



7 DAY NORTHERN CAPE TOUR – Itinerary

Day 1 – Cape Town to Springbok

Today, I will pick you up at your accommodation or home. We will travel on the N7, engaging in roadside birding and making stops between Clanwilliam and Springbok to explore intriguing farm stalls and learn about the small towns along our route. The journey to Springbok, approximately 6 hours, may take longer due to our roadside birding and stops. We aim to check in at the reserve by 4 pm. After settling into our beautiful self-catering cottages, we will embark on an afternoon/night drive through the Goegap Nature Reserve to spot Cape Eagle Owls and mammals. The reserve comprises rocky plains and hill ranges with low, woody shrubs and succulents.

Overnight: Goegap Nature Reserve [Self-catering]

Day 2 – Alexandra Bay [Day trip, but will discuss another option with the group]

Today, we will depart early, heading to Alexandra Bay on the Diamond Coast via Port Nolloth [Approximately a 2-hour, 15-minute drive] to search for the Barlow's Lark. En route, we may spot the Black-chested Snake Eagle. If time allows, we will do some late afternoon birding in Goegap Nature Reserve again.

Overnight: Goegap Nature Reserve [Self-catering]

Day 3 – Aggeneys, Pofadder & Onseepkans

Early departure to Aggeneys in search of the Red Lark, one of South Africa's true endemics. Afterward, we move on to Pofadder Hotel for check-in, with a gravel road exploration towards Onseepkans, observing bird species and desert-adapted mammals and reptiles. The hotel in Pofadder boasts a large blue swimming pool for relaxation after a day of birding in the semi-desert habitat.

Overnight: Pofadder Hotel [Breakfast & Dinner Included] – Klein Pella Guest House may be used depending on the group size.

Day 4 – Augrabies Falls National Park

Today, we drive approximately 2 hours to the spectacular Augrabies Falls National Park, making stops along the way. After settling in, we will do a bird walk in the campsite and near the waterfalls before an afternoon bird drive within the park. Despite arid conditions, the park supports diverse plant life, providing habitat for various bird species and wildlife.

Overnight: Augrabies Falls National Park [Breakfast & Dinner from the Restaurant Menu]

Day 5 – Brandvlei

A 3-hour, 30-minute drive to Brandvlei with birding stops, including the Orange River Bridge. Exploring birding hotspots around Brandvlei, including Afdeling pad 2984 and Jongensfontein pad. Oom Bennas Accommodation, aside from overnight stay, is renowned for some Lark & Pipit species. With luck, we may conclude the journey here regarding some target species before heading to Calvinia tomorrow for additional species.

Overnight: Oom Bennas [Self-catering]

Day 6 – Calvinia

Morning birding at Oom Bennas farm, exploring farm roads before a 1-hour, 30-minute drive to Calvinia. After settling in, we will have chill time, a proper dinner at Blou Nartjie, and a recap of our journey and bird species.

Overnight: Die Blou Nartjie [Breakfast & Dinner Included]

Day 7 – Heading to Cape Town

After breakfast, we will head back to Cape Town, visiting Akkerendam Nature Reserve for a mix of Western-Cape, Northern Cape, and Klein Karoo species. The drive through stunning landscapes, diverse habitats, succulent Karoo, and Renosterveld vegetation offers spectacular views. Departure no later than 11 am to begin our journey back to Cape Town.

List of possible specials for this trip (not mentioning all):

1. Barlow's Lark
2. Cape long-billed Lark
3. Spike-heeled Lark
4. Red Lark
5. Stark's Lark
6. Fawn-coloured Lark

7. Karoo long-billed Lark
8. Sabota Lark
9. Grey-backed Sparrow Lark
10. Black-eared Sparrow Lark
11. Karoo Lark
12. Black-headed Canary
13. Pygmy Falcon
14. Brubru
15. Golden-tailed Woodpecker
16. Red-eyed Bulbul
17. Black-chested Prinia
18. Orange-river White Eye
19. Rosy-faced Lovebird
20. Cinnamon-breasted Warbler
21. Rufous-eared Warbler
22. Sociable Weaver
23. Cape Eagle Owl
24. Tractrac Chat
25. Karoo Chat
26. Black-chested Snake Eagle

Cape Town, South Africa

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