



1-DAY CAPE PENINSULA BIRDING TOUR



*The exquisitely colored **Orange-breasted Sunbird** is actually quite common in fynbos throughout the Cape.*

Cape Town, one of the world's most beautiful cities, is located near Table Bay on the northern extremity of the stunning Cape Peninsula. This morning we will fetch you from your Cape Town hotel and spend the day taking you to some of the peninsula's top birding sites. We will try to find a lot of the localized endemics (of which there are many), and we will also see flamingo, pelican, and other waterbird spectacles, plus we will enjoy fantastic botanical garden birding in idyllic surroundings.

We start the day at the famous Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. Here it is quite easy to find some important fynbos endemics such as **Orange-breasted Sunbird** and **Cape Sugarbird**. Other fine birds like **Cape Spurfowl**, **Lemon Dove**, **Southern Boubou**, **Spotted Eagle-Owl**, **Cape and Forest Canaries** **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Karoo Prinia**, **Sweet Waxbill**, and a whole host of other excellent birds abound. **European Honey Buzzard**, a very rare bird in South Africa, is actually regular on the slopes of Table Mountain in late summer. Many other raptors are possible in the garden and at other sites we will visit during our peninsula day trip, including **Verreaux's Eagle**, **Black and Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawks**, **African Goshawk**, **Jackal Buzzard**, **Forest Buzzards** (endemic), **Rock Kestrel**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and others.



Forest Canary is fairly common on the Cape Peninsula.

The Constantia greenbelts near Kirstenbosch can often prove more productive for a number of forest species, such as **Rufous-breasted** and **Black Sparrowhawks**, **African Olive Pigeon**, **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Amethyst Sunbird**, **Cape Siskin**, and the introduced **Common Chaffinch**. **African Wood Owl** is possible; however, it would require a really early start or a late finish. An additional day greatly increases the chances of finding difficult raptor species such as sparrowhawks/goshawks and **Forest Buzzard**.

After an early lunch we will visit a wetland, either Rondevlei Nature Reserve or Strandfontein Bird Sanctuary. Here we should find wildfowl such as **Cape Teal**, **Cape Shoveler**, **Maccoa Duck**, **South African Shelduck**, and many others. There is a multitude of waterbird species to keep us entertained, including **Greater Flamingo**, **African Spoonbill**, **Great White Pelican**, **African Oystercatcher**, **African Swamphen**, **Water and Spotted Thick-knees**, various shorebirds, **African Marsh Harrier**, a host of heron species, **Little Rush**, **African Reed**, and **Lesser Swamp Warblers**, and many more. Less-commonly seen species include **Little Bittern** (summer), **Malachite Kingfisher**, **African Snipe**, and **Hottentot Teal**. In the surrounding fynbos we may find **Cape Grassbird**, **Grey-backed Cisticola**, **Yellow Bishop Fiscal Flycatcher**, and **Bokmakierie**, as well as **Red-faced** and **White-backed Mousebirds**.

We will visit a colony of **African Penguins** (one of only three mainland colonies of this southern African endemic), and nearby we should be able to find all four of South Africa's marine **Cormorants** (**Bank**, **Cape**, **Crowned**, and **White-breasted**) and good numbers of the beautiful **African Oystercatcher**.



The striking African Oystercatcher

Although not typically included on a birding day tour, for those who are interested we may then carry on farther down the peninsula to the spectacular southwestern-most tip of the African continent, Cape Point. From this “end of the world” spot we should see **Cape Gannet**, a large breeding colony of **Cape Cormorant**, **African Oystercatcher**, and quite a number of interesting terrestrial birds – **Cape Grassbird**, **Cape Siskin**, **Bokmakierie**, and **Cape Bulbul** are exciting possibilities. When conditions are right a sea watch can produce decent numbers of seabirds, including **Cory's**, **Great**, and **Sooty Shearwaters**, **Shy** and **Black-browed Albatrosses**, **White-chinned Petrel**, and jaegers.

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: 1 day

Start: Cape Town

End: Cape Town

Price: R4,500 for one person, then R500 per extra person

Price includes:

Guiding fees

Vehicle hire and fuel

Entrance fees to most destinations

Price excludes:

Meals

Entrance to Cape Point Nature Reserve