

FALL BULBS OF THE TAURUS REGION

A tour offered by:



Oct 18-25, 2026

Cost: \$3875 USD based on double occupancy

\$4550 based on single occupancy

Deposit: \$500 USD

Please note you need to arrive in Dalaman Airport (DLM) on Oct 18 and depart Antalya Airport (AYT) on Oct 25. You will connect through Istanbul. There are multiple flights per day.

This tour is for 9-18 guests. The tour will not go ahead unless the minimum of 9 guests is reached.

Leaders: Oron Peri, with Julia Corden if a second guide is needed (11 or more guests)

As the heat of summer wanes, the first rains bring forth the Mediterranean's fall jewels, a rich array of colourful bulbs that reinvigorates the landscape. This is a tour of the bulb-rich south-western Taurus of Turkey. These dramatic mountains rise directly from the azure Mediterranean in places creating one of the most dramatic landscapes in the region and are home to some wonderful bulbs. Our tour explores habitats from the coast to the higher slopes, which still harbour stunning old growth cedar forests.

Day 1 Flights arrive at Dalaman Airport (DLM) (18 October)

Flights arrive at Dalaman Airport (DLM) from where we drive to our hotel in Kalkan.

Day 2 Asas Dagi & Simena (19 October)

The day begins with a trip out to Simena where we'll see some huge sarcophaguses perched above the blue sea and convoluted rocky coast and bays. *Colchicum stevenii* is common growing in the limestone rocks and *Prospero autumnalis* will be seen almost everywhere we go. In the mountains we visit an area of Cedar of Lebanon forests to look for the lovely purple-throated *Crocus mathewii*, as well as the large

chequered stars of *Colchicum variegatum*, maybe *Sternbergia colchiciflora* too. A short walk into the cedar woods brings us to an area with wild *Sternbergia clusiana*. The final location for the day will be Xanthos, the former capital of Lycia and a wonderful site to explore with several monumental sarcophaguses, a theatre and other features. On the rocks and around parts of the site is a large population of *Sternbergia lutea* and *Cyclamen graecum*. Overnight Kalkan.

Day 3 Sinekibeli Pass, Yesilgol and Ordubek (20 October)

The road snakes up through some fine patches of *Quercus macrolepis* woodland and many of the trees will have their characteristic big acorn cups. A little higher and we enter a small village where *Sternbergia clusiana* grows alongside *Colchicum boissieri*. The forest then transitions to extensive areas of Cedar of Lebanon with spectacular views across to Ak Dagi. Below the main summit, the lovely Yesil Gol Lake sits and around this we might find the deep pink form of *Colchicum sanguicolle*. On the opposite side of the valley are areas of old growth *Juniperus excelsa* woods and here we see *Crocus pallasii*. Moving on the route travels around Avlan Lake and starts to descend to the Mediterranean, but we will detour a short way into another area of cedars to see *Colchicum boissieri*. We finish down at the coast and overnight in the pleasant low-key village of Cirali.

Day 4 Alacadag & Limyra (21 October)

Another chance to see the lovely *Crocus mathewii* today on the high yayla (pasture) at Alacadag via an unmade road through large areas of strawberry tree woods and into cedars and up into an area with large *Acer hyrcanum*, which will be colouring up nicely for fall alongside *Cotinus coggygria*. White *Crocus cancellatus* subsp. *lycius* also grows here. We'll complete the day at Limyra, a walled historical site with large spring rushing through it. *Colchicum stevenii* grows on nearby rocks and we'll look for the unusual *Biarum marmarisense*. Overnight Cirali.

Day 5 Tahtali Dagi & Phaselis (22 October)

Clearly visible from Cirali, the 2265-metre coastal peak of Tahtali Dagi is a botanical hotspot with over 900 species recorded. In the valleys below we will see the lovely crisp white *Galanthus peshmenii* growing near huge plane trees. Higher on the flanks of the mountain is the most southerly location of *Crocus speciosus*, a particularly fine species and we'll see these flowering among groves of cedars. We'll finish at the historical site of Phaselis, which not only has interesting ruins but a large population of *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *anatolicum* too. Overnight Cirali.

Day 6 Termessos (23 October)

Cyclamen graecum is also very common at Cirali and we'll look at the large numbers growing here before departing for one of the most fascinating historical sites in the region: Termessos. This is an untamed site that sprawls through Mediterranean oak woods and is ripe for exploring. There is a spectacularly positioned theatre, many immense sarcophaguses, various temples, a hammam and more. It also supports a large population of *Cochicum baytopiorum*. Walking is on a rocky uphill path for much of the way. After lunch we continue onto the seaside town of Side, a place also graced with extensive Roman ruins. Overnight in Side.

