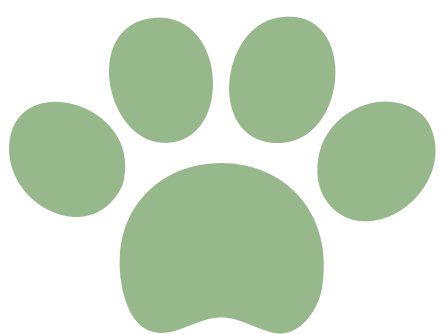


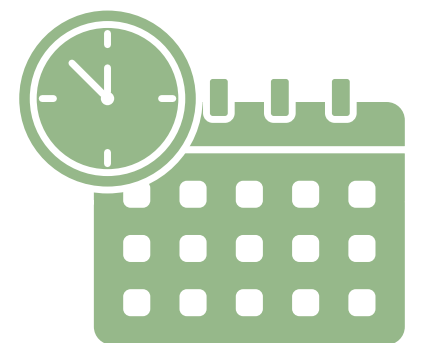
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Kruger National Park



Photos by Jamie Paterson

Central Kruger: Set in the heart of South Africa's largest and most famous game reserve, Central Kruger is home to large numbers of lions, hyenas, cheetah, leopards, buffalo, wildebeest, elephants, zebra, and birds of prey. The Olifants ('Elephants') River flows through the region, a popular bathing and drinking site for hippos, elephants, and other mammals. Visitors can explore the area by way of guided game drives, bush walks, bird walks, and night drives. The area is also conveniently close to the Masorini archaeological site, an excavated ruin that dates back to the late Iron Age, known to be a trading post for iron products by the Ba-Phalaborwa people. Other popular attractions, easily accessible from this region, include the spectacular Mac Mac Falls and the quaint historic town of Pilgrim's Rest.

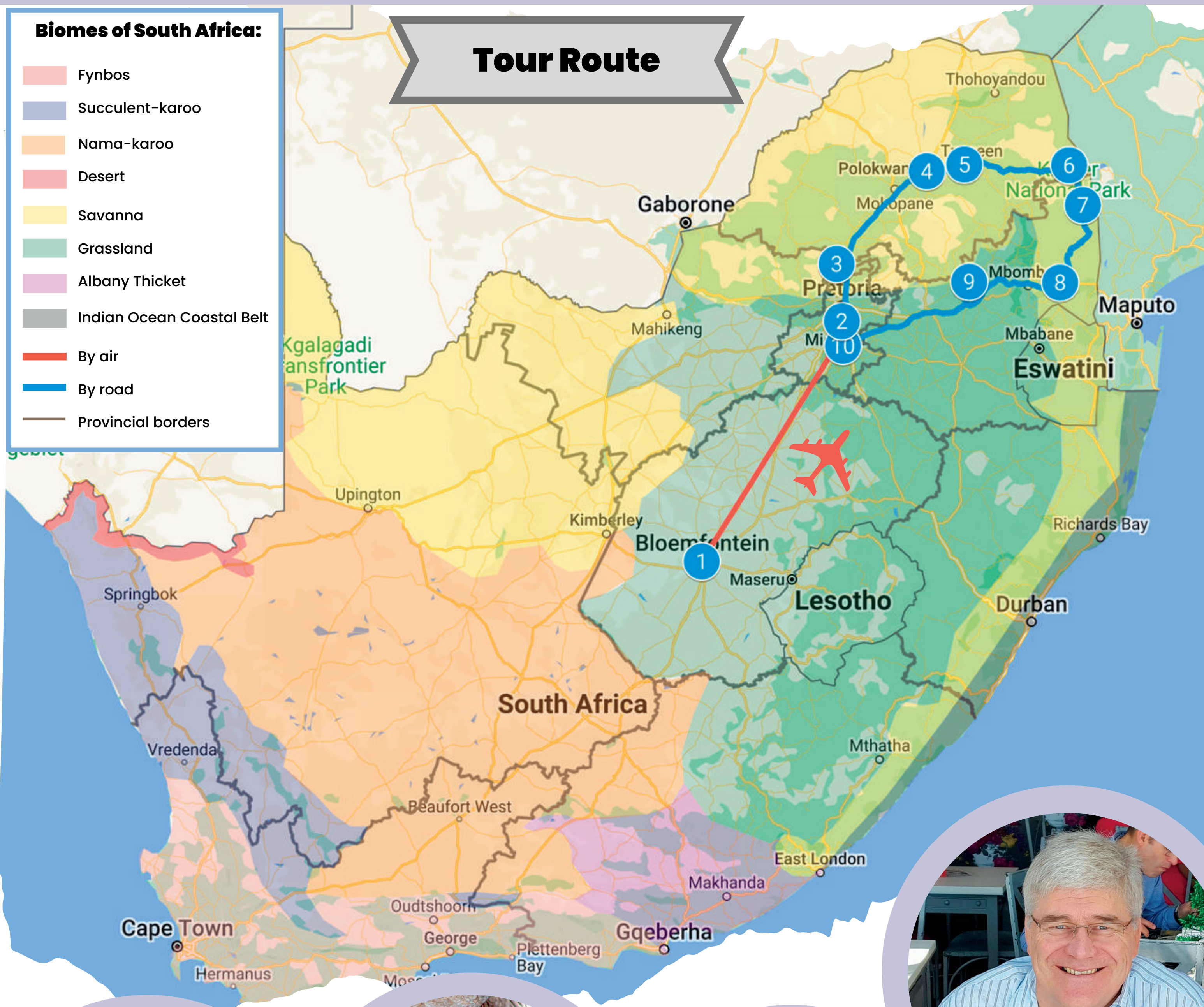
Southern Kruger: The southern area of South Africa's most famous game reserve, the Kruger National Park, is separated from lush farmland by the Crocodile River, a popular area to spot crocodiles, playful hippos and thirsty wildlife. The Southern Kruger offers incredible game-viewing opportunities and magnificent landscapes covered in African bushveld and savannah. The game viewing area is known as the 'Southern Circle' and is renowned for its rhinos and lions, with different prides boasting an array of different hunting techniques and behaviours to observe. Near the Hippo Pool, visitors can also view ancient San rock paintings.



