



KHOISAN KAROO
CONSERVANCY

SOUTHERN SKY
ADVENTURES

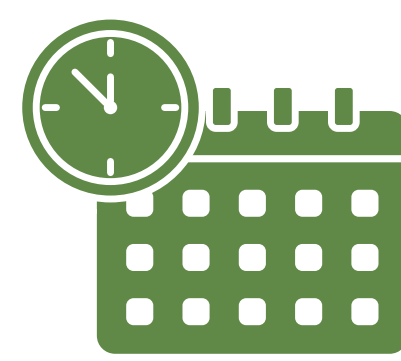
AFRICA...IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.



Experience the
continent's southern
tip



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7 Days / 6 Nights



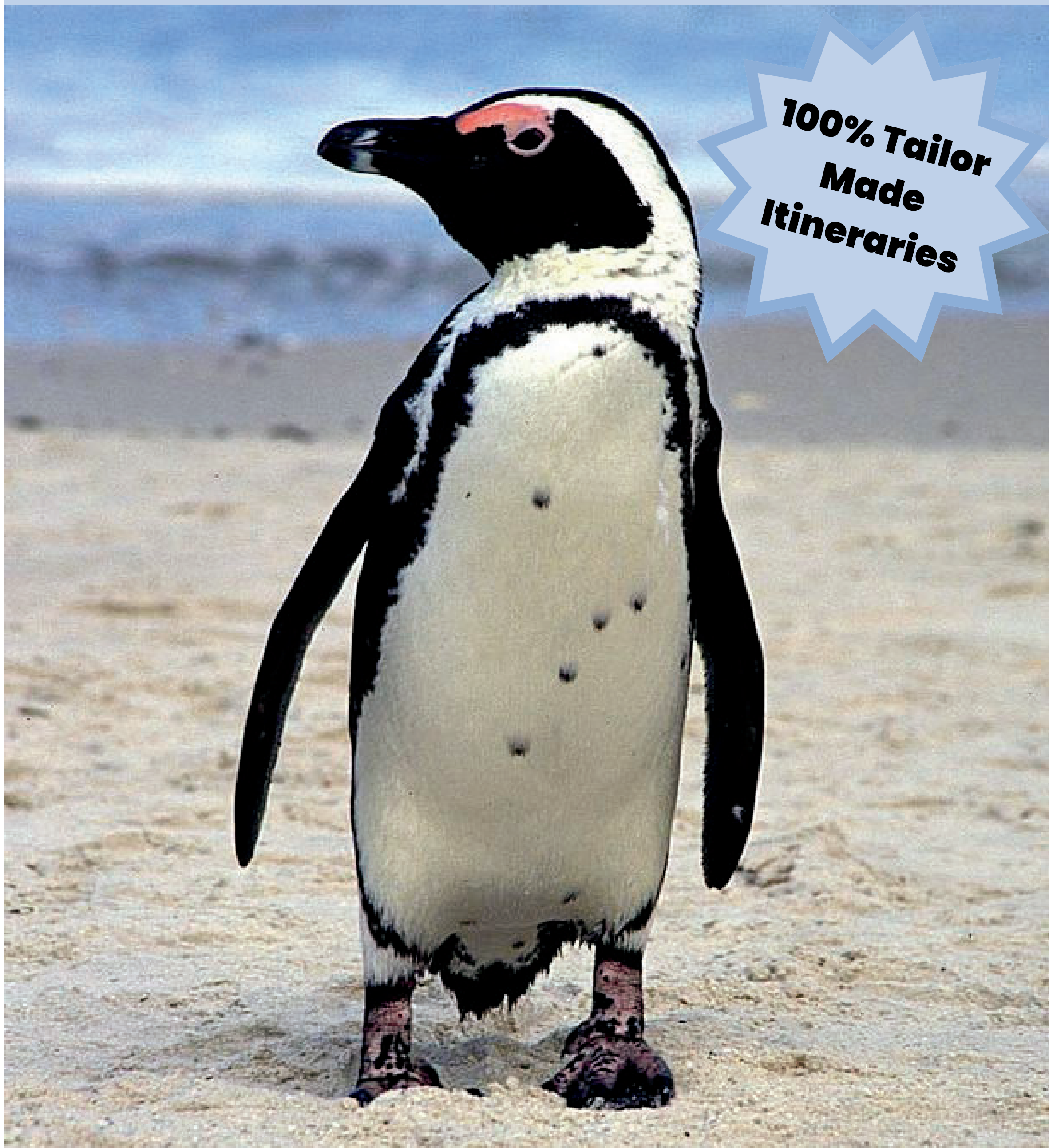
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COASTAL FEATHERS:

