

Caprivi & Okavango panhandle, November 2018



Itinerary

Day 1 17/11/2018

We depart from Johannesburg early in the morning (a 4AM pick up). Today we drive to Nata in Botswana, which is situated on the eastern side of the Makgadigadi pans. Birding will be limited due to the distance we need to cover, roadside birding may include various raptors such as Pale Chanting Goshawk, Snake Eagles, Amur Falcon etc.



Day 2, 18/11/2018

By birding standards we have a late start at 06h30 as we have to wait for the sanctuary to open – we head to Nata Bird Sanctuary which is on the shores (a term used loosely, as in dry years the pan will be one large expanse of sand!) of Sowa pan. The grasslands next to the pans are host to Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, Kori Bustard, Northern Black Korhaan, Double-banded Courser etc. Mammals include Blue Wildebeest, Gemsbok & Springbok. We return to the lodge to have

breakfast, pack our bags, and drive north to Kasane. In Kasane we will be treated to our first look at the Chobe River.

Day 3, 19/11/2018

This morning we head out just as it is getting light, to the luxurious Mowana Lodge – their gardens are home to Collared Palm Thrush, Copper Sunbird, White-browed Robin-Chats etc. We walk along the river bank, being treated to raucous African Skimmers, large flocks of African Openbill, Pied Kingfishers etc. On the rocks we scan for the stunning Rock Pratincole and search the riverside vegetation for Half-collared Kingfisher. We return to our lodge in the afternoon for an afternoon game cruise into the Chobe Game Reserve section of the river. Red Lechwe, African Elephant, Hippopotamus and Buffalo are common, with a lot of luck we may find the localised Puku. We overnight in Kasane.

Day 4, 20/11/2018

We bird the gardens of the lodge, followed by breakfast, before driving into Namibia, traversing part of Chobe National Park, where elephants are regular sightings along the road, with plenty of roadside birding. We arrive at our accommodation in Katima Mulilo in the afternoon, in time for some birding in the grounds, followed by sundowners at the riverside bar.

Day 5, 21/11/2018

We have a boat trip today, along the Zambezi River – riverside birds may include Western Banded Snake-Eagle, White-backed Night-Heron, Lesser Jacana, Pygmy Goose, African Finfoot, African Skimmer, African Fish-Eagle, amongst many others. We return to the lodge and after lunch we head to an area that has one of the largest breeding colonies of Southern Carmine Bee-eaters. Thousands of these colourful birds are constantly streaming in to feed their hungry youngsters. Kites and monitor lizards harass the nesting birds, hoping to steal one of the fledglings. We bird the riverside vegetation which

hold species such as Swamp and Tropical Boubou, Coppery-tailed, Senegal and Black Coucal. We overnight in Katima Mulilo.



Day 6, 22/11/2018

We now drive through the Caprivi strip where we will end up at Mahango Safari Lodge, in time for an evening boat trip – up river the river borders Buffalo Core area of the Bwabwata National Park – large herds of game are often seen coming to drink at the waters edge, where Red-billed Spurfowl scuttle out of the way of the Elephants, while Rock Pratincoles look on from the safety of their rocky perches in the channel.

Day 7, 23/11/2018

We travel through to Mahango Game Reserve, concentrating on the riverside area, looking for species such as Bradfield's Hornbill, Dickinson's Kestrel, as well as Wattled Crane and Slaty Egret which can be seen on the floodplain. Roan Antelope, Red Lechwe, African Elephant and Hippopotamus are some of the mammals that may be encountered. We drive back into Botswana and stay at Drotsky's Cabins near Shakawe.

Day 8, 24/11/2018

Today we enjoy our last boat cruise on the Okavango River. We cruise the channels at the riverside, where we should encounter African Pygmy Goose, Slaty Egret, Rufous-bellied Heron, African Skimmer, Long-toed Lapwing, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Little Bittern, etc. With a lot of luck we may encounter Pel's Fishing-Owl at a daytime roost. We return for lunch before birding the grounds around the camp. An optional late afternoon boat cruise may be arranged. Overnight Drotsky's Cabins.



Day 9, 25/11/2018

We leave our accommodation, driving south towards Ghanzi where we will overnight. We stop off at Lake Ngami pans, where a maze of roads lead to the waters edge. In wetter years these pans hold hundreds of waterfowl which is quite a spectacle. We end up at Thakadu Lodge, where we enjoy our last night in the African bush, next to a small pan, which attracts Sandgrouse that come and drink as darkness falls.

Day 10, 26/11/2018

Today is mostly a travelling day, we leave fairly early and travel to Johannesburg, to drop you either at your hotel (excluded from the cost of the trip) or the airport, depending on your travel arrangements.