Biomes of South Africa:

- Fynbos
- Succulent-karoo
- Nama-karoo
- Desert
- Savanna
- Grassland
- Albany Thicket
- Indian Ocean Coastal Belt
- By air
- By road
- Provincial borders

Tour Route



**Expert
guide: Rick
Nuttall**



African Cuisine



**Meaningful
experiences**



Birding Hotspot

Day to Day

Day 1

After our arrival at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, we depart on a 1.5 hour drive north to the well-known Zaagkuilsdrift Road, one of South Africa's premier dry thornveld / 'bushveld' birding areas. Characterised by thorny woodlands and thickets, and after good summer rainfall by a vast, seasonal floodplain along the Pienaar's River, this area hosts a number of the dry western bird species. These ranges reach their easternmost limits here. Examples of such species found here include the Northern Black Korhaan, Acacia Pied Barbet, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Black-chested Prinia, Burchell's Starling, Black-faced- and Violet-eared Waxbills, Red-headed Finch and Scaly-feathered Weaver. More widespread species to look out for include Abdim's Stork, Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Gabar Goshawk, Purple Roller, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and Ashy Tit.



Day 2

We depart Zaagkuilsdrift early for the 200km journey north to the Polokwane Nature Reserve. This area provides excellent bushveld-, thornveld- and grassveld birding and is the most reliable site for the isolated eastern-most population of the near endemic Short-clawed Lark. We will spend time here searching not only for this lark in its preferred habitat of scattered shrubs in short grassland, but also for some localized specials such as Northern Black Korhaan, Shelley's Francolin, Double-banded Courser, Burchell's Sandgrouse, Bushveld Pipit, Great Sparrow, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Barred Wren-Warbler and Tinkling Cisticola. This area is also good for raptors, with African Hawk-Eagle, Black-chested Snake-Eagle, Secretarybird, Wahlberg's Eagle, Greater Kestrel and Gabar Goshawk frequently encountered.

Day 3

We will then head east to the amazing indigenous, afro-montane forests at Magoebaskloof, where the following special birds await: Bat Hawk, Forest Buzzard, Cape Parrot, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Grey Cuckooshrike, Orange Ground-Thrush, Brown Scrub-Robin, Barratt's Warbler, Blue-mantled Crested-Flycatcher, the rather shy Black-fronted Bushshrike, diminutive Swee Waxbill, Green Twinspot and Forest Canary. The best way to experience these forest birds, both in the early mornings and later afternoons, is to locate mixed feeding flocks. We will explore the pristine afro-montane and semi-deciduous mixed forests around Magoebaskloof, where we will also look out for African Crowned Eagle, African Cuckoo Hawk and African Goshawk. The beautiful Debengeni Waterfalls in the area are also worth a visit.



