



2-DAY AGULHAS PLAINS BIRDING TOUR



Denham's Bustard is regularly encountered in the farmlands of the Agulhas Plains.

This trip forms part of the 12-day Western Cape Birding Tour. This is a trip in which a disproportionate number of large and spectacular birds are encountered. We bird the stronghold of the world's population of **Blue Crane** (South Africa's national bird) and should see many hundred individuals of this species (sometimes with youngsters in early summer).

The Agulhas Plains are one of the few areas where **Denham's Bustard** and **Secretarybird** are still common. Hundreds of **White Storks** visit in summer. The stunning, endangered, endemic **Black Harrier** quarters low over the plains. **Jackal Buzzard** is common, along with many other raptors that sometimes include **Lanner Falcon** and **Amur Falcon**. The rolling hills and flat plains are also home to two extremely localized lark species, **Cape Clapper Lark** (with its bizarre breeding display) and **Agulhas Long-billed Lark**. Other slightly more widespread larks such as, for example, **Large-billed Lark** also abound. We will bird the De Hoop Nature Reserve for **Cape Vulture**, the uncommon **Knysna Woodpecker**, **Southern Tchagra**, a host of waterbirds (including **Maccoa Duck** and other difficult species) and shorebirds, **Grey-winged Francolin**, **Cape Spurfowl**, **African Hoopoe**, and a host of others.



*We'll look out for the endemic **Knysna Woodpecker** at De Hoop Nature Reserve.*

Big mammals such as **Bontebok**, **Springbok**, the neat **Cape Mountain Zebra**, and close inshore **Southern Right Whale** (seasonal) also occur. Overnight accommodation can be at Buchu Bushcamp or Potteberg Guest House. Potteberg is slightly more budget, but hosts resident **Barn Owl** and **Spotted Eagle-Owl** and **Secretarybird**. The more luxurious Buchu Bushcamp has become one of the best-known sites for **Hottentot Buttonquail** and **Striped Flufftail**, but both species need lots of luck.

Time permitting we can also visit De Mond Nature Reserve for the endangered endemic **Damara Tern**, a tiny and beautiful species. At this pleasant site we should also find several other species not yet encountered.

We can add a third day to this trip, which will allow us to spend a night at Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve at the base of the Langeberg Mountains, which form the inland backdrop to the

Agulhas Plains. Here we can find good numbers of forest and forest-edge endemics and other desirable species. The exciting list includes **Forest Canary**, **Swee Waxbill**, **Cape Siskin**, **Victorin's Warbler**, **Olive Woodpecker** (also **Knysna Woodpecker**, but we may have already found this on the Agulhas Plains), **Buff-spotted Flufftail**, **Narina Trogon**, up to three different honeyguide species, **Olive Bushshrike**, **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, the endemic **Knysna Warbler**, and many others. We would spend the night at the beautiful Honeywood Farm cottages.



Forest Canary is common in Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve.

The guide for day trips is allocated only after you have booked, as all of them are run as private trips. But we always use the country's top birding guides.

Duration: 2 days

Start: Cape Town

End: Cape Town

Price: On request

Single supplement: On request

Price includes:

Meals
Accommodation
Entrance fees
Guiding fees
Vehicle hire and fuel

Price excludes:

All flights
Personal insurance
Alcoholic beverages
Gratuities
Laundry service
Personal expenses such as gifts