

10 DAY LGB TOUR PACKAGE:

Day 1 – Cape Peninsula

Depending on arrival time (I will collect you guys at the Cape International Airport & drop you at our preferred accommodation, The Last Word, where you will be staying for the 1st three nights of your trip). On our way to your accommodation, we will stop at Silvermine Lookout point, with spectacular views over Constantia, the birth place of Simon vd Stel's finest wines, the 5 best known farms in the area, the high rate Gholf Estate, Polls Moore prison (where Mandela spend 7 years of his imprisonment), the beautiful Cape Fold Mountains (Hottentots Holland Mountains), Muzenberg etc. [If time allows it, depending on your arrival, we might do Strandfontein or Kirstenbosch, just to take some pressure of day 2 or 3]

Overnight: *The Last Word / Constantia*

Day 2 - Hottentots Holland and False Bay

Today, I will collect you guys at you accommodation at 5h30am. We will be moving out of town early to avoid the morning traffic. We will then head to the east of Cape Town where we will be targeting some Cape Endemics. Our first stop, Steenbrasdam where we will look for 3 of the Fynbos Big 6 species, the **Victorin's Warbler**, **Orange-breasted Sunbird** & **Cape Sugarbird**, with possibilities of **Cape Grassbird** as a bonus.

Our drive to our next destination (Rooiels) is a breath-taking scenic drive and pass, with the deep blue sea on your right and the mountains on your left. We will stop for coffee on the pass and at this specific point, we will keep our eyes peeled for **Klipspringers**, also chances of **Bryde's & Southern Right Whale** (in season time), possibilities of **Cape Rock Thrush**, are good.

We will then proceed to Rooiels, where we will be searching the rocky slopes for another 2 of our Fynbos Big 6 endemics, the **Cape Rock Jumper** & **Cape Siskin**. More species to lookout for on this short distance walk are, **Sentinal Rock Thrush**, **Ground Woodpecker**, **Karoo Prinia**, **Grey-backed Cisticola**, **Malachite** and **Orange breasted Sunbird**, **Cape Bulbul**, **White necked Raven** and possible raptor species like **Peregrine Falcon**, **Rock Kestrel** & **Verreaux's Eagle**.

We will then head to Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens. The 10 hectares cultivated garden, with over 1600 plant species, will give you great photographic opportunities to many sunbird species including **Amethyst**, **Southern Double-collared**, **Orange breasted and Malachite Sunbirds**, **Sombre Greenbul**, **Olive Thrush**, **Cape Batis**, **Bar throated Apalis**, another opportunity to **Victorin's Warbler**, **Southern Boubou**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Cape White Eye**, **African Paradise Flycatcher** (in season), **Blue mantled Crested Flycatcher** often shows well, possible **Klaas's Cuckoo** and **Cape Robin Chat**.

Our next stop will be around the corner at Stony Point, where we will have lunch and spend some time with the endangered **African Penguin**. The four marine cormorant species also breeds here, the chances for **Bank, Cape, White breasted Cormorants** are good. If the **Crown Cormorants** are absent on the day, there will be a good chance that we might see it at Cape of Good Hope.

If time allows [and we didn't do Strandfontein on day 1], we will then end of the day at one of Cape Town's birding hotspots, Strandfontein Water Works. Here, on this 300 hectar wetlands, you can expect a variety of waterbirds, including **Greater & Lesser Flamigo's, Pied Avocet, Maccoa, African Shelduck, Southern Pochard**, all 3 species of **Grebe** (on a good day), the rare **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** are also a possibility these days (there are a few that made this spot their home for nearly a year now), **Black headed Heron, Grey Heron**. Possibilities are good for 3 of the 4 major species **Cisticola's** in Cape Town namely, **Levaillant's, Grey backed & Zitting**. Just to name a few, Strandfontein SW has more than 200 bird species visiting through the year.

Overnight: *The Last Word / Constantia*

Day 3 – Cape Peninsula

Today, I will collect you guys at your accommodation at 6h45. We will then start the day with some **Rufous breasted Sparrowhawks** at Rondebosch and then head to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens with Table Mountain serving as a beautiful backdrop. On the menu here, we should find **African Dusky Flycatcher**, all above mentioned **Sunbirds, African Olive Pigeon, Lemon Dove, Spotted Eagle Owl, Swee & Common Waxbill**, our Western Cape Provincial bird & Fynbos endemic, the **Cape Sugarbird** can also be seen here. **Forest Canary, Bronze Mannikin, Sombre Greenbul, Cape Batis, Cape Bulbul, Olive Woodpecker** and possibilities of **Forest, Stepp Buzzard** (in season), **African Harrier Hawk** or **Fish Eagles** overhead. **Snakes & Caracal** can also be seen if we are lucky.

