

Lawson's Birding, Wildlife & Custom Safaris

Western Cape

Birding and Wildlife Safari

16th – 24th November 2018



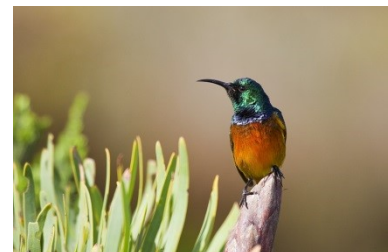
Daily Itinerary

Day 1: Friday, 16th November 2018 ~ The Cape Peninsula

Arrive at Cape Town International and depending on time of arrival head straight to the famous Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, located on the slopes of Table Mountain and commanding spectacular views over the Cape Flats and the Hottentots-Holland Mountains in the distance. Here we will search for birds such as Cape Sugarbird, Cape Spurfowl, Olive Thrush, Sweet Waxbill, Spotted Eagle-Owl, Black Sparrowhawk, Malachite and Orange-breasted Sunbirds, Forest Canary and others before heading on to a charming guest house in Simon's Town on the Cape Peninsula, where we spend the next two nights. Note that the scope of what we can include on this day depends on arrival time.

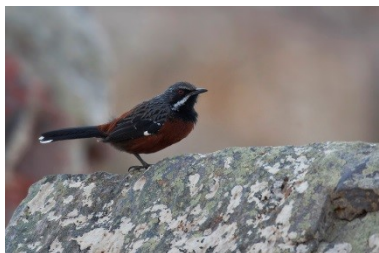
Day 2: Saturday, 17th November 2018 ~ The Cape Peninsula

The Peninsula is ours to explore over the next day and a half. Highlights include the African Penguin colony at Boulder's Beach, Cape Point Nature Reserve and the south-western most tip of Africa, Kommetjie and the Strandfontein Water Treatment Works. The Cape has notoriously fickle weather and we will plan each day's activities according to the weather at the time. There's a range of birds to be seen, including Jackal Buzzard, Cape Siskin, Ostrich, Cape Robin-Chat, Grey-backed Cisticola, Fiscal Flycatcher, Cape Bulbul, Lesser Double-collared Sunbird, Greater Flamingo and marine species such as African Black Oystercatcher, Cape Gannet, Cape Bank, White-breasted and Crowned Cormorants, and perhaps even White-chinned Petrel or Sooty Shearwater offshore. Mammals to be seen on the Peninsula include Chacma Baboon, Cape Mountain Zebra, Eland and Bontebok. Note that, for those wishing to partake in a pelagic seabird trip, it will be necessary to add another night on the Peninsula and to arrive in Cape Town on a Friday.



Days 3 - 4: Sunday – Monday, 18th – 19th November 2018 ~ Swellendam and the Agulhas Plain

After an optional morning activity we'll drive around the edge of False Bay and on to Rooi Els via one of the area's most scenic drives to look for Cape Rockjumper near Hangklip on the eastern point. On a fine day the views are spectacular, with the Atlantic Ocean crashing against the rocks below us on one side and the Kogelberg Range rising high above us on the other side. Then we'll head inland and drive on to Swellendam, the third oldest town in the country. This gives us access to Bontebok National Park and De Hoop Nature Reserve on the Agulhas Plain, where we'll look for species such as Agulhas Long-billed and Agulhas Clapper Larks, Southern Tchagra, Southern Black Korhaan, Karoo Korhaan, Blue Crane, Denham's Bustard, Black Harrier and others. Mammals to be seen include Bontebok, Eland, Grey Rheebuck and Yellow Mongoose, while Southern Right Whales are common off-shore between August and November. We'll spend our time birding and exploring in the area, scheduling Bontebok National Park for the afternoon of arrival, De Hoop for our full day and the Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve for the morning of departure, if time allows.



Days 5 - 6: Tuesday – Wednesday, 20th – 21st November 2018 ~ Ceres and the Tankwa Karoo

After breakfast and a possible visit to Grootvadersbosch, we'll head some distance north-west to Ceres, an agricultural town in the fertile Ceres Valley. On our full day here we depart early on an excursion into the desolate Tankwa Karoo, which will take up most of the day. This arid region of sand, gravel plains and rocky outcrops holds a surprising number of endemic birds and we'll be on the lookout for species such as Verreaux's Eagle, Black-eared Sparrowlark, Black-headed Canary, Karoo Eremomela, Karoo Korhaan, Layard's Tit-Babbler, Namaqua Warbler, Fairy Flycatcher and the highly sought-after Cinnamon-breasted Warbler. This trip will take up most of the day, and we'll take packed meals and drinks with us. We'll return in the late afternoon for some time to rest before dinner.

