

South Africa

post-Flock Ultimate Endemics

Tour Leaflet 2022



Black Harrier © Tertius Gous

31 January - 7 February 2022 (Western South Africa)
7 - 22 February 2022 (Eastern South Africa)

South Africa 2022



TARGET ALL SA'S ENDEMICIS

- small group
- West and East sections
- Sugarbirds and Rockjumpers
- see over 500 bird species and 50 mammals
- excellent lodges and meals

Cape Siskin © Tertius Gous



TOUR LEADER: MICHAEL MILLS



Michael's incredible focus, dedication and ability to locate and show Africa's toughest birds is probably unequalled on the continent. He has led dozens of tours across Africa and his experience in locating birds on just the softest of calls or briefest of views impresses those who travelled with him.

DATES (2022)

Western South Afr	31 Jan – 7 Feb
Eastern South Africa	7 – 22 Feb

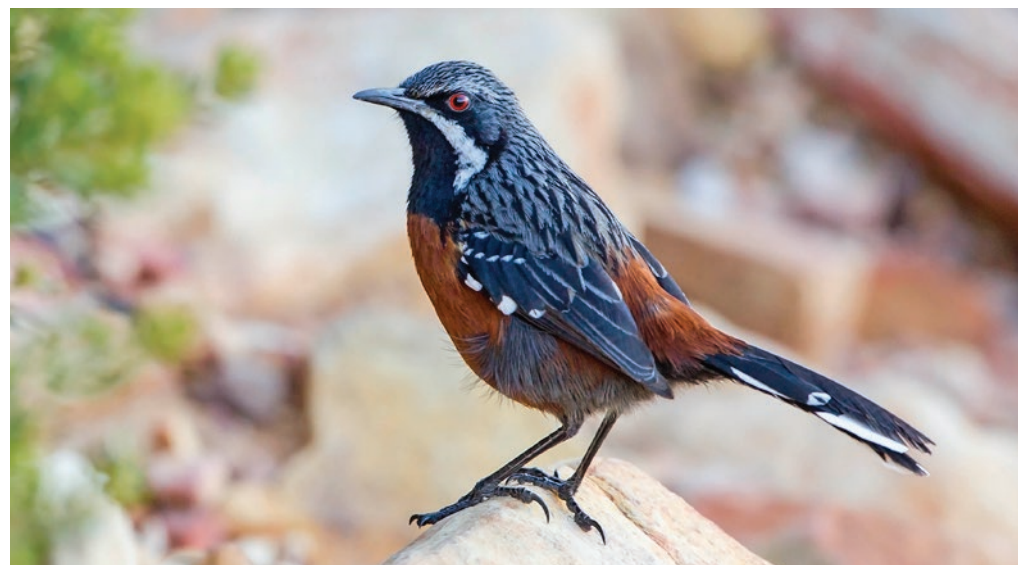
PRICES + SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Western S Africa	\$3350 + \$240
Eastern S Africa	\$4550 + \$280

Includes all ground costs except the internal flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg (c. \$100)

BOOK ONLINE

Visit www.birdingafrika.com
 Deposit (\$150) by credit card
 Email info@birdingafrika.com



Cape Rockjumper © Tertius Gous

Our Ultimate Endemics South Africa tour has been designed to give you the best chance to see South Africa's endemics, near endemics and regional specials, plus a wide variety of African mammals, in just over three weeks. The tour runs as two back-to-back sections, giving those short of time the opportunity to join just part of the trip.

We start in the west, leaving Cape Town to the east and pausing in the fynbos of the Hottentot's Holland mountains to search for specialties such as Cape Rockjumper and Victorin's Warbler. On the plains of the Overberg we'll search for Agulhas Long-billed Lark and Southern Tchagra, before visiting the forests of Grootvadersbosch for Knysna Warbler and Knysna Woodpecker. From here we enter the arid scrublands of the Karoo and Bushman to look for arid-country specialties such as Karoo Eremomela, Karoo Korhaan and Red Lark. To complete our western circuit we loop back to Cape Town with a night on the coastal scrublands of the West Coast along the way, hoping to find Black Harrier and Southern Black Korhaan.