Day 4

The world-renowned Kruger National Park boasts more than 500 bird species, some of which are rarely found elsewhere in South Africa. The Park's numerous rivers, dams and other water points provide excellent birding, while the rest camps and picnic sites are exceptionally rewarding for birds. The diverse birdlife of the Kruger's bushveld includes species such as Natal- and Swainson's Spurfowls, Crested Francolin – whose dusk and dawn calling epitomises the Park. During our brief stay in the Kruger National Park we will also explore the well-maintained system of roads to find big game, including the "Big 5" – Lion, African Elephant, Leopard, African Buffalo and Rhino. The Kruger presents arguably the best opportunity to experience these amazing animals in their natural habitat - more often than not, at close range.

Day 5

Today we head south to Satara Main Camp, located in more open country with scattered trees. Satara has numerous resident birds, including the Southern Yellow-billed- and Southern Red-billed Hornbills, African Mourning Dove, Burchell's Starling and Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, the latter active around their large, untidy stick nest masses. The Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Western Barn Owl, African Scops Owl and Pearl-spotted Owlet may be seen and heard in camp at night, as can the Square-tailed Nightjar. Any stretches of water along rivers in the area, where rocks, mud-banks and reeds are exposed, can be very active from a birding point of view, with passerines coming to drink where Hamerkop, Great- and Little Egrets and Green-backed Heron, wait patiently and stalk their prey in the shallows.



Day 6

This morning we head south again, travelling to Berg-en-Dal Camp via Kruger's main Rest Camp. Although Skukuza is large and busy, it is always worth a stop to savour its excellent birdlife. Scanning the Sabie River in front of the restaurant often produces views of African Finfoot and Half-collared Kingfisher. We should arrive at Berg-en-Dal Camp during the early afternoon. This Camp is in the southern section of the Park, an area that is well-vegetated and also quite hilly. After settling in at our accommodation there will be an opportunity to walk around the camp. This is another excellent birding venue with resident Grey Tit-flycatcher, White-browed- and White-throated Robin-chats, while Scarlet-chested Sunbirds are prominent. If it holds water, the Matjulu Dam, adjacent to the Camp, attracts a host of different water birds while African Fish Eagle is usually also present.

Day 7

After breakfast and a final walk around Berg-en-Dal Camp, we bid farewell to the amazing Kruger National Park. We will then embark on our 4-hour journey to Dullstroom, situated in an area of mountains with rocky outcrops, rolling grassy hills, wetlands and moist grasslands. We are in for some special birding here, with possible species sightings that include the Southern Bald Ibis, Wattled- and Blue Cranes, Denham's Bustard, Grey-winged Francolin, Black-winged Lapwing, Red-chested Flufftail, Long-crested Eagle, Jackal Buzzard, Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, Cape Eagle-Owl, Ground Woodpecker, Eastern Long-billed Lark, Sentinel Rock-Thrush, Buff-streaked Chat, Pale-crowned- and Wing-snapping Cisticolas, Drakensberg Prinia, Gurney's Sugarbird, Malachite Sunbird and Yellow-breasted Pipit.



Day 8

After breakfast and some optional early morning birding on our final day, we depart Dullstroom for Johannesburg. We should have time for one or two short stops en route to look at typical highveld grassland and farmland birds such as the Black-winged Kite, Black-headed Heron, endemic Cape Longclaw, Yellow-crowned Bishop and Long-tailed Widowbird. Any marshy, wetland areas should provide an opportunity to see the Intermediate Egret, Purple Swamphen, Red-knobbed Coot, Blue-billed Teal, the endemic Cape Shoveller, African Sacred Ibis and other waterbirds, as well as Southern Red Bishop and the tiny Orange-breasted Waxbill. We will continue to OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, where the tour ends, we bid farewell to one another and catch our international flights.



