by noon. It was a very hot day and we hit the road towards Riofrío, where we stopped for an Iberian ham sandwich and a cold drink.

The drive along the A-92 highway provided nice landscapes including extensive farms of Olive Trees and limestone mountains through the haze.

We reached our first butterfly spot of the tour by 3 pm, the Sierra de Huétor Natural Park. This nature protected area hosts some 104 butterfly species –that is 45% of the Iberian Peninsula species- and served as a nice introduction to the region.

The walk took us through a mosaic of pine forest, grassy meadows and paths.

Great numbers of **Iberian Marbled Whites** were flying across nearly every meadow there. The shady spots hosted a few **Gatekeepers**, **Graylings** and **Meadow Browns**. A couple of **Rosy Grizzled Skippers** put in an appearance. The area was dry after a very dry spring, but it was still beautiful and well shaded. We were the only people around despite being on a weekend, which was quite enjoyable. We saw a single **Spanish Chalk-hill Blue**, a few **Southern Blues**, **False-Ilex Hairstreaks** and good numbers of **Clouded Yellows**. Nice birds accompanied us through the forest, such as Nuthatches, Firecrests and a distant Booted Eagle flew overhead. In total we enjoyed around 2 hours of a very relaxed walk through the park.

We went into the van to visit another spot within the park, allowing a little stop for landscape photography. El Veleta peak –one of the most renowned summits of Sierra Nevada- could be seen through the haze and a stunning male **Cardinal** flew off from our feet.



At our second spot we had a little walk through a more bosky path, where we soon added a few species. First, a **Wall Brown** was posing well in the middle of the path. My personal favourite was a **Comma**, that Neil gently pointed on an Ash Tree. There weren't as many species as last year there, but the variety was still quite interesting and I came across a very wary **Great Banded Grayling**.

It was time to head to our hotel in Pinos Genil, our base for the tour. After checking-in and some time to get set in our rooms, I met Neil & Janet to show them around the village and we enjoyed a refreshing salad and tapas dinner along the Genil river.



Day 2 (July 10) - An introduction to Sierra Nevada

We met for breakfast at our hotel at 7am, enjoyed a freshly squeezed orange juice and toasts and hit the road before 8am. This was the standard schedule throughout the tour, being back at our hotel around 4:30-5pm to enjoy filling-up our checklists at ease and discussing through our pictures and guidbooks over a well-deserved cold drink.

The aim of the day was covering a couple of very productive areas at the foothills of the Veleta peak. We started hiking down along the impressive Valle de San Juan. This has always been my favourite spot for one of the tour highlights, the Nevada Blue (below, right).

The wind at the parking place was quite strong –nothing really unusual-. Walking carefully we could get down to the valley following some narrow trails and we avoided the wind gusts to a big extent. It was 9:30am when we got the first **Nevada Blue** actively flying. The track also produced views of several **Spanish Brassy Ringlets**. These are a very localized species that only occur in the Pyrenees and here, being split both populations in different subspecies. As usual, a very mobile species but we could get some record shots of them. The first **Purple-shot Copper** showed up too. Once at the stream –of great beauty-, good numbers of **Common Blues** and a **Bath White** were active in the high grass. A single **Southern Grizzled Skipper** was also seen. The meadows by the stream were magnificent, and hosted a nice flora community. *Pinguicula nevadensis*, an interesting carnivorous plant listed as endangered by the IUCN, was common there. Same for *sempervivum minutum*, a small succulent in full flower (below, right).



A single **Mother-of-Pearl Blue** was seen (previous page, left). This is a beautiful species endemic to Spain that could at first be easily confused with the Nevada Blue but is larger and shows more noticeable black spots in the forewings.

On the way back to the van we crossed a little stream where a stunning Smooth Snake –*Coronella austriaca*– was gently showing up without being bothered by our presence and allowed us to take several pictures. The altitude was 2500 m.a.s.l.

We thought it'd be great to continue towards a spot where I had found Spanish Argus the previous year. The fact is that once we came out of the main valley the wind was still quite strong and even though we found its host plant, we couldn't find any butterfly besides single specimens of **Purple-shot Copper**, **Spanish Brassy Ringlet** (bottom, right) and **Common Blue**.

Time for a proper lunch break at the Albergue, where we enjoyed traditional food and filled up our batteries for the remainder of the day.

After this nice meal we headed to the surroundings of Pradollano ski resort, where a nice and wet meadow provided many nice sightings. **Silver-studded Blues** (below, right) were drinking actively in the puddles, and even a **Nevada Blue** was seen. But to me a **Heath Fritillary** of its *nevadensis* subspecies alongside a couple of **Mother-of-Pearl Blues** were the highlights there. **Rosy Grizzled Skipper**, **Small Copper**, **Long-tailed Blue** and several **Common Blues** were also seen there.

