ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

South Africa

Birds, Wine & Big Game

21st October to 1st November 2022 (12 days)



Lion by Adam Riley

South Africa has been famous for its wide variety and superior quality of wines since the 17th century. Today dozens of vintage estates not only produce award-winning wines but also offer fine cuisine in tranquil settings and excellent birding opportunities. This special tour will visit a selection of carefully chosen Cape wine estates, including multi-award winning Hartenberg and Constantia Glen – idyllically set in South Africa's oldest wine region, the Constantia Valley. We will have ample opportunity to sample South Africa's unique grape varietal – Pinotage, while also enjoying some of the regions finest Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Shiraz. Besides grand wine estates we also visit the diverse ecosystem of the West Coast National Park, the spectacular Cape Peninsula and interior dry country riches of the Tanqua Karoo where many of the Cape's fine endemic birds can be located. Furthermore, this exceptional tour has been timed for the Cape Wildflower season when the world's most colourful and spectacular floral extravaganza is usually at its peak. The second leg of the tour finds us in the wilds of Zululand on South Africa's eastern seaboard. Here we have exclusive use of a luxurious lodge deep within the wilderness of a

prime Big Five private game reserve. Not only will we enjoy comfortable game drives through some of the country's finest birding and mammal habitat, but our wine adventure will continue as we sample and learn about an ever-surprising selection of fine South African wines. Besides the unforgettable Big Five, we also have opportunities to enjoy such species as African Wild Dog, Cheetah, Hippopotamus and numerous other species of mammals while the reserve boasts a list of over 400 bird species including many highly sought-after specialties. From the endemic rich Fynbos Kingdom of the Western Cape to the teeming wildlife of Zululand, this tour offers the very best of Southern African birding, game viewing and wine!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

THE ITINERARY

Day 1	**Arrival in Cape Town, visit Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and late afternoon wine tasting**
Day 2	**Cape Point, Strandfontein and late afternoon wine tasting**
Day 3	**The Cape Peninsula and late afternoon wine tasting**
Day 4	**Cape Town to Ceres via West Coast National Park**
Day 5	**Ceres and the Tanqua Karoo and afternoon wine tasting**
Day 6	**Ceres to Stellenbosch**
Day 7	**Cape Town flight to Durban to Manyoni Private Game Reserve**
Days 8, 10 & 11	**Manyoni Private Game Reserve area**
Day 9	**Mkuze Day trip**
Day 12	**Manyoni to King Shaka International Airport and depart**

TOUR MAP…



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…



Cape Sugarbird by Hugh Chittenden

Day 1: Arrival in Cape Town, visit Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens with late afternoon wine tasting. We begin our tour in Cape Town with an afternoon exploration of the picturesque Cape Peninsula at one of the local birding hotspots. Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens lies on the slopes of Table Mountain and is home to a plethora of endemics restricted to the Macchia-like fynbos vegetation of the southern tip of Africa: Cape Spurfowl scurry across the lawns, the magnificent protea gardens are home to spectacular Cape Sugarbird and Orange-breasted Sunbird, both of which are South African endemics, whilst Cape Bulbul, Olive Thrush, the attractive Cape Grassbird, Karoo Prinia, Bokmakierie, Southern Boubou and Southern Double-collared Sunbird may be found in areas of denser cover. We will watch out for African Harrier-Hawk, African Goshawk and Black and Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, which occasionally display above the indigenous forest that cloaks the slopes above the gardens. These forests are also home to African Olive Pigeon, Lemon Dove, Cape Batis, Sombre Greenbul and Forest and Cape Canaries.

With the splendours of Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens fresh in our minds, we shall depart for the spectacular mountains and surrounding valleys covered by a myriad of vineyards which welcome us to the heart of the Cape winelands. The estate of choice this afternoon will be Steenberg Estate and we will be able to sample a fine selection of the region's best wines. Steenberg is probably most famous for its award-winning Sauvignon Blancs however also produce some excellent Semillon, Chardonnay, Merlot and Shiraz while their Nebbiolo, an unusual varietal to be found in South Africa, has picked up a number of accolades as well.

