

# **CHEEPERS!** **AFRICA**

## **Kruger Pre-tour Extension**

### **Birding & Wildlife**

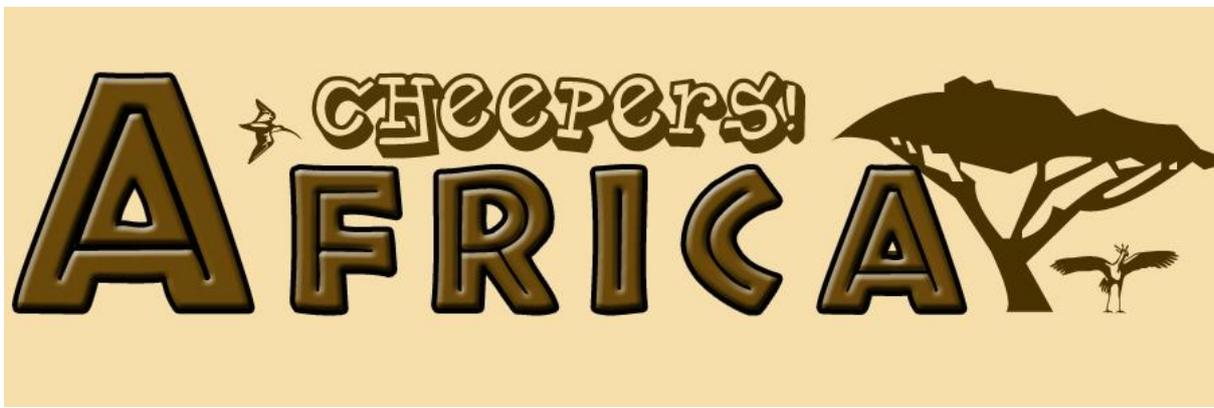
**November 28 –December 2, 2021**

5 days / 4 nights

**24,950 ZAR**

Single Supplement 2800 ZAR





## Overview

Where nearly 2 million hectares of unrivaled diversity of life forms fuses with historical and archaeological sights - this is real Africa. The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best on the continent. Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, this park has hosted millions of local as well as foreign visitors over the years and is a must when visiting South Africa. With well over 500 bird species and the richest diversity of mammals of any park in Africa, you will not leave disappointed.

## Detailed Itinerary

**Note: You will need to arrive in Johannesburg on November 27 to stage for day 1 of the tour. This means you will need to leave the US on November 26. If you prefer that we make reservations for you for the night of November 27, we will include that cost on your final invoice.**

### **Day 1, November 28**

We will depart Johannesburg early in the morning and head for the Kruger National Park with a stop at the Strijdom Tunnels to look for the very rare and localized **Taita Falcon**. This is definitely the most reliable spot in Africa to find this elusive falcon. **Cape Vulture** and **Verreaux's Eagle** are also regularly seen overhead. Our first Kruger camp, Satara, offers some good bushveld birds and we should come away with birds such as **Violet-eared Waxbill**, **Shaft-tailed Whydah** and **Mocking Cliff-Chat**. The Satara camp is also very good for **owls** and **nightjars** at night.

**O/N Satara Rest Camp (BLD)**

### **Day 2, November 29**

The rich bushveld of the Kruger National Park offers very rewarding birding, and we will use every opportunity today to explore as much of the area as possible. The possibility of the 'Big 5' (Lion, Leopard, African Buffalo, African Elephant and Rhinoceros) ever present, of course we'll also encounter a whole host of other exciting



*Violet-eared Waxbills*

mammals, which may include the likes of Cheetah, African Wild Dog, Hippopotamus, Giraffe,

# A CHEEPERS! AFRICA

Warthog, Greater Kudu and many more. Of special interest here are some of the larger terrestrial birds as well as birds of prey that are difficult or nearly impossible to find reliably outside protected areas such as Kruger. These include **Kori Bustard, Southern Ground Hornbill, Martial Eagle, Bateleur, Lappet-faced Vulture, Secretarybird** and **Saddle-billed Stork**. Other typical

bushveld birds that we will encounter are **Southern Yellow-billed** and **Southern Red-billed Hornbills, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Red-billed and Yellow-billed Oxpeckers, Brown-headed Parrot, Purple-crested Turaco, Crested** and **Swainson's Francolin, White-crowned Lapwing, Grey-headed Bushshrike, Lilac-breasted Roller** and **African Mourning Dove**, among others. At our camp for the night there is the possibility of an optional night drive (extra fee) and we highly