Back to the hotel by 5pm, the temperature at Pinos Genil was still around 40 °C, in fact a heat wave hit Spain during the tour. Working on the checklist back at our hotel's bar we were lucky to chance Sara and Kike, two enthusiastic butterfly researchers in the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid that were involved in developing a butterfly atlas for Spain due to be published by 2025.



Day 3 (July 11) - Sierra Nevada's high tracks

We reached our place to park high up in the mountain by 8:40am with moderate wind. The first butterfly activity was noticeable at just a few minutes after walking. The views throughout the morning were simply spectacular, with stunning views of the Veleta peak (bottom). Bees were very active from the very beginning. Our first sightings were a **Purple-shot Copper**, a **Painted Lady** and a **Wall Brown**. We kept most of the time walking along a wider track, which made our observations easier.

It didn't take long until we found our first **Apollo** –*nevadensis* subspecies-. This is the one among the three subspecies distributed in Southern Spain. They all show their red markings replaced by a neat orange colour.

The birdlife up here wasn't very diverse but the few species that inhabit these hills were a joy to see. We saw breeding Tawny Pipits, Pallid Swifts, Rock Buntings, Northern Wheatears and House Martins.

Coming back to the butterflies, **Small Tortoiseshells** and **Clouded Yellows** started to become more and more noticeable. We went to a borreguil –Spanish for snowmelt pond- and butterflies were all around us. Drinking **Idas Blues** were commonly seen. Then a few Fritillaries showed up, which included the very small **Meadow Fritillary parthenoides** –*nevadensis* subspecies-, very localized. A couple of **Niobe Fritillaries** and a single **Marhs Fritillary** added to the joy of the place, that was bursting with butterflies. **Mountain Argus** was also seen here, alongside some finally approachable **Spanish Brassy Ringlets**. A couple of **Queen-of-Spain Fritillaries** were actively chasing each other but were kind enough to allow being identified.

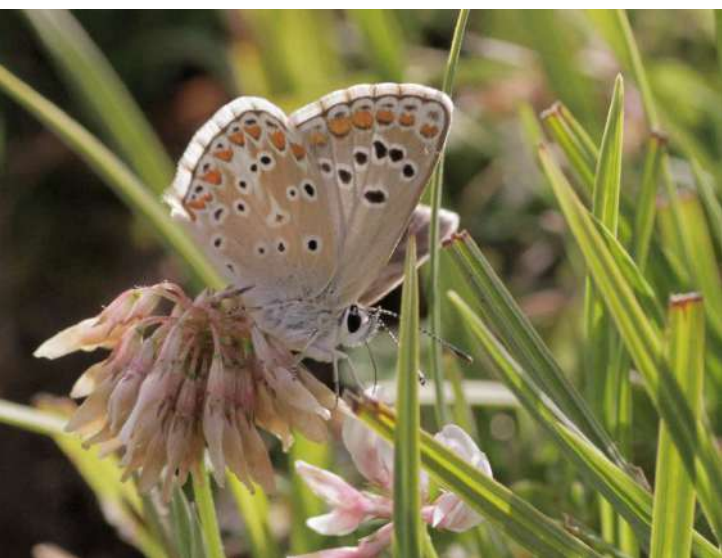
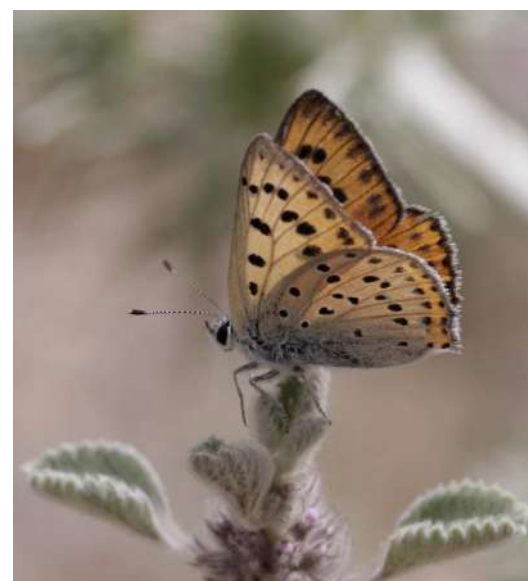


Both Mistle Thrushes and Coal Tits were singing actively across a nearby forest. The number of “Whites” was remarkable. We checked some of them and they were mostly **Small Whites**, but also a few **Green-veined Whites** were noticed by Neil. Other sightings included two **Mazarine Blues** near the stream. The number of Apollos grew as the temperatures raised, and we estimated a conservative total of 30 individuals. This year they weren’t very approachable and we –just Neil–manged a single decent shot of them.

We stopped at a shady spot for an apple break and landscape photography but again new encounters with butterflies suddenly took us back to business. These included a *helice* Small White, a **Swallowtail**, a **Cardinal Fritillary** and a very obliguing pair of **Rock Graylings** (centre).

