ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Namibia, Botswana & Zimbabwe

Namibia, Okavango & Victoria Falls Overland V

29th September to 16th October 2022 (18 days)



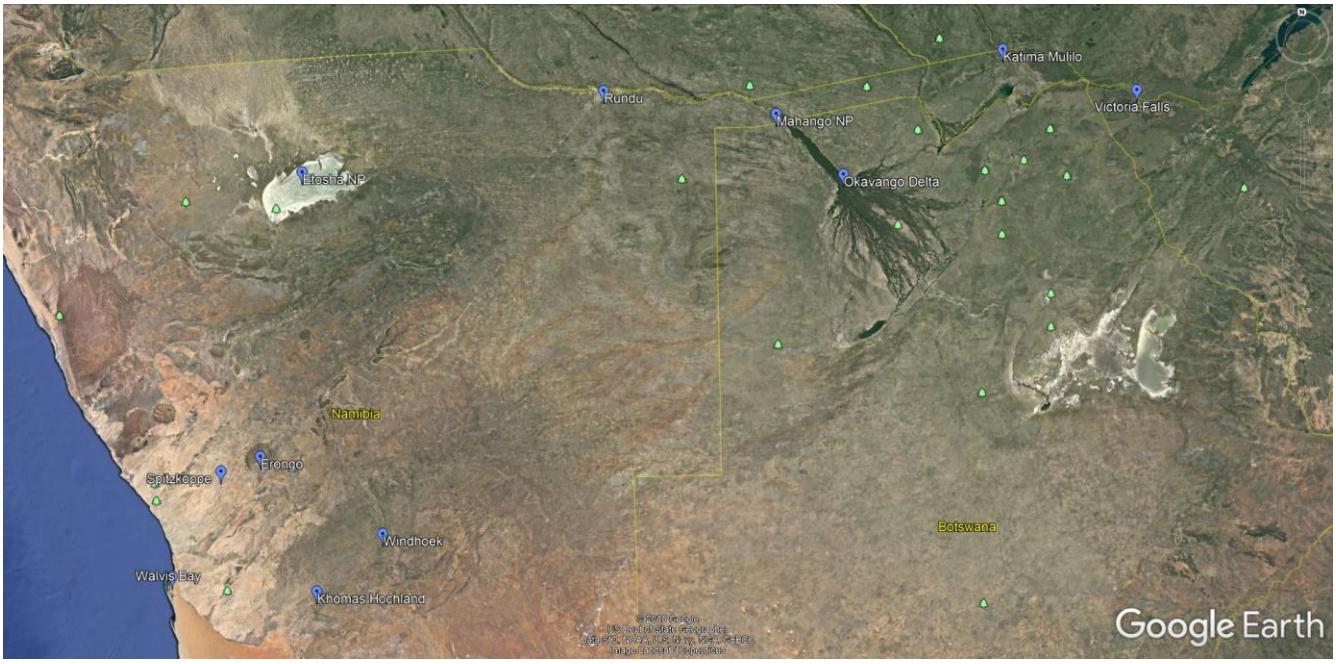
Southern Carmine Bee-eaters by Glen Valentine

From the ochre-coloured dunes of the Namib Desert to the lily-choked backwaters of the Okavango Panhandle, the flamingo-studded lagoons of Walvis Bay to the game-filled waterholes of Etosha and the breath-taking Victoria Falls, this tour provides incredible contrasts and an eco-tourism experience like no other! Our comprehensive overland safari combines the numerous endemic and special birds and animals of the dry, western deserts with the moist Okavango region. Spending quality time observing mammals, large and small, will be a major aspect of this tour and we should see an exciting range of charismatic African big game, including the fabled "Big 5". Spectacular and dramatic scenery, coupled with quality mammal viewing and exceptional birding, all combine to make this one of our most popular adventures!

