



viranatura   
tours

# 2021

## A YEAR IN LYCIA CALENDAR

*Ajuga bombycina*

Beycik

Sulphur tongues decorate soft, woolly rosettes clinging to rock crevices or packing the spaces between limestone boulders.

A delightful spring bugle.



## *Clematis cirrhosa*

Termessos

Fresh flowers gild the autumnal branches of pistaccio bushes. As one plant fades another bursts into life and this vigorous winter-flowering climber drapes creamy bells across the macchie shrubs for weeks throughout winter.

# JANUARY

<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>S</i>
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## *Crocus biflorus* subsp. *nubigena*

Termessos

Exquisite, violet-feathered goblets appear among the stony ground between the immense sarcophagi strewn across the ancient site of Termessos, as the warming sun stirs Lycia into life. Indeed, they emerge so early that few visitors ever get to enjoy them.

# FEBRUARY

<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>S</i>
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## *Cyclamen alpinum*

Dokuzgöl Dağları

Countless 'helicopter' whorls of pink are sprinkled across screes and stony slopes, nestled among cedars and ancient junipers. *Cyclamen alpinum* grows throughout Lycia, sharing spring with a varied array of choice crocuses and other bulbs.

# MARCH

<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>S</i>
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## *Fritillaria carica*

Beycik Yaylası

Pretty golden bells, that age gently to coppery-orange, decorate stony slopes and rock outcrops, alongside sprawling mats of violet *Aubrieta deltoides* as spring is sprung in the Taurus Mountains.

# APRIL

<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>S</i>
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## *Anthemis rosea* & *Trigonella* sp.

Ak Dagı

Vibrant swirls of annual flowers carpet the lower slopes of Ak Dagı. Too tightly packed to step between, the photographer must tiptoe with trepidation around the edges. Among the golden-centered pink *Anthemis rosea* and egg-yolk baubles of *Trigonella* sp. are the pink whorls of endemic *Silene cryptoneura*.

# MAY

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## *Rhaponticoïdes hierroi*

Saklikent

Pom-poms of creamy-yellow top the scalloped heads of this remarkable endemic cornflower, one of half a dozen similar species scattered across (mainly) western Turkey. All are highly localised and endangered, though similar species occur as far afield as Central Asia.

# JUNE

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## *Echinops emiliae*

Tahtalı Dagi

Fabulous tennis ball-sized, jade-green heads top this impressive alpine thistle. The bristly texture is created by the long phyllaries, that obscure the slim green flowers within. Large clumps, with silvery-back spiny-tipped leaves, appear on barren rocky slopes and coarse scree and the species is endemic to the western Taurus.

# JULY

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## *Asyneuma pulvinatum*

Tahtalı Dağı

Slender blue stars speckle clumps of densely-packed leaves that form hard, rock hugging cushions. This wonderful alpine is endemic to Tahtalı Dağı, where it flowers at the height of summer. It only grows on west-facing cliffs, never far from a vertical surface making it hard to reach unless one is an ibex or an obsessed botanist.

# AUGUST

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## *Drimia aphylla*

Tekirova

This tough and resourceful bulb breaks from dry rock-hard ground in great numbers across Lycia, forming 'forests' of white spires, so effective when backlit among the coppery dry grasses. They are a magnet for late-season bees and this scene positively hummed in the early morning.

# SEPTEMBER

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## *Arundo donax*

Finike

The Mediterranean's most imposing grass, a robust brute that crowds any damp site, growing throughout the summer and towering above its neighbours. It ultimately produces handsome plumes at the end of summer that sway and rustle in the coastal breeze.

# OCTOBER

<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>S</i>
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## *Crocus wattiorum*

Göynük

Throughout this month and into the next, arguably the loveliest of all Turkey's autumn-flowering crocuses appears, sprouting from rocky ground and from within huge boulders. Known locally as Antalya Saffron, the large styles attract a devoted species of drone fly that actively deters any other insect from attending the flowers.

# NOVEMBER

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## *Galanthus peshmenii*

Göynük

An icy finale to the year sees the crisp white whorls of this beautiful snowdrop emerge from limestone rock crevices, pushing through heaps of rust-coloured pine leaves and creating improbable near vertical colonies that are a challenge to reach and photograph.

# DECEMBER

<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>S</i>
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