Further on we checked other small streams that were quite productive last year. In fact, we saw the same species. In the mud there were **Idas Blues**, **Southern Marbled** and Red **Underwing Skippers**. The Fritillaries were common although fast flying. One of the larger ones was identified as a Dark Green Fritillary –there were probably a few more of this species-. The smaller ones were **Meadow Fritillaries** *nevadensis*. Neil was lucky to see a **Lesser Spotted Fritillary** while I was enjoying some close-up pictures of a **Spanish Brassy Ringlet**. We also came across dozens of Owlflies flying very actively.

Along the track we enjoyed a few new plants, including the very noticeable *digitalis purpurea nevadensis* (left) and the fully yellow-flowered Nevada Mullein *verbascum nevadense*.

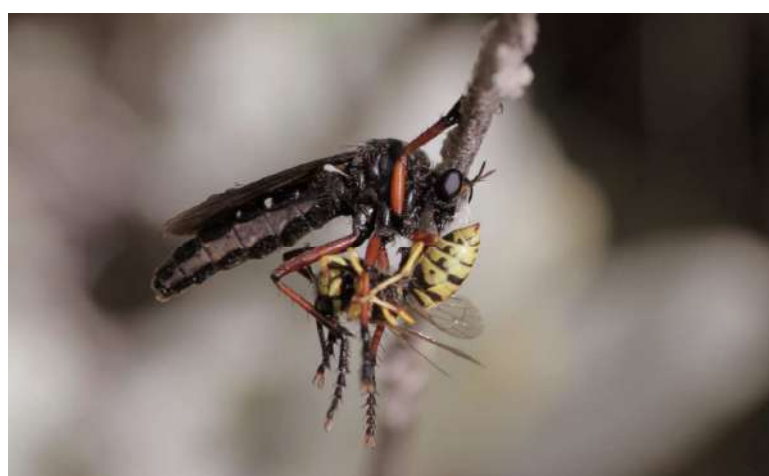
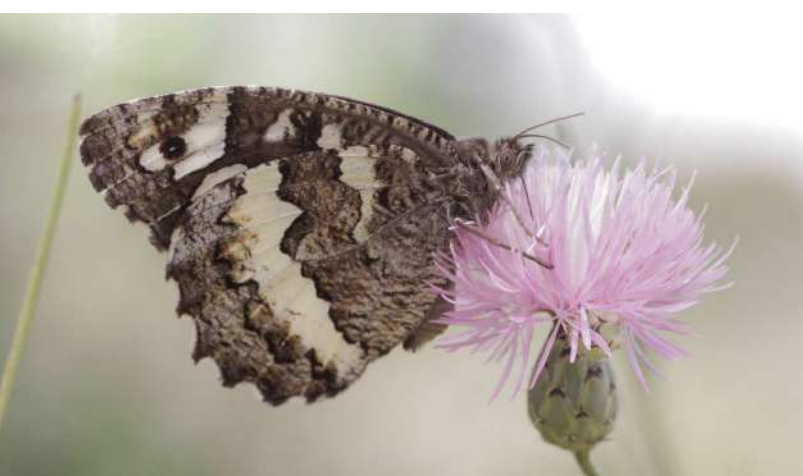
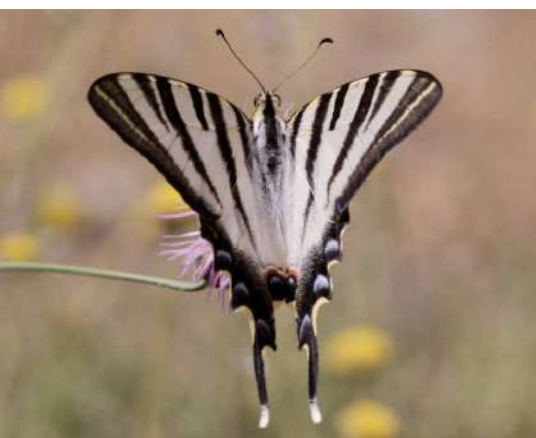


The walk back to the van took us some long 45 min. The heat didn't help much but some breezes and the occasional Apollos flying across our track did help. I could even hear the fluttering of some of them.

We reached the van at 2pm and half an hour later we enjoyed another refreshing local meal at "El Desvío" bar in the mountains. *Tinto de verano* was served for Neil & Janet, who adopted it as the official refreshment for the tour!

After lunch we headed to a small location that proved to be very successful (bottom). Here we added some new species to the tour list. Among them, I very much enjoyed a single **Purple Hairstreak** (top, right) –always hard to photograph– and a **Southern Scarce Swallowtail** (top, left). Walking into a Sierra Nevada Pine forest, several **Graylings** showed up, actively moving from one tree to the next one. The shaded spots still hosted a few scabious flowers which attracted dozens of Iberian **Marbled Whites**. Assassin flies (middle, right) –*asilidae* family– were seen nearly every day.