In the east we start off in the grasslands and bushveld around Johannesburg before heading north to arid savanna around Polokwane where Short-clawed Lark is the top speciality. A short was east we visit Afromontane forest

at Grootvadersbosch, hoping to find Chorister Robin-Chat, before heading to the famous savannas of the Kruger National Park. Next we bird highlands grasslands around Wakkerstroom where Yellow-breasted Pipit and Rudd's Lark occur, before winding our way through KwaZulu-Natal's reserves, Mkhuze, Bonamanzi, St Lucia and Eshowe/Dlinza where we hope to find Woodward's Batis, Rudd's Apalis and Pink-throated Twinspot. We end off in the highlands around Underberg and Sani Pass, where top birds could include Drakensberg Rockjumper and Cape Parrot.

TOUR FOCUS

Our itinerary also offers good chances to see a great diversity of South Africa's mammals and reptiles. While birding, we'll look out for big cats such as lion and cheetah, giants such as African elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus and giraffe, or small social mammals such as banded mongoose and meerkats.

A species checklist will be handed out to you as part of your tour booklet and is available beforehand upon request. Let us know if you have target species or want to know more about the species we might encounter.



Cape Sugarbird © Tertius Gous

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation and meals are of a high standard, and vary from lodges and guest houses to rustic bush camps and small hotels. Rooms all have private facilities and hot water.

Meals are Western-style. Please advise if you are vegetarian and what foods you enjoy, so that we can cater for you.

Water is safe to drink throughout so we do not supply bottled drinking water.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

For Western South Africa, please plan to arrive in Cape Town by the night of 31 January 2022. Departure is possible from Cape Town from 20h00 on 7 February 2022.

For Eastern South Africa, please plan to arrive in Johannesburg by the night of 7 February 2022. Departure is possible from Durban from 17h00 on 22 February 2022.

Please email callan@birdingafrica.com a copy of your proposed flight details for approval before paying for your ticket.

WALKING

This tour requires a low degree of fitness with no big hikes. Most walks will be done at a gentle pace, cross fairly flat terrain with only a few exceptions.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum 7 participants.

INTRODUCTION

Our Ultimate Endemics tour of South Africa offers some of the most comfortable and productive birding in Africa. With its famously high endemic count and good infrastructure, South Africa allows for an easy introduction to Africa's birds, tricky specials and localized endemics.

Add a dash of fine weather, good food, great wine and impressive African mammals, and you're in for a real treat.

Our itinerary has been carefully and expertly designed to maximize the number of bird species and endemics. All of South Africa's key habitats and landscapes are included, and some of Africa's best places to watch big game, such as African elephant, lion, leopard and the more specialized cheetah and wild dog.

We start with exploring the west, which holds the world-famous and flower-rich fynbos biome,

seabird-rich oceans and expansive Karoo desert shrublands. Each area offers many unusual localized birds: Cape Rockjumper, Cape Sugarbird, Blue Crane, a plethora of larks and several striking bustards.

We then visit the east, which is blessed with a more tropical climate, higher rainfall and taller mountains. We explore its mammal-rich savannas, Afromontane forests, highland grasslands, rugged mountains and coastal forests. Impressive species tallies abound, with specials such as Southern Bald Ibis, Blue Korhaan, Yellow-breasted Pipit, Taita Falcon, Knysna Turaco and Pink-throated Twinspot.

Our recent tour saw all of South Africa's endemics, a stunning 526 bird and over 40 mammal species. Visit birdingafrica.com, click on trip reports..

