

# Menorca

Naturetrek Tour Report

11 - 18 April 2006



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### Outline itinerary

Tuesday 11th April	London – Mahon – Matchani Gran
Wednesday 12th	Tirant Marsh, Binimella – Cap De Cavalleria
Thursday 13th	Son Bou – Monte Toro – Tirant Marsh
Friday 14th	Cala Santa Galdana – Gorge D'Algendar
Saturday 15th	Punta Nati – Naveta Des Tudons – Tirant Marsh
Sunday 16th	Son Parc – Tirant Marsh
Monday 17th	Montgofre Nou Saltpans – Cap De Favaritx – Albufera
Tuesday 18th	Matchani Gran – Mahon – London

### Day 1

**Tuesday 11th April**

Weather: Cold & Windy

The plane arrived at Mahon on time to a cold and windy day. Shaun Murphy from Matchani Gran was there to meet us at the airport and led us in convoy to his farmhouse nearby. The group had lunch, unpacked and settled in before an afternoon stroll around the fields of Matchani Gran in improving weather. Highlights of the afternoon were Woodchat Shrike's, Booted Eagles, Hobby's, Tawny Pipit and Pallid Swifts. Plants of note were Sawfly Mirror and Small Flowered Tongue Orchids and the whole group saw a fine Herman's Tortoise.

### Day 2

**Wednesday 12th April**

Weather: Sunny Periods

An early morning walk before breakfast produced Hoopoe, Serins, Nightingales and a Stone Curlew. After breakfast we set off to Tirant Marsh and on our arrival a Sacred Ibis flew up and away, never to be seen again. Two Bitterns, Cattle and Little Egrets, Purple Herons, Marsh Harriers and a Red Rumped Swallow were seen on

the marsh. A little further up the road were Azure Lupins, Bumble-bee and Tongue Orchids, a couple of tree frogs were also seen plus a fine Swallowtail Butterfly.

We then moved onto Binimella where a short walk gave us some fine views of a pair of Black Winged Stilts - offshore a few Cory's and Balearic Shearwater's were passing by.

After a fine picnic lunch we then drove out to Cap De Cavalleria. From the headland we saw plenty of Shearwaters passing by, also a few Audouin's gulls. Several Blue Rock Thrush's were seen with the odd Tawny Pipit. *Senecio Rodriguezii* - a Menorcan endemic - was found in good numbers in the poor stony ground. Also a few plants of Dragon Arum were found, but as yet not in flower.

## Day 3

Thursday 13th April

Weather: Cool North Wind, Sunny Periods

Pre-breakfast walk gave us brief views of a pair of Stone Curlews, Tawny Pipits, Thekla Larks and a large flock of mixed Yellow Wagtails, i.e Blue-Headed, Spanish and Grey Headed Races.

Both vans were on the road just after 9a.m and after a short drive were at Son Bou Marsh. Good views of Audouin's Gulls on the beach were had by everyone. Many Corys were seen feeding close inshore with a few Balearic's mixed in with them. A walk up the full length of the dunes by the marsh gave us Purple Gallinules, Purple Herons, Cattle Egrets and an Osprey. After our picnic lunch on the beach we drove up to the top of the highest hill on the island "Monte Toro". Very little was seen from the top but the beer and coffee were most welcome. On the way down a quick stop produced the rare *Helichrysum Ambiguum*. We ended the day with another visit to Tirant Marsh, which gave us plenty of Booted Eagles, a Montagu's Harrier, Red Kites, Egyptian Vulture and an Osprey carrying a large fish.

## Day 4

Friday 14th April

Weather: Fine Sunny & Warm

Another nice early morning walk; a Scops Owl was seen well at first light and Stone Curlews were heard, a couple of Hoopoes and Woodchat Shrikes were also seen.

Cala Santa Galdana was our first stop for the day with a steep climb up through the woods to the coastal path. Plants were the order of the morning with many new species added to our list. Wild Gladiolus, Friar's Cowl, Sawfly, Pyramidal and *Opbrys balearica* Orchids were in good numbers. We dropped down in to the cove of Cala Macarella for a refreshing drink before retracing our steps back to the vans. After a short drive into the Gorge D'Algendar we had lunch before walking up through to the breeding Egyptian Vultures near the end. Other birds of note were Booted Eagle, an Alpine Swift, a Black Winged Stilt and Hoopoes. We then had an early return to Matchani Gran for a few drinks by the pool before the evening meal.