Today we reached the hotel a bit later, 5:30pm and went through the checklist while enjoying a very cold Alhambra beer. We all agreed it had been a fantastic day in many senses.



Day 4 (July 12) - A day at the coast

Today we travelled South and then East along the Mediterranean coast. Two were the main targets: **Desert Orange Tip** and **Common Tiger Blue**. Both are African species that have successfully managed to occupy a few tiny and localized spots in Spain.

On our first stop we went directly to the beach (bottom). After a minute search the first **Desert Orange Tip** (left) showed up and posed nicely still for a picture. The place was fantastic, finding butterflies right at the sand was a joy and we heard the waves on a beautiful and misty morning light.

There were of course many of their thorny host plants, the Common Caper. But soon we realized there were many more Desert Orange Tips around. In fact, at times 5 or 6 could be seen at once. We estimated at least 40 of them and managed to properly photograph both males and females. A real delight. Males were much more common though. Surprisingly, last year I could just find 3 or 4 of them. As early as 9:30 am we could start hearing the high pitch of the cicadas singing. The tiny Puncture Vines were in full flower, which enhanced a few **African Grass Blues** (right) and a **Small Copper** to show up. The humidity was very high and we left the place quite happy and sweated.

Our next stop for the day took us Eastwards along the A7 highway into the Almería province. There were greenhouses built up along the road, a totally different landscape.



Once at the **Common Tiger** spot, it took us some 20 min to find the first one. It was a bit windy and the butterfly kept always windproof near their very thorny host trees. We saw up to 4 of them, always active and flying low by their host plants. A Stone Curlew flew off very close to us, a nice sighting! We managed some nice shots of the Tiger Blues and noticed that it was surprisingly the only species found at the spot.

Before heading back inland we checked a spot in a valley on the way. It was very hot by 1pm, so we gave it just a few minutes and found a nice population of African Grass Blues. A **Bath** and a **Small Whites** were also seen there. As for birds, we could see a juvenile Woodchat Shrike and a Spotted Flycatcher that just appeared on a fence post. We hit the road again to make a lunch stop at a convenient place midway.

After lunch we went to a new area of Sierra Nevada, not far from the famous Los Cahorros hiking trail. The site was quite good in species, and the first thing we noticed was good numbers of **Southern Scarce Swallowtails**. We successfully looked for the Hermit, and also added our first Small Heath to the tour list. Browns were very active, and we saw several **Oriental and Dusky Meadow Browns**. We enjoyed watching a flying male of **Mother-of-Pearl Blue** –resembles a Small White in flight-, and saw many **Rock Graylings** as well. Another great day out.



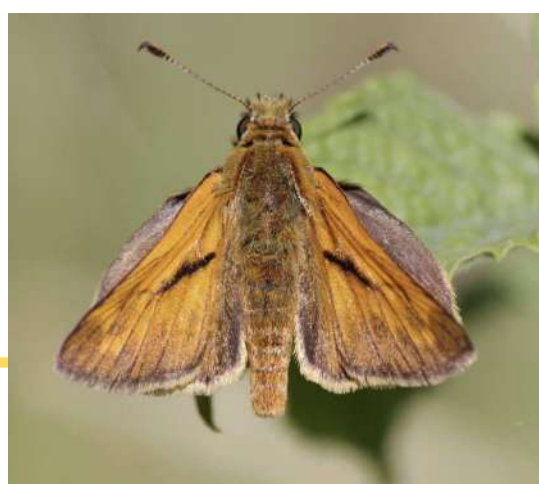
Day 5 (July 13) - Along the Genil river and the Botanical Garden

A vertigo-inducing drive along the picturesque Güéjar-Sierra road took us to the Genil river. A stunning male Golden Oriole was seen nearby eating figs. The sun didn't hit the valley till 0845 and hence butterfly activity was quiet till then. The main target there was the **Spanish Purple Hairstreak** (bottom, right), one of Spain's largest Blues. It's a difficult species as they are usually well hidden in the canopy of the Ash trees, but early morning is when you get them going down for food and –coincidence or not- that's how we found the first one. Although a bit tatty, it was a great sighting. We also encountered the first **Spanish Gatekeepers** of the tour there. **Wall Browns** were active too. We found another endemic flower of the baetic mountains, locally known as "spurs", the *delphinium emarginatum nevadense* (below, right).

Our second stop of the day took us to a hidden valley after another scenic short drive off the road. One of the most remarkable sightings had necessarily to be **Nevada Heath Fritillary**. We also came across a very dark –perhaps melanistic- **Gatekeeper** (bottom, left). Near the van we saw a couple of **Knapweed Fritillaries** moving their wings rapidly any time they landed on the ground.

