



## 1-DAY JOHANNESBURG – HIGHVELD AND WETLANDS BIRDING TOUR



*Orange River Francolin* may be seen in the grasslands around Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve.

Our birding guide will fetch you after breakfast from your hotel anywhere in the Johannesburg/Pretoria area, and take you first to Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve in the morning, then to Marievale wetlands in the afternoon.

Suikerbosrand is a remarkably wild area surprisingly close to Johannesburg. It is wonderful being able to get right away from the city so easily, soon seeing various antelope species, zebra, and a plethora of excellent grassland and bushveld birds here in this hilly reserve. We often bird the grasslands near to the reserve before entering the reserve itself and here **Orange River Francolin, Melodious and Eastern Clapper Larks and Wing-snapping, Desert and Cloud Cisticolas** are all possible. The avian pickings in Suikerbosrand include a fine suite of southern African endemics, some generally uncommon birds, and many very showy birds, such as **Red-throated Wryneck, Grey-winged Francolin, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Bokmakierie, Mocking Cliff Chat, Sentinel Rock Thrush** (winter only), **Eastern Long-billed Lark, Black-chested Prinia, Mountain Wheatear, African Red-eyed Bulbul**, a fine collection of spectacular widowbirds, bishops, and whydahs, **Marsh Owl** and even **African Grass Owl and Orange-breasted Waxbill**, and a great many other species.



*The massive **Goliath Heron** can be seen at Marievale Bird Sanctuary.*

After lunch, we head to Marievale, which is an extensive and very bird-rich wetland only half an hour's drive from Suikerbosrand. Marievale provides an awesome opportunity to see a completely different suite of birds compared to those you will have encountered in the morning. A rich assemblage of waterbirds awaits us, such as **Goliath, Squacco, and Black Heron, Malachite and Pied Kingfisher, Cape Shoveler, African Rail**, and with luck some skulkers such as **Baillon's Crake and Red-chested Flufftail**. There is also a chance of finding **African Clawless Otter** here.

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:** Johannesburg/Pretoria

**End:** Johannesburg/Pretoria

**Price:** R6,000 for one person, then R500 per extra person sharing

**Single supplement:** n/a

**Price includes:**

Guiding fees

Vehicle hire and fuel

Entrance fees to most destinations

A light lunch (a sit-down restaurant meal would be for your account)

**Price excludes:**

Breakfast and dinner

Incidentals and gifts

Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))

All flights

Personal insurance

Drinks

Accommodation