After this stunning walk in the garden, we will head to the most south-westerly point of the African continent, Cape of Good Hope. Here we will enjoy some lunch at the outside tables, where **Red winged Starlings** will join in on lunch (they just can not help themselves), even **Southern Rock Agama Lizards** come closer to inspect what's for lunch. **Chacma Baboons** will also join the party. **Common Ostridge**, some species of **Cormorants, Southern Fiscal, Cape Longclaw, African Oystercatchers, Cape Bunting, Cape Grassbird** to mention a few species around here. If we look through the scope, we just might be lucky and spot a nearby pelagic bird. **Cape Gannet, White chinned Petrel, Sooty Shearwater** was often reported near the coastline. Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve is also home for **22 snake species, Cape Mountain Zebra & Common Eland**.

Overnight: *The Last Word / Constantia*

Day 4 – West Coast

Today, I will collect you guys at 6am at your accommodation. After a few awesome days in Cape Town and super birding, we will head now to the best birding hotspots in the West Coast, where we will add a lot of new bird species to your list, esp. waders and other grassland bird species, like your Larks & Pipits. We will head to Darling, starting to scan the farmlands just outside Malmesbury towards Darling. As we do some roadside birding on the farm roads, we might see some **Blue Cranes, European Bee-eaters** (in season), **Jackal Buzzard, Common Buzzard & Yellow billed Kites** (both in season), **African Stonechat, Capped Wheatear, African Hoopoe, Chestnut vented Warbler, Grey backed Cisticola, Pearl breasted**, and a few of the other swallows (in season), hopefully some **Grey winged Francolin's** will step forward and make themselves visible, **Yellow Canary, Long-billed Crombec, Pin tailed Whydah, Speckled, Red faced and White backed Mousebirds & Pied Starlings**.

With Darling behind us, time & tides are now playing a big role. We will now head farther north along the coast to West Coast National Park to be in time for the waders at Geelbek Hide. If our timing is right we should see a variety of wader species in front of the hide. Some species might partly still show their breeding plumage (depending time of year/season), species include **Three banded Plover, Kittlitz's and White fronted Plovers, Little Stint, Common Ringed Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Grey Plover, Common Greenshank, Eurasian Curlew, Whimbrel, Marsh Sandpiper**. The Geelbek hide also showcase a lot of rarities during the year. Hopefully we will also see **Black Harrier**, in the Strandveld we will be searching for **Cape Penduline Tit, White throated Canary, Grey Tit, Long billed Crombec, Chestnut vented Warbler. Mousebirds, Weavers** and the beautiful **Bokmakierie** should be easy targets.

We will now move on to Langebaan where we will book in to our accommodation. On our way there, we will look out for the resident pair of **Fish Eagles & Martial Eagles** and a guaranteed breeding pair of **Verreaux's Eagles, Peregrine and Rock Kestrels**.

If time allows, we will drive a few km's farther down the coastline to a fisherman's town called Veldrif to scan the wetlands at the Bergrivier, die plaat, Kuifkopvisvanger and Kliphoek Salt Works for more waders, especially the **Chestnut banded Plover** and perhaps the **Western Osprey. Red necked Phalarope** can also be seen here.

Overnight: *Le Mahi Guest House*

Day 5 – Swartland and Tankwa Karoo

Today, we will leave early (at sunrise) as we have a lot of driving to do, heading inland, with some farmland species just outside Hopefield, which includes **Cape Long billed Lark, Cape Clapper Lark, Grey backed Sparrow Lark, Sickle winged Chat, Ant eating Chat, Large billed Lark, Red and Yellow Bishops, Red billed Quelea**. We will scan the trees in a small village between the farms for **Wattled Starlings** (where they usually roost). We will also search the skies as we go, for **Booted Eagle** and our ears open for the call of the **Southern Black**

Korhaan. We will grab a coffee at a farmstall at the end of this gravel road and a light brunch (if you prefer Springbok Pie over Chicken, this is the place).

We will now head to the Tankwa Karoo, depending on what we see or discover along the road, this can be 4hr drive. We will definitely stop on the spectacular Mitchell's Pass to scan a few spots, hopefully we can spot another Fynbos endemic, the **Protea Canary, Hyrax** and their predators, the **Verreaux's Eagle** might also show themselves.