Day 2: Cape Point, Strandfontein Water Treatment and late afternoon wine tasting. We travel to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve this morning. This wonderful park showcases the most south-western point of the continent and is very popular amongst birders and more general tourists alike. Here we should again find Cape Sugarbird, stunning Orange-breasted Sunbird, and perhaps the impressive Black Harrier, Grey-winged Francolin, Cape Grassbird and Cape Siskin. We will explore the network of roads to less visited parts of the reserve,



Cape of Good Hope scenery by Glen Valentine



Orange-breasted Sunbird by Adam Riley

visiting secluded coves and searching for the elusive Cape sub-species of Mountain Zebra and Bontebok subspecies of Blesbok. In addition, we could also find Common Eland, the largest antelope in the world.

We will spend the rest of the day at the productive Strandfontein water treatment works which is regarded by many as the best locality in Cape Town to connect with waterbirds. The network of settling ponds here usually support many different varieties of ducks and other waterfowl and we are likely to encounter good numbers of Cape Shoveler, Cape Teal, Southern Pochard and Red-knobbed Coot, as well as Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Great White Pelican, Common Moorhen, Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Black-necked and Great Crested Grebes, African Oystercatcher, Hartlaub's and Kelp Gulls, Greater Crested and Whiskered Terns, Grey and Black-headed Herons, Yellow-billed Duck and Red-billed Teal. If we are fortunate and depending upon the water levels of the pans, we may also find small numbers of Maccoa Duck, Hottentot Teal and South African Shelduck. The surrounding reedbeds harbour African Marsh-Harrier, African Reed, Lesser Swamp and Little Rush Warblers as well as Levaillant's Cisticola.

In the afternoon we will enjoy a sample of the superb wines on offer including the South African signature variety, Pinotage, a wine produced from cross pollinating Pinot Noir and Hermitage grapes. Our wine estate of choice this evening will be Constantia Glen, nestled in the beautiful Constantia Valley, this is South Africa's oldest wine producing region dating back to 1685. Stepped in history we will enjoy fabulous views of the surrounding mountains and will have the opportunity to taste their full range of wines that include an elegant Sauvignon Blanc and their three and full five varietal Bordeaux Blends.

Day 3: The Cape Peninsula and late afternoon wine tasting. A diverse array of birding habitats are present around Cape Town and today we will visit a variety of sites, ranging from wetlands to fynbos and marine shoreline. Making our way early to the rugged Hottentots-Holland Mountains, we will search for one of South Africa's finest endemics: the handsome Cape Rockjumper. Though strikingly plumaged and conspicuous by their vocalisations, these charismatic birds possess an incredible ability to disappear amongst the boulders and we may have to be patient if we wish to enjoy sightings of these elusive creatures. The thick mountain fynbos is the favoured habitat of Orange-breasted Sunbird, Cape Siskin and the beautiful, endemic Victorin's Warbler, while other species including Verreaux's



Vergenoegd Wine Estate by Keith Valentine



African Penguins by Markus Lilje

Eagle, Cape Grassbird, Grey-backed Cisticola and Ground Woodpecker are also found in the area. Chacma Baboon is fairly common here, but we will have to scan the rocky ridges carefully for the agile Klipspringer.

Whilst in Betty's Bay we will pay a visit to the nearby Harold Porter Botanical Gardens. A smaller version of Kirstenbosch, these beautifully appointed gardens support a wealth of fynbos specialties like Orange-breasted Sunbird, Cape Sugarbird and Cape Siskin and is a particularly good site to try and see the skulking, endemic Victorin's Warbler. We are also likely to encounter a range of other noteworthy and eye-catching species like Cape and Brimstone Canaries, Karoo Prinia, Swee Waxbill, Cape Batis, Bar-throated Apalis, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, Cape Robin-Chat, African Dusky and Fiscal Flycatchers, Olive Thrush and Sombre Greenbul.

