



WESTERN SOUTH AFRICA ENDEMICIS 2024

Augrabies Falls National Park - Okiep - Calvinia - Langebaan - Cape Town - Swellendam - Wilderness

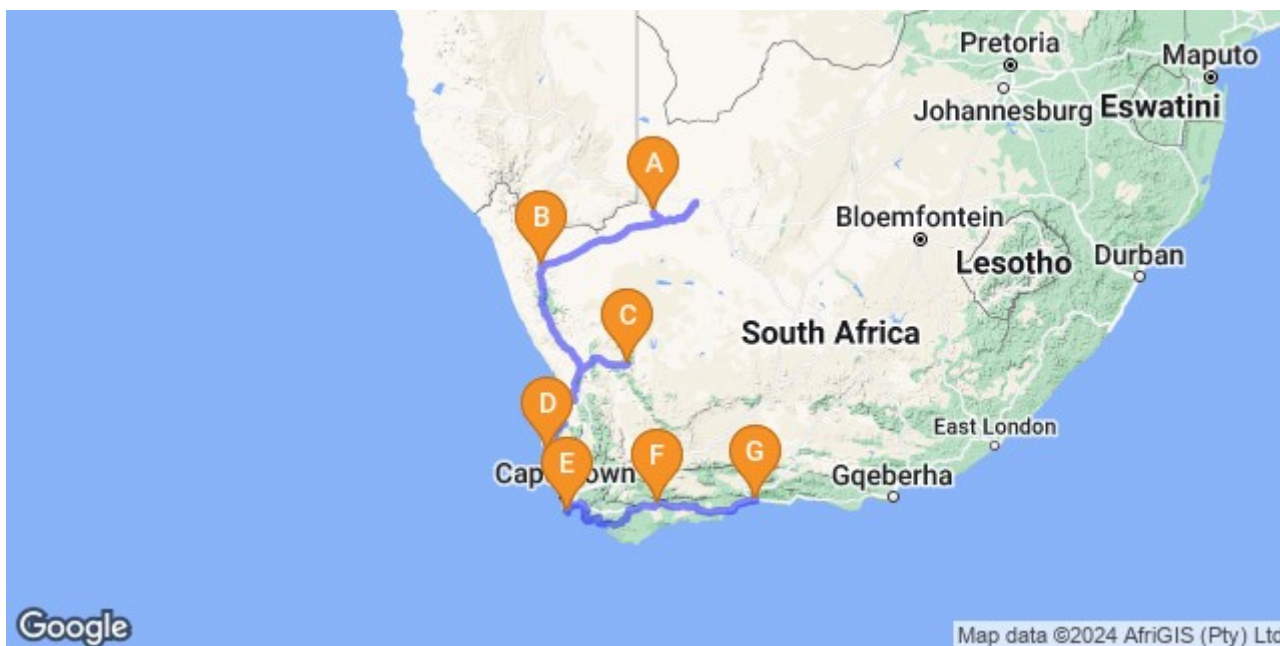
13 Days / 12 Nights

Reference: S09/24

02 November 2024 - 14 November 2024







Introduction

This birdwatching safari is the first of our two-part 'mega-tour'. South Africa is extremely rich in endemic birds. It's home to 69 endemics and near-endemics. And there are two bird families that are essentially endemic. These are the Rockjumpers and the Sugarbirds. They are shared only with the small land-locked countries of Lesotho and eSwatini. In his outstanding book, *The Birder's Guide to Africa* (ISBN978-0-620-71725-0), Michael Mills rates it as the top African country in 3 out of 5 categories, and number 2 in one of the other two categories. And the large number of endemics and near-endemics play a large part in this high rating. Thus, the endemics and near-endemics are the main focus of our two endemics tours.

For global birders this gives the chance to see almost all of the endemics and a large proportion of the near-endemics in one go. Now that's a pretty awesome goal! This Western South Africa Endemics birdwatching safari precedes our Eastern South Africa Endemics tour. Note that the two back-to-back tours can be done together to form a South African Endemics mega-tour. Alternatively, they can be done as stand-alone tours.

Areas covered

Our western **South Africa Birdwatching Safari** starts in Upington. From there we visit Augrabies Falls National Park. Moving on, we then stay in the Springbok area followed by Calvinia. Then it's Langebaan on the Atlantic Coast, followed by Simon's Town on the Cape Peninsula. After that we stay in Swellendam, before a final night in Wilderness. The tour then ends in George at the airport for flights to Johannesburg or to Durban to continue with Eastern South Africa Endemics.