- **Cost of the trip from R29,500 per person (group of 6)**

Included:

- **Accommodation & meals**
- **Boat trips at Kasane, Katima Mulilo, Mahango and Drotsky's**
- **All entrance fees at reserves**
- **Drinking water**
- **Travel in an airconditioned vehicle**

Excluded:

- **Other drinks**
- **Items of a personal nature such as laundry**
- **Optional boat trip on the last evening at Drotsky's Cabins**
- **Accommodation in Johannesburg on 27th November if you are overnighing.**

Note limited spaces are available. The trip options are post conference, 17-27 November, or pre conference, 1-11 November.

Booking deadline 31st March 2018

Terms & Conditions



Bustards Birding Tours

1. Definitions

- 1.1 The Client means: an individual who has expressed an interest, reserved a position or participates in any activity or tour organised by Bustards Birding Tours (Pty) Ltd;
- 1.2 The Company means: Bustards Birding Tours (Pty) Ltd, Registration Number 2014/027351/07, a company duly registered and incorporated in accordance with the Company Laws of the Republic of South Africa, with its registered address situated at Unit 4 Pentagon Park, Capital Hill, Midrand, 1685.
- 1.3 Bustards Birding Tour means: a tour or activity arranged by the Company.

2. Payment

- 2.1 A deposit of fifty percent (50%) of the total quoted amount is required to reserve a position on any particular Bustards Birding Tour.
- 2.2 The Client's place on any particular tour will only be considered to be reserved once the deposit reflects in the Company's bank account, and the Company has confirmed the reservation in writing.
- 2.3 **The remaining fifty per cent (50%) balance of the total quoted tour cost is due within six (6) weeks of the tour departure date. Failure to pay the full amount within the aforesaid time period, without providing the Company with written notice of cancellation as required by clause 3 below, will be deemed a material breach of this agreement, resulting in an automatic cancellation of the reservation, and the Company shall be entitled, entirely without prejudice to its rights to any other remedy which it may have in law, to retain the deposit paid by the client as a genuine pre-estimate of damages, or alternatively, agreed damages in lieu thereof.**

3. Cancellation

- 3.1 Should the Client cancel, in writing, more than six (6) months prior to the departure date, the Client will be refunded the full amount paid to the Company, less a 10% administration charge as well as any bank charges incurred in refunding said funds.
- 3.3 Should the Client cancel, in writing, more than three (3) months prior to the departure, fifty percent (50%) of the amount paid to the Company will be refunded.
- 3.4 Should the Client cancel, in writing, less than three (3) months prior to the departure date, none of the money paid by the Client to the Company will be refunded.
- 3.5 Notwithstanding the aforesaid, the cost of permits (such as wildlife viewing permits) already purchased by the Company on behalf of the Client at the time of written cancellation, are however not refundable.

3.6 Should a Bustards Birding Tour be cancelled arising from circumstances and events beyond the Company's control, including but not limited to inclement weather, flooding, fires, impassable roads, wildlife, communities, strikes, acts of war, etc, the Company shall NOT be liable to refund the moneys already paid by the client, the Client hereby agreeing that the Client shall be solely liable and responsible take out adequate travel insurance for protection.

3.6 Should the Company cancel a Bustards Birding Tour for any reason, other than in circumstances beyond its control, the Company will endeavour to refund the moneys already paid by the Client to the Company within a reasonable period.

4. Liability

4.1 For the purposes of this Clause any reference to the Company shall include *inter alia* the Company's Directors, Shareholder's, Managers, Employees, Officials, Agent's, Associates, Tour Leaders, Appointed Guides, their assigned Assistants, Helpers, Representatives, Successors-in-title or Assigns.

4.2 **Circumstances, including, but not limited to, inclement weather, flooding, fires, impassable roads, wildlife, communities etc. may necessitate changes to the published itinerary. Consequently it is agreed that while the Company will endeavour to adhere to the published itinerary, the Company shall not be held responsible for any losses and/or damages incurred as a result of such changes that are caused and/or necessitated by circumstances beyond the Company's control.**

4.3 The Company shall not be liable for any damage, loss (whether consequential or not) injury, illness, or death from any cause whatsoever and howsoever arising (whether or not such losses or damage were foreseen, direct, foreseeable, known or otherwise) to the Client as a result of participating in a Bustards Birding Tour or activity arranged by the Company.

4.4 **No person will be allowed to participate in a Bustards Birding Tour, unless such persons, or their legal guardian (as the case may be) have completed and signed the Company's Personal Indemnity Form.**

4.4 **The Company takes no responsibility for any medical emergency of the client, and or their minor child/children/dependants, that may arise while participating in a Bustards Birding Tour or activity arranged by the Company. The Client takes full responsibility for ensuring that their medical insurance will cover such emergencies.**