## Day 5

## Saturday 15th April

Weather: High Cloud, Warm

Today's pre-breakfast walk gave us our first Short-Toed Larks of the trip, but little else new to add to our list. We had a drive of 45mins to the other end of the island at Cuitadella then north onto the headland of Punta Nati. This rocky, barren headland gave us many Short-Toed and Thekla Larks also many sightings of Blue Rock Thrushes. A group of eight Egyptian Vultures were also seen along with Tawny Pipits and Hoopoes. A high-flying party of Bee-eaters were seen flying North out to sea. Cory's and Balearic Shearwaters plus a few Audouins Gulls were passing close off shore. Many plants of *Senecio rodriguezii* were seen plus a fine plant in flower of Dragon Arum. We then had a short drive back to Cuitadella and onto an archaeological site at Naveta D'es Tudons where we had our lunch before looking at the area. Later in the afternoon we drove home via Tirant Marsh once more and had a newly arrived flock of nearly fifty Bee Eaters feeding over the area. After a while they flew off high to the North-West. Whincats, Red-Rumped Swallow, Wood Sandpipers and Black-Winged Stilts were also noted.

## Day 6

## Sunday 16th April

Weather: Warm & Sunny

An early morning walk gave us nothing new but good views of species which we had seen before. After breakfast we drove to Son Parc, a large marsh by a golf course on the North-East of the island. After a rough scrabble through the scrub which gave us a new orchid (*Ophrys fusca*), the Parasitic Cytinus and several tree frogs, we got to a vantage point over-looking the pool. Best of the birds were Ferruginous Duck, Purple Gallinule, Whiskered Tern, Firecrest and Peregrine. A long walk through the woods and back along the coast to the vans produced the usual Woodchats, Hoopoes and Tawny Pipits. A good passage of Shearwaters was seen just offshore. While having our lunch several European Pond Terrapins were seen. On our way back to Matchani Gran we stopped off for a short while at Tirant Marsh. Very little was seen but for a tree frog and more Pond Terrapins.

## Day 7

## Monday 17th April

Weather: Dull Showers then Sunny Periods

Heavy showers first thing put paid to any early morning walk. Although overcast with spots of rain we set off for the private nature reserve near Montgofre Nou, a set of disused salt pans which are secured by a fence. We arrived on time and soon the gates were opened to let us in. Plenty of Black-Winged Stilts, Wood Sandpipers, Greenshanks and Little Ringed Plovers were seen. Also, a few Garganey and a couple of Gadwall. Best birds were Marsh Sandpiper and two Ospreys. We then drove out to Cap De Favariix for lunch and had a steady passage of Corys and Balearic Shearwaters. A small group of Subalpine Warblers were found in the Tamarisk scrub by the road and a fine clump of Birthwort was found. Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers were seen in the Brackish Pools near the lighthouse.

We had a short stop at Es Grau for refreshments before a walk at the Albufera Reserve. Very little in the bird line was seen. A good number of Sawfly and Tongue Orchids were found along with Tree Spurges and Azure Lupins. We returned to Matchani Gran to pack our bags ready for the morning.

## Day 8

**Tuesday 18th April**

Weather: Windy, Dry & Bright

Breakfast at usual time, bags all packed, bar bills settled and away by 0930 for the short drive to the airport. Our plane left on time at 1140.