After a delicious lunch we will also visit the famous African Penguin colony at Stony Point. Here we will enjoy the spectacle of hundreds of penguins waddling about on the beach and rocks at extremely close range, which makes for superb photographic opportunities. We will also keep a lookout for the endemic African Oystercatcher along the adjacent rocky shoreline, and scan through the masses of nesting cormorants for all four species of South African coastal cormorant: Crowned, Bank, Cape and White-breasted.

After enjoying this spectacle, we shall venture to the nearby wine estate of Ken Forrester where we shall supplement the salty ocean scents for the subtle bouquet of further fine wines at an afternoon wine tasting. Nestled between the famous Stellenbosch and Somerset West wine regions lies Ken Forrester Wine Estate where he has taken it upon himself to really showcase what can be done with Chenin Blanc. We will have ample opportunity to taste this varietal in numerous styles while also enjoying a fine selection of other award winning and aged wines in their collection. These include a fine Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, a classic Rhone style blend of Shiraz, Mourvedre, Grenache and their iconic Gypsy and FMC!



Cape Rockjumper by Clayton Burne

Day 4: Cape Town to Ceres via West Coast National Park. Our first site of interest today is the West Coast National Park. Large numbers of waders spend the northern winter here and we will check the exposed banks of Langebaan Lagoon for Red Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Grey Plover, Terek Sandpiper, Greater Sand Plover and Eurasian Curlew, as well as Kittlitz's and the localised Chestnut-banded



Black Harrier by Glen Valentine

Plovers. In addition to the shorebirds, these areas also support large numbers of Greater and Lesser Flamingos, South African Shelduck, Cape Shoveler and other waterfowl. The surrounding short, coastal vegetation (strandveld) is home to the endemic Southern Black Korhaan, Grey-winged Francolin, Grey Tit, Cape Penduline Tit, Karoo Lark, Capped Wheatear, Fiscal Flycatcher, Karoo Scrub Robin and the magnificent Black Harrier, surely one of the world's most attractive raptors! In the late afternoon we will make the drive through to the farming village of Ceres, gateway to the Tanqua Karoo.

Day 5: Ceres and the Tanqua Karoo and afternoon wine tasting. Just a short drive from the village of Ceres is the semi-arid, central plateau of South Africa known as the Karoo; a land of endless vistas and spectacular sunsets, renowned for its endemic larks, chats and canaries. We leave the famous fruit-growing valley of Ceres before reaching our first stop at Karoopoort, a narrow canyon that forms the gateway to the Succulent Karoo. Birds inhabiting the arid, rocky slopes and acacia-filled watercourses of this area include White-backed Mousebird, Acacia Pied Barbet, Mountain Wheatear, Layard's and Chestnut-vented Warblers, the dainty Fairy Flycatcher and Pririt Batis, whilst the adjacent reedbeds are home to the endemic Namaqua Warbler. One of the area's most charismatic birds is the highly localised Cinnamon-breasted Warbler. Though fairly vocal, this species is highly elusive and seeing it in its habitat of jumbled boulders and rocky scree will require a combination of patience and perseverance.

Continuing northwards onto the open flats of the Karoo, we will watch the roadsides carefully for Karoo and Spike-heeled Larks, Tractrac, Sickle-winged and Karoo Chats, the elusive Karoo Eremomela, Rufous-eared Warbler and Yellow and White-throated Canaries. Pale Chanting Goshawk and Rock Kestrel perch conspicuously on any vantage points and, if we are lucky, we may find Booted Eagle, Greater Kestrel or Lanner Falcon. We will also stop to listen for the distinctive flight calls of Namaqua Sandgrouse and the strange, croaking of the Karoo Korhaan, which may help us to locate these cryptically coloured birds. If very fortunate we may even see the nomadic Ludwig's Bustard striding through the desolate plains or come across a group of highly nomadic Burchell's Courser on the barren gravel flats.