As we enter the Karoo from Jakkalsfontein side, we will start scanning these barren plains and certain hotspots on our way to Gannaga Lodge for **Karoo Eremomela, Yellow bellied Eremomela, Rufous eared Warbler, Namaqua Warbler.** Hopefully we can spot some **Burchell's Courser** and **Namaqua Sandgrouse.** Plenty of **Greater Kestrels** and **Pale chanting Goshawks** on this road. We will also be on the look out for other endemic species including **Black eared Sparrow Lark, Tractrac, Karoo Chat, Karoo Long billed Lark, Karoo Lark, Spike headed Lark, Red capped Lark.**

Overnight: Gannaga Lodge

Day 6 – Tankwa Karoo

Today, we will do a few hotspots on the Gannaga Pass and the Kloof, looking for the **Fairy Flycatcher, Dusky Sunbird, Pale winged Starling, Cinnamon-breasted Warbler, Pririt Batis, Accacia Pied Barbet, Black headed Canary** and **Mountain Wheatear.** We will be back early afternoon and will then do some night birding in search for **Rufous-cheeked & Freckled Nightjars** 20min after dark.

Overnight: Gannaga Lodge

Day 7 – Agulhas Plains

Today, we will leave immediately after breakfast. Heading out of the Park on the Middelpos side where we will be on the look out for **Karoo Korhaan.** We will then do a 4hr drive to the southernmost point of the African continent – Cape Agulhas. We will stop at Matjiesfontein for lunch, we will then do some quick stops between Montagu and Swellendam depending on time. (Great spot for **Giant Kingfishers** and **Rufous chested Cuckoo** at the Breede River. The plains will be scanned for **Black Harrier, Denham's Bustard, Cape Crow, Blue Cranes** and **Agulhas Long billed Lark.** On arrival at the Agulhas we will scan the rocks for **African Oystercatchers** and **Whimbrel's.** This stop at the lighthouse are very special, esp for those who want to wear the t-shirt, I've been at the southernmost point of the African continent and for taking some photographs. We will then head to De Hoop Nature Reserve where we will check in at our accommodation.

Overnight: De Hoop Collection

Day 8 – De Hoop Nature Reserve

Today, we will spend the day in De Hoop Nature Reserve where we will have excellent close-up sightings of **Bontebok, Common Eland and Cape Mountain Zebra**. We will visit the lookout point with great views over the Indian Ocean, scanning for the **Southern Right Whale** (in season). Bird species to look out for in the park includes, **Accacia Pied Barbet, Knysna Woodpecker, Southern Tchagra, Secretarybird, Black Cuckooshrike, Agulhas Long billed Lark, Lark-like Bunting** and subspecies of *Apiata*, the **Cape Clapper Lark** (*Marjoriae*) which calls sounds a bit different (2 notes on descending). We will be doing some night birding, searching for the Fiery-necked Nightjar, quite easy to find them in the park (20min after dark they will start calling). *[The park offers an additional guided tour [additional cost] to the **Cape Vulture** colony, unfortunately private guests need to make use of their guided tour, if they are interested to see them].*

Overnight: De Hoop Collection

Day 9 – Wilderness / Garden Route

Today, we will leave early and head farther east (roughly a 3hr drive) to Wilderness. Wilderness has a lot to offer with its amazing forests & wetland habitat. On our way to wilderness, we will be scanning the pylons for **Forest Buzzard** and visit some wetland areas for **African Snipe, Fish Eagles** and perhaps some **Red-necked Spurfowls** on the side of the road. On arrival at our accommodation, we will settle in and then do a late afternoon walk in the park and on one of the trails in the forest.

Overnight: Dolphin Dunes

Day 10 – Wilderness

Today, we will spend the day in the forest, just a 5min drive from our accommodation. Our target bird species for the day will include, **Knysna Warbler, Back-backed Puffback, Chorister Robin Chat, White starred Robin, Terrestrial Brownbul, Green-backed Camaroptera, African Emerald Cuckoo, Yellow throated Woodland Warbler, Blue mantled Crested Flycatcher, the elusive Narina Trogon, Scaly throated Honeyguide, Grey Cuckooshrike, Olive Sunbird, Greater Double collared Sunbird, Collared Sunbird, Knysna Turaco, African Wood Owl, Black bellied Starling, Green Wood Hoopoe**. The elusive **Red-chested Flufftail & African Rail** are also options. **Dolphins** often on display and can be seen from our accommodation.

Overnight: Dolphin Dunes