The stream there was dry this year, but the vegetation there –including some Robust Marsh Orchids in full flower- attracted a **Large Skipper** (bottom, centre), a **Tree Grayling** and even a **Marsh Fritillary** with its attractive brick-red colours.

It was nearly 11 when we had to leave this nice little spot to head towards Sierra Nevada's Botanical Garden, aka Hoya de Pedraza. On the way we had to stop and jump out of the van as we came across a bunch of Whites near a puddle along the road. Most of them were **Small Whites** but we were lucky to make out 3 **Green-veined Whites** among them.



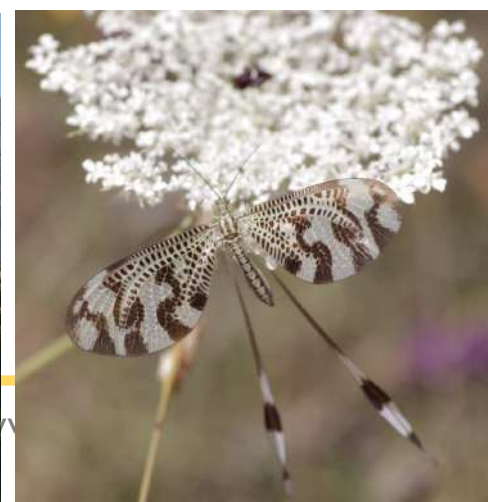
At the Botanical Garden we enjoyed a tremendous number of butterflies of 22 species! Three species were remarkable in number of specimens: **Cleopatra**, **Iberian Marbled White** and **Cardinal**. We took another “apple break” in a shady spot and enjoyed excellent views of the Veleta Peak. We couldn’t avoid having a fresh splash at the grass sprinklers as the temperatures were high. A very fresh and approachable **Queen-of-Spain** and a **Comma** were a real delight that took much of the memory space in our camera cards. We added a new species to the tour list, the **Blue Spot Hairstreak**. Another remarkable encounter was a species of Spoonwing -*nemopera bipennis*-, actively feeding in groups.

Long story short, another wonderful butterfly site. We took a traditional lunch at a nearby café and decided to work on the checklist there as it felt quite nice in the shade. A quick stop in the surroundings of Sierra Nevada’s visitor centre produced a **Silver-studded Blue** and a **High Brown Fritillary**, which Neil regretted not being able to take a proper shot of. Fortunately my record shot was good enough to make it out later.

For those interested, all my butterfly pictures on this report –and others- were taken with a Tamron 90 mm macro lens 1:1 mounted on a Canon EOS 7D camera body. I find this equipment very good, but the small zoom makes it necessary to approach the subjects considerably.

Past 5pm we were back to our hotel in Pinos Genil, where we were met by my friend Miguel Olvera in order to set one of his moth traps that would run the whole night just by the Genil river. Miguel was lately very actively making moth surveys in the region with Dave Grundy. He was also our guide on the following day.

Another great day out. This time we managed a daylist of 42 species, our record ever in the Sierra Nevada.



Day 6 (July 14) - The Alpujarras

Another delicious breakfast first thing in the morning and we were greeted at our hotel by Miguel, who showed us the many moths that were caught in our light trap during the previous night. There were moths of all sorts, including a Hawk Moth, a Plume Moth, several middle-sized ones and a whole regiment of very tiny ones. In total some 14 species of them –as pointed on our website this was not intended to be a moth tour but a side plus to give us some basic hints on moth trapping-.

This activity kept us entertained for some time, and we had to look at our clocks to start our butterfly journey. Picnics were bought along the road and we enjoyed a scenic –although a bit long- drive to the Alpujarras in the Southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada. The views were spectacular and we parked our van by 10:30 am. The journey was spent at some 1700 m.a.s.l. which seemed to be the optimum for butterfly numbers at the given moment.

First we followed a very ancient waterway that took snowmelt water to sinking holes so that fountains way downstream could provide water to villages. A very interesting system the berbers and earlier the romans exploited, known in Spanish as *careo*.

The waterway crossed a lovely Pyrenean Oak forest that hosted some **Speckled Woods**, **Great Banded Graylings** and **Dusky Meadow Browns**.



We reached a beautiful and extensive meadow that was bursting with butterfly activity. It was mostly **Iberian Marbled Whites** and **Rock Graylings**, but we also managed to find 2 **Nevada Heath Fritillaries**, a **Silver-studded Blue** and a sometimes obliging **Wood White**. The latter, being Neil's favourite butterfly species, was thoroughly enjoyed and photographed.

But the main reason of a tour to the Alpujarras was that the very scarce **Andalusian Anomalous Blue** was discovered here some 10 years ago. We knew it was a bit early for this species but decided to have try. A walk uphill of some 20 min followed –not the best idea in Granada in July!-, so we split it with our lunch break in the shade. This little stop was great as we were surprised by 2 Golden Eagles flying at a reasonably close range overhead, very vocal. It was an adult and a juvenile and I was very pleased it was a lifer bird for everyone else! And also, 2 **Large Tortoiseshells** gently stopped and fluttered on an oak just in front of us.