THE ITINERARY

Day 1	**Windhoek**
Day 2	**Windhoek to Khomas Hochland**
Day 3	**Khomas Hochland to Walvis Bay**
Day 4	**Walvis Bay area**
Day 5	**Walvis Bay to Erongo Mountains via Spitzkoppe**
Day 6	**Erongo Mountains to Okaukuejo, Etosha National Park**
Day 7	**Okaukuejo area, Etosha National Park**
Day 8	**Okaukuejo to Halali, Etosha National Park**
Day 9	**Halali to Eastern Etosha**
Day 10	**Eastern Etosha**
Day 11	**Eastern Etosha to Rundu**
Day 12	**Rundu to Shakawe, Okavango Panhandle**
Day 13	**Shakawe area**
Day 14	**Shakawe to Mahango Game Reserve**
Day 15	**Mahango to Katima Mulilo via Bwabwata National Park**
Day 16	**Katima Mulilo area**
Day 17	**Katima Mulilo to Victoria Falls**
Day 18	**Final departures**

TOUR ROUTE MAP…



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…

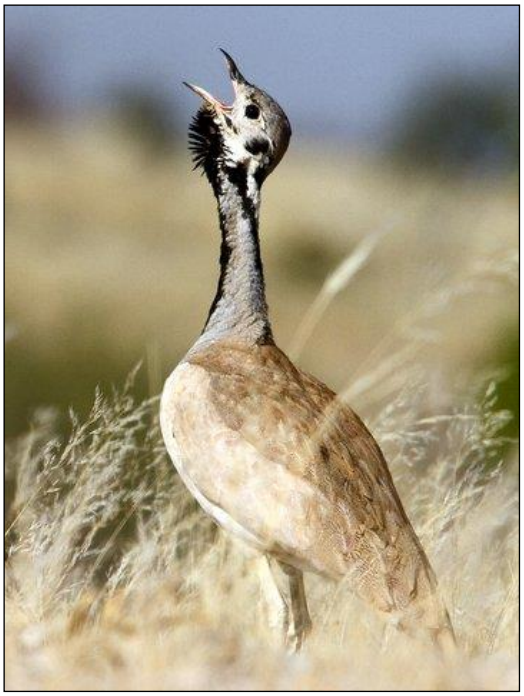


Rockrunner by Adam Riley

Day 1: Windhoek. Upon arrival at Hosea Kutako International Airport outside Windhoek, you will be transferred to our comfortable guesthouse in the city. The capital city of Namibia, Windhoek, is situated within a bowl of mountains that form part of the rugged Khomas-Hochland range and excellent birding may be enjoyed right on the outskirts of town.

After a short break, we will commence our exploration of the region at a nearby local birding spot, Avis Dam. Some of central Namibia's specials may be found here and we will search for Rosy-faced Lovebird, Short-toed Rock Thrush and the charismatic Rockrunner. Some of the other birds we will lookout for include Red-billed Spurfowl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, White-backed Mousebird, Ashy Tit, Mountain Wheatear, Pririt Batis, the gaudy Crimson-breasted Shrike, Burnt-neck Eremomela, Black-faced Waxbill and Black-throated Canary. If time allows, we will visit the Windhoek Water Treatment Works close to the city to scan for waterbirds, which may include Little Bittern, South African Shelduck, Hottentot Teal and Maccoa Duck.

Day 2: Windhoek to Khomas Hochland. After an early breakfast, we head out to explore the productive dry acacia woodland and rocky grassland of Daan Viljoen Nature Reserve. Some of the specials of the area include Monteiro's Hornbill, Carp's Tit, Short-toed Rock Thrush and Rockrunner. Other great birds that we hope for are Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, African Red-eyed Bulbul, the diminutive Cape Penduline Tit, Mountain Wheatear, Long-billed Pipit, Red-headed Finch, Violet-eared Waxbill and Yellow Canary, while Orange River Francolin is also possible but will require a great dose of luck to encounter! Mammals are prolific and we hope to see the endangered Hartmann's sub-species of Mountain Zebra, the regal Gemsbok, Giraffe, playful troops of Chacma Baboon and small herds of Common Wildebeest.



Rüppell's Korhaan by Adam Riley

We will then begin the journey across the Central Highlands of Namibia. Roadside birding is always rewarding and we will watch out for Verreaux's Eagle, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Black-winged Kite, the beautiful Purple Roller, diminutive Long-billed Crombec, Ant-eating Chat, Marico and Chat Flycatchers, Cape Crow, Pale-winged Starling, Great and Cape Sparrows and Lark-like



***Welwitschia mirabilis* by Keith Valentine**

Bunting. The scenery is dotted with huge, golden Social Weaver nests and we may be fortunate in locating the tiny Pygmy Falcon, which utilize these nests as a convenient home. In the late afternoon we will arrive at our overnight destination, set in very pleasant surroundings. After settling in, we will spend time birding the area on foot, a welcome relief from the confines of the vehicle. On our walk we will search for Karoo Scrub Robin, here at the northern limit of its range, as well as the smart White-tailed Shrike.