Accommodation

The accommodation is of a medium-plus standard. It includes national park chalets, B&B's and guest houses. Importantly, all accommodations have en-suite facilities, and are clean and comfortable.

The birding

Endemics are the name of the game! Our South Africa birdwatching safari covers most of the birding hot-spots of the western side of South Africa. These spots have been chosen on the basis of their special birds and geographic location to create a concise route designed to maximise the chances for the endemics. These endemics include:

Grey-winged Francolin, Southern Black Korhaan, Knysna Woodpecker, Knysna Turaco, Cape Weaver, Ground Woodpecker, Cape Rock Thrush, Southern Tchagra, Cape Rockjumper, Cape Sugarbird, Cape Siskin, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Agulhas Long-billed Lark, Karoo Lark, Red Lark, Large-billed Lark, Cape Bulbul, Victorin's Warbler, Forest Canary, Protea Canary and others. And on the exciting pelagic trip participants will be introduced to a host of marine species, including a range of Albatrosses, Petrels, Prions, Shearwaters, Storm Petrels etc.

Exciting near-endemics and other specials include: Blue Crane, Cape Vulture, Denham's Bustard, Secretarybird, Black Harrier, Jackal Buzzard, Cape Grassbird, Namaqua Warbler, Cinnamon-breasted Warbler, Karoo Eremomela, Karoo Korhaan, Swee Waxbill, Black-headed Canary, Cape Gannet, African Penguin, Crowned, Cape and Bank Cormorants, Malachite Sunbird and many others.

The mammals

This is primarily a birding safari, though there are some mammals to be seen. The western side of the country doesn't have the mammal biomass of the east. However, we may see species such as South African Giraffe, Rock Hyrax, Bontebok, Gemsbok, Springbok, Klipspringer, Cape Mountain Zebra, Cape Grysbok, Red Hartebeest and others. And by November numbers of Southern Right Whales offshore will be decreasing, but there should still be a fair few to be seen.

Group size

Maximum of 12 participants; 6 participants per vehicle / guide

Expected weather conditions

The interior will be hot and mildly humid this time of year, whilst the Western Cape will be pleasant but could be quite windy.

In conclusion, this South Africa Birding Safari offers the more serious birders a real chance at bagging most of the endemics of eastern South Africa. The pace is quite fast, as there's a lot of ground to cover, so it's not really suited to the more casual birder. But for serious birders, combining our two endemics tours offers a real chance to 'clean up' on South Africa's specials. Have a look at our Eastern South Africa Endemics safari, which begins the day after the Western leg ends.

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Basis	Duration
Augrabies Falls Rest Camp	Augrabies Falls National Park	2 Nov	3 Nov	FB	1 Night
Okiep Country Hotel	Okiep	3 Nov	5 Nov	FB	2 Nights
Hantam Huis	Calvinia	5 Nov	7 Nov	FB	2 Nights
The Farmhouse Hotel	Langebaan	7 Nov	8 Nov	FB	1 Night
Whale View Manor Guest House	Cape Town	8 Nov	11 Nov	FB	3 Nights
Swellendam Country Lodge	Swellendam	11 Nov	13 Nov	FB	2 Nights
Waterside Lodge	Wilderness	13 Nov	14 Nov	FB	1 Night

Key

FB: Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Price

ZAR 65 995 per person sharing

ZAR 5 250 single supplement

Included

- Accommodation
- All breakfasts and dinners
- Ground transport
- Lawson's insulated water bottle
- Entrance fees
- Pelagic Birding Trip
- Personalised checklists
- Specialist guide fees

Excluded

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

Day 1: Saturday, 2 November**Augrabies Falls Rest Camp, Augrabies Falls National Park**

Day Itinerary

Note: *participants need to arrive in Johannesburg in time to catch the late morning flight to Upington on the 2nd November. Please consult us about flights.*