We soon got to the place, where Miguel pointed some of the host plants for our butterfly, with small pink flowers. We came across one of the very latest flying **Black-veined Whites** –how sad to be the only one left of your species on the wing!-. Janet wisely decided to take a break in a shaded meadow as Miguel, Neil and I started a delicate scan of the whole hill that took us some 1 and a half hours. There were nearly no Blues flying and I must say we nearly gave up as temperatures didn't help neither. I just thought of scanning some very high grass in dump soil to check for any other potential wildlife there and the surprise came when a "moth" came out of the grass to end up nearly in my mouth! It was –you can guess- an **Andalusian Anomalous Blue**. My screams were heard uphill and Neil's shirt, on a rush, got trapped on a Hawthorn. Fortunately he chose the butterfly and we all managed to take a couple or more pictures of it. A very fresh specimen that a couple of minutes later vanished in the grass.

How worth it was! We agreed it's probably been the most demanding butterfly to find in our lifes, but we managed it! We came back to the hotel later than usual 6:15pm but certainly very glad about the results.





Day 7 (July 15) - Last bits & back home

After a last and plentiful breakfast we packed our belongings and left Pinos Genil (above). This village -that reminded me of those in the Moroccan Atlas- was the perfect base for our trip and it always felt like coming back home after every day out. Being this a private tour we were able to yet see a few more butterflies on our last day. The **Spanish Argus** was one of the emblematic species we failed to see earlier on and we couldn't refuse taking a last chance on it.

It was a Saturday and dozens of cyclists took over the whole main road up the National Park. Weekends are to be avoided as usual. Too many people around and still some more than noticeable winds made us not to put too many expectations on the result, but we were there full of determination and found many of the butterfly's host plant, -a Storksbill- *erodium cheilanthifolium*.

The spot where they were last year again did not produce any Argus, so we kept our walk to another location that was finally windproof. The lack of wind and the many flowers of its hostplant helped us focusing on a particular spot thoroughly and luckily this time we were rewarded! The **Spanish Argus** (bottom, left) usually appears flying quite low and fast and shows dark colours in flight. Very rarely it flies far from its hostplants. It goes without saying that we were careful not to step on these plants that grow in small-sized scree patches. We got 8 specimens of **Spanish Argus** in total. Photographing them was a challenge as they don't easily let one approach them., but we were happy with the results. These weren't the only butterflies there, in fact, we also came across a few Common Blues, three Spanish Brassy Ringlets and a Wall Brown.



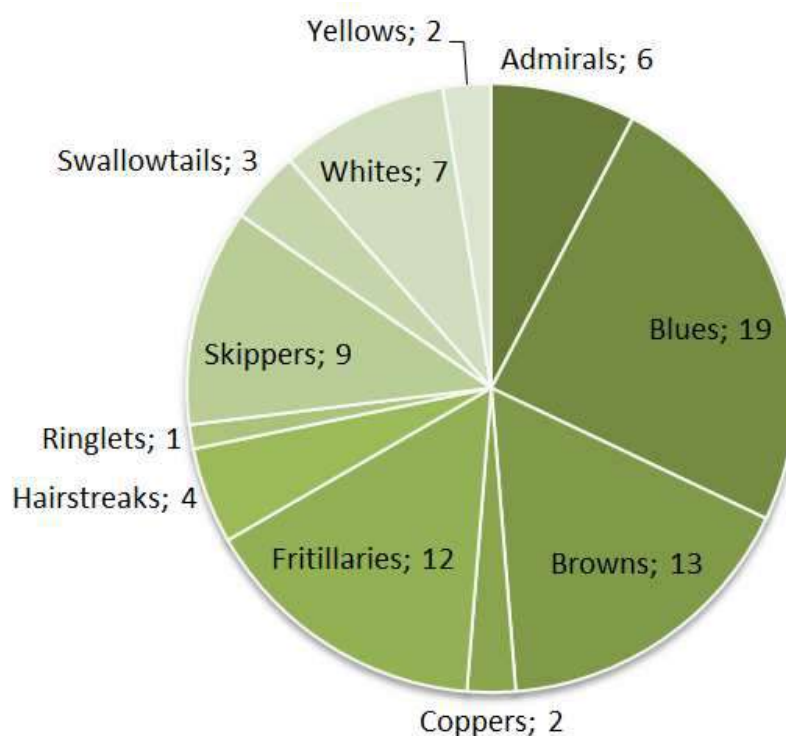
On the way back to the van we came across a herd of impressive males Spanish Ibex, some of the with big horns.

Heading back to Málaga we enjoyed a last traditional meal on a scenic road along the Guadalfeo gorge, a place that I first came across on my younger days as a rockclimber. Excellent food, batteries filled and time to hit the coastal road again.

