

EIG Trips

An EIG Trip is a collective activity by EIG members usually involving the survey for butterflies, their larvae or foodplant somewhere in Europe as defined by the Council of Europe but also including Turkey. Operations outside this region are not anticipated.

Requirements

All trips must have a leader

The leader must accept participants and can reject potential participants on the basis of past behaviour or because there are no spaces left or because the leader doubts whether the participant is suitably fit for the object of the trip. This is entirely his/her decision. It may also be appropriate to exclude novices if the proportion of novices to experienced volunteers is skewed towards the former or good ID skills are a requirement.

All participants must sign up to the EIG code of practice on collecting and photography in the field and any specific requirements on data confidentiality as advised by the leader. The use of nets may be permitted but only at the discretion of the leader as there may be circumstances where they are inappropriate such as in a national park.

The leader will issue a generic risk assessment which the participant must read, understand and take suitable precautions.

Obligations of participants

Participants must have adequate travel and accident insurance

Participants will be expected to have a mobile phone and give the number to the trip leader

Participants will be expected to give the leader a sealed envelope containing details of next of kin and important medical details such as allergies and medications for use in an emergency. This will be returned at the end of the trip.

Individuals with known medical conditions that make long walks and steep ascents in the mountains inappropriate should not participate in EIG trips where this is an obvious requirement. All participants participate at their own risk.

Compliance with Tour Operators Legislation (Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 & TOMS) . (TOMS stands for the Tour Operator Margin Scheme and relates to VAT.)

At its simplest an EIG Trip will be the agreement of the leader and the participants to meet at a certain place and work collectively and in cooperation in the field for a period of time.

Each participant would in that case be responsible for their own travel arrangements, transport and accommodation.

If a Trip is organised by the leader then in order to comply with the strict terms of the Tour Operators legislation then the leader must not book BOTH the local transport AND the accommodation. The leader may book one of these but not both. It is essential that all participants book their own accommodation themselves and they must pay for it individually. Where cars are hired then the drivers should book the car hire and pay for it, collecting contributions from other drivers/passengers. Individuals must always book and pay for their own flights.

If the trip is organised by a licensed Tour Operator as an 'EIG Facilitated trip' then participants must purchase the package of transport, accommodation and food from the Tour operator directly and at their own risk. Though EIG endeavours to obtain value for money in these trips it is not responsible for the deficiencies of the tour operator. EIG has only suggested a tour and asked the tour operator to put together a package. Adequate Travel Insurance is a requirement. Participants must understand that the success of the trip depends a lot on the local knowledge of the local travel company organising the tour and that the initial research for planning the trip at the destination is both expensive and time consuming. Commercial confidentiality as well as the EIG code of practice might also preclude site details being passed on to third parties or being published.

Good Practice

Field work will be conducted as a group or at least in pairs. Individuals should remain in calling distance of the leader in the field.

Participants will be expected to return to the rendezvous point at the agreed time

Field records for new species for a site will normally need verification by another member of the team. Unsubstantiated records without a photograph may be omitted from the collective record at the discretion of the leader.

Health and Safety

The leader will issue a risk assessment for the trip including verbal briefings on site specific risks. For example if he/she observes the digging up of roots by wild boar then the other participants should be alerted.

Many risks are far smaller for a small team working together and any accident or fall can be more easily dealt with. One of the major risks of fieldwork – attack by shepherd's dogs is

considerably reduced. All participants have a duty of care to the other members of the team.

All participants will need to be appropriately shod and attired, to carry a first aid kit, maps, water and spare food. Hats are strongly recommended. Mobile phones need to be carried, charged and switched on.

EIG trips are strongly advised to work in collaboration with local butterfly experts whose knowledge of the area and the language will reduce the likelihood and severity of most risks.

All participants are required to conduct themselves in a safe and appropriate manner, not to put themselves or others at risk of death or serious injury, and to warn their colleagues of any danger that they may spot themselves.

EIG and Butterfly Conservation will endeavour to maintain the highest standards of appropriate Health and Safety procedures but will not be responsible for reckless or irresponsible behaviour by anyone.

Current Activity Levels

EIG currently organises 2 or 3 trips a year of usually 1 week but occasionally longer involving up to 15 individuals per trip but more usually less than this.

Head Office (HO) needs to be notified for insurance purposes of the names of participants and the dates of the trip. For a non-resident of the UK attending an EIG trip HO needs to be notified in good time to ensure ad hoc public and employer liability insurance is in place for that person (currently BC insurance only covers UK residents).