## Plant list

Endemic species are given in bold text

Common name	Scientific name
Aleppo Pine	<i>Pinus halepensis</i>
Phoenicean Juniper	<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>
Joint Pine	<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>
Holm Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>
Cytinus	<i>Cytinus ruber</i>
Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>
Pellitory Of The Wall	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>
Round-Leaved Birthwort	<i>Aristolochia rotunda</i>
Sea Beet	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>Martima</i>
Sea Samphire	<i>Salicornia europaea</i>
Perennial Glasswort	<i>Arthrocnemum perenne</i>
	<i>Arthrocnemum fruticosum</i>
Red Hottentot Fig	<i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i>
Hottentot Fig	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>
	<i>Lampranthus roseus</i>
Small-Flowered Catchfly	<i>Silene gallica</i>
Corncockle	<i>Agrostemma githago</i>
Virgin's Bower	<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>
Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus macrophyllus</i>
Celery-Leaved Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>
Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Water Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>
Bladder Campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>
Caper	<i>Capparis spinosa</i>
Opium Poppy	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>
Common Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
Long-Headed Poppy	<i>Papaver dubium</i>
Yellow-Headed Poppy	<i>Glaucium flavum</i>
Ramping Fumitory	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>
Hoary Stock	<i>Matthiola incana</i>
Hoary Cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>
Sea Rocket	<i>Cakile maritima</i>
Wild Radish	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>
White Mignonette	<i>Reseda alba</i>
Wild Mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>
Sweet Alison	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>
Medlar	<i>Crataegus azarolus</i>
Japanese Loquat	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Thorny Broom	<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>
Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>
Azure Lupin	<i>Lupinus micranthus</i>
Pitch Trefoil	<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>
<b>Milk Vetch</b>	<b><i>Astragalus balearicus</i></b>
Reddish Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>
Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>
	<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>
	<i>Lathyrus ochrus</i>
<b>Large Yellow Restharrow</b>	<b><i>Ononis crispa</i></b>
Small Melilot	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>
Lucerne	<i>Medicago sativa</i>
Large Disk Medick	<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>
Spotted Medick	<i>Medicago arabica</i>
<b>Birdsfoot</b>	<b><i>Lotus tetraphyllus</i></b>
	<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>
Southern Birdsfoot Trefoil	<i>Lotus creticus</i>
Star Clover	<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>
Wooly Trefoil	<i>Trifolium tomentosium</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Rough Clover	<i>Trifolium scabrum</i>
	<b><i>Dorycnium fulgurans</i></b>
	<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i>
	<i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i>
Mediterranean Kidney Vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> sub. <i>Sp. Praepropera</i>
Bladder Vetch	<i>Anthyllis tetraphylla</i>
	<b><i>Anthyllis hystrix</i></b>
Annual Scorpion Vetch	<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i>
Italian Sainfoin	<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>
Bermuda Buttercup	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>
Doves Foot Cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
Round-Leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>
Small-Leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pusillum</i>
Cut-Leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
Long-Stalked Cranesbill	<i>Geranium columbinum</i>
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Common Storksbill	<i>Erodium moschatum</i>
Pale Flax	<i>Linum bienne</i>
	<i>Linum maritimum</i>
Sun Spurge	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>
Petty Spurge	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>
Sea Spurge	<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>
Tree Spurge	<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>
Fringed Rue	<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>
Mastic Tree	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>
Mediterranean Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>
Malvella	<i>Malvella sherardiana</i>
Dwarf Mallow	<i>Malva neglecta</i>
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>
Cretan Mallow	<i>Lavatera cretica</i>
Tree Mallow	<i>Lavatera arborea</i>
	<i>Daphne gnidium</i>
Fleshy-Leaved Thymelaea	<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>
Perforate St Johns Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Grey-Leaved Cistus	<i>Cistus albidus</i>
Sage-Leaved Cistus	<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>
Narrow-Leaved Cistus	<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>
Spotted Rockrose	<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>
	<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>
Sea Heath	<i>Frankenia laevis</i>
Squirting Cucumber	<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>
Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>
	<i>Lythrum junceum</i>
Myrtle	<i>Myrtus communis</i>
Pomegranate	<i>Punica granatum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Sea Holly	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>
Rock Samphire	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>
Giant Fennel	<i>Ferula communis</i>
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum officinale</i>
Kundmannia	<i>Kundmannia sicula</i>
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Strawberry Tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>
Tree Heath	<i>Erica arborea</i>
	<i>Erica multiflora</i>
Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>
Blue Pimpernel	<i>Anagallis foemina</i>
Dwarf-Sea Lavender	<i>Limonium minutum</i>
Yellow-Wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>
Common Centaury	<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>
Yellow Centaury	<i>Centaureum maritimum</i>
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca difformis</i>
Madder	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>
Common Dodder	<i>Cuscuta epithimum</i>

