



## Northern Kruger

### Pre-tour Extension

### Birding & Wildlife

5 days / 4 nights

November 24 – 28, 2021

**24,950 ZAR**

Single supplement 2800 ZAR



Where nearly 2 million hectares of unrivaled diversity of life forms fuses with historical and archaeological sites - this is the 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

**Day 0:** (23 Nov. 2021) You should plan to arrive in Johannesburg today. Overnight at a hotel in Johannesburg. We will arrange the reservations for this extra night and add it to your invoice if you would like.

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

## Day 1, November 24

You will arrive at Kruger Mpumalanga Airport on a mid-day flight and we will waste no time in heading north towards the town of Phalaborwa (3 hrs.), from where we will enter Kruger National Park and head to our first camp, Letaba Rest Camp. The camp is especially good for owls - **Barred Owlet**, **Pearl-spotted Owlet** as well as **African Scops Owl** are resident in the camp. The road in is good for African Wild Dog and we hope to run into these seldom-seen predators along here.

**O/N Letaba (LD)**

## Day 2, November 25

We will take an early morning walk around the camp for species such as **Red-capped Robin Chat** and **Green-capped Eremomela**. **Red-headed Weaver** is another of the camp's specials. After breakfast we head for Punda Maria Camp, which we will only reach later in the afternoon. On the way we will have some excellent birding and game viewing opportunities. We will keep a watchful eye for Lion and Leopard, and we stand a good chance of seeing of all the members of the Big 5 with Rhino being a bit harder to find here than in the south of the park.

**O/N Punda Maria (BLD)**

## Day 3, November 26

Punda Maria is situated in the far northern parts of the Kruger Park, and today we head even further north to the Pafuri Region, argued by some to produce the best birding in all of Kruger. There is a host of specials that occur here that we will not find again elsewhere in the park. **Bohm's** and **Mottled Spinetails** are some of our main targets; other possibilities include **African Finfoot**, **African Crowned Eagle**, **Gorgeous (aka Four-colored) Bushshrike**, **Racket-tailed Roller** and **Arnot's Chat**. We return to Punda Maria later in the afternoon, from where we will go on one



*Pearl-spotted Owlet*

out



# **A** *CHEEPERS!* **FRICAY**

of the organized night drives (optional) in the hope of seeing **Pennant-winged Nightjar** as well as some of the more elusive nocturnal mammals.

**O/N Punda Maria (BLD)**

## **Day 4, November 27**

We will enjoy some early morning birding in the camp, where possibilities include **Bearded Scrub-Robin**, **Yellow-bellied Greenbul** and many others. After breakfast, we will do the Mahonie Loop around Punda Maria; this loop is particularly productive in terms of birding. Our next destination, Shingwedzi, is where we will have lunch; it is not far, so we have lots of time for birding and looking

for the Big 5. Both species of **Oxpecker** occur here and should be found with relative ease. Shingwedzi Camp is good for **African Mourning Dove**, **Collared Palm-Trush** and **Cut-throat Finch**. The Kanniedood Dam near camp is well worth a visit and should produce a host of **Stork** species including **Open-billed**, **Yellow-billed**, **Saddle-billed** and **Wooly-necked**.

**O/N Mopani Camp**



*Secretarybird*

## **Day 5, November 28**

We will have most of the morning in the park. We will visit the Nshawu area to the east of Mopani Camp, which often hosts Cheetah and is probably the best area in the park for the rare Roan Antelope. Birding here can also be surprisingly good, especially for the likes of **Secretarybird** and **Kori Bustard**. From here, we will head south toward an exit gate before setting our sights on Swaziland for the start of our next adventure.



**Price includes:**

- ~ All accommodation
- ~ All meals
- ~ Bottled water
- ~ Ground transportation in a private vehicle
- ~ Entry fees
- ~ Full time services of a personal guide and driver
- ~ Services of two tour leaders, Jim and Cindy Beckman
- ~ Customized checklist
- ~ Electronic copy of final checklist at the end of the tour
- ~ Flash drive with photos from the tour

**Price excludes:**

- ~ Flight from Johannesburg to Kruger Mpumalanga Airport
- ~ Items of a personal nature such as gifts, souvenirs, alcoholic beverages
- ~ Optional night drive
- ~ Tips for the guide/driver