



Guara Somontano Incógnito

Somontano
Mediterráneo Route

Harlequin butterfly

Zerynthia rumina



Route information



Length: 57-55 cm
Wingspan: 140-188 cm



Some rural legends said that seeing a harlequin butterfly at dawn brought good luck in matters of the heart.



It is one of the most beautiful butterfly species, with a spectacular design on its wings with a yellowish-white background. The red and black patterns, along with a series of spots arranged in lines and dots, give it the name "harlequin." This unique pattern makes it easily recognizable. It prefers open habitats like meadows, shrubs, rocky areas and road edges. It is more common in warm, well-lit areas. The caterpillar of the harlequin butterfly primarily feeds on plants such as the wild ginger (*Aristolochia rotunda*), and as an adult, it feeds on nectar from various flowers such as those of the dandelion, escarole and aromatic plants like thyme and lavender. It is primarily diurnal and can be seen flying during the early hours of the day.



It has suffered a certain population decline due to the loss of its natural habitats and increased pollution; however, it is not considered a species at critical risk of extinction.

Did you know? The caterpillars of this butterfly feed on plants that contain toxic compounds, providing them with some protection against their predators.



Recommended time: Spring (March, April, and May), in the early morning hours.

Location: Preferably meadows, scrublands, rocky areas or places where the *Aristolochia* plant, which the caterpillars feed on, can be found.

Recommended equipment: A telephoto lens of at least 100-300 mm will allow you to capture the butterfly without getting too close.

Shutter speed: Try to keep it fast (at least 1/250s or faster).

Keep your distance: Use the telephoto lens to avoid interfering with its natural behavior.