*Southern Ground Hornbill*

recommend taking at least one of these during the trip. Several nocturnal mammals such as Serval, African Civet, Aardvark, Small and Large Spotted Genets and African Wild Cat are possible as well as some nocturnal or crepuscular birds such as **Spotted** and **Verreaux's Eagle Owl, Square-tailed Nightjar** and **Bronze-winged Courser**.

**O/N Satara Rest Camp (BLD)**

### **Day 3, November 30**

From Satara we head to the oldest camp in the Kruger Park, Skukuza, which is also the largest camp in the park, idyllically set on the bank of the Sabie River. Birding in and around the camp is exceptionally good with **African Green Pigeon, Terrestrial Brownbul** and **Kurrichane Trush** in attendance. **Bat Hawk** is frequently recorded here, and we might be lucky enough to see one of these spectacular crepuscular hawks from the deck overlooking the river at dusk. The area between Skukuza, Lower Sabie and Pretoriuskop Camps is renowned for fantastic big cat sightings, and we hope that it will live up to its reputation.

**O/N Skukuza Rest Camp (BLD)**

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## **Day 4, December 1**

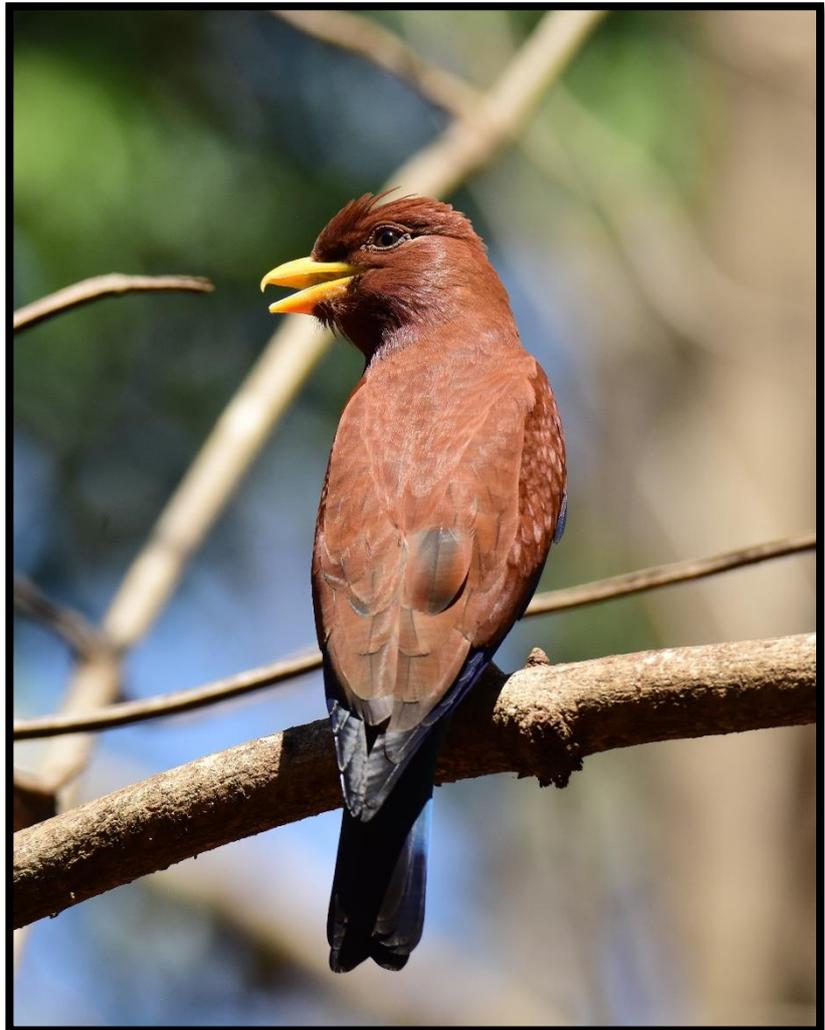
A game drive before breakfast should prove productive with good numbers of Elephant concentrated around this area. Several bird species in this part of Kruger are difficult to locate in other parts of the park with rarities such as **Black Sparrowhawk** and **Red-backed Mannikin** regularly seen here. After breakfast, as we head further into the park, we'll notice a change in vegetation, becoming progressively drier as we head east. Lion and African Wild Dog frequent the area between Lower Sabie and Skukuza, and we will hopefully bump into a Leopard as well. Bee-eaters and Rollers are well represented in the park and we hope to see **Southern Carmine, White-fronted, Little and European Bee-eaters** as well as **Lilac-breasted, Purple, Broad-billed** and **European Rollers**. Hornbills are conspicuous and we should easily find **Southern Red-billed** and **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**. **Ground Hornbills** are not as common here as further north in the park, but we do occasionally find them. We'll watch the sun set at the appropriately named Sunset Dam just outside Lower Sabie camp, where we will spend our last night.