Day 3: Khomas Hochland to Walvis Bay. We begin the day atop one of the most dramatic passes in all of southern Africa – the Spreetshoogte Pass – affording us sweeping views of the Namib Desert below. Leaving the lofty pass behind us, we then descend towards the coast as the terrain becomes increasingly desolate and barren, consisting of seemingly lifeless gravel plains. We will make frequent stops in the desert to scan for Common Ostrich (these wild, desert birds represent one of the few genetically pure populations of this species in southern Africa), the endemic Rüppell's Korhaan and the almost white desert race of Tractrac Chat. However, our main target bird on these plains is the endemic and localised Gray's Lark. This diminutive and inconspicuous bird forages in small groups over the most inhospitable of terrain, a seemingly incredulous habitat for any life form! By late afternoon we will arrive at our accommodation in Walvis Bay, with time enough to settle in before a delicious seafood dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Day 4: Walvis Bay area. Before dawn we will make for the dunefields to the south of town as they are home to another endemic lark – the handsome Dune Lark. Like many of the desert larks, its plumage colouration perfectly matches that of its environment: the deep ochre sands of the Namib dune sea. Other birds that we may encounter whilst searching for the lark are Chestnut-vented Warbler, Black-chested Prinia, Dusky Sunbird, Orange River White-eye and Common Waxbill. Exploring the tallest and most beautiful sand dunes in the world for endemic birds is an incredible way to spend a morning!



Dune Lark by Daniel Keith Danckwerts

The marine coast, offshore guano islands, saltpans and estuaries around Walvis Bay and Swakopmund to the north typically teem with water birds. At this time of year most of the migrants are in the bay and we can expect some good wader watching. The large numbers of Greater and Lesser Flamingos that feed along the fringes of the bay are alone sufficient to make the trip worthwhile! Marine cormorants, especially Cape, form impressive lines as they stream out over the



Herero Chat by Glen Valentine

cold ocean in search of food. We will scan these large flocks in search of Crowned and Bank Cormorants, which occur in much lower numbers. Great White Pelican is prominent throughout the area and specialities of the pans include the localised Chestnut-banded Plover, Hartlaub's Gull and Damara Tern, the latter being a breeding endemic to southern Africa. The striking African Oystercatcher may be seen along the rocky shores and waders to be expected on the extensive mudflats in the lagoon include White-fronted and Grey Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, thousands of Curlew, Marsh and Terek Sandpipers, Red Knot. Sanderling and Pied Avocet.

In the afternoon we will drive through the historic town of Swakopmund, a quaint seaside village with a decidedly German atmosphere. Freshwater pans at the edge of town are home to other wetland inhabitants such as Black-necked Grebe, Cape and Red-billed Teals and Cape Shoveler. Thereafter we will explore the famed Welwitschia Plains where we will seek out one of the world's most bizarre plants: *Welwitschia mirabilis* is a coniferous plant that, despite its immense age, grows to just a few feet tall and has only two leaves. They survive in the bone dry gravel plains of the Namib and we will also look for two species of colourful beetles that only survive around these unique plants.

Day 5: Walvis Bay to Erongo Mountains, via Spitzkoppe. Today we leave early for the Spitzkoppe, a series of impressive granite inselbergs rising out of the desert plains. This is a good site for Herero Chat, Namibia's most elusive endemic, but we will require luck and patience to find this localized bird. Whilst searching the base of this incredible geological formation, we may also find Augur Buzzard, the attractive Rosy-faced Lovebird, the near-endemic Bradfield's Swift, Acacia Pied Barbet, Sabota and Karoo Long-billed Larks, Layard's Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Bokmakierie (a near-endemic bushshrike), White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, White-throated Canary and Cinnamon-breasted and Cape Buntings. White-tailed Shrike, arguably Namibia's most striking endemic, should also entertain us here. The agile Klipspringer and Rock Hyrax may also be seen, whilst brilliantly coloured Namib Rock Agamas are common. Other possible reptiles in this area are the impressive Boulton's Namib Day Gecko, Bibron's Thick-toed Gecko, Bradfield's Dwarf Gecko and Namaqua Sand Lizard. The surrounding gravel plains occasionally produce Ludwig's Bustard, whilst Namaqua Sandgrouse, Stark's



White-tailed Shrike by Adam Riley



Rüppell's Parrot by Greg de Klerk

Lark and Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark are more regular.