After landing in Johannesburg, we'll have a short wait before catching our connecting flight to the town of Upington, situated in the heart of the Northern Cape. After picking up our vehicle and loading up our luggage, we'll complete the drive to the nearby Augrabies Falls National Park, with the camp overlooking the falls as the mighty Orange River cuts its way through the surrounding rock to form an 56m high waterfall followed by an 18km long gorge with some spectacular viewpoints along the way. We hope to arrive here late afternoon to allow us to do some birding in the nearby areas, and we should find a range of species such as Namaqua Warbler, Pririt Batis, Short-toed Rock-Thrush, Orange River White-eye, Pale-winged Starling, Acacia Pied Barbet and Ashy Tit, whilst, time permitting, a drive past a few of the viewpoints may turn up the sought after Cinnamon-breasted Warbler. We'll spend a comfortable night here listening to the sound of the mighty Orange River crashing down nearby.

Augrabies Falls National Park

Augrabies Falls National Park is centered on the spectacular falls, where the Gariep River (formally the Orange River) is channeled through a narrow gap to cascade some 56 meters to the bottom of the gorge below, with the sheer-sided gorge being around 240 meters deep and stretching downriver for 18 kilometres. The name is derived from the Khoi word 'Aukoerebis', which means 'place of great noise'. The park is some 55 000 hectares / 136 000 acres in extent, conserving a large tract of a vegetation type known as Orange River Broken Veld. This includes over 70 species of plants, one of the most striking of which is the Quiver Tree, *Aloe dichotoma*, which was used by the Khoi to make quivers for their arrows, while the remarkable 'rock-splitting' Namaqua Fig (*Ficus cordata*) grows out of cracks in the rocks along the gorge.

There are numerous viewpoints from which to admire the falls, the dramatically rugged landscapes and to look out for birds such as Verreaux's Eagle, Bradfield's Swift and Short-toed Rock-Thrush, while drives in the park will give us a chance to see species such as Namaqua Warbler, Rosy-faced Lovebird and Sociable Weaver, among others. Mammals to be seen include the Springbok, South Africa's national antelope, as well as Klipspringer in the rocky areas, Southern Giraffe, Hartman's Mountain Zebra, Red Hartebeest, Leopard, Cape Clawless Otter and others.

Overnight: Augrabies Falls Rest Camp

The Augrabies Falls Rest Camp is set in beautiful surroundings and offers warm hospitality, with a restaurant on site. Situated within easy walking distance of the falls, the camp offers individual chalet accommodation and is a good base from which to explore the park.



Day 2-4: Sunday, 3 November to Tuesday, 5 November

Okiep Country Hotel, Okiep

Day Itinerary

We'll be up early for a short morning to locate any significant species we may still need, such as Double-banded Courser, before returning for breakfast and setting off for Springbok where we'll be staying for the next two nights. The road there however provides some excellent birding, and we'll spend some time at several sites searching for a selection of important species, with top prize arguably going to the quite striking 'Dune' form of Red Lark, a distinctly different colour morph compared to the birds found further south. Time permitting we'll head down a fairly lengthy dirt road towards the Orange River to allow ourselves an opportunity to locate Rosy-faced Lovebird, a difficult bird to locate in South Africa, although the route there also has some good birding with Stark's Lark, Cinnamon-breasted Warbler and the highly nomadic Burchell's Courser on the hit list. Once we get back to Pofadder we'll check a few sites for Sclater's Lark before completing the drive through to Springbok, arriving late in the afternoon for time to freshen up before dinner.

Our full day will be focused on one species, Barlow's Lark, and we'll drive across to the coastal town of Port Nolloth, experiencing a very pleasant drop in temperature as we do so, with the cold Benguela Current running along the

coast creating a very different habitat compared to the dry interior. Along the way we'll also search for the similar Karoo Lark, which overlaps slightly with Barlow's Lark at various sites, and as such, we'll spend time looking for both species. Other species include Cape Long-billed Lark, found in the coastal scrub where it is joined by several other species such as Southern Grey Tit, Cape Penduline-Tit, Southern Double-collared and Malachite Sunbirds. The coastline can also be quite rewarding, with Cape and Crowned Cormorant occurring here alongside African Black Oystercatcher, Kelp and Hartlaub's Gulls, Caspian, Swift, Common and, if lucky, Damara Tern. Depending on time, we may choose to drive further north to Alexander Bay, where the Orange River meets the cold Atlantic Ocean, offering us the chance to do some excellent coastal estuary birding. We should encounter a host of species here such as Curlew Sandpiper, Common Whimbrel, Grey Plover and Little Stint, whilst Caspian Tern is regularly seen alongside the typically scarce Damara Tern. We'll then make our way back to Springbok, keeping our eyes open for the fairly widespread Black-headed Canary, as well as Damara Canary, although the latter can be quite erratic in its occurrence. Once we arrive back in Springbok, we may opt to search for the scarce Cape Eagle-Owl at a few areas along the outskirts of town after dinner.