**O/N Lower Sabie Rest Camp (BLD)**

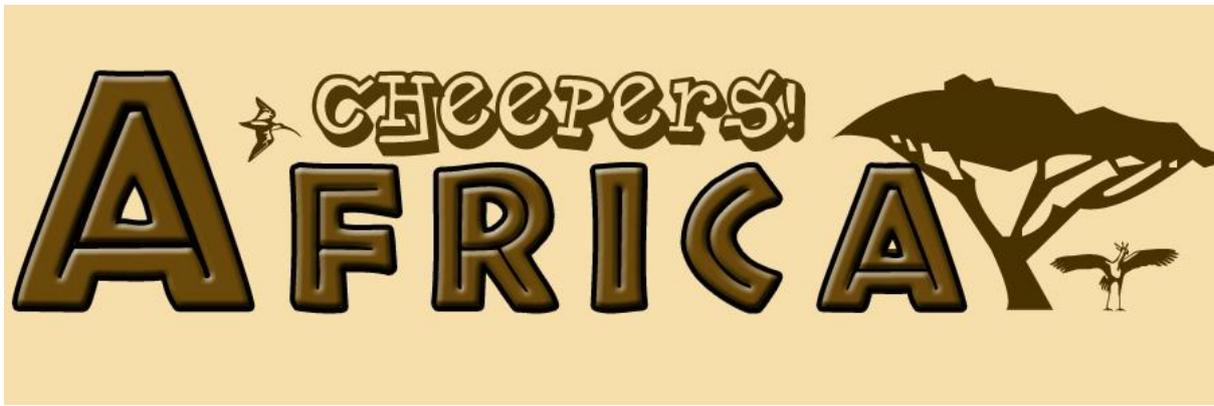
## **Day 5, December 2**

We'll enjoy some early morning birding in the park before heading out and onward to the Mozambique border for the start of our Mozambique tour.

**(B)**



*Broad-billed Roller*



**Included in the price:**

- ~ All accommodation
- ~ All meals as indicated in the itinerary
- ~ Bottled water throughout the tour
- ~ Ground transportation in private vehicle
- ~ All entry fees
- ~ Full time services of an expert birding/wildlife guide and driver
- ~ Pre-tour gift package, including customized checklist
- ~ Post-tour electronic checklist and photos from the tour

**Price does NOT include:**

- ~ Lodging in Johannesburg for the night before the tour begins (November 27)
- ~ Items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, souvenirs, etc.
- ~ Alcoholic beverages
- ~ Night drives in the national park
- ~ International flights
- ~ Tips for guides and drivers

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

Deposit of \$250 with registration (registration form can be downloaded from a link on the *Cheepers! Birding on a Budget* website). Balance is due 4 months prior to departure date.

Checks should be made payable to *Cheepers! Birding on a Budget* and mailed with the registration form to:

**Cheepers! Birding on a Budget**  
**Post Office Box 385**  
**Spring Valley, OH 45370**

**Cancellation policy:**

**Cancellation should be made in writing (email or snail mail)**

More than 6 months prior to departure – full refund of deposit

Between 4 and 6 months prior to departure – 50% refund of deposit

Less than 4 months prior to departure – No refund of deposit

**If cancellation occurs after full payment is made, a refund will be given only if the vacant spot is filled.**