



NEWSLETTER NO. 1: 3 May 2021

A warm welcome to all of you who have booked to take part in next year's Flock to Marion, a voyage which will undoubtedly be an opportunity-of-a-lifetime.

The team at BirdLife South Africa are working hard behind the scenes on all cruise-related matters. Over the coming weeks and months we will be answering the myriad of questions you no doubt have through our regular cruise newsletter.

Introduction

First and foremost, an introduction and welcome to Clare Neall our new Events Manager. Clare is a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) following a career that has spanned many years in the global events, conference, incentive and exhibition industry. Clare will be working with our team at Isdell House in Johannesburg to coordinate all aspects of our forthcoming Virtual African Bird Fair in July and our Flock to Marion voyage next January.

Now for some serious but important matters to get started with!

Email addresses

For us to communicate with you and to ensure that all of our passengers are kept in the loop, we are paying huge attention to detail with regards to our email database. However, as some people have booked cabins and berths for additional friends and family, we don't necessarily have everyone's contact details. We, therefore, are asking for you to please ensure that you forward these newsletters to them and send us their details for us to include them in future mailouts.

Kindly contact us at email flock2022@birdlife.org.za providing the following information:

First name
Last name
Booking reference number
Cabin number
Email address

Each time a newsletter goes out it will be saved to the website and copies of these can be found at www.birdlife.org.za/flock-to-marion-2022

IMPORTANT! Passports and Visas

As we will be travelling into international waters, passports will be required. It is time now to check your travel documents to ensure that they are valid for travel.

International visitors to South Africa

For the international visitors joining us, please read carefully and action where applicable!

For foreign passport holders, your passport should have at least three blank pages and must be valid for six months from your return date back home.

For those requiring visas for South Africa, please visit www.vfsglobal.com for further information.

We regret we are unable to assist with the renewal and/or application of any passports and visas and that any travel requirements need to be completed by you within your county of residence and according to South Africa's travel requirements.

Disclaimer: BirdLife South Africa, MSC Cruises and their agents cannot be held liable for any incorrect travel or COVID-19 documentation which may result in your being unable to board the ship and travel with us.

Health and Safety

Our priority is the health and safety of all guests and crew. In this regard, MSC Cruises is continuously assessing developments in response to COVID-19 and will be adapting health and safety measures, as required, to maintain a safe environment.

On arrival into South Africa, all travellers must currently present a negative PCR or COVID-19 test certificate not older than 72 hours from departure time from the country of origin. Tests must be conducted and signed by a certified medical practitioner. South African authorities reserve the right to verify the authenticity of test certificates. These are the current measures, but are subject to change, so we encourage you to check regularly on the latest government regulations to ensure compliance.

Kindly review www.sa-covid-19-travel.info for Coronavirus (COVID-19) measures for entering and leaving South Africa.

For upcoming South African departures, specific conditions and protocols are dependent on local government regulations in place at the time of sailing, which we will update you on towards the end of the year.

The current COVID-19 measures in place on all MSC Cruises' ships can be found at www.msccruises.co.za/health-and-safety-measures.

We are so looking forward to seeing you in January and to sharing this special adventure with you.

The Flock to Marion organising team