Leaving the coastal plains behind us, we will continue northwards, scanning suitable habitat for Burchell's Courser *en route*. Luck and patience is needed to find this species as it is nomadic and hence unpredictable; however, the beautiful Double-banded Courser and flocks of Spike-heeled Larks should entertain us while we search. Further to the north, we will look for the endemic Rüppell's Parrot, localized Violet Wood Hoopoe and the handsome Southern Pied Babbler. Our destination tonight is a delightful lodge tucked into the giant granitic boulders of the ancient Erongo Mountains.

Day 6: Erongo Mountains to Okaukuejo, Etosha National Park. Today's target species requires a pre-dawn walk to a vantage point near our lodge. *En route* we may find the rock-loving Freckled Nightjar, but the bird in question is another endemic, the rather bizarre Hartlaub's Spurfowl, which is only likely to be seen at first light when coveys emerge to vocalize atop prominent boulders. Other potential birds at this locality are Gabar Goshawk, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Barred Wren-Warbler, Kalahari Scrub Robin, the wing-flicking Familiar Chat, White-tailed Shrike (particularly approachable individuals reside around the lodge) and Black-faced Waxbill. The strange Dassie Rat (belonging to a monotypic family) may also be seen poking its whiskered nose from a rock crevice while a variety of interesting reptiles scurry over the rocks.

After our early morning walk and a leisurely breakfast, we will have some time to relax around our lodge before heading northwards to the world-famous Etosha National Park. Along the way we will stop for two of Namibia's scarce and sought-after endemics, Bare-cheeked Babbler and Rüppell's Parrot. We will begin our exploration of this park at the main camp of Okaukuejo.



Hartlaub's Spurfowl by Greg de Klerk

Day 7: Okaukuejo area, Etosha National Park. The word "Etosha" means "Great White Place" in the local Herero language and nowhere else is the "great whiteness" of the enormous pan more evident than around Okaukuejo. Etosha is one of Africa's premier big game destinations and medium and large mammals teem around the huge pan. Waterholes are dotted around the park and these will often be the focus of our attention as it is here that streams of thousands of



Burchell's Courser by David Hoddinott

mammals come daily to drink. On occasion, up to a dozen species of mammal can be seen at once as they mill around the saline water. Commonly encountered species are the regal Gemsbok, Greater Kudu, Springbok, Giraffe, African Elephant, Hartebeest, Common Wildebeest, Plains Zebra and 'Black-faced' Impala. These waterholes don't only attract the attention of thirsty grazers and photographers, but also predators: Black-backed Jackal, Wild Cat, prides of lazing Lion, Spotted Hyena and even Cheetah and Leopard are included in the possible suit of carnivores. We will search the open grasslands and sparse acacia savanna for birds such as the huge Martial and Tawny Eagles, the elegant Red-necked Falcon, Greater Kestrel, the magnificent Kori Bustard (the world's heaviest flying bird), Spotted Thick-knee, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark, Red-capped and Pink-billed Larks, Capped Wheatear and flocks of angry-looking Scaly-feathered Weaver.

Birds are also abundant in and around Okaukuejo camp and we may see Grey Go-away-bird, African Hoopoe, Southern Yellow-billed and Southern Red-billed Hornbills, Cardinal Woodpecker, Wattled and the ubiquitous Cape Starlings, Brubru, Marico, White-bellied and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds, Green-winged Pytilia and Pygmy Falcon. In the evening, hundreds of Double-banded Sandgrouse come to drink at the waterhole and sometimes Verreaux's Eagle-Owl and Marsh Owl hunt in the vicinity. Mammals are also frequent at the waterhole after dark and we have a chance of seeing Black and White Rhinoceroses, African Elephant and Black-backed Jackal.

Day 8: Okaukuejo to Halali, Etosha National Park. This morning we will leave Okaukuejo and drive eastwards to the rest camp at Halali. *En route* we will search an area that holds an isolated population of the endearing Rufous-eared Warbler. The Halali region is famous amongst birders as a site for Violet Wood Hoopoe and Bare-cheeked Babbler, both denizens of the taller mopane woodland in this central part of the park, though these sought-after birds can prove challenging to find on occasion! Other species in this area include the spectacular Bateleur, Shikra, Helmeted Guineafowl, Fawn-coloured Lark, flocks of quizzical White-crested Helmetshrike, Southern White-crowned Shrike and Yellow-throated Petronia. The camp itself is an excellent location for finding roosting owls and we hope to locate Southern White-faced and African Scops Owls, and possibly even Western Barn Owl.



