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FLOCK TO MARION NEWSLETTER NO.5: 29 October 2024

Dear Flock to Marion AGAIN! 2025 guest,

We are extremely fortunate to have again partnered with some of the world's leading specialist bird tour companies who will be offering pre- and post-Flock to Marion extension tours. This is the perfect opportunity for birders to explore South Africa; whether you are new to birding or a seasoned world lister, our country's magnificent avifauna is akin to a treasure trove filled with feathered jewels simply waiting to be opened by birders.

Birding Ecotours



www.birdingecotours.com

Birding Ecotours runs trips for small groups of only 6-8 participants. Quality is paramount to them, and they prefer to use superior accommodation (where available at the top birding sites) and vehicles. Despite a focus on small groups and the fact that they err on the side of superior quality, their prices are competitive. It is Birding Ecotours' company policy to contribute a minimum of 10 % of profits to conservation and local communities. They are passionate about birding and also about leaving a legacy – by genuinely helping people and conserving birds – for generations to come.

Flock to Marion Exclusive Trips:

[Premium Eastern \(subtropical\) South Africa Birding Tour](#) - Flock to Marion Extension

Birding Africa / Cape Town Pelagics



www.birdingafrica.com / www.capetownpelagics.com

The Birding Africa and Cape Town Pelagics Team will be on Flock to Marion: AGAIN 2025! For 27 years, Birding Africa has organized birding tours to find the special birds around Cape Town and across Africa; from South Africa to Uganda and even Madagascar. Contact their enthusiastic and knowledgeable team to look for Cape and Karoo specials, or perhaps even enjoy a tour to Angola or further afield! The African birding expert for the last 24 years, Birding Africa has led hundreds of tours, authored many books on African birds and birding, authored numerous articles on new birding discoveries, and consulted with the BBC Natural History Unit. Birding Africa was also voted as one of the Top 5 Most Recommended Tour Companies in the world (Birdwatch, 2010) and is the only company specializing in Africa-wide birding tours.

Cape Town Pelagics donates all profits to seabird research and conservation, including BirdLife International's Save the Albatross Fund.

Bustards Birding Tours



www.bustardsbirding.co.za

The Bustards Birding Team will be on Flock to Marion: AGAIN 2025! Bustards Birding Tours is a specialist operator focusing primarily on birding tours both locally and abroad. Their tours occur worldwide, and they try to keep the groups to 6 participants or less. With dedicated tour leaders partnered with local operators, Bustards Birding runs trips that will remain blissful memories for many years to come.

Whether you are a Southern African regional lister or a world lister, Bustards Birding has something for you. Their eager team is ready to make those birding dreams come true, be it whilst searching for Shoebill in Uganda, Toco Toucan in Brazil, Resplendent Quetzal in Central America, Pel's Fishing Owl in Botswana, Capercaillie in Europe, Steller's Sea-

Eagle in Japan, or Greater Prairie Chicken in the USA; the list goes on.

Rockjumper Birding Tours



www.rockjumperbirding.com

The Rockjumper Birding Tours Team will be on Flock to Marion: AGAIN 2025! Rockjumper Birding Tours proudly offers quality birding adventures, expertly guided by their passionate and experienced professional tour leaders. Their 300 scheduled tours annually explore the world's prime birding areas, and their Tailor-made department can custom design your dream birding vacation.

[Flock to Marion Exclusive Trips:](#)

[Flock to Marion - Kruger pre-tour extension 2025](#) (six spaces remaining. We require four more to confirm).

[Flock to Marion - Sani Pass pre-tour extension 2025](#) (two spaces remaining. One more required to confirm).

[Flock to Marion – Sani Pass post-tour extension 2025](#) (one space remaining. Guaranteed departure).

[Flock to Marion - Cape post-tour extension 2025](#) (Five spaces remaining. Four required to confirm).

[South Africa - Eastern I 2025](#) (Seven spaces remaining. Four required to confirm)

[South Africa - Eastern II 2025 & WC Ext II 2025](#) (Eight spaces remaining. Five required to confirm)

Zest for Birds Pelagics

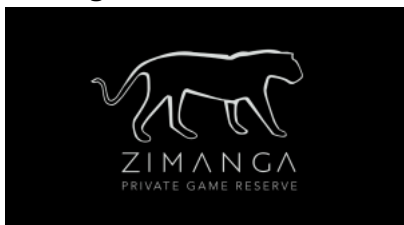


www.zestforbirds.co.za

Zest for Birds will be joining the Flock to Marion AGAIN! 2025 cruise, but will also be offering pelagic trips before and after. There are already pre-scheduled trips arranged for the weekends of 18/19 January and 8/9 February (pre- and post-Flock) but, if there is

sufficient demand, they will set up additional trips during the week before and/or after Flock to Marion: AGAIN. Anyone who is interested can contact Trevor Hardaker directly at hardaker@mweb.co.za to obtain more details or to make a booking.