Days 7 - 8: Thursday – Friday, 22nd – 23rd November 2018 ~ Langebaan

In the morning, after a quick trip up the scenic Gydo Pass to look for the endemic Protea Seedeater, we'll drive to Langebaan on the West Coast, where we stay at a guest house in the town. Langebaan is adjacent to the West Coast National Park, which encompasses the shallow, azure-hued Langebaan Lagoon. On our full day we will spend our time exploring the lagoon, renowned for migrating waders, and the West Coast National Park, which provides some good Strandveld birding. Birding highlights here include Ostrich, Grey-winged Francolin, Black Harrier, Southern Black Korhaan, Cape Clapper and Cape Long-billed Larks, Karoo Robin, Cape Penduline-Tit and a host of wader species. During the August and September flower season this area is particularly attractive. Mammals to be seen include Bat-eared Fox, Small Grey Mongoose, Cape Grysbok, Springbok, Red Hartebeest and Cape Mountain Zebra.



Day 9: Saturday, 24th November 2018 ~ Departure

After a full morning activity we depart for Cape Town and the airport, some two hours' drive away, with stops to view Table Mountain on the way if time permits.

Note: *The exact itinerary will depend on availability of accommodation at time of booking.*



Tour in brief

Group size: maximum of 12 participants, 1 guide per 6 participants.

Areas visited: Cape Peninsula, Swellendam, Ceres, Langebaan.

Expected weather conditions: the Cape's weather is notoriously variable and while November is out of the traditional winter rainy season, some rain can be expected, while fine and warm conditions are also expected.

Tour tempo: medium to medium-plus, optional mid-day breaks on non-travelling days.

Accommodation standards: medium plus: lodges and guest houses.

Birding in brief: excellent variety, forest, marine, coastal, Karoo and mountain habitats covered.

Top birds: Cape Rockjumper, African Penguin, Cape Sugarbird, Black Harrier, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Cape Siskin, Knysna Woodpecker, Bank Cormorant, Cape Gannet, Karoo Korhaan, Karoo Eremomela, Cinnamon-breasted Warbler.

Mammal viewing: Southern Right Whales in season (August to December); antelope species such as the endemic Bontebok, Chacma Baboon, Rock Hyrax and other smaller species. No Big Five.

Other wildlife and attractions: Table Mountain and the Cape Peninsula, the scenic drive between Gordon's Bay and Pringle Bay, the Fold Mountains of the interior, the desolate scenery of the Karoo.

Tour Costs

R 23 850 per person sharing

R 1 600 single supplement

Price is based on a group size of 6 participants. Small group surcharge will be levied for groups smaller than 6 participants. Price subject to change based on external factors. Please contact us for more details.

Includes

- Accommodation
- All breakfasts and dinners
- Ground transport in Toyota Quantums / VW Kombis / Ford Everest & Open safari vehicles in Kruger
- Bottled water in the Lawson's vehicle whilst travelling
- Entrance fees
- Personalised checklists
- Specialist guide fees

Excludes

- All airfares and associated airport costs
- Travel and medical insurance
- Lunches
- All drinks
- Optional excursions where applicable
- Gratuities
- Items of a personal nature

Note

- This itinerary is subject to change due to weather conditions at the time and other factors beyond our control.
- Vehicle used will depend on size of group.
- Birds and mammals mentioned on this itinerary do not represent all that can be seen. A full list of possibles appears on your checklist.

Terms & Conditions

Payment / Acceptance of Booking

A non refundable deposit of 10% of the tour price is payable on confirmation of the booking. Any variance to the deposit amount or payment date will be advised at the time of booking. Acceptance of the booking will be confirmed in writing at which time a contract comes into existence. The balance of the tour price is due 8 weeks prior to departure date. Should the final payment fail to reach us by the date specified, we reserve the right to treat the booking as cancelled. If a booking is made 8 weeks or less prior to the departure date the full amount is then payable on booking.

Due to the revised South African National Parks (hereafter referred to as "SANParks") Terms & Conditions the exact deposit requirement will vary according to booking time frame and the proportion of the tour spent in SANParks accommodation.

Cancellation after Payment of the Full Tour Price

Any cancellation must be in writing. The date on which the correspondence is received by us will determine the cancellation charges applicable. The cancellation charges are expressed as a percentage of the total tour price and are as follows:

Tours excluding SANParks accommodation

Less than 6 weeks before departure	30 %
Less than 4 weeks before departure	50 %
Less than 3 weeks before departure	60 %
Less than 2 weeks before departure	100 %

Tours including SANParks accommodation

Less than 6 weeks before departure	50 %
Less than 4 weeks before departure	80 %
Less than 2 weeks before departure	100 %

However, in the event of a cancellation we will endeavour to recover as much of the payment as possible on behalf of the client, subject to the cancellation policies of all the accommodation establishments used in the itinerary.