Cheetah by Glen Valentine

Here, too, we will have an opportunity to spend time at a floodlit waterhole after dark. The evening's pageant is likely to commence again with hundreds of sandgrouse flying in



Bare-cheeked Babbler by Adam Riley

to drink, with later visitors including nightjars, owls and a plethora of mammalian possibilities. African Elephant, Black Rhinoceros and Greater Kudu are regular, whilst Cape Porcupine, Wild Cat, Leopard and even the bizarre Aardvark have all been seen drinking here. Honey Badger sometimes makes a nuisance of itself in the camp, rummaging through rubbish bins in search of scraps and if we are fortunate we may locate a few of these curious animals.

Day 9: Halali to Eastern Etosha. We will spend this morning birding the productive mixed woodland and grassland mosaic en route to Namutoni Camp. Our final destination today is a lodge just outside the eastern boundary of the park not far from Namutoni gate. As we travel eastwards from Halali towards Namutoni, we temporarily bid farewell to the monotypic stands of mopane and enter acacia and *Terminalia* savanna. Here we will be searching for species we may not yet have encountered, including Burchell's Sandgrouse, White-browed Scrub Robin, Chestnut Weaver and Chinspot Batis, while vultures are often numerous in this area and may include Lappet-faced, White-headed and wheeling flocks of White-backed.

Day 10: Eastern Etosha. Today we head back into Etosha for a full day's exploration of the eastern section of this immense ecosystem. The shallow Fischer's Pan, an eastern extension of the main Etosha Pan, is a notable natural feature of this area and lies to the north of Namutoni camp. Water levels vary tremendously and the pan is most often completely dry, but if water is present we may find flamingos, huge Saddle-billed and Yellow-billed Storks, Red-billed Teal, South African Shelduck and large numbers of migratory waders. Further to the north of Namutoni lie extensive grassy plains that are sometimes home to large herds of Gemsbok, Springbok and Common Wildebeest. The unique Secretarybird and elegant Blue Crane are possible here and we may find Eastern Clapper Lark and the diminutive Desert Cisticola.

Mammals are plentiful in the dense woodland south of camp and include Spotted Hyena, African Elephant, Giraffe, 'Black-faced' Impala and two antelope largely restricted to this part of the park: the huge Common Eland and the diminutive Damara Dik-dik. Here we will also search for the most elusive of the five babbler species occurring in Namibia, the Black-faced Babbler.



Thirsty Lions by Adam Riley

Day 11: Eastern Etosha to Rundu. This morning we depart for the drive eastwards to Rundu, gateway to the Caprivi Strip.



Souza's Shrike by Daniel Keith Danckwerts

Our route takes us through the dense thorn savanna east of Etosha National Park, and then traverses increasingly well-developed woodland. We arrive at our lodge on the banks of the Okavango River in the late afternoon with time to search the Rundu "waterworks" for Hottentot Teal, African Swamphen, African Rail, Senegal Coucal, Southern Red Bishop, Thick-billed Weaver and Orange-breasted Waxbill. Our lodge overlooks wetlands situated across the Okavango in Angola and scanning this area may produce Spur-winged Goose, Water Thick-knee, Collared Pratincole, Rufous-bellied Heron and Coppery-tailed Coucal.

Day 12: Rundu to Shakawe, Okavango Panhandle. Our day starts with a short stroll around camp and then breakfast, after which we will make our way into the Caprivi Strip and its vast teak woodlands. These broad-leaved woodlands support a fairly specialized avifauna, with many of these birds typical of the superficially similar miombo woodlands of central Africa. White-breasted Cuckooshrike, the richly-coloured Rufous-bellied Tit, Souza's Shrike, Grey Penduline Tit, Green-capped Eremomela, Racket-tailed Roller, Arnott's Chat, Tinkling Cisticola, Bradfield's Hornbill, Retz's Helmetshrike and Red-headed Weaver are all specials we will keep a lookout for. Bird densities in the teak woodlands are typically quite low, with the trick to locating them hinging on our ability to find mixed species flocks.



Violet Wood Hoopoe by Clayton Burne

If river levels are low enough, we may see Rock Pratincole on exposed rocks in the Okavango near Divundu, before crossing into Botswana and heading for our idyllic lodge situated on the banks of the Okavango River. Set in pristine riverine forest overlooking the endless waterways and papyrus swamps of the Okavango Panhandle, the lodge is a birder's paradise!

