



Flowers of Crete
Ophrys and Orchid Finding Trips 2019

March 5th – 12th

March 12th – 19th

March 19th – 26th

Day One:

Guests will be collected from Heraklion Airport and taken to the welcoming Corali Studios in Elounda. The studios are situated close to one of the main beaches and to all the amenities of Elounda village. We will spend the evening together at the traditional taverna The Hope in nearby Mavrikiano village.

Day Two:

We will take the short drive to Plaka and the wonderful orchid meadows around Elounda. Here we can expect to find *Ophrys cretica* ssp *cretica*, *Ophrys cretica* ssp *ariadnae*, *Ophrys sphegodes* ssp *gourtynia*, *Ophrys bombyliflora*, *Anacamptis collina*, *Ophrys sicula*, *Anacamptis papilionacea* ssp *alibertis*, *Anacamptis papilionacea* ssp *heroica* and *Ophrys mesaritica*. We will have a picnic lunch under the olive trees, before continuing to the north coast to look for *Ophrys heldreichii*. Free evening.

Day Three:

Today we will drive into the mountains above Aghios Nikolaos to find *Orchis pauciflora*, *Neotinea maculata*, *Aceras anthropophorum*, *Orchis quadrapunctata*, *Orchis seziciana*, *Orchis tridentata*, *Orchis lactea*, *Orchis sitiaca*. We will have a traditional Cretan lunch in a friend's taverna and we will also be guided by Steve Lenton, who has made a study of the plants of the plateau for many years. After lunch we will make our way

down to Elounda, stopping en route to search for orchids in various places. Free evening.

Day Four:

We will head around the Mirambello Bay into the Thripti mountains, stopping en route for morning coffee at a beachside taverna. We will then head off into the mountains, stopping on the way to look for *Ophrys fleischmanii*, *Ophrys thriptiensis*, *Ophrys sitiaca*, *Ophrys sicula*, *Ophrys doerfleri*, *Orchis anatolica*. Lunch will be taken at a wonderful traditional taverna with lovely views of the mountain. After a leisurely lunch, we will drive back down to the coast and on to Elounda. Free evening.

Day Five:

An interesting day driving over the mountains to the south coast, stopping many times to looking for ophrys and orchids. We should find *Ophrys tenthredinifera* ssp *dictynnae*, ssp *dimidiata*, ssp *leochroma*, *Ophrys doerflerii*. *Ophrys fusca* ssp *basilissa*, *Ophrys omegaifera*. We will drive to the village of Kalamafka for lunch at a taverna with a spectacular view. After lunch we will return to Elounda by a different route to look for *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Ophrys episcopalis*. Free evening.

Day Six:

The destination for today's trip will be the north slopes of the Thripti mountains. We will stop for coffee at the same beachside taverna as Day Four and to where we will return for lunch after we have searched for orchids in a remote area nearby. We can expect to find *Ophrys sicula*, *Anacamptis papilionacea* ssp, *Ophrys thriptiensis*, *Serapias orientalis*, *Serapis bergonii*, *Ophrys doerfleri*, *Himantoglossum robertianum*. Returning to the taverna we will eat an al fresco lunch before returning to Elounda. Free evening.

Day Seven:

We will return to the mountains above Aghios Nikolaos, to visit the pine forests on the north slopes. We will encounter many of the orchids and ophrys we have already seen, but we will also be looking for *Ophrys omegaifera*, *Ophrys cressa*, *Ophrys creberrima*, *Ophrys cinereophila*, *Ophrys cretica*. We will then start down the mountain and stop in the

traditional Cretan village of Kroustas for lunch. In the evening guests are invited to my home in Pano Elounda for drinks and meze.

Day Eight:

Guests will be driven to Heraklion airport after saying their goodbyes to new friends.

The cost per person is 1,400 euros including bed and breakfast at Corali, meals mentioned in the programme, all guiding and transport from and to the airport. The cost does not include air fares, alcoholic drinks and meals other than those specified, telephone calls from your hotel room.

A deposit of 20% is required upon booking and the balance is required eight weeks before arrival in Elounda. Payment can be made via PayPal to julia@jjbotanicart.com or via bank transfer to my UK bank account.

Itineraries may be changed depending on weather conditions, both over the winter and during the duration of the trips. The suggested ophrys and orchids are subject to variation and there will be a good possibility that we will find a good number of species not mentioned in this programme.



