

7-Day Zaagkuilsdrift Tour – Itinerary

Day 1 & 2 – Zaagkuilsdrift

We will convene at Cape Town International Airport (time to be confirmed) and embark on a 2-hour flight to Lanseria. Upon arrival, we will pick up our rental bus for the tour's duration. Our journey continues with a 2-hour and 20-minute drive to Zaagkuilsdrift, though this will likely take longer due to the excellent birdwatching opportunities along the ± 25km Zaagkuilsdrift gravel road. The Pienaarsrivier runs parallel to this road, and we will stop at the river bridge to observe various species. On a good day, one can spot over 120 species on this stretch alone, with more than 430 species recorded in the area during the season. Day 2 will start early with extensive birdwatching and game viewing in Zaagkuilsdrift. (Refer to the attached bird species list for details.)

About Zaagkuilsdrift: Located between Pretoria and Bela Bela, Zaagkuilsdrift Bird Sanctuary and Lodge is a renowned birdwatcher's haven, ideal for both avid birdwatchers and those seeking a unique bushveld retreat. Close to Kgomo Kgomo and the famed Crake Road, it lies in the heart of the Pienaarsrivier floodplain. The sanctuary hosts over 430 bird species and numerous game species such as giraffe, nyala, impala, kudu, and springbok. Accommodation includes luxurious, fully catered lodgings with bird hides and photography hides, as well as bush camp stands and private camping sites. Specialized breeding programs for endangered species like the Southern Ground Hornbill and African Wild Dog are also featured.

Overnight: 2 nights at Zaagkuilsdrift Bird Sanctuary [breakfast & dinners included]

Day 3 & 4 – Roadside Birding to Kgaswane Mountain Reserve

We will depart early, visiting birding hotspots en route to Kgaswane, including the Kgomo-Kgomo flood plains and Crake Road. Upon arrival in Rustenburg, we will check into our accommodation and proceed to Kgaswane Mountain Reserve for afternoon birdwatching, just a few minutes' drive away. Situated above Rustenburg on the northern slopes of the Magaliesberg, Kgaswane is a sanctuary of natural beauty, home to numerous mammal species and nearly 300 bird species recorded within its 5300-hectare Ramsar site. Day 4 will begin early with further birdwatching and game viewing in the reserve, concluding with a lunch at the picnic area. (Refer to the attached bird species list for details.)

Overnight: 2 nights at President Paul Kruger Guest Lodge [self-catering]

Day 5 & 6 – Pilanesberg National Park

We will drive approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes to our next destination, a resort offering comprehensive holiday experiences and exciting activities. Although our main birdwatching will occur in Pilanesberg National Park, the resort itself is home to rare game animals, including Red Gemsbok, Black Impala, Yellow Saddleback Blesbok, and the Royal Wildebeest. Today, we will enjoy the resort's amenities, possibly ending with a traditional "braai." Day 6 will be dedicated to exploring Pilanesberg National Park, aiming to spot additional bird species and, hopefully, the Big 5. Optional guided open vehicle game drives are available for late afternoon excursions. (Refer to the attached bird species list for details.)

Overnight: 2 nights at The Kingdom Resort [breakfast included]

Day 7 – Transfer to Lanseria, Flight back to Cape Town

We will start the day with a sit-down breakfast at the resort's restaurant, followed by a bird walk around the camp. After lunch and a discussion of our notable sightings and experiences, we will pack up and head back to Lanseria Airport for our flight back to Cape Town.