Day 13: Shakawe area. Rising with the exuberant dawn chorus, we head out in search of African Barred Owlet, African Wood and the fabulous Pel's Fishing Owl. The lodge grounds are well vegetated and extensive woodland can be found right behind camp. Crested Francolin, African Green Pigeon, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Green Wood Hoopoe, Striped Kingfisher, Black-collared Barbet, Lesser Honeyguide, Arrow-marked Babbler, Bennett's, Golden-tailed and Bearded Woodpeckers, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Retz's Helmetshrike, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Violet-backed and Meves's Starlings, African Yellow



Slaty Egret by Glen Valentine

White-eye, Lesser Masked Weaver, the localized Brown Firefinch, Swamp Boubou, Hartlaub's Babbler, Terrestrial Brownbul and White-browed Robin-Chat are all possible here. A wide variety of herons, egrets and kingfishers occur along the river and the extensive papyrus reedbeds adjacent to the lodge are home to Pied, Giant and Malachite Kingfishers, Chirping Cisticola, Greater Swamp Warbler, Holub's Golden and Southern Brown-throated Weavers and Fan-tailed Widowbird. Little and the elegant White-fronted Bee-eaters breed in the vicinity.

We will also partake in a leisurely boat cruise along the Okavango in search of waterbirds including the shy White-backed Night Heron, Black, Striated and Squacco Herons, the huge Coppery-tailed Coucal, noisy Black Crake and elegant African Skimmer. African Fish Eagle is common and African Marsh Harrier is often seen quartering over the reedbeds here. Some of the animals we could encounter include the furtive Spotted-necked Otter, Hippopotamus and good numbers of Nile Crocodile. If we are extremely lucky, we may spot the shy Sitatunga (a swamp-dwelling antelope). After dinner, we may search in the lodge grounds for Fiery-necked Nightjar.

Day 14: Shakawe to Mahango Game Reserve. After some final birding in the Shakawe area, we will depart on the short drive back across the border into Namibia and spend the day in Mahango Game Reserve. Situated along the Okavango River just north of Botswana, this unique park protects habitats ranging from attractive papyrus swamps to climax teak woodland and is a superb birding locality. We will search the open floodplain here for the localised and uncommon Slaty Egret, African Spoonbill, Long-toed Lapwing, White-faced Whistling and Knob-billed Ducks and the regal and endangered Wattled Crane. Hirundines are usually in evidence and we will scan for Lesser Striped, Wire-tailed and Grey-rumped Swallows and the large Banded Martin. The adjacent woodland is home to good numbers of birds including Martial Eagle, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Greater Blue-eared Starling and Crested Barbet, while open areas support Flappet and Rufous-naped Larks, African and Plain-backed Pipits and Quailfinch.



Pel's Fishing Owl by Wayne Jones

Despite the presence of large mammals, one is allowed to get out of one's vehicle in designated areas, and it is this freedom that makes birding here so special. We will be careful, however, since Hippopotamus, African Elephant and Nile Crocodile are all common. Elegant Red Lechwe and Southern Reedbuck graze on the floodplain and if we are very lucky we may also see the shy Chobe sub-species of



African Pygmy Goose by Clayton Burne

Bushbuck. Other special mammals occurring here are the spectacular Sable and Roan Antelopes and rare Topi. In addition to the aforementioned three antelope, we should see African Buffalo, African Elephant, Impala, Greater Kudu and troops of Chacma Baboon. It is this wonderful variety that makes Mahango such a fascinating wildlife adventure!

Day 15: Mahango to Katima Mulilo via Bwabwata National Park. This morning we will bird a piece of seasonally flooded grassland behind our lodge, searching for Luapula Cisticola and hopefully African Snipe, before striking out for Katima Mulilo. Leaving the Okavango River behind us, we continue eastwards through the Caprivi Strip. En route we travel through Bwabwata National Park, which stretches from the Okavango River east across the Caprivi to the Kwando River, and while driving through the seemingly endless kilometres of teak woodland we will be watchful for Dark Chanting Goshawk and the uncommon Dickinson's Kestrel. We will also keep an eye out for the stately Southern Ground Hornbill, which can sometimes be seen in small family groups in woodland alongside the road. We then cross the narrow floodplain of the Kwando River, and here we may see Saddle-billed Stork and African Pygmy Goose, before embarking on the final 110 km before Katima.