Okiep

Okiep, initially referred to as O'okiep, meaning large brackish area, is a small town that forms part of Namaqualand, within the Northern Cape, just north of Springbok. Known as the oldest mining settlement in South Africa, this secluded area was established after the discovery and mining of copper in the late 18th century, ranking it as the richest copper mine in the world during the 1870s. Today, this quaint little town is the perfect stopping point on any Namaqualand journey. It boasts a rich historical value offering a collection of wonderful attractions for visitors to enjoy, including the Smokestack, a national monument first built by the Cape Copper Company as a ventilation shaft and the fully intact steam engine at the Cornish Pump House. At the same time, nature lovers can experience the Namaqualand's famous blossoming flora during the months of spring.

Overnight: Okiep Country Hotel

Okiep Country Hotel provides a convenient stopover or holiday base for tourists, nature lovers and business travelers. The hotel offers traditional country hospitality in a modern and elegant setting, in the historic and restful town of Okiep.



Day 4-6: Tuesday, 5 November to Thursday, 7 November

Hantam Huis, Calvinia

Day Itinerary

By now we would be quite used to our typical daily routine, and we'll have a morning visit to Goegap Nature Reserve, where we hope to locate Cinnamon-breasted Warbler and Karoo Eremomela, Dusky Sunbird, White-backed Mousebird, Mountain Wheatear, Layard's Titbabbler and Ground Woodpecker, among others. After breakfast we'll

make our way south to Calvinia, situated on the edge of the stark and imposing Bushmanland region of the central Karoo. The drive there will be fairly long, basically a traveling day. However, we'll still devote some time to birding at a few sites along the way, where we'll search for birds such as Cape Long-billed Lark, Spike-heeled Lark, Cape Clapper Lark and Namaqua Sandgrouse. After driving directly south for much of the way we'll turn inland towards Calvinia, with the imposing Van Rhyn's Pass providing some spectacular views over the surrounding areas. As we pass through the town of Niewoudtville, the area will become rapidly more arid and stark, and we'll keep our eyes open for Ludwig's Bustard, Black Harrier and Greater Kestrel. We'll only arrive in Calvinia late in the afternoon or early evening and after dinner we'll be straight off to bed. On our full day we'll be up with a packed breakfast as we prepare to spend the day exploring Bushmanland in search of a few localized species, with Black-eared Sparrowlark and Sclater's Lark being at the top of the list. Other species to look out for include Stark's, Red, Karoo Long-billed and Spike-heeled Larks, Karoo Korhaan, Karoo Eremomela, South African Cliff Swallow, and with luck, Burchell's Courser. We'll return to Calvinia late the afternoon for a well earned dinner and rest.

Calvinia

Impeccably preserved Victorian and Edwardian buildings mark the idyllic landscape of the delightful town of Calvinia is embraced by the Hantam Mountains to the north and the Rebunieberg and Keiskeiberge to the south. Hantam House, a restored 1854 edifice, now extends a warm invitation as a refined bed and breakfast. The Neo-Gothic elegance of Calvinia NG Kerk, consecrated in 1899, adds a timeless allure. Notably, this town boasts the world's largest post box, a remarkable conversion of a former water tower, standing at a stature of 6.17 metres. The museum, housed within a meticulously restored Jewish Synagogue, offers a rich tapestry of historical and cultural exhibits. For nature enthusiasts, the Akkerendam Nature Reserve unveils exclusive flower trails, while the annual Hamtam Meat Festival in August further elevates the town's charm.

Overnight: Hantam Huis

Hantam Huis is the hub of many activities at the Hantam Huis Complex in Calvinia. It is an authentic building that is representative of the late 18th century's building methods. Built in 1854, it is laid out in a T-shape and is the oldest authentic house in Calvinia. Complete with its authentic reed roof, it was declared a national monument in 1983.