Southern Black Korhaan © Tertius Gous



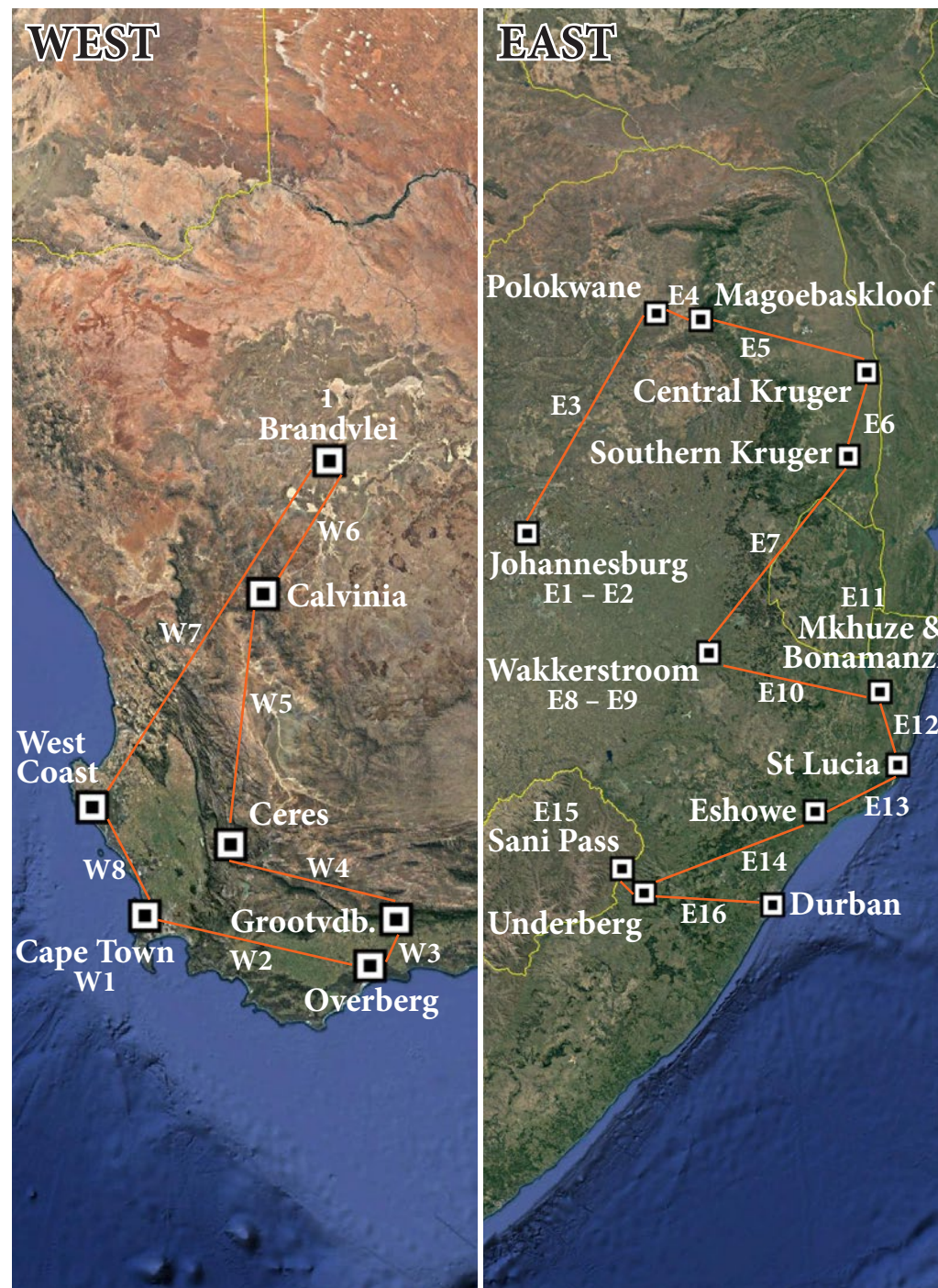
ITINERARY AND MAP

WESTERN ITINERARY

Day W1	31 Jan 2022	Arrive. Overnight in Cape Town.
Day W2	1 Feb 2022	Cape Town to Overberg via Hottentot's Holland Mrs. Overnight Malagas.
Day W3	2 Feb 2022	Overberg to Grootvadersbosch. Overnight near Grootvadersbosch.
Day W4	3 Feb 2022	Grootvadersbosch to Ceres. Overnight in Ceres.
Day W5	4 Feb 2022	Ceres to Calvinia via Tankwa Karoo. Overnight in Calvinia.
Day W6	5 Feb 2022	Calvinia to Bushmanland. Overnight in Brandvlei.
Day W7	6 Feb 2022	Brandvlei to West Coast. Overnight in Langebaan.
Day W8	7 Feb 2022	West Coast to Cape Town. Tour ends. Fly to Johannesburg if continuing.