Cape Town & Surrounds Birding Extension



100% Tailor
Made
Itineraries

Western Cape

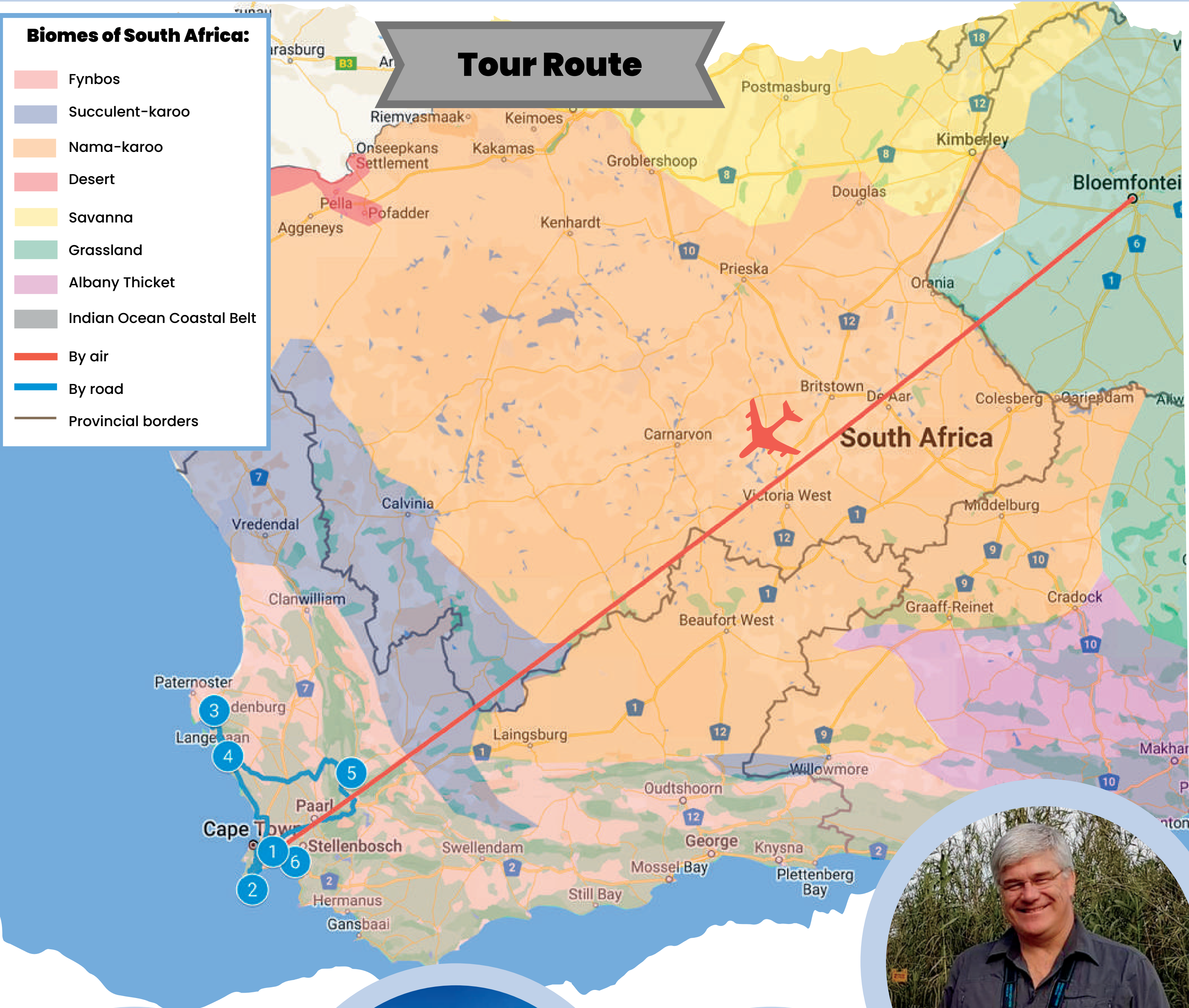


South Africa, is the 25th-largest country in the world – slightly less than twice the size of Texas – and boasts a lengthy coastline stretching more than 1,500 miles along two oceans, the South Atlantic on the west and the Indian on the south and east. South Africa is neighboured by Namibia in the northwest, Zimbabwe and Botswana in the north, and 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 then add the 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 you get.

Extending into the Atlantic, the rugged Cape Peninsula marks the southern most point of the African continent. It features pristine white-sand beaches met by craggy mountains interspersed with quaint little coastal towns. Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope can be found along the southern end of this spectacularly scenic peninsula, while the northern tip is crowned by the world-famous 3,500 foot Table Mountain which towers over the city of Cape Town. Cape Town is one of the world's most captivating cities in the world and is famous for its scenic beauty and celebrity beaches. In this city you can look forward to 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 through South Africa. Additionally, visitors can look forward to a wide selection of activities including hopping on a boat ride to Seal Island from Hout Bay and exploring the magnificent colony of African penguins on Boulders Beach in Simon's Town. Don't miss the opportunity to take in the breathtaking views from the top of Table Mountain either.

This 7-day Western Cape Extension tour begins in Cape Town, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. From here we will explore the varied habitats of the Cape Peninsula and surrounding areas, focusing on the world-renowned fynbos biome, both close to the sea and in nearby mountains, which is home to numerous endemic bird species. The tour then moves slightly north, up the West Coast to an extensive coastal estuary system – Langebaan, before moving inland to the Tankwa Karoo, with its suite of dry country species, many of which are also endemic. The Extension ends back in Cape Town.

