



## Two Week Flower Trip on Crete

Spring 2020

1st - 15th April

Cost per person: £2,400

The first week includes half board at Corali apartments, the second week at Heracles Apartments, Spili, morning coffee, lunch, transport from and to the airport, and all guided trips. All trips will be accompanied by Julia Jones, FLS. President and Founder of the not-for-profit organisation 'Flowers of Crete'

### Day One

Guests will be greeted at Heraklion airport, and driven to Elounda to settle in.

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### Day Two

A day trip into the mountains to find wild paeony, arum lilies and endemic orchids, with lunch in a traditional taverna.



*Paeonia clusii* sps *clusii*

### Day Three

A drive to the far east of the island to walk through the native palm groves of the endemic Phoenix theophrastii and the palm beach at Vai. This is the only native palm forest in Europe. After the visit to Vai, a short drive will take us to the ancient Minoan Palace at Zakros and a chance to walk in the

scenic Gorge of the Dead to find rare, endemic flowers. Lunch at a beautifully restored old stone house which serves excellent local produce.

## Day Four

A trip to the island of Kolokytha to find a variety of beautiful and rare flowers and to spend the day finding and photographing flowers, leaves and grasses. Lunch at a local beach side taverna.

## Day Five

Following a remote mountain road from north to south coast there will be plenty of stops to find orchids, wild fritillary and many endemic flowers, including a short walk to a panoramic view point to view both Cretan and Libyan seas and a drive through broad leaf woodland to a remote deserted village, where cyclamen and many endemic

flowers can be found beside a fast flowing mountain stream.

*Tulipa cretica*

## Day Six

A trip to the beach at Malia to find some interesting flora, followed by a drive into the mountains to the famous Lassithi plateau, where we will find fields of flowers and stunning scenery.



*Cyclamen creticum*

## Day Seven

After breakfast, we will travel along the north coast and into the mountains to the pretty village of Spili, stopping en route to find many beautiful and interesting flowers.

## Day Eight

Our first trip out from Spili, to the orchid rich meadows of the surrounding mountains. We will find ophrys and orchids, including recently identified species which are endemic to this area.



*A hillside above Spili covered with wild anemone.*

## Day Nine

An interesting day visiting a Minoan cemetery, which is well-known for its protected orchids, followed by a round trip through unspoiled countryside, returning to Spili in the early evening.

## Day Ten

The Amari valley is our destination today, with a chance to wander along dirt tracks and clamber over hillsides to see what we can discover.

## Day Eleven

Today we will head over the mountains to the south coast to experience changes in flora and scenery. A chance to find *Tulipa saxatalis*, amongst other wonderful species.

## Day Twelve

A change of pace and a free day to explore Spili and/or Rethymnon.

## Day Thirteen

From Spili we will take the road to Preveli and its ancient monastery, followed to a drive on dirt roads to 'Palm beach', stopping on the way to find and photograph many native and endemic plants.



## Day Fourteen

After breakfast, we will return to the north coast for the journey to Heraklion airport.

*Ophrys herae*

Please note: Cost of holiday does not include flights, evening meals, drinks not included with meals or

phone calls from your hotel.