Day 7 Akseki Road (24 October)

Our final day will see us driving inland onto the Anatolian Plateau to where the ragged limestone is peppered with pretty *Cyclamen cilicicum*. Rocky slopes have *Crocus cancellatus* subsp. *pamphylicus* and *C. asumaniae* and further on among the many *Quercus cerris* woodlands are *Crocus speciosus* and *C. pallasii* subsp. *dispathaceus*. Fall colours will be further advanced here and the *Pistaccia terebrinthus* and oaks put on a colourful show, joined by maples, all offset by the steely grey of cedars and a native fir: *Abies cilicica*, which grows in large stands together with big-fruited *Juniperus drupacea*. A final night will be had beside the warm Mediterranean. Overnight in Side.

Day 8 Flights from Antalya Airport (AYT) (25 October)

Depending on flight times guests may be able to look around the Temple of Apollo and the amphitheatre at Side.

Included in the price:

All meals and transport from airport to hotel on Oct. 18 and return to airport on Oct 25. Services of your leaders. Please note: Drinks, tips, and items of a personal nature such as travel insurance, are not included. Please note that if you arrive earlier than the 218th or stay later than the 25th, airport transfer is on your own.

Walking is generally easy but on some days a moderate walk will be required. Sturdy footwear is suggested. The weather should be sunny and warm but showers and cloud are a possibility. It should be noted that the itinerary focuses on the fall bulbs of southwest Türkiye but additional autumn-blooming plants will also be seen.

Gratuities: Gratuities are included for meals but tips for bus driver and the guides are at your own discretion.

Information Related Registration, Payments, and Cancellation

You must be a NARGS member to register. If you need to renew your membership or to join the society, please do so via the NARGS website (www.nargs.org) or contact Bobby Ward at nargs@nc.rr.com if you have questions or need help.

The cost for the tour is \$3875 USD per person based on double occupancy; single occupancy \$4550 USD.

Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. Space on this tour is limited to 16 guests. Your space is not guaranteed until a deposit is paid. The deposit is \$500 USD.

Before submitting your deposit, send an email to nfld.todd.boland@gmail.com to confirm space availability. You will receive an email confirming space availability and a link to the Google Registration Form. Guests travelling together must EACH fill in a Google Registration Form.

Deposit Payment

To pay the deposit for the tour, use the deposit button on the webpage describing this tour. This will add the deposit to the “cart”. You can then click checkout and follow the directions for payment via your credit card. If you desire you can pay for the entire trip all at once by clicking both the deposit AND the balance owing box and adding both to your cart, then proceeding to payment.

Final Payment

Final payment is due by August 1, 2026. You have two options for the final payment. You can pay online using your credit card. When you visit the webpage regarding this tour, you will see the option of adding the balance owing of the tour cost to the cart. Click the amount that applies to you (depending on if you are paying for double or single occupancy). Click “checkout” and follow the directions to pay via your credit card. Alternatively you may send a check from a U.S. bank denominated in USD. The check should be payable to NARGS, note Türkiye Fall Tour on the memo line of the check, and be mailed to NARGS, POB 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604.

Cancellation

Cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to NARGS by the person making the reservation. Cancellations after deposit is paid but prior to the final payment due date will forfeit 50% of deposit. Failure to submit final payment by due date will result in forfeiting 100% of deposit. Cancellations after final payment is made but more than 30 days before start of the tour will forfeit 50% of tour cost. No reimbursements or credits will be given for cancellations within 30 days of start of tour unless another person can be found to fill the space. Each registrant is urged to obtain private trip insurance to cover any exigencies requiring cancellation. If the tour is cancelled by NARGS for any reason, all payments minus banking fees and incurred expenses will be refunded to registered participants. If the tour is cancelled by NARGS, any person who had previously cancelled will not be entitled to this refund.

Insurance

The tour price does not include insurance to cover costs associated with medical treatment, repatriation, flight cancellations, baggage loss, travel interruptions, cancellation fees, or other expenses. Each registrant is urged to assess their personal situation and to obtain private insurance to cover these costs if needed.

Waiver of Liability

By submitting a tour deposit, you are acknowledging that you are aware of the risks associated with travel and that you will not hold NARGS or others associated with the tour responsible for any delays; changes in itinerary, staffing, or accommodations; injuries, illnesses, or deaths; or any circumstances beyond the control of NARGS.

Public Health Requirements

All participants must comply with public health requirements for international travel in their country of residence and in the tour host country. During the tour, participants may be in close contact with other participants and the general public. To the extent possible, participants should comply with U.S. and local public health guidelines, and must comply with all local public health requirements. If you do not feel well during the tour, let the tour guide know. The guide will assist in locating medical services, but these services may be distant and less extensive than those available at home. Each participant will be individually responsible for paying the cost for these services and associated transportation.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact Todd Boland at nfld.todd.boland@gmail.com