Day 6: Thursday, 7 November

The Farmhouse Hotel, Langebaan

Day Itinerary

Today we'll make our way out to Langebaan where we'll be based for the evening. The route there will offer some spectacular scenery as we drop down to the coastal plain once more, where we'll spend some time birding along the way for a few specials, with Protea Seed-eater being one of our main targets for the day. Additional species to look out for include Streaky-headed Seed-eater, Yellow, Cape and White-throated Canaries, Fairy Flycatcher and Layard's

Titbabbler. Along the way we'll also spend some time birding the excellent Berg River Estuary where a host of shorebirds can be found, with Curlew and Marsh Sandpipers, Little Stint, Ruff, Bar-tailed Godwit and Common Whimbrel all being fairly regular, whilst Eurasian Curlew and Red Knot are present in low numbers, and if we're lucky, Red-necked Phalarope may even turn up here. Afterwards we'll have a fairly straightforward drive through to Langebaan, situated just outside of West Coast National Park, which we should arrive at in the late afternoon.

Langebaan

Set on the banks of the magnificent Langebaan Lagoon, the popular resort town of Langebaan is conveniently located only 120 kilometres north of Cape Town, in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. This lovely little town is renowned for the pristine white sand beaches lining its turquoise lagoon, which provides an ideal environment for an array of exhilarating watersports including waterskiing, kayaking, sailing, fishing and kitesurfing. The lagoon also features tidal mudflats which serve as a habitat for an impressive variety of local and migratory birds. Visitors can look forward to exploring the nearby West Coast Nature Park, where they can enjoy game viewing, cycling, and hiking; and the West Coast Fossil Park, which offer visitors an informative tour of a fossil dig, the chance to hunt for their own fossils, as well as biking, hiking and horse riding through the park.

Overnight: The Farmhouse Hotel

Overlooking the tranquil Langebaan lagoon, The Farmhouse Hotel is an exclusive, members-only hotel. A visit to The Farmhouse Hotel is an experience to be savoured. Celebrated for their pleasant staff, intriguing in-house museum and West Coast warmth, The Farmhouse Hotel offers guests an authentic coastal farmstead experience.

The hotel features a stunning patio from which to enjoy lovely lagoon views and a homemade meal from Panorama Restaurant, the hotel's in-house restaurant. Tannie Jane's offers gourmet coffee and homemade confectionary, while Legend's Bar is ideal for an ice-cold beer.

A sparkling swimming pool overlooks the lagoon, while Kite Basecamp - located in the boatyard - houses a kitesurfing shop and school and a raw juice bar.

Explore the lagoon by foot or by kite, browse through the antique collection or simply relax and enjoy the sunset. The Farmhouse Hotel is an unpretentious and welcoming West Coast escape for travellers and families.



Day 7-10: Friday, 8 November to Monday, 11 November Whale View Manor Guest House, Cape Town

Day Itinerary

We'll be up early again, heading out to the West Coast National Park for the morning, with this being arguably the best site for waders in South Africa, with numerous rarities having turned up on the lagoon shores over the years.

We'll divide our time between birding the tidal mudflats which hold species such as Bar-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Red Knot, African Black Oystercatcher, White-fronted Plover and Chestnut-banded Plover whilst rarities such as Eurasian Oystercatcher, Black-tailed Godwit and Greater Sand Plover do turn up from time to time. The surrounding Strandveld (coastal Fynbos) also holds some great species such as Grey-winged Francolin, Black Harrier, Cape Penduline-Tit, White-backed Mousebird, Cape Weaver, Karoo Lark and Southern Black Korhaan. Afterwards we'll return for brunch before we make our way south to the Cape Peninsula, where we'll be based for the next three nights. Depending on what time we arrive, on the way onto the Peninsula we may well stop at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens on the slopes of Table Mountain, where our birding will begin. Fynbos specials such as Cape Sugarbird and Orange-breasted Sunbird will be high on our list of 'must-sees', while other species we'll look for include Sweet Waxbill, Spotted Eagle-Owl, Lemon Dove, Malachite Sunbird and others. Moving on we'll head to our guest house in the small village of Simons Town and spend the rest of our time birding in the area. Sites to visit over the next day include the following:

Kommetjie

This small bay and stretch of rocky shoreline is the favoured roost of Cape, White-breasted, Bank and Crowned Cormorants, as well as Swift, Common and Sandwich Terns. Hartlaub's Gull is common and African Black Oystercatcher should also be seen. Along the sandy shore we'll look for White-fronted Plover and low bushes on the inland side often produce Karoo Prinia, while Speckled Pigeons frequent the rocks and houses along the waterfront.

