

Kruger Pre-tour Extension

Birding & Wildlife

5 days / 4 nights

November 28 – December 2, 2021

24,950 ZAR

Single Supplement 2800 ZAR



Overview

Where nearly 2 million hectares of unrivaled diversity of lifeforms fuses with historical and archaeological sites - this is real Africa. The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best on the continent. Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, this park has hosted millions of local as well as foreign visitors over the years and is a must when visiting South Africa. With well over 500 bird species and the richest diversity of mammals of any park in Africa, you will not leave disappointed.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

We will depart Johannesburg very early in the morning and head for the Kruger National Park. On the way, we will stop at the Strijdom Tunnels to look for the very rare and localized **Taita Falcon**. This is definitely the most reliable spot in Africa to find this elusive falcon. **Cape Vulture** and **Verreaux's Eagle** are also regularly seen overhead. Our first camp inside the park, Satara, offers some good bushveld birds and we should come away with birds such as **Violet-eared Waxbill**, **Shaft-tailed Whydah** and **Mocking Cliff-Chat**. The Satara camp is also very good for owls and **nightjars** at night.

O/N Satara Rest Camp (BLD)

Day 2

The rich bushveld of the Kruger National Park offers very rewarding birding, and we will use every opportunity today to explore as much of the area as possible. The possibility of the 'Big 5' (Lion, Leopard, African Buffalo, African Elephant and Rhinoceros) is ever present, and we'll also encounter a whole host of other exciting mammals, which may include the likes of Cheetah,

African Wild Dog, Hippopotamus, Giraffe, Warthog, Greater Kudu and many more. Of special interest here are some of the larger terrestrial birds as well as birds of prey that are difficult or nearly impossible to find reliably outside protected areas such as Kruger. These include **Kori Bustard, Southern Ground Hornbill, Martial Eagle, Bateleur, Lappet-faced Vulture, Secretarybird and Saddle-billed Stork**. Other typical bushveld birds that we will encounter are **Southern Yellow-billed and Southern Red-billed Hornbills, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Red-billed and Yellow-billed Oxpeckers, Brown-headed Parrot, Purple-crested Turaco, Crested and Swainson's Francolin, White-crowned Lapwing, Grey-headed Bushshrike, Lilac-breasted Roller and African Mourning Dove**, among others. At our camp for the night there is the possibility of an optional night drive (extra fee) and we highly recommend taking at least one of these during the trip. Several nocturnal mammals such as Serval, African Civet, Aardvark, Small and Large Spotted Genets and African Wild Cat are possible as well as some nocturnal or crepuscular birds such as **Spotted and Verreaux's Eagle Owl, Square-tailed Nightjar and Bronze-winged Courser**.

O/N Satara Rest Camp (BLD)



Day 3

From Satara we head to the oldest camp in the Kruger Park, Skukuza, which is also the largest camp in the park, idyllically set on the bank of the Sabie River. Birding in and around the camp is exceptionally good with **African Green Pigeon, Terrestrial Brownbul and Kurichane Trush** in attendance. **Bat Hawk** is frequently recorded here, and we might be lucky enough to see one of these spectacular crepuscular hawks from the deck overlooking the river at dusk. The area between Skukuza, Lower Sabie and Pretoriuskop camps is renowned for fantastic big cat sightings and we hope that it will live up to its reputation.

O/N Skukuza Rest Camp (BLD)

Day 4

A game drive before breakfast, looking for both mammals and birds, should prove productive with good numbers of Elephant concentrated around this area. Several bird species in this area are also difficult to locate in other parts of the park, with Kruger rarities such as **Black Sparrowhawk and Red-backed Mannikin** regularly seen here. After breakfast, as we head further into the park, we'll notice a change in vegetation, which will become progressively drier as we head east. Lion and African Wild Dog frequent the area between Lower Sabie and Skukuza, and we will hopefully bump into a Leopard as well. Bee-eaters and Rollers are well represented in the park and we hope

to see **Southern Carmine, White-fronted, Little and European Bee-eaters** as well as **Lilac-breasted, Rufous-crowned (Purple), Broad-billed and European Rollers**. Hornbills are conspicuous, and we should easily find **Southern Red-billed and Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**. **Ground Hornbills** are not as common here as further north in the park, but we do occasionally find them. We'll watch the sun set at the appropriately named Sunset Dam just outside Lower Sabie Camp, where we will spend our last night.

O/N Lower Sabie Rest Camp (BLD)

Day 5

Some early morning birding in the park before heading out and onward to the Mozambique border for the start of our Mozambique tour.

Price includes:

- ~ All accommodation
- ~ All meals
- ~ Bottled water
- ~ Ground transportation in private vehicle
- ~ Entry fees
- ~ Full time services of a personal guide and driver
- ~ Services of two tour leaders (Jim and Cindy Beckman)

Price excludes:

- ~ Items of a personal nature such as gifts, souvenirs, alcoholic beverages
- ~ Optional night drives in Kruger National Park
- ~ Tips for the guide/driver