

# *Wild Orchids in the Algarve*

by Sue Parker



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A beautifully illustrated souvenir guide to wild orchids in the Algarve, Portugal's wildflower paradise.

More than 100 large colour photographs with details of dozens of the Algarve's amazing wild orchids and their habitats

'Where and when to look' advice plus a site location map and details of the Algarve's nature reserves and other orchid walks

*"Go to the right places in the Algarve at the right times of year, and the most amazing orchid sights will greet you. This beautifully illustrated book answers those crucial questions What, Where and When..."*

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## About the Author



Sue Parker's passion for wild orchids dates back to her childhood in the Far East, where epiphytic orchids grew on the fence at the bottom of her garden, and the tropical countryside abounded with orchids as well as many other beautiful exotic flowers.

Born in Tenby in South Wales, after living in many other countries and travelling the world as an essential part of her job as director of a media marketing company, Sue now shares her time between her homes in Wales and in the Algarve as well as travelling, mainly in Europe, to see, photograph and learn more about wild terrestrial orchids.

To date Sue has written nine books about wildflowers, including four that are devoted to terrestrial orchids. Apart from *Wild Orchids in the Algarve*, Sue has also written [\*Wild Orchids of Wales, how, when and where to find them\*](#), and [\*Wild Orchids in The Burren\*](#) (the latter being co-authored with her husband Pat O'Reilly). Sue's latest book for the Algarve region of Portugal, [\*Wild Orchids of the Algarve, how, when and where to find\*](#) them, is an acclaimed comprehensive hardback field guide - indispensable for anyone with a keen interest in Europe's wild terrestrial orchids.

Sue has also made radio and television programmes about orchids and continues to give talks and contribute articles to countryside magazines.

## Reviews

*What a delight it is to come across a book that provides such helpful advice and beautiful pictures to help visitors to this wildflower wonderland. I particularly value having a map as well as location information for the dozens of wildflowers that grown in southern Portugal in springtime (December to May being the key months). The scientific names are included for those who prefer to work that way. A pocket guide that is excellent value for money and beautifully produced. Ten out of ten!*

(Review on Amazon)

*Sue Parker has made a detailed study of the habitats and hotspots preferred by the species of wild orchids that occur in the Algarve, Portugal's most famous and ecologically-rich region. Details of habitat preferences, flowering times and other clues to finding orchids. Advice on some of the most prolific wild orchid sites, with directions for "orchid walks" and which species can be found there. A well illustrated and modestly priced introductory guide, ideal for visitors to and residents of the region.*

(Review on Summerfield Books)

There are many more reviews like these, both in wildlife and countryside magazines and online.



Two plants from a colony of more than twenty found blooming in early April on an abandoned farmstead near to the coast of Ferragudo.

This orchid gets its scientific name from the shape of the 'mirror' on the lip, which is in the form of the Greek  $\omega$ . Although variable, the flowers are darker and rarely show the amount of 'mottling' seen on so many of the flowers of *Ophrys fucata*.

## Small-flowered Tongue Orchid (*Serapias parviflora*)

The two species of tongue orchids that are found most frequently in the Algarve are the Small-flowered Tongue Orchid (*Serapias parviflora*) and the Heart-flowered Tongue Orchid (*Serapias cordigera*).

The diminutive Small-flowered Tongue Orchid is very common throughout the Algarve and can be found flowering close to the coast in the garrafas and also on the edges of woodlands. These orchids, which typically hug bushes and shrubs, can be difficult to spot in longer grass.