Boulder's Beach

On the False Bay side of the Peninsula there is a colony of African Penguins, the larger of only two mainland-based breeding colonies, and we will see them up close with wonderful photographic opportunities. The wooded area inland from the colony usually produces White-backed Mousebird, Brimstone and Cape Canaries, Fiscal Flycatcher, Southern Boubou, Southern Double-collared Sunbirds and the common Cape White-eye. Mammals seen here may include Rock Dassie (Hyrax), Cape Fur Seal and Southern Right Whales offshore (though it may be a bit early in the season at this time). We'll be staying right next to the colony and should have plenty of time with the penguins.

Cape of Good Hope Reserve

We drive along the magnificent shoreline to the southern tip of the Peninsula, with the final leg of this lovely journey by funicular railway to Cape Point. This reserve has an excellent representation of fynbos vegetation, with flowering *Protea*, *Leucospermum*, *Restio* and other genera making up one of the richest plant kingdoms on earth. Birds favouring this habitat include Malachite and Orange-breasted Sunbirds, Cape Sugarbird, Cape Grassbird, Cape Bulbul and others. The mountain slopes are favoured by Rock Kestrels, Cape Rock-Thrush, Cape Siskin, Peregrine Falcon and Ground Woodpecker. Mammals on the peninsula include the endemic and striking Bontebok and the endemic Cape Mountain Zebra, plus Eland, the largest of African antelope, and the small Common Duiker. Chacma Baboons will probably also be seen and sadly some have become habituated by people illegally feeding them.

Strandfontein Wetlands

These are actually large water-treatment ponds and the open water as well as the prolific growth of water vegetation makes for a habitat that is very attractive to water birds such as Greater Flamingo, Red-billed and Cape Teals, Maccoa Duck, Cape Shoveler and Southern Pochard, among others. This is a great venue for birding in the 'English' style; i.e.: setting up scopes and scanning for new species.

Pelagic Trip

On one of the days we'll also partake in a Pelagic birding tour out of Simon's Town where we'll add a great number of marine species to our list, such as Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, Shy, Black-browed, Atlantic Yellow-nosed, Indian Yellow-nosed and possibly Wandering Albatross, Cory's, Great and Sooty Shearwater, White-chinned Petrel and Wilson's and European Storm Petrel, among others.

Cape Town

Set at the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic oceans and backed by the iconic Table Mountain, the bustling city of Cape Town presents an alluring combination of drawcards. Incredible powdery white beaches, highly acclaimed wine routes, and astonishingly beautiful mountain trails surround a cosmopolitan hub. This diverse metropolis is filled with superb shops and restaurants, extraordinary heritage monuments, a multitude of entertainment venues, and a spectacular, chic waterfront harbour. Highlights include the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art; Table Mountain's jaw-dropping views; Boulders Beach, where penguins might swim right up to you in the warm Indian ocean waters; the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, where you can walk along a treetop canopy among incredible native flora or watch an open-air concert at the base of the mountain; Robben Island, where visitors can see the cell where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years; and many more.

Overnight: Whale View Manor Guest House

Whale View Manor Guest House overlooks a secluded beach, and lies on the outskirts of historic Simon's Town, between Cape Town and Cape Point, on the False Bay Coastline.



Activities

Cape Town Pelagics

Day 10-12: Monday, 11 November to Wednesday, 13 November Swellendam Country Lodge, Swellendam

Day Itinerary

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 Large-billed Larks, Southern Tchagra, Capped Wheatear, Southern Black and Karoo Korhaans, Blue Crane, Denham's Bustard, Black Harrier, Cape Vulture (from the province's last breeding colony at Potberg), and others. Mammals to be seen include the endemic Bontebok, Eland, Grey

Rhebuck 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 and De Hoop for our full day in the area.

