

2 DAY LGB WEST COAST TOUR

Day 1 – 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**.

Overnight: *Le Mahi Guest House*

Day 2 – West Coast

Today, we will early and drive a short distance farther up the coastline to a small fisherman's village, called Veldrif. We will then do a 2hrs golden light photographic sunrise river boat cruise on the Berg River, species to look out for on this trip include, (a 2nd chance on day 1's species at Geelbek hide, species mentioned above), also **African Darter, Brown throated Martin** (both morphs), **Black crowned Night Heron, Grey Heron, Western Osprey**. After the boat cruise, we will have some time to scan the wetlands and "Die Plaat" for

Lesser & Greater Flamigo's, Little Egret, Pied Kingfishers, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern, Great Crested Tern, Kelp Gull, Hartlaub's Gull, Black winged Stilt, Cape Teal, Glossy Ibis, Sacred Ibis, African Spoonbill, Reed and White breasted Cormorant, Purple Heron, Grey headed Gull, if we lucky, also Great Egret.

We will then head to the Salt Works for **Great White Pelican, Chestnut banded Plover, Banded Martin & European Bee-eaters** (in season), **Red necked Phalarope, Sanderlings, Caspian Tern, Common Sandpiper, Black necked Grebe, Little Grebe** and a few more. We will also visit one of my secret spots for **Barn Owl** and **Spotted Eagle Owls**. On route, we will see a lot of other bird species too, **Namaqua Dove, Capped Wheatear, African Stonechat**, even the resident pair of **Secretarybirds** is a possibility on a neighbouring family farm. If time allows, we will drive farther up the coast to look for some **Pale Chanting Goshawks, Cape Long billed Lark, Greater Honeyguide, Lanner Falcon**. After dark, we can head out to a family farm to look for some **Fiery necked Nightjars** at a promising spot on a friends farm.

Overnight: Le Mahi Guest House