Leopard



Southern Red Bishop



**Blue-cheeked
Bee-eater**



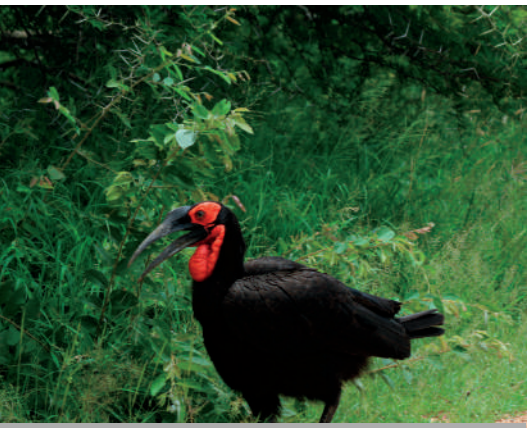
**White-crowned
Lapwing**



**African Purple
Swamphen**



Greater Kestrel



**Southern Ground
Hornbill**



**Lilac-breasted
Roller**



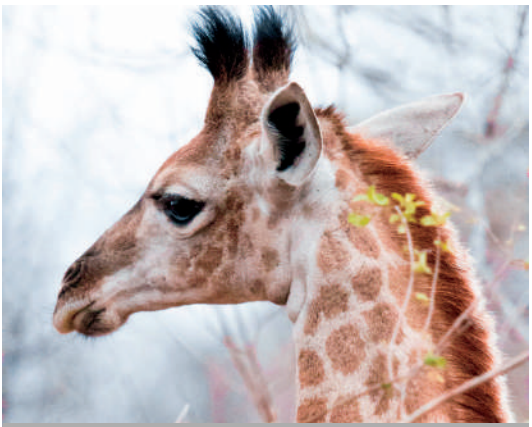
Cape Buffalo



Black-winged Kite



Cheetah



Giraffe



**Green-winged
Pytilia**



Cape Longclaw



African Lion

Included

- 1-night stay at Zaagkuil drift Bird Sanctuary and Lodge (Self-catering)
- 1-night stay at Victoria Place (B&B)
- 2-night stay at Letaba Main Camp (Self-catering)
- 1-night stay at Satara Main Camp (Self-catering)
- 1-night stay at Berg-en-Dal Main Camp (Self-catering)
- 1-night stay at Cinzaco Dullstroom (Self-catering)
- 1 x Local flight: Bloemfontein to Johannesburg
- Ground transfers

Excluded

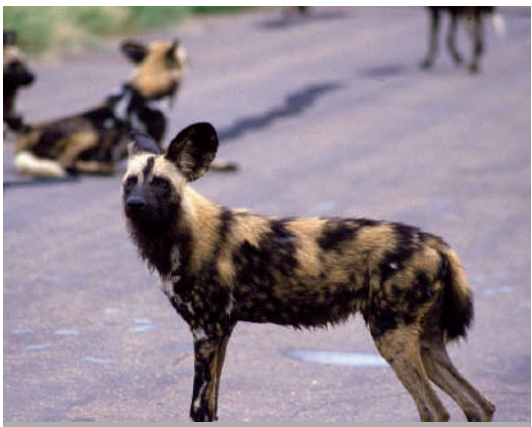
- All meals at Zaagkuil drift Bird Sanctuary and Lodge
- Dinner and lunch at Victoria Place
- All meals at Letaba Main Camp
- All meals at Satara Main Camp
- All meals at Berg-en-Dal Main Camp
- All meals at Cinzaco Dullstroom
- Items of a personal nature
- International flights



Spotted Hyena



Yellow-billed Stork



African Wild Dog



African Elephant



Levaillant's Cuckoo

WHY SOUTH AFRICA?



South Africa, on the continent's southern tip, is the 25th-largest country in the world – slightly less than twice the size of Texas. It boasts a lengthy coastline, stretching more than 1,500 miles along two oceans, the South Atlantic on the west and the Indian on the south and east. South Africa is neighboured by Namibia in the northwest, Zimbabwe and Botswana in the north, with Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho in the northeast.