Zimanga



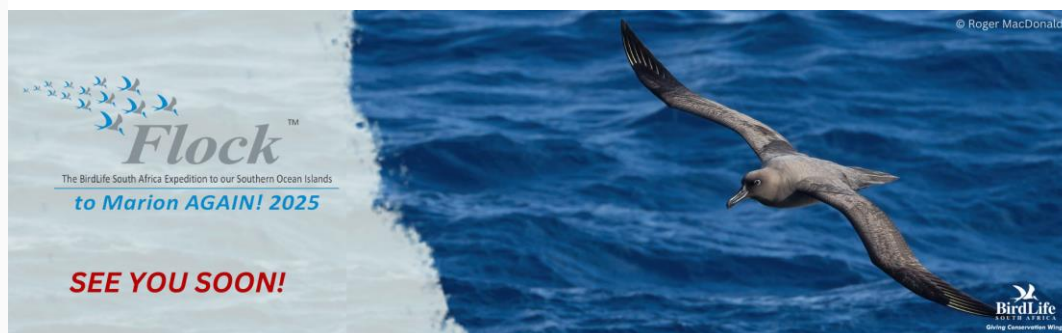
www.zimanga.com

BirdLife South Africa will be hosting two 4-night birding/photography safaris to Zimanga Private Game Reserve in early February 2025. Mark D. Anderson, CEO of BirdLife South Africa, will accompany both of the groups. A portion of the fee will be donated to BirdLife South Africa. Zimanga, in KwaZulu-Natal, is the first reserve in Africa designed for avid safari enthusiasts while simultaneously satisfying the needs of modern bird and wild-life photographers of any level, both who prefer a deeper appreciation of the bush and crave an unhurried exclusive experience. Spread over nearly 70 square kilometers of pristine Zululand bushveld, fever tree forests, and rolling hills, Zimanga is bisected by the Mkuze River and home to a splendid variety of birds and animals. In addition to offering guided safaris, Zimanga is home to eight state-of-the-art hides for superb bird and wildlife photography. This offer includes accommodation, meals, and two activities (one hide session and one game drive) each day. It excludes transfers, alcoholic drinks, and additional beverages. For Flock to Marion passengers, accommodation in Durban and transport from/to Durban can be arranged.

Flock to Marion Exclusive Trips:

Exclusive Birding Safari: Post-Flock Extension (1 – 5 February 2025)

Exclusive Birding Safari: Post-Flock Extension (5 – 9 February 2025)



*****IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****

1. MSC Cruises has had an answer from the Department of Home Affairs' Immigration Services, and they have confirmed that, as no immigration clearance needs to be conducted, the voyage to Marion Island is regarded as a "cruise to nowhere". **In essence, therefore, South African citizens only need ID documents, and international travellers require their passports.**
2. Your boarding time is indicated on your MSC Cruises booking confirmation. Please plan your travel arrangements accordingly. If you require transportation to and from Durban's King Shaka International Airport, MSC Cruises offers a coach shuttle service which must be booked directly with them. Any costs will be for your own account.
3. If you are celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or any other special occasion during the voyage, please let Tarryn McKechnie know at tarryn.mckechnie@birdlife.org.za before 20 January 2025. We'd be delighted to celebrate this special occasion with you.

FLOCK TO MARION MERCHANDISE

NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER!

BOOKS, SUCH AS 'MARINE MAMMALS' AND 'GUIDE TO SEABIRDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA', ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM OUR ONLINE STORE, [SHOP FOR THE BIRDS!](#)

Flock to Marion AGAIN! 2025 Merchandise



THE CLASSIC 100% COTTON
WOMEN'S GOLFER
CODE: LGSHT



THE CLASSIC 100% COTTON
GOLFER
CODE: JGSHT



WOMEN'S PACKABLE
BODYWARMER
CODE: WR041



PACKABLE
BODYWARMER
CODE: WR040



100% COTTON
CREW NECK SWEATER
CODE: WR034



100% COTTON
HOODIE
CODE: HOODIE



WOMEN'S
SOFTSHELL JACKET
CODE: WR025



SOFTSHELL
JACKET
CODE: WR023



WATER DEFENDER
FLEECE JACKET
CODE: J608W



BEANIE
CODE: BEANIE



Mouse Free Marion: 100% Cotton Crew Neck Sweater





Flock to Marion AGAIN! 2025: Walkstools

- Walkstool Comfort in one size only (the most popular size) 55cm (22 in).
- Walkstool Comfort is made in Sweden and has a light weight construction with telescopic legs in aluminum.
- By not extending the telescopic legs, you will be able to use Walkstool in a lower sitting height as well.
- Walkstool Comfort offers big rubber feet and an ergonomically shaped seat of mesh material, making it possible to sit comfortably for extensive periods of time. All Comfort models come with a practical bag to for instance carry over your shoulder.

A selection of great merchandise is on offer!

All items shown are subject to availability and are only offered in the colours shown. Prior to ordering please take guidance from the sizing charts supplied on each product page.

Purchases are non-refundable but we will have an exchange corner on the ship.

Prices include embroidery as shown.

All items are supplied by Jonsson Workwear (Pty) Ltd (www.jonssonworkwear.com)

[Click HERE to order your merchandise](#)



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You are receiving this email because you booked the Flock to Marion cruise and we would like to keep you up to date with all the recent news and developments.

Our mailing address is:

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South Africa

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