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Flock to Marion AGAIN! Newsletter #12: 22 January 2025



Blue Petrel

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Dear *Flock to Marion AGAIN!* Passengers,

Greetings, and happy travels as you make your way to Durban to join us on this wonderful adventure. We have birders from all over the world joining us, so expect to hear an eclectic mix of accents and languages, and to learn about the birds of faraway places.

I'll keep this newsletter short, as I'm sure you're busy packing! Below, you'll find the essentials that you need to know before arriving at the harbour on Friday, and, below that, some easy-to-find links to other useful resources.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- Driver's licenses will **NOT** be accepted as valid ID by MSC Cruises for embarkation of South African citizens; you must have your South African ID book or passport. For foreign passengers, ensure you have your passport for embarkation.
- MSC Cruises has opened up dining times, meaning that you will no longer have to attend one of the designated meal times which reflect on your ticket. Instead, dinner times have been opened to any time between 6pm and 9pm, and seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The MSC Musica uses European power sockets, so be sure to bring along the appropriate adaptor.
- Missed a newsletter? All previous newsletters are available by clicking the button at the end of this page.

We're looking forward to welcoming you all aboard in two short days!

Kurt

Communications

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Martin

Manager

Join the WhatsApp group for updates while on board:

- Join the group to receive update during the voyage by reading this email on your phone and [CLICKING HERE](#)
- You'll need to purchase a WiFi package from MSC Cruises to connect to the internet and WhatsApp. Learn more about these packages [HERE](#)

(Please note that these packages are administered by MSC Cruises, not by BirdLife South Africa).

We understand that not everyone will want to purchase a WiFi package or be on their phone during this voyage, so rest assured that this is one of a number of communications channels that will be used on board.

[Join the WhatsApp Group!](#)

Download *Birdle Marion*!



We're very happy to be welcoming Alberto and Lily from Raining Rock Studios aboard, the dynamic duo behind the phenomenal *Birdle* bird-guessing game, which you can [try out here](#). They will be running an exclusive cruise-only version of Birdle, *Birdle Marion*, as well as showcasing a new game: *Birdle GO!*

They have designed both games to work without WiFi, but please **download them before departure**. To download the game, fill out [this quick form](#), which should take less than a minute. Everyone who submits the form will receive an invitation to download the *Birdle Marion* app in the next few days.

[**Click Here to Sign Up for Birdle Marion!**](#)

The app is the ONLY way to play the exclusive Marion-only edition of *Birdle* as well as *Birdle GO* - a new game where you embark on a birdwatching adventure and snap photos of virtual birds. *Birdle GO* is currently a prototype, and Alberto and Lily will be on board to receive your feedback. Keep an eye out for them! They are excited to test the game and bring their love of birds to a new generation of players.

Flock College, Now Taking Admissions!

The lecture schedule that we have organised for the voyage is jam-packed with fascinating talks by experts from all walks of life!

- You will not need to book your seats for the lectures; they will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- This schedule has many moving parts, as does the ship hosting it, and so it is subject to change. We will communicate any changes to you in advance where possible. We will not be supplying you with a printed schedule for this reason, but you can print it out yourself, and it will be made available at key points on board the ship.
- The lectures will not be live-streamed to screens in cabins.

[View and Download the Lecture Schedule](#)

Missed out on previous newsletters?

We have uploaded all previous Flock to Marion *AGAIN!* newsletters [here](#). These newsletters contain valuable and important information, so I recommend taking some time to go through them before departure to make sure you haven't missed anything. If you know of anyone who has booked a spot on this voyage but hasn't been receiving these newsletters, please share this email with them.

[Previous Newsletters are Available Here](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

1. MSC Cruises has had an answer from the Department of Home Affairs' Immigration Services, and they have confirmed that no immigration clearance needs to be conducted, as the voyage to Marion Island is regarded as a "cruise to nowhere". **Therefore, South African citizens only need ID documents (NOT driver's licenses!), 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.



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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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