



## 1-DAY DURBAN BIRDING TOUR



*Purple-crested Turaco is common in the coastal forests around Durban.*

Durban is situated on the east coast of South Africa and its subtropical climate makes it a popular destination for tourists. It also offers some fantastic birding destinations within an hour or two's drive from the city center which can be done on a 1-day birding tour.

Below are some of the birding options for a 1-day Durban birding tour;

Close to the city center is the small reserve of Pigeon Valley Nature Reserve where a couple hours birding in the lush forest can produce **Green Twinspot, White-eared Barbet, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Purple-crested Turaco, Red-capped Robin-Chat, Dark-backed Weaver** and **Olive Woodpecker**. The reserve is a great place to try for the elusive **Buff-spotted Flufftail**, while in winter **Spotted Ground Thrush** is possible too.

Sitting at a slightly higher altitude, Shongweni Resources Reserve offers a different mix of species to the previous destination. Shongweni Dam is surrounded by thick forest and bushveld where some of the following may be observed; **Crowned and Trumpeter Hornbills, Southern and Black-crowned Tchagra, Red-throated Wryneck, Black Cuckooshrike, Narina Trogon, Grey and Sweet Waxbills** as well as four species of **bushshrikes (Olive, Orange-breasted, Grey-headed and Gorgeous)**. Along the edge of the dam we will keep a look out for **Giant Kingfisher, Mountain Wagtail, African Black Duck** and **Black Stork**.



*African Black Duck can be seen at Shongweni Dam.*

Another option slightly further afield is to visit the wetlands north of Durban near Stanger. The wetlands abound with waterbirds such as **Blue-billed Teal, Hamerkop, Goliath Heron,**

**African Purple Swamphen, African Rail and African Marsh Harrier.** In the surrounding reedbeds we may come across **Southern Brown-throated** and **Eastern Golden Weavers, Rufous-winged Cisticola** and **Sedge Warbler**. During summer the place comes alive with migrants including **Bailon's Crake** and **Spotted Crakes, Western Yellow Wagtail**, and **Lesser Moorhen**. In the surrounding scrub and grasslands **Fan-tailed Widowbird, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Kurrichane Thrush, Red-capped Robin-Chat** and **Woolly-necked Stork** may all be seen.



*Black-throated Wattle-eye can be seen in the coastal forest near Stanger.*

A number of other birding options close to Durban are also possible and the route for the day can be decided based on what species you are after.

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:** Durban

**End:** Durban

**Price:** R7,000 for one person, then R500 per extra person sharing