Swellendam

Perfectly situated at the foot of the Langeberg Mountains, the quaint heritage town of Swellendam is South Africa's third-oldest town. It is idyllically positioned in the scenic Overberg area and serves as an excellent base to explore the magnificent surrounding landscape, including the Little Karoo in the hinterland. The streets are lined with beautifully restored Cape Dutch buildings dating back to 1745. Visitors can explore the Dutch Reformed Church and Drostdy Museum complex, visit the surrounding nature reserves and enjoy the local farm stalls selling an array of locally produced jams, liqueurs and baked goods. Other popular activities include: hiking, kayaking, camping, game viewing, horse riding, and stargazing.

Overnight: Swellendam Country Lodge

Swellendam Country Lodge offers quality accommodation in a stylish and friendly atmosphere. This 4-star Guest House is a well-liked base to explore this precious part of South Africa. But it is also a perfect place to unwind, a place to discover and enjoy.



Day 12: Wednesday, 13 November

Waterside Lodge, Wilderness

Day Itinerary

Today we'll have an early morning outing to try to locate a fairly specialist species that is only present at a few localities in South Africa, the Damara Tern, with a handful of these birds breeding each year at a nearby site roughly 30 minutes drive away from where we'll be staying. Other species we'll search for here include Southern Tchagra, which is fairly common in the dense thickets, whilst African Black Oystercatcher and White-fronted Plover may also be seen. After returning for breakfast we'll pack up once more and continue to the east with a fairly lengthy drive lying ahead of us. Much of the day will be dedicated to traveling as we make our way to Wilderness with enough time left to do some afternoon birding. Along the way we'll stop to search for the tricky Knysna Warbler, whilst some birding around Wilderness may turn up species such as Grey Cuckooshrike, Narina Trogon, Bar-throated Apalis, Scaly-throated Honeyguide and possibly Knysna Woodpecker before calling it a day.

Wilderness

Set on the spectacular Garden Route of South Africa, along the Indian Ocean coastline, Wilderness is a gorgeous little town famous for its enthralling, jungly nature reserve and beautiful beach lagoon. The town is wedged between the Kaaimans River, Goukamma Nature Reserve, and the Outeniqua Mountains - providing a huge variety of landscapes

to explore. The Wilderness National Park is a Ramsar site (wetlands of international importance), home to numerous exquisite birds and animals, including the legendary, brightly coloured Knysna Lourie, as well as some fascinating archaeological sites. Visitors can enjoy whale and dolphin spotting at Dolphin Point, and can look forward to plenty of opportunities for hiking, watersports, abseiling, kloofing, paragliding, hang-gliding, quad biking, canoeing, horse riding, and cycling. A collection of charming shops, restaurants, and art galleries complete the package.

Overnight: Waterside Lodge

Located in Wilderness, South Africa, Waterside Lodge is ideally situated as the perfect base from which to explore The Garden Route, Wilderness Beach and the picturesque Wilderness Village with its ample supply of first-class restaurants, are within comfortable walking distance of the Lodge. Breakfast is served in our dining room overlooking the lush garden and picturesque Touws River.



Day 13: Thursday, 14 November

End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

We'll start our final day with an early birding session to try and track down the skulking Knysna Warbler at a nearby site, before we make our way through to the airport in George where we'll catch our flight back to Cape Town at the end of the tour, where everybody will connect with their international flights back home. For anybody that is continuing on to the Eastern South African Endemics tour, we'll have a short flight to Durban, where we'll spend the night ahead of the next leg of the tour (costs not included in the tour price).

Urgent Contact Numbers

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person
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Service Provider Directory

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Okiep Country Hotel		+270277441000 or +27838436179	Okiep Country Hotel Box 17 8270
Swellendam Country Lodge		+27 028 514 3629	237 Voortrek Street 6740 Swellendam
The Farmhouse Hotel		tel: +27 (0) 227722062 emergency +27(0)214304100	5 Egret Street Langebaan 7354
Waterside Lodge		+27 82 772-4101	377 Waterside Road Wilderness 6560
Whale View Manor Guest House		+27 (0)79 192 0221	402 Main Rd Murdoch Valley Simonstown 7995 Cape Town South Africa

Terms and Conditions

Itinerary Terms and Conditions

Note that this tour can only run at the listed price with a minimum of two participants.

This itinerary is subject to change due to weather conditions at the time and other factors beyond our control.

The species mentioned in the itinerary represent only some of the possible ones we may see on the tour, however, none of these can be guaranteed even though every effort will be made where possible to locate them. A full list of possibles appears on your checklist.