Rufous-eared Warbler by Clayton Burne

In the afternoon, we'll head to the Tulbagh Valley and the Saronsberg Wine Cellar. The contemporary cellar has a beautifully finished tasting room, a spacious area from where we



Vineyard Landscape at Zevenwacht Wine Estate

can view both the hi-tech fermentation cellar and the maturation cellar whilst being surrounded by Saronsberg's contemporary art collection. We'll have time to enjoy some of the award-winning varietals including Mourvèdre, Shiraz and Viognier.

Day 6: Ceres to Stellenbosch. This morning we have the opportunity to target one final endemic species, the range-restricted Protea Canary. This uncommon and local bird is fairly regularly seen on the high protea-clad mountain slopes above Ceres and we will spend time at key positions listening for its distinctive call. The moist gullies here also hold a few other endemics such as the skulking Victorin's Warbler, Cape Grassbird, Cape Sugarbird, Cape Rock Thrush and Bokmakierie. After our morning's birding we will then depart from Ceres for Stellenbosch. On the way we will stop at Paarl Mountain where we can do a little more birding if there are still species that we haven't yet seen. The site can be a decent backup for the tricky Protea Canary while quality species such as Swee Waxbill, Fiscal Flycatcher, Cape Sugarbird, Malachite and Orange-breasted Sunbirds, Cape Batis, Yellow Bishop and Streaky-headed Seedeater can all regularly be found.

Our accommodations tonight at Zevenwacht will be in the heart of wine country – Stellenbosch. Nearby are some of South Africa's most prestigious wine estates and we will spend a wonderful afternoon at Hartenberg. Here we will first enjoy lunch before taking a cellar tour and then with our interest peaked, enjoy a lovely wine tasting. Probably most renowned for their Shiraz the most recent vintage of 'The Stork' (2014) has just received 96 points while their Gravel Hill Shiraz is done in a very different style and has long been regarded as one of the country's finest examples of an old style Shiraz. They also make an exceptional Bordeaux Blend, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Riesling. Their wines have always been done in a style of longevity and in general keeping a Hartenberg for 20 plus years is common place! The estate is also owned by birders and they have done some excellent work rehabilitating the wetland areas on the farm. We will then head across to our accommodations, which are beautifully appointed on Zevenwacht Wine Estate. Tonight, we will enjoy a



Lion & Lioness by Glen Valentine

delicious final dinner in the heart of the Cape Vineyards.



Pink-throated Twinspot by Glen Valentine

Day 7: Cape Town flight to Durban to Manyoni Private Game Reserve. After an early breakfast we shall depart for an onward flight from Cape Town International Airport to the tropical climate of Durban in KwaZulu-Natal Province. From here we will strike out north into the heart of Zululand. Our base for the next 5 nights will be the beautifully appointed Zebra Hills Safari Lodge situated inside the 56,000 acre Manyoni Private Game Reserve.

After checking in to our private and very comfortable lodge overlooking a busy waterhole, we will take our first game and birding drive in an open safari vehicle, returning in the dark whilst spotlighting. Each evening we will relax under the stars around an open fire enjoying a refreshing beverage and listening to the sounds of the African night and watching for animals that might come down to drink at the lodge waterhole. In the past we have had Lion, Cheetah, both species of Rhinoceros, Giraffe, African Buffalo and numerous species of antelope quenching their thirst here.

Days 8, 10 & 11: Manyoni Private Game Reserve. Over the course of the next 3 full days we will explore the wonders of this incredibly scenic African wilderness. Home to an impressive variety of big game including the much talked about 'Big 5', our time in this reserve is sure to be thrilling and memorable. Landscapes in the reserve range from rolling hills of open acacia savannah, lush riverbeds lined with giant Sycamore figs and bright Fever Tree forests, dense thickets favoured by the elusive and rare Black Rhinoceros, towering cliffs and scattered waterholes often thronged with thirsty animals.

Regularly encountered mammals include the ubiquitous Impala and Warthog, splendid Nyala (a stunning richly coloured and boldly marked antelope that has a rather limited distribution), Greater Kudu (males with impressive spiralled horns), Waterbuck, both Southern and Mountain Reedbucks, the diminutive Natal Red Duiker and its more nocturnal cousin the Grey Duiker, Steenbok which favour the driest zones and Bushbuck which stick to the denser vegetation around the riverbeds, herds of ungainly Common Wildebeest and Plains Zebra usually travel together, dispersed herds of enormous Giraffe and noisy troops of Chacma Baboon and Vervet.