On our last stop of the tour we checked a suburban field where **Monarchs** have established a small colony. They place were I saw them before turned out to have very much changed due to a recent building complex, but we still were lucky to see 3 Monarchs. They flew slowly overhead several times and just allowed a limited number of stops on canes, which was enough for Neil to get a few shots. An **African Grass Blue** was also seen in the same spot.

Unfortunately the tour came to an end in mid afternoon when we arrived to Málaga. A magnificent tour that provided **a total of 78 species**, with a high content on regional endemisms.

Readers can find an annotated checklist of the butterflies seen on the next page.



You can have a look at our butterfly tours on www.wildandalucia.com

Thank you for your time and interest while reading this tour report.

All the best,

Alvaro Peral – [Wild Andalusia](http://www.wildandalucia.com)



ÁLVARO PERAL

Head Guide in Wild Andalusia Nature Tours

Nature Tours: AT/MA/355. Tourist guide: AND-3551

T. +34 650 78 59 26 wildhola@gmail.com

Wild Andalusia P.O. Box 23 29400 Ronda, Spain

WWW.WILDANDALUCIA.COM

BUTTERFLY CHECKLIST

					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Comments
1	Hesperiidae	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	Dorada orla ancha	Large Skipper					1			
2	Hesperiidae	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	Dorada de línea corta	Essex Skipper				1				
3	Hesperiidae	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Dorada de línea larga	Small Skipper					1	3		
4	Hesperiidae	<i>Carcharodus baeticus</i>	Piquitos	Southern Marbled Skipper			2			1		
5	Hesperiidae	<i>Carcharodus floccifera</i>	Piquitos Serrana	Tufted Skipper					1			
6	Hesperiidae	<i>Muschampia proto</i>	Polvillo dorado	Sage Skipper				2	1			
7	Hesperiidae	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>	Ajedrezada menor	Southern Grizzled Skipper		1	2					
8	Hesperiidae	<i>Pyrgus onopordi</i>	Ajedrezada bigornia	Rosy Grizzled Skipper	2	1			1	2		
9	Hesperiidae	<i>Spialia rosae / sertorius</i>	Ajedrezada rosales / Sertorio	Roses/Red-underwing Skipper			1		1	2		Both species look alike without lab examination
10	Lycaenidae	<i>Favonia quercus</i>	Nazarena	Purple Hairstreak			1			2		
11	Lycaenidae	<i>Laeosopis roboris</i>	Moradilla del fresno	Spanish Purple Hairstreak					2			
12	Lycaenidae	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	Manto púrpura	Purple-shot Copper		4	20+					
13	Lycaenidae	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Manto bicolor	Small Copper		1	3	2	2	2		
14	Lycaenidae	<i>Satyrrium esculi</i>	Qüerquera	False Ilex Hairstreak	2		1			4		
15	Lycaenidae	<i>Satyrrium spini</i>	Mancha azul	Blue Spot Hairstreak					2			
16	Lycaenidae	<i>Aricia cramera</i>	Morena	Southern Brown Argus	2		1	2		2		
17	Lycaenidae	<i>Aricia montensis</i>	Morena serrana	Mountain Argus			3		1	1		
18	Lycaenidae	<i>Aricia morronensis</i>	Morena española	Spanish Argus							8	
19	Lycaenidae	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>	Taladro del geranio	Geranium Bronze					1			
20	Lycaenidae	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	Niña Semiargus	Mazarine Blue			3					
21	Lycaenidae	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Canela estriada	Long-tailed Blue	1	1	2	1	5	1		
22	Lycaenidae	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	Gris estriada	Lang's Short-tailed Blue			1		15	3		
23	Lycaenidae	<i>Lysandra albicans</i>	Niña andaluza	Spanish Chalk-hill Blue	2							
24	Lycaenidae	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	Niña hocecillas	Silver-studded Blue		10+		1	2	2		
25	Lycaenidae	<i>Plebejus idas</i>	Esmaltada sencilla	Idas Blue			20+					Nevadensis endemic subspecies
26	Lycaenidae	<i>Polyommatus celina</i>	Ícaro moro	Southern Blue	3			2				
27	Lycaenidae	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Ícaro moro	Common Blue		10+			10+	5	2	
28	Lycaenidae	<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>	Fabiola	Escher's Blue		2			1			
29	Lycaenidae	<i>Plebicula golgus</i>	Niña de Sierra Nevada	Sierra Nevada Blue		10+						
30	Lycaenidae	<i>Polyommatus nivescens</i>	Niña de nácar	Mother-of-pearl Blue		3	1	1		1		
31	Lycaenidae	<i>Polyommatus violetae</i>	Velludita parda bética	Andalusian Anomalous Blue						1		
32	Lycaenidae	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>	Azul amanda	Amanda's Blue					1			Identified after the tour
33	Lycaenidae	<i>Tarucus theophrastus</i>	Laberinto	Common Tiger Blue				4				
34	Lycaenidae	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>	Violetilla	African Grass Blue				10+			1	
35	Nymphalidae	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>	Adipe	High Brown Fritillary					1			
36	Nymphalidae	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>	Nacarada Aglaja	Dark Green Fritillary			1					Could be some more, up to a dozen flying fast
37	Nymphalidae	<i>Argynnis niobe</i>	Niobe	Niobe Fritillary			2					
38	Nymphalidae	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	Pandora	Cardinal Fritillary			2		12	2		