EASTERN ITINERARY

Day E1	7 Feb 2022	Arrive. Overnight in Johannesburg.
Day E2	8 Feb 2022	Birding the greater Johannesburg area. Overnight in Johannesburg.
Day E3	9 Feb 2022	Johannesburg to Polokwane, birding en route. Overnight in Polokwane.
Day E4	10 Feb 2022	Polokwane GR. PM to Magoebaskloof. Overnight at Magoebaskloof.
Day E5	11 Feb 2022	Magoebaskloof to central Kruger NP. Overnight at Satara Rest Camp.
Day E6	12 Feb 2022	Central to southern Kruger. Overnight at Berg-en-dal rest camp.
Day E7	13 Feb 2022	Kruger to Wakkerstroom. Overnight near Wakkerstroom.
Day E8	14 Feb 2022	Full day in Wakkerstroom area. Overnight near Wakkerstroom.
Day E9	15 Feb 2022	Full day in Wakkerstroom area. Overnight near Wakkerstroom.
Day E10	16 Feb 2022	Wakkerstroom to Mkhuze Game Reserve. Overnight in Mkhuze..
Day E11	17 Feb 2022	Mkhuze to Bonamanzi. Overnight at Bonamanzi.
Day E12	18 Feb 2022	Bonamanzi to St Lucia. Overnight in St Lucia town.
Day E13	19 Feb 2022	St Lucia to Eshowe. Overnight in Eshowe.
Day E14	20 Feb 2022	Dlinza Forest, then drive to Underberg. Overnight in Underberg.
Day E15	21 Feb 2022	Sani Pass day trip. Overnight in Underberg.
Day E16	22 Feb 2022	Birding around Underberg before driving to Durban. Tour ends.



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

----- WESTERN SOUTH AFRICA -----

Day W1: Arrive Cape Town

Welcome to Cape Town! If you are getting off the Flock Cruise you'll be collected from the docks and taken to your hotel. If flying in you will be picked up from the airport. Night in Cape Town.

Day W2: To Overberg via Hottentot's Holland

The Birding Africa South Africa tour kicks off in the fairest Cape. We launch straight into the diverse fynbos biome at Rooi Else, to find two of the country's most iconic endemics on our first day: Cape Rockjumper and Cape Sugarbird. The Cape Fold Mountains and the Atlantic ocean provide a spectacular backdrop. While soaking up the impressive landscape, we look for Cape Siskin, striking little Orange-breasted Sunbirds, iridescent Malachite Sunbirds, Cape Bulbuls, skulking

Victorin's Warblers and confiding Cape Spurfowl. Nearby, along the coast, we enjoy close up views of African Penguin and Cape, Bank and Crowned Cormorants. If time allows we will search for the for the country's most difficult endemic, Fynbos Buttonquail, before continuing on to the Overberg area, hopefully with our first Blue Cranes en route. Overnight in the Overberg.

Day W3: Overberg to Grootvadersbosch

The Agulhas Plains of the Overberg are good lark and bustard country, and we will be aiming to see Agulhas Long-billed Lark and Cape Clapper Lark and Denham's Bustard. Thickets are home to the skulking Southern Tchagra and we may find fine Knysna Woodpecker, Cape Penduline Tit and Cape Vulture. In the afternoon we continue to Grootvadersbosch Forest. Overnight near Grootvadersbosch.

Southern Double-collared Sunbird © Tertius Gous



Rufous-eared Warbler © Tertius Gous

Day W4: Grootvadersbosch to Ceres

Grootvadersbosch, the only forests on the Western section of the South Africa tour, is home to the very skulking Knysna Warbler and scarce Knysna Woodpecker, which will be our two main targets for the day. We also hope to see Southern Blue-mantled Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler and Olive Bushshrike, although most species are easier to see in the east. Overhead we'll watch out for Forest Buzzard, South Africa's only endemic raptor. In the afternoon we'll head north across the Cape Fold Mountains and into the arid interior of the Karoo. Overnight at Ceres.

