

ST LUCIA - 8 DAY TOUR

DAY 1 – Umdoni Park [Driving Time 72km / 53min]

Flight from Cape Town to Durban

Short transfer from the airport to Pennington, based next door to Umdoni Park [basically an introduction to species in the area]

Possible species: ***Purple Crested Turaco, Red capped Robin, some Barbets, Sunbirds, Flycatchers and Weavers species***

Overnight: Botha House, Pennington

Day 2 – Umdoni Park, Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve & Ingeli Forest [Driving Time 274km / 3hrs 21min]

Starting at Umdoni Park with some more sorted species like: ***Crowned Eagle, Knysna Turaco, Narina Trogon, Green Malkoha, Brown Scrub Robin and Green Twinspot***

We will then head to the Underberg District, our 1st stop will be at Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve and then Ingeli Forest, if time allows.

Possible species: ***Knysna Woodpecker, Mountain Wagtail, Blue Swallow, Bush Blackcap, Orange Ground Thrush, White Starred Robin, Olive Bushshrike, Yellow throated Woodland Warbler, Barratt's Warbler, Cape Parrot (if we lucky), Grey Crowned Crane, Red chested Flufftail, African Yellow Warbler, Wailing Cisticola and Long tailed Widowbird***

Overnight: Cedar Gardens B&B, Himeville

Day 3 – Sani Pass & Lesotho

Birding “day trip” up the Sani Pass and into Lesotho

Possible species: ***Red necked Spurfowl, Brown backed Honeybird, Drakensberg Prinia, Gurney's Sugarbird, Ground Woodpecker, Buff streaked Chat, Fan tailed Grassbird (if we lucky), Short tailed Pipit, Drakensberg Rockjumper,***

Mountain Pipit, African Rock Pipit, Drakensberg Siskin, Southern Bald Ibis, Bearded Vulture, Long crested Eagle, Pale crowned Cisticola

Overnight: Ceder Gardens B&B, Himeville

Day 4 – 5: Eshowe [Driving Time 413km / 4hrs]

[day 4] This morning we will head to Eshowe. Today we will be doing some roadside birding, do a few stops and depending on arrival, we will be doing some birding in the area and surrounds.

[day 5] Today we will be visiting Dlinza Forest Aerial Boardwalk, Entumeni Forest, Ongoye Forest and the coastal town, Mtunzini.

Possible species: Main target, **Spotted Ground Thrush, Green Malkoha, Lemon dove, Tambourine Dove, Scaly throated Honeybird, Grey Cuckooshrike, Common square tailed Drongo, Chorister Robin Chat, Dark backed Weaver, Green Twinspot, the Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon (if we are lucky), Trumpeter Hornbill, White eared Barbet, Palm-nut Vulture, Woolly necked Stork, Black throated Wattled Eye, Rufous winged Cisticola, Purple banded Sunbird, Yellow throated Longclaw**

Overnight: Bishops Guest House, Eshowe

Day 6 – St Lucia [Driving Time 152km / 2hrs]

Today we will head to St Lucia and do some afternoon birding, depending on the time of arrival. At Isimangaliso Wetland Park we will have great views of **waders and waterbirds** species. Other species we will look for between the reeds this afternoon: **Southern brown Throated Weaver and Eastern Golden Weaver.**

Overnight: Umlilo Lodge, St Lucia

Day 7 – Isimangaliso Wetland Park (and some other hotspots with our guide: Junior Gabello)

Possible species for today: **Southern banded Snake Eagle, Livingstone Turaco, Narina Trogon, Woodward's Batis, Gorgeous Bushshrike, Brown scrub Robin,**

Eastern Nicator, Rudd's Apalis, Grey Waxbill, Black bellied Bustard, Senegal Lapwing, Collared Pratincole, Croaking Cisticola, Lemon breasted Canary and with some luck, the Rosy-throated Longclaw and Swamp Nightjar

Overnight: Umlilo Lodge, St Lucia

Day 8 – Durban to Cape Town [Driving Time 257km / 3hrs]

Today we will do some roadside birding on our way to Durban airport, have a nice ***lunch and brag about all our lifers*** before we catch our flight home to Cape Town.