Time permitting, once in the Katima area, we might search well-wooded areas for the beautiful Schalow's Turaco, before heading out of town to our lodge perched on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River. Good birding is possible around the lodge itself, and we should see Mourning Collared Dove and White-browed Robin-Chat around our huts and African Skimmer flying gracefully over the sluggish Zambezi.

Day 16: Katima Mulilo area. We have the full day to explore the exciting areas around our lodge and Katima Mulilo. Wetlands may well yield the likes of the highly desirable Lesser Jacana, Rosy-throated Longclaw, African Pygmy Goose, Rufous-bellied Heron, Slaty Egret, Greater Painted-snipe and flocks of African Openbill, while the extensive grasslands host Rufous-naped Lark and Black-bellied Bustard. Sandbars on the river are the favoured haunt of White-crowned Lapwing. Two other special targets in the area are the rare Shelley's and Copper Sunbirds, and we will work hard for sightings of both these tricky species. As the day draws to a close we may even be fortunate enough to spot the rare Bat Hawk as it hunts bats near the river, while after nightfall we can target Square-tailed and the localised Swamp Nightjar.



White-backed Night Heron by Greg de Klerk

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Victoria Falls by Glen Valentine

Day 17: Katima Mulilo to Victoria Falls. This morning we depart Katima Mulilo and spend most of the day traversing first through Chobe National Park in Botswana, before crossing the border into Zimbabwe and enjoying the Zambezi National Park. Our drive through these mega parks is liable to turn up an array of exciting mammals including Giraffe, Plains Zebra, Impala, Greater Kudu, Hippopotamus, herds of muscular African Buffalo and the iconic African Elephant. On the birding front, we shall keep an eye open for Racket-tailed Roller, Bradfield's Hornbill, Southern Pied Babbler and both Long-tailed and Broad-tailed Paradise Whydahs, whilst a number of raptors may also be seen including Tawny and Wahlberg's Eagles, African Harrier-Hawk, Amur Falcon, Eurasian Hobby and even the elusive Dickinson's Kestrel and African Cuckoo-Hawk.

After settling into our well-appointed lodge, we head over to visit the world famous Victoria Falls. These falls have rightly been considered one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and we will spend some time appreciating the immense spectacle of the Zambezi River plunging 300ft into the gorge below. The spray from the falls has created a verdant rainforest and we will undoubtedly find some interesting birds here that may include Trumpeter and Crowned Hornbills, Bearded Scrub Robin, Yellow-breasted Apalis, various sunbirds including Amethyst and Collared, Purple-banded, Black-backed Puffback, Tropical Boubou and Red-winged Starling.



African Skimmer by Greg de Klerk

Day 18: Final departure After some early morning birding and a scrumptious breakfast, we will begin our drive back to Victoria Falls. The tour will conclude at Victoria Fall's International Airport.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

The tour price includes:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 of the tour to breakfast on day 18;
- Drinking water throughout the tour;
- All lodgings as per the itinerary;
- Ground transportation;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services; and
- Tips for local guides and services.

The tour price excludes:

- Any airfares, taxes and visa costs;
- Alcoholic beverages;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, porters and restaurants) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Much of our time is spent in specially converted Toyota Landcruisers, as we have to cover long distances in order to get to the best areas for birds and animals. The vehicle is comfortable, but

has fairly limited space. For the comfort of your fellow travellers and yourself, please do not over-pack. Stick to 20kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18lb) for hand luggage.

- During the tour, we visit several national parks and game reserves which contain potentially dangerous animals and therefore you are confined to the vehicle and are, quite understandably, not allowed to exit.
- Temperatures in Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe can be very high at this time of year, especially when compared to the cooler winter months. If you suffer easily from heat exposure, please do contact the RBL office for more information.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS

This tour **does not** include any international airfares. Day 1 is essentially an arrival day in Windhoek, Namibia. However, should you arrive before **11:00** on day 1, we may spend the afternoon birding around Windhoek. The tour will conclude in the late morning at Victoria Falls Airport, Zimbabwe on the day 18.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS

Hosea Kutako International Airport, Windhoek (IATA: WDH) is the main port of entry for international flights for this tour, while Victoria Falls Airport (IATA: VFA) is the main point of departure. Reliable airlines with the most direct routing for these flights are Air Namibia and South African Airways into Namibia, while connecting through Johannesburg or Addis Ababa is the best way of departing from Zimbabwe. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**