Gorgeous Bushshrike by Adam Riley

A few of the larger waterholes support family groups of raucous Hippopotamus and two other sought-after target species are the elegant Cheetah which occur in



Black Rhinoceros by Adam Riley

healthy numbers and a pack of endangered African Wild Dogs that call this reserve home. The "Big 5" is always high on every visitor's want list and the Manyoni Private Game Reserve is particularly proud of the conservation work that it does in protecting good numbers of both Black and White Rhinoceroses despite the current scourge of illegal poaching. Family groups of White Rhinoceros are regularly encountered but the shyer and less numerous Black Rhinoceros are more difficult to find. Herds of African Buffalo can number in their hundreds and both lone bulls and matriarchal herds of African Elephant roam the reserve. Lions occur in good numbers, especially around this southern section of the reserve and are regularly encountered around Zebra Hills lodge itself where our guests are often awakened at dawn by the reverberating roar of Lions. Finally, the Leopard, which is the most elusive of the Big 5, occurs in healthy numbers but finding this stealthy spotted cat always requires a hefty dose of good luck.

We will also take time out to do a few night drives and besides the mammals mentioned above, we stand chances of finding a variety of nocturnal specialists such as Spotted Hyena, Cape Porcupine, Black-backed Jackal, White-tailed Mongoose, Common Genet, African Savanna Hare and Thick-tailed Greater Galago (Thick-tailed Bushbaby). If we are very lucky, we might come across the bizarre Aardvark, Caracal, Serval, Bushpig or Brown Hyena.

The reserve bird list boasts over 400 species and we are sure to encounter a mouth-watering selection of quality species during our time here. Topping the list are the classic sand forest specialities that include the highly localized trio of Pink-throated Twinspot, Neergaard's Sunbird and Rudd's Apalis, eye-catching Gorgeous Bushshrike, Eastern Nicator and Bearded Scrub-Robin. Early morning drives often turn up Crested Francolin and Natal Spurfowl scuttling off the roads as well as flocks of the bizarre Crested Guineafowl.

We will spend quality time along the reserve's riverine woodlands searching for numerous frugivorous species that flock here to feed on the abundance of fruiting figs. These include cryptic African Green Pigeons, the brilliant Purple-crested Turaco, White-eared and Black-collared Barbets and their smaller cousin the Red-fronted Tinkerbird, noisy Trumpeter and Crowned Hornbills, Black-headed and the migrant Eurasian Golden Orioles, and busy flocks of Black-bellied and Violet-backed Starlings.



Crowned Eagle by Glen Valentine



African Elephant by Adam Riley

Other species that also prefer these moister forests include Scaly-throated and Lesser Honeyguides, Burchell's Coucal, the sought-after Narina Trogon, raucous Broad-billed Roller, Brown-hooded, Woodland and the gorgeous African Pygmy Kingfishers and the most southern breeding population of Grey-headed Kingfisher, cackling family groups of Green Wood Hoopoe, the enormous Southern Ground-Hornbill, Black-backed Puffback, Southern Boubou, Square-tailed Drongo, Blue-mantled Crested and African Paradise Flycatchers, Yellow-bellied and Sombre Greenbuls, Terrestrial Brownbul, Black Saw-wing, Red-faced Cisticola, Yellow-breasted Apalis, White-browed and Red-capped Robin-Chats (both accomplished songsters), Collared, Grey and Purple-banded Sunbirds and both Spectacled and Dark-backed Weavers.