Day W5: Ceres to Calvinia

Heading out early from Ceres we aim to get into the flat, arid plains of the Karoo before the day warms up too much. Namaqua Warbler occurs in reedy river courses and out on the plains we will search for Karoo Chat, Tractrac Chat, Karoo Eremomela and Karoo Lark. Rocky areas on the edge of the Karoo will be searched for Cinnamon-breasted Warbler, Layard's Tit-Babbler and Mountain Wheatear, before we continue on north, watching out for Greater Kestrel. Several nomadic birds occur in this arid landscape and we will be hoping to bump into Ludwig's Bustard, Burchell's Courser, Black-headed Canary and Black-eared Sparrow-Lark somewhere along our route. Overnight in Calvinia.

Day W6: into Bushmanland

Continue north, today we enter an arid region called Bushmanland. Here the localised Red Lark will be our top target, but we hope also to find Karoo Korhaan, Karoo Long-billed Lark, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Rufous-eared Warbler and the nomadic Sclater's Lark. Overnight in Brandvlei.

Day W7: Bushmanland to West Coast

After some final birding in Brandvlei area we start our long journey south, looking along the way for the localised Protea Seedeater. We break our journey overnight on the West Coast. Overnight in Langebaan.

Day W8: West Coast to Cape Town

On our final in the west we bird the coastal sandveld and wetlands in and around West Coast National Park. In bushy sandveld areas we will search for Grey Tit, Southern Black Korhaan, Black Harrier, in more open fields, Cape Long-billed Lark and Sickle-winged Chat, and around salt pans, Chestnut-banded Plover among numerous other waders. In the afternoon we'll drive back to Cape Town where the Western South Africa tour ends on arrival. Those continuing on with the Eastern South Africa will fly to Johannesburg.

----- EASTERN SOUTH AFRICA -----

Day E1: arrive in Johannesburg

The eastern segment of the tour starts with dinner in Johannesburg. Overnight in Johannesburg.

Day E2: Johannesburg and surrounds

The surrounds of Johannesburg offer some of the best urban birding worldwide. Today we'll make an attempt to see some of the area's top birds, including Melodious Lark, Orange River Francolin and African Grass Owl. Overnight in Johannesburg.

Day E3: Johannesburg to Polokwane

Today we leave Johannesburg to the north, pausing to bird during the morning in some very

productive savannas just north of Pretoria. A wide variety of bushveld birds are possible, including Pied Babbler, Crimson-breasted Shrike and Barred Wren-Warbler. In the afternoon we make our way north to Polokwane for an overnight stay.

Day E4: Polokwane to Magoebaskloof

The arid bushveld around Polokwane offers some of the most productive birding in the country. Short-clawed Lark is the star attraction, but Northern Black Korhaan, Shaft-tailed Whydah and Violet-eared Waxbill will also be on our radars. In the afternoon we drive a short distance to the Afromontane forests of Magoebaskloof, where some introductory birding may yield Chorister Robin-Chat, Olive Bushshrike and Black-fronted Bushshrike. Overnight at Magoebaskloof.

Spike-heeled Lark © Tertius Gous



Spotted Ground Thrush © Tertius Gous

Day E5: Magoebaskloof to central Kruger

We have the morning to bird at Magoebaskloof, where new species could include Brown Scrub Robin, Orange Ground Thrush and Barratt's Warbler. In the afternoon we descent into the lowlands and enter Kruger National Park, where a good variety of savanna birds and mammals occurs. Night in Satara Rest Camp.

Day E6: Central to southern Kruger

We have a full day in Kruger National Park, starting in the grasslands around Satara and ending in the bushveld around Berg-en-dal. Top birds could include Southern Ground Hornbill, Burchell's Starling, Swainson's Francolin, Natal Francolin, Burnt-necked Eremomela and Red-crested Korhaan. Night at Berg-en-dal Rest Camp.