Butterfly tour to Sierra Nevada -Spain-. July 9-15, 2023. Wild Andalucía

39	Nymphalidae	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	Sofia	Queen of Spain Fritillary			3		2			
40	Nymphalidae	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Ortiguera	Small Tortoiseshell			5					
41	Nymphalidae	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarca	Monarch							2	
42	Nymphalidae	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	Ondas rojas	Marsh Fritillary					1			
43	Nymphalidae	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	Doncella tímida	Spotted Fritillary			1					Only seen by Álvaro
44	Nymphalidae	<i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>	Minerva	Meadow Fritillary			3					<i>Nevadensis</i> endemic subspecies
45	Nymphalidae	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	Doncella mayor	Knapweed Fritillary			2		3			
46	Nymphalidae	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	Doncella del gordolobo	Lesser Spotted Fritillary			1					Only seen by Neil
47	Nymphalidae	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>	Doncella Atalia	Heath Fritillary		1			1	3		<i>Nevadensis</i> endemic (sub)species
48	Nymphalidae	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	Olmera	Large Tortoiseshell	?		?			2		Could be some more
49	Nymphalidae	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	C-blanca	Comma	1				1			
50	Nymphalidae	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Atalanta	Red Admiral					1			
51	Nymphalidae	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Cardera	Painted Lady			2		2	1		
52	Nymphalidae	<i>Chazara briseis</i>	Banda oblícua	Hermit				1				Male
53	Nymphalidae	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Pánfila	Small Heath	5			10				
54	Nymphalidae	<i>Erebia hispania</i>	Erebia de Sierra Nevada	Spanish Brassy Ringlet		10+	10+				3	Sierra Nevada nominate species
55	Nymphalidae	<i>Hipparchia alcyone</i>	Banda acodada	Rock Grayling			3	2	10+	10+	2	
56	Nymphalidae	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	Semele	Grayling	2		10	2	4	2		Most were males
57	Nymphalidae	<i>Hipparchia statilinus</i>	Sátiro moreno	Tree Grayling					1			
58	Nymphalidae	<i>Hyponphele lupina</i>	Lobito anillado	Oriental Meadow Brown				2				
59	Nymphalidae	<i>Hyponphele lycaon</i>	Lobito	Dusky Meadow Brown	2			3	2	1		
60	Nymphalidae	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>	Rey moro	Great Banded Grayling	1		3	1	2	50+		
61	Nymphalidae	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Saltacercas	Wall Brown	2	1	2		30+	4	1	
62	Nymphalidae	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Loba	Meadow Brown	3							
63	Nymphalidae	<i>Melanargia lachesis</i>	Medioluto ibérica	Iberian Marbled White	50+		10+	20+	50+	50+		
64	Nymphalidae	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Maculada	Speckled Wood			?		3	4		
65	Nymphalidae	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>	Lobito listado	Spanish Gatekeeper					10+	1		
66	Nymphalidae	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Lobito agreste	Gatekeeper	5+			1	2	2		
67	Papilionidae	<i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>	Chupaleches	Southern Scarce Swallowtail			1	5	3	1		
68	Papilionidae	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Macaón	Swallowtail			1			1		
69	Papilionidae	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>	Apolo	Apollo			30					<i>Nevadensis</i> endemic subspecies
70	Pieridae	<i>Colias croceus</i>	Amarilla	Clouded Yellow	20+	8	20+	10	10+	10		Including 2 helices or Berger's Clouded Yellow
71	Pieridae	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	Cleopatra	Cleopatra	1		2	1	12			
72	Pieridae	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Blanca esbelta	Wood White						1		
73	Pieridae	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	Blanca del majuelo	Black-veined White			?			1		
74	Pieridae	<i>Colotis evagore</i>	Alcaparrera	Desert Orange Tip				40				
75	Pieridae	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Blanca de la col	Large White	1				1			
76	Pieridae	<i>Pieris napi</i>	Blanca verdinerviada	Green-veined White			2		3			
77	Pieridae	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Blanquita de la col	Small White	1		30+	5	10+	2	1	
78	Pieridae	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>	Blanquiverdosa	Bath White	1	1	2			2	1	
Day totals:					21	16	37	24	42	35	9	