Waterbirds include pairs of Egyptian Goose that dominate most waterholes, noisy Hadeda Ibis and unique Hamerkop, Woolly-necked Stork, the secretive Striated Heron and more conspicuous Grey Heron, migrant Common and Wood Sandpipers, Three-banded Plover, African Wattled Lapwing, family groups of Water Thick-knee and Black Crake. Thirsty Red-eyed, Ring-necked, Laughing and Emerald-spotted Wood Doves are regular waterhole visitors and noisy Village, Lesser Masked and Southern Masked Weavers nest in vegetation hanging over the waterholes. The reserve's more open grasslands are home to a healthy population of the world's largest bird, the Common Ostrich, as well as a good number of Black-bellied Bustard. Other species we will seek in this habitat include Common Buttonquail, Crowned and Senegal Lapwings, Temminck's Courser, Shelley's Francolin, Black Coucal (in longer, moister grasslands), Little and European Bee-eaters, Rufous-naped and Flappet Larks, Barn, Lesser Striped and Red-breasted Swallows, Croaking Cisticola, Neddicky, Red-billed Quelea which sometimes flock and breed in the reserve in the millions, White-winged Widowbird, Yellow-throated Longclaw and African Pipit.

The acacia savannahs or bushveld habitat have their own subset of species which prefer this slightly drier habitat and these include Grey Go-away-bird, Red-faced and Speckled Mousebirds, the multi-coloured Lilac-breasted Roller, African Hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, Southern Yellow-billed and Red-billed Hornbills, Acacia Pied and Crested Barbets, Greater Honeyguide, Brown-backed Honeybird, Striped Kingfisher, Golden-tailed, Cardinal and Bearded Woodpeckers, Chinspot Batis, flocks of White-crested Helmetshrikes, Grey-headed and Orange-breasted Bushshrikes, Brown-crowned and Black-crowned Tchagras, Brubru, Black Cuckooshrike, migrant Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrikes, the miniscule Grey Penduline Tit, Sabota and the rare Dusky Larks, Long-billed Crombec, migrant Icterine and Willow Warblers, ubiquitous Rattling Cisticola, the scarce Stierling's Wren-warbler, Yellow-bellied and Burnt-



Cheetah by Adam Riley



Lilac-breasted Roller by Gareth Robbins

necked Eremomelas, noisy flocks of Arrow-marked Babbler, abundant Cape Starling, Red-billed Oxpecker which frequent the larger mammalian fauna, Groundscraper and the near-endemic Kurrichane Thrushes, the handsome White-throated Robin-Chat (another near-endemic), White-browed Scrub-Robin, Pale and Grey Tit Flycatchers, Scarlet-chested and White-bellied Sunbirds, Yellow-throated Petronia, the little known Bushveld Pipit, Yellow-fronted Canary and last but not least, Golden-breasted Bunting.

Raptors are prevalent in the Manyoni Private Game Reserve and we will keep a look out for a variety of eagles including the massive Martial (Africa's largest) and powerful Crowned Eagle (Africa's monkey-eating version of Harpy which nest in good numbers in the reserve and are virtually guaranteed to be encountered), as well as breeding pairs of migrant Wahlberg's, Tawny, the scarcer African Hawk-Eagles and non-breeding migrants which include Lesser Spotted, Booted and more rarely Steppe Eagles. Brown Snake Eagle is the most commonly encountered snake eagle but Black-chested also occurs and the aberrant Bateleur, one of Africa's classiest raptors is regularly seen rocking over the savannas on its broad wings. Small numbers of Secretarybird stride across the more open grasslands in search of snakes and other prey and other regularly encountered raptors include Black-winged and Yellow-billed Kites, African Harrier-Hawk, Lizard Buzzard, Gabar and African Goshawks, Black and Little Sparrowhawks, migrant Common Buzzard and Lanner Falcon. Vultures are also prevalent and play an important role in cleaning up the reserve. White-backed is the default species but smaller numbers of massive Lappet-faced, White-headed, Hooded and rarely Palm-nut Vultures occur.