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>
Olive	<i>Olea europea</i> subsp. <i>Oleaster</i>
	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>
	<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>
Sea Bindweed	<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>
Mallow-Leaved Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>
Blue-Hounds Tongue	<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>
Large Blue Anchusa	<i>Anchusa azurea</i>
Pale Bugloss	<i>Echium italicum</i>
Purple Vipers Bugloss	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>
	<i>Echium sabulicola</i>
Felty Germander	<i>Teucrium polium</i>
	<b><i>Teucrium marum</i> sub species <i>spinescens</i></b>
Wild Clary	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>
Apple Of Sodom	<i>Solanum sodomaeum</i>
White Henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>
	<i>Verbascum creticum</i>
Three-Leaved Toadflax	<i>Linaria triphylla</i>
Common Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
Yellow Bartsia	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>
Bellardia	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera implexa</i>
<b>Dogs Figwort</b>	<b><i>Scrophularia canina</i> sub species <i>ramosissima</i></b>
Branched Broomrape	<i>Orobanche ramose</i>
Common Broomrape	<i>Orobanche minor</i>
Bear's Breech	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>
Plantain	<i>Plantago lagopus</i>
Spanish Valerian	<i>Centranthus calcitrapa</i>
Sweet Scabious	<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>
Annual Daisy	<i>Bellis annua</i>
	<i>Bellium bellidiodes</i>
	<i>Evax pygmaea</i>
<b>Everlasting</b>	<b><i>Helichrysum ambiguum</i></b>
	<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>
Spiny Golden Star	<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>
	<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>
	<i>Anthemis maritimus</i>
Scented Mayweed	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>
Sea Aster	<i>Asteriscus maritimus</i>
Corn Marigold	<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>
Crown Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>
Field Marigold	<i>Caldenula arvensis</i>
Cineraria	<i>Senecio bicolor</i>
	<b><i>Senecio rodriguezii</i></b>
Galactites	<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>
Milk Thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>
	<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>
	<i>Urospermum picroides</i>
Reichardia	<i>Reicharda tingitana</i>
Common Asphodel	<i>Ashpodelus aestivus</i>
Hollow-Leaved Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>
Butchers Broom	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>
Common Smilax	<i>Smilax aspera</i>
Rosy Garlic	<i>Allium roseum</i>
Three-Cornered Leek	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>
	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>
	<i>Asparagus stipularis</i>
Tassel Hyacinth	<i>Muscari comosum</i>
Sea Daffodil	<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>
	<b><i>Launaea cervicornis</i></b>
Wild Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus illyricus</i>
Black Bryony	<i>Tamas communis</i>
Flag Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>



<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>
Friar's Cowl	<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>
Italian Arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
Tongue Orchid	<i>Serapis lingua</i>
Bumble Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>
Mirror Orchid	<i>Ophrys vernixia</i>
Sawfly Orchid	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>
	<b><i>Ophrys balearica</i></b>
Large Quaking Grass	<i>Briza maxima</i>
Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>
Maidenhair Fern	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>
Bithynian Vetch	<i>Vicia bithynica</i>
Rough Poppy	<i>Papaver hybridum</i>
Little Robin	<i>Geranium purpureum</i>
	<i>Ornithogalum arabicum</i>
Upright Yellow Flax	<i>Linum strictum</i>
Shepherd's Needle	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>
Buck's-Horn Plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>
Lesser Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum orontium</i>
	<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>
Summer Snowflake	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>
Childing Pink	<i>Petrorhagia nanteulii</i>
Corn Chamomile	<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>
Wild Leek	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>
	<i>Anthemis maritima</i>
Dragon Arum	<i>Dracunculus muscivorus</i>
Yellow Ophrys	<i>Ophrys lutea</i>
	<i>Ophrys fusca</i>
	<i>Serapis parviflora</i>
	<i>Serapis nurrica</i>