Day E7: Kruger to Wakkerstroom

We have a morning to bird the southern part of Kruger, where new birds could include African Barred Owlet and Bearded Scrub Robin, before making the driver to Wakkerstroom in the afternoon. Overnight in Wakkerstroom.

Days E8–E9: Wakkerstroom

The rich grasslands and wetlands around Wakkerstroom offer some of the best birding in South Africa, and we have two full days to sample its delights. Top of the list will be the country's two rarest larks, Rudd's Lark and Botha's Lark, with other desirable specials including Blue Korhaan, Yellow-breasted Pipit and Southern Bald Ibis. Overnight in Wakkerstroom.



Fairy Flycatcher © Tertius Gous

Day E10: To Mkhuze Game Reserve

After some final birding around Wakkerstroom we make our way south to the bushveld of Mkhuze Game Reserve. Night in Mkhuze.

Day E11: Mkhuze to Bonamanzi

We have the better part of the day to explore the small but very productive reserve of Mkhuze. Coastal sand forest is the key habitat, and it is here that we hope to find the tricky specials, Neergaard's Sunbird, Pink-throated Twinspot and Rudd's Apalis. In the afternoon we'll move to the nearby private reserve of Bonamanzi for an overnight stay.

Day E12: Bonamanzi to St Lucia

Bonamanzi offers a combination of thicket and palm-savanna birding, and two of our most hoped-for birds here include Lemon-breasted Canary and African Broadbill. In the afternoon we'll move on to St Lucia for an overnight stay.

Day E13: St Lucia to Eshowe

Dense coastal forest around the town of St Lucia offers some of the best coastal birding in the region. Here we will search for Brown Scrub-Robin, Rudd's Apalis and Woodward's Batis, and if we are lucky we'll find the very scarce Southern Banded Snake-Eagle. In the afternoon we'll make our way to Eshowe, for an overnight stay.

Day E14: Eshowe to Underberg

Dlinza Forest Reserve on the edge of Eshowe town is probably the best place globally to see the highly threatened Spotted Ground Thrush, which will be our main target here. We also hope to find Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon and Green Malkoha. In the afternoon we'll drive to the highlands near Lesotho, pausing for some introductory birding if time allows. Night in Underberg.

Day E15: Sani Pass day trip

One of the highlights of the entire trip will be snaking our way up up Sani Pass, making regular stops at different altitudes. Here we expect to see

a host of highland specials such as Bush Blackcap, Drakensberg Rockjumper, Drakensberg Siskin and Gurney's Sugarbird. In Lesotho we'll watch out for Bearded Vulture. Overnight in Underberg.

Day E16: Underberg to Durban

On our final day of the tour we'll bird the highlands forests and grasslands in the Underberg area before making our way to the city of Durban. Several very rare South African birds occur in the area, including Blue Swallow, Wattled Crane and Cape Parrot, and we hope to find at least some of these. The tour ends in the late afternoon on arrival in Durban.

Drakensberg Rockjumper © Tertius Gous



INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR

- services of Birding Africa tour leader and local guides
- entry fees and activities as per itinerary
- ground transport, including airport transfers
- accommodation and all meals starting with dinner on the first night and ending with lunch on the last day
- internal flight for those joining both the Western and Eastern South Africa tours are billed separately
- one soft drink per meal
- general tips

BOOKLET AND CHECKLIST

Birding Africa provides:

1. Tour Details leaflet with detailed itinerary (this document).
2. Tour Information Pack, emailed to you.
3. Tour Booklet with checklists, provided in hard copy at the start of the tour.

QUESTIONS?

Email Michael at michael@birdingafrica.com and copy callan@birdingafrica.com.

HOW TO BOOK

1. Complete our easy online booking form.
2. Secure your booking deposit by credit card on our 3D secure online payment site (\$150)
3. Settle the balance by bank transfer 150 days before the tour. We will email you a reminder and the banking details.



Blue Crane © Tertius Gous