During the southern summer, numerous cuckoo species are vocal through the reserve and we will keep an eye and ear out for Levaillant's, Jacobin, Red-chested, Black, African, Common, Klaas's, Diederik and the stunning African Emerald. Colourful seedeaters are also a feature of the area and species we will seek include Green-winged Pytilia, Red-billed, African and Jameson's Firefinches, Blue, Common and Grey Waxbills, Quailfinch and the incredible Pink-throated Twinspot. Village, Purple and Dusky Indigobirds and Pin-tailed and Long-tailed Paradise Whydahs attain their breeding plumage late in the summer and are nest parasites on the aforementioned seedeaters. Nocturnal excursions may reveal the uncommon Bronze-winged Courser, Spotted Eagle-, Barn, African Wood, African Scops, Verreaux's Eagle- and Southern White-faced



Mixed herd of Giraffe & Plains Zebra by Glen Valentine

Owls and Fiery-necked and Square-tailed Nightjars.



Neergaard's Sunbird by Adam Riley

Day 9: Day trip to Mkuze Game Reserve. Nearby Mkuze Game Reserve is one of South Africa's most well-known birding hotspots. This reserve offers additional chances for almost all the bird and wildlife species that occur in the Manyoni Private Game Reserve but today we will focus on waterbird and sand forest specials that are more difficult or irregular in the Manyoni Private Game Reserve. Mkuze has much larger stands of Tongaland Sandforest and here we will seek out any of this microhabitat's special birds that we may not have encountered yet such as Neergaard's Sunbird and African Broadbill. The expansive Nsumo Pan hosts a mouth-watering selection of waterbirds and large pods of Hippopotamus and massive Nile Crocodiles. Here we will look for flocks of White-faced Whistling Duck, Spur-winged Goose, Red-billed and Hottentot Teals, Yellow-billed, Saddle-billed and Marabou Storks, African Openbill, Glossy Ibis, African Spoonbill, the enormous Goliath (largest heron in the world), Purple, Squacco and Black Herons, Great, Little and Intermediate Egrets, Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, African Darter, African Swamphen, Black-winged Stilt, Pied Avocet, African Jacana, the elusive Greater Painted Snipe, Collared Pratincole, White-winged and Whiskered Terns, Malachite, Giant and Pied Kingfishers and Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. Other species for which we stand a better chance in Mkuze include Southern Banded Snake Eagle, African Cuckoo-Hawk, African Marsh Harrier, Pel's Fishing Owl if we are very lucky, Green Malkoha, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird and Black-throated Wattle-eye. After a full day of birding, we will return to Zebra Hills.

Day 12: Manyoni Private Game Reserve to King Shaka International Airport and depart. This morning we shall embark on a final drive through this unspoilt reserve before we depart for King Shaka International Airport where the tour shall conclude.

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.

This includes:

- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 12.
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Reserve entrance fees;
- Wine tasting fees at all estates visited;
- Soft drinks and selected wines at Manyoni Game Reserve; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- **ANY flights**;
- Any drinks during the Cape leg of the tour;
- Bottled water (tap water in South Africa is of an excellent standard);
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other 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 RBT 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 (ZAR), 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, restaurants etc) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader. If, therefore, you feel that he has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip him.

Special Notes:

- This tour is considered a generalist experience, where the focus is as much on birding and wildlife viewing as it is for wine appreciation. The tour leader will be an overall generalist, having a very broad knowledge of birds, mammals and other subjects from South African history to astronomy. Local wine experts will provide detailed information when at wine

estates. The tour leader may not be a bird specialist as you may have come to expect on the typical Rockjumper birding tour.

- Some of our time is spent in vehicles, as we do have a few days of longer driving in order to get to the best areas for birds and animals. The more luggage you pack the less room there is in the vehicle, so it is important for the comfort of yourself and your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18lb) for hand luggage.
- Exiting the vehicle is prohibited in all areas and parks that contain dangerous animals.
- Crime is problematic in certain areas of South Africa. Exercise caution as you would for any big city where crime exists. Do not unnecessarily flaunt cash and valuables and do not leave valuables exposed in the vehicle.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include **any** airfares. The tour will begin around mid-morning with an outing to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, and conclude by **midday** at Durban International Airport on day 12.

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:

O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg (IATA: JNB) is the main port of entry for international flights into South Africa and is well serviced by all of the world's major airlines. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**