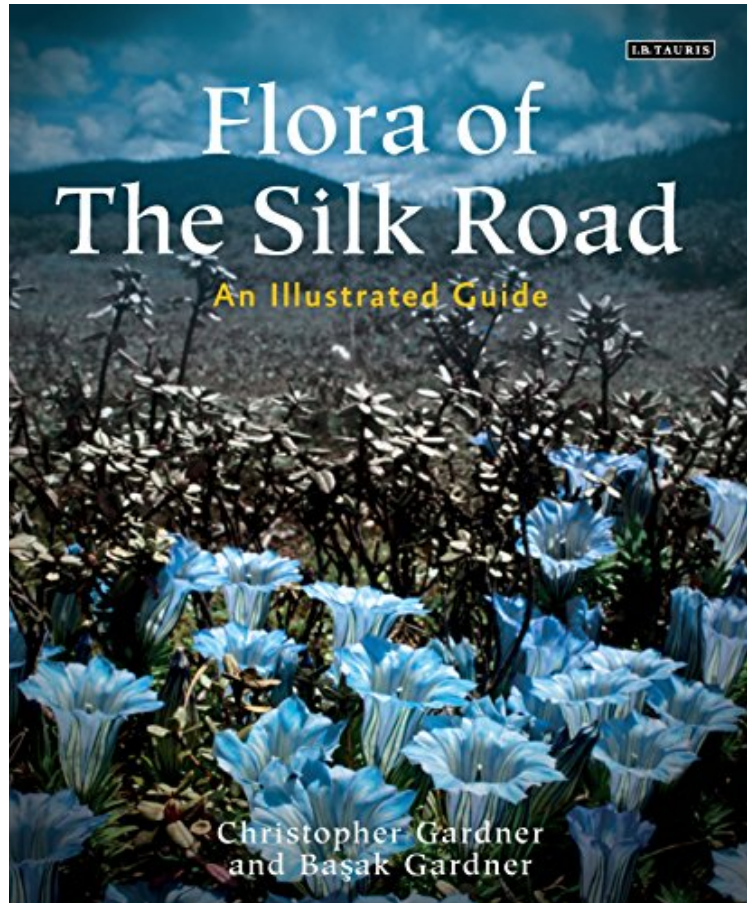


Flora of the Silk Road: The Complete Illustrated Guide

Christopher Gardner, Basak Gardner
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The Silk Road a name that has enchanted for centuries. Yet a well kept secret, even today, is that this fabled route linking Europe with Asia is also the most spectacular floral region on earth. Chris and Basak Gardner offer a unique pictorial celebration of the plants and scenery to be found along its 5,000 miles. Embracing Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Central Asia and China, more than five hundred of the finest wild flowers are depicted together with the beautiful landscapes in which these botanical paradises are found. With an accompanying text giving descriptions of the species, plant families and their distribution, as well as information on photographing plants in the wild, this unique book will amaze and delight not only those with an interest in the spectacular and legendary landscapes that form the Silk Road but also plantsmen and horticulturalists worldwide.

'Sumptuous guide to photographing the plants of this fabled region...impressive...more than a stunning collection of 500 flowers...the images cannot fail to enlighten browsers about the origins of many plants...less adventurous armchair travellers will relish the living tapestry in this tour de force...I'm very impressed with this book and thoroughly recommend it to any members with an interest in this part of the world.' - Heather Angel, RPS Journal; 'the most beautiful new book...has taken me vicariously from Syria to China and has given me more pleasure than any colour-designed book I have read in years...for a gardener, the book is like a glimpse of paradise.' - Robin Lane Fox, Financial Times; 'Without a shadow of a doubt this is the most spectacular account and presentation of native flora I have ever seen...naturally it is the photographs that dazzle...accompanying the images is a lucid and informative text' - Roy Lancaster, The Garden (RHS Magazine); 'sumptuous...packed with photographs...Bulb-rich mountain steppes, primula-laden lush alpine slopes, near deserts and majestic cedar forests unfolded page by page, giving a valuable insight into the flora and their needs...[I] drooled over the pictures...transfixed by the dramatic landscape and flowers...Christopher Gardner...writes imaginatively...I can only marvel at this amazing book and thank Christopher and Basak Gardner for their dedication.' - Val Bourne, Oxford Times; 'I've got somewhat carried away with the beauty of all these plants - and I believe you will too if you acquire this book...magnificent...page after page of stunning photographs...the text is succinct, serious and informative. I shall, I know, be thinking about, looking carefully at and reading about these plants again.' - Caroline Harbourn, The Mediterranean Garden; 'This is a book to make you weep. Weep at the sheer beauty of its photographs and of the flowers and landscapes laid out before your eyes...there are also equally lovely images of buildings.' - Historic Gardens ; 'applause [to I.B.Tauris] for producing this handsome 400-page epic at such an affordable price... a wealth of outstanding photographs...the prose is...intoxicating and vivid' - David Wheeler, HortusAbout the AuthorChris and Basak Gardner have lead specialist botanical and wildlife tours worldwide for many years, particularly in the countries of the Silk Road. Both are professional botanists with extensive experience in identifying and photographing flowers. Chris is also an experienced garden designer and co-author of the successful book, The Plant Hunters (1998). Basak was Head of Herbarium at Nezahat Gokyigit Botanic Garden in Istanbul.