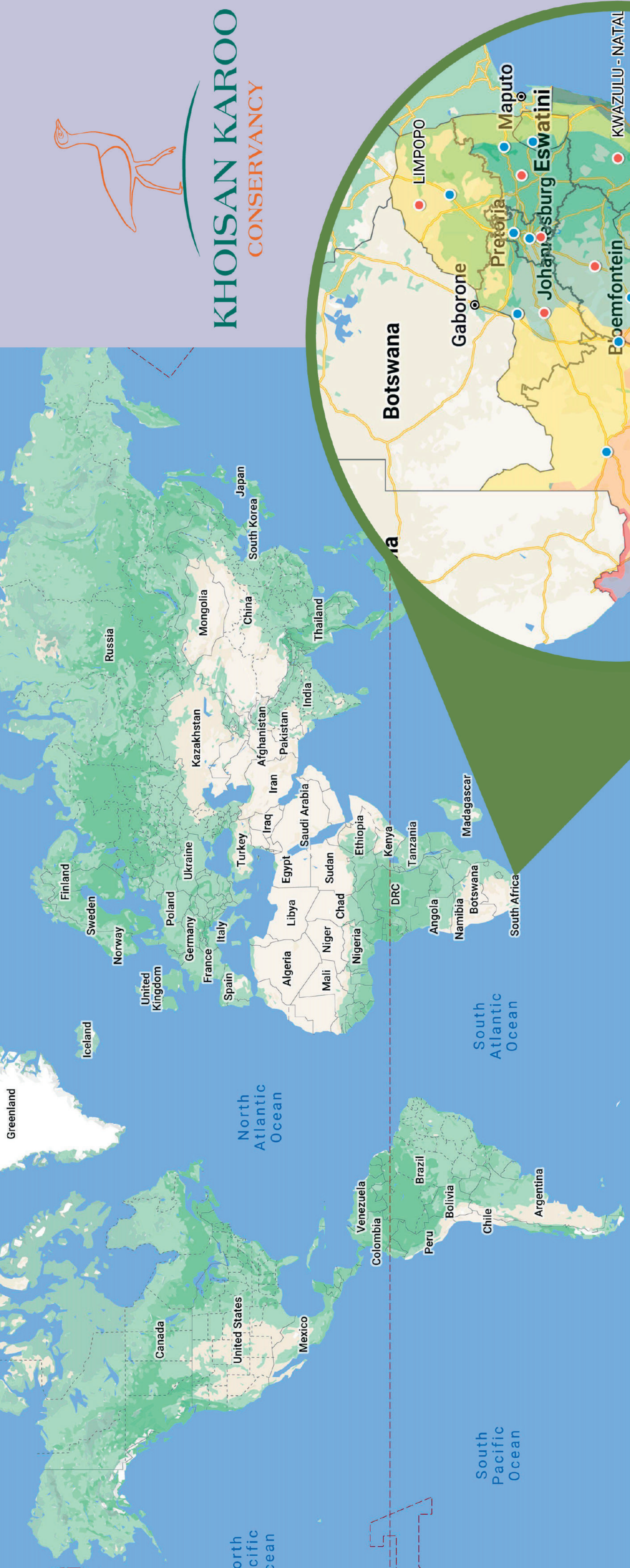
Its natural beauty and scenic wonders are legendary, from its soaring mountain peaks and passes, dense and ancient forests, to its miles of unspoiled coastline and rolling flower fields and grasslands of every hue. South Africa truly offers something to lift everyone's spirits.

South Africa is known as the adventure capital of the world. Whether it's seeing the big game animals, diving with Great White Sharks, death defying adventure sports or discovering the humanity and generosity of other cultures. Game viewing and safari in South Africa is as up-close and wild as it gets. Almost anywhere you travel in South Africa you will experience an overwhelming abundance of nature, wildlife, culture, adventure, heritage and good vibes.

One of the world's most captivating cities, Cape Town – and the Cape Peninsula up to Cape Point – are famous for its scenic beauty and celebrity beaches, 3,500 foot Table Mountain rising above the city, whale-watching, world-class shopping, nightlife, food & wine, and a laid-back atmosphere. Indeed, with wine regions stretching from the Western to the far Northern Cape and the edge of the Karoo, one can almost taste their way around South Africa.

South Africa's 'City of Gold' is Johannesburg, which pulsates with an African heartbeat felt in its endless opportunities for shopping, entertainment, freedom tours and eating out, while the world-renowned Kruger National Park is as large as Massachusetts, and consists of nearly 5 million acres and features 16 ecosystems.

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ABOUT Us

Southern Sky Adventures

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Khoisan Karoo Conservancy

KhoiSan Karoo Conservancy includes the Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve and the Hanover Aardvark Nature Reserve. New Holme Nature Lodge is the main lodge at Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve with Stoffels Rus and Karoo Gariep tented camp as additional accommodation options.

At Karoo Gariep Nature reserve we offer a variety of activities, from bird watching, night drives, a 3-day horse trail, fishing and mountain biking. On these two Reserves we also host and organize eight different events per year. We have four social- and two nature orientated projects we initiate under the Karoo Gariep Wildlife Conservation and Rhino Project (NPO).

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Rick Nuttall Birding & Nature

Rick Nuttall has been sharing his knowledge and passion for birds with like-minded people from a young age. His MSc degree involved behaviour studies of waxbills and their close relatives (Estrildid finches). Rick joined the National Museum, Bloemfontein, as Ornithologist in 1991, undertaking research for ten years before his appointment as Director, a position held until November 2017.

Rick has authored scientific, semi-scientific and popular ornithological publications and contributes regularly to national bird monitoring and citizen science projects. He has led small group birding trips in South Africa and Lesotho on occasion since 1993 and has travelled widely in Southern Africa; he now leads general nature- and birding tours full time. An avid amateur photographer and sound recordist, Rick is fascinated by the natural sound environment and always has his recording equipment at hand when he is out and about. He has been recording birds and their sounds since the early 1980s and has a particular interest in vocal imitation or mimicry, an aspect of avian behaviour prevalent in a surprising number of bird species.



**Rick Nuttall Birding & Nature
Adventures**



@ricknuttall_birding_and_nature