The birds we will target include African Penguin, Black Harrier, Ludwig’s Bustard, Karoo Lark, Cinnamon-breasted Warbler, Victorin’s Warbler, Cape Bulbul, Cape Rockjumper, Cape Sugarbird, Orange-breasted- and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds, Protea, Cape and Forest Canaries and Cape Siskin. Other special birds include Bank-, Cape- and Crowned Cormorants, Cape Gannet, Cape Spurfowl, Olive Thrush, Southern Boubou, Fiscal Flycatcher, Cape Batis, Cape Grassbird, Rufous-eared- and Namaqua Warblers, Karoo Prinia, Karoo Eremomela, Cape Penduline Tit and Cape Weaver.



**Expert
guide: Rick
Nuttall**



African Barbeques



**Pristine
Beaches**



Incredible experiences

Day to Day

Day 1

After our 2-hour flight from Bram Fischer International Airport in Bloemfontein, we arrive in the ‘Mother City’ – Cape Town. Our birding begins in earnest at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens in the shadow of the iconic Table Mountain. This is where the Cape Spurfowl is common, and the fynbos / macchia areas are home to the Cape Sugarbird, stunning Orange-breasted- and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds. The delightful, diminutive Swee Waxbills are regulars, often seen feeding in small family groups on seeding grasses. Cape Bulbuls are conspicuous, while the more densely vegetated areas along the numerous streams provide cover for Southern Boubou, Bokmakierie, Olive Thrush and Karoo Prinia, while Cape Grassbirds vocalize from the nearby rank vegetation. African Olive Pigeon, Lemon Dove, Cape Batis and Forest Canary are also possible to see in these habitats.

Day 3

After enjoying an early breakfast at our accommodation near Cape Town, we travel around False Bay to the Rooi Els and Betty’s Bay areas for some excellent birding in fynbos along mountain slopes and the rocky coast. Our main focus will be some very special endemic species, including the iconic and striking Cape Rockjumper. Verreaux’s Eagle may be seen traversing the high mountain slopes in search of their favoured Rock Hyrax prey. Betty’s Bay is home to the renowned Stony Point mainland African Penguin colony, where close range sightings of penguins are the norm. The nearby Harold Porter Botanical Gardens is a real gem too. These beautiful gardens provide for excellent sightings of Cape Sugarbird, Orange-breasted Sunbird and Cape Siskin and this spot is also good for Victorin’s Warbler.

Day 5

After breakfast, we will once again have a chance to venture into the West Coast National Park to find some of the special species we may have missed the previous day, before departing east to Ceres, where we will overnight. There should also be an opportunity for some more sightseeing and afternoon birding en route to Ceres as well as in the immediate surrounds of the village.

Day 7

We will have time for a final morning’s birding around Ceres before departing for Cape Town International Airport, where the tour ends. Our birding will target the range-restricted Protea Canary. As its name implies this dark grey canary is often associated with proteas, particularly in mountainous areas, such as those near Ceres. Other specials that will keep us busy here include here the striking Bokmakierie – a bush shrike, Cape Sugarbird, Cape Grassbird and Victorin’s Warbler. The short trip to Cape Town International Airport brings this endemic-packed extension tour to an end.



Day 2

The greater Cape Town area offers diverse habitats including unique fynbos, wetlands, mountains and seashore, each with its own associated avian variations. The quaint seaside village of Kommetjie offers an opportunity to see four cormorant species (Bank, Cape, Crowned and White-breasted), as well as African Oystercatcher. Greater Crested- and Sandwich Terns wheel in flight over the inshore areas as they search for small fish, and roost in large numbers on the nearby rocky areas. Boulder’s Beach in Simonstown offers one of the best places to experience close encounters with the comical, endangered and endemic African Penguin. This is one of very few mainland breeding colonies of this species. If Boulder’s Beach is not an option, the Stony Point colony at Betty’s Bay will be a definite stop for this species.

Day 4

This morning we travel northwards to the small town of Langebaan and the nearby West Coast National Park. A major birding attraction of this Park is the significant number of waders utilizing the productive tidal mud and sand flats of the vast Langebaan Lagoon. A number of well-positioned viewing hides enhance this wader spectacle, particularly during summer when the Palearctic migrant waders are present. Resident Kittlitz’s and White-fronted Plovers are also an attraction. The food-rich waters also support Greater- and Lesser Flamingos, Pied Avocet, South African Shelduck, and Cape Teal. The Park’s unique Strandveld vegetation is home to a host of endemic bird species, including the stunning Black Harrier, Southern Black Korhaan, and the diminutive Cape Penduline Tit. After a day of exciting birding in this unique area, we overnight in Langebaan.

Day 6

The semi-arid Tankwa Karoo region is not far from Ceres and provides a window into the fascinating Succulent Karoo, which is very different to the landscapes and vegetation types already visited on the tour. This is quintessential open country, accessed from Ceres via the Karoopoort canyon, where we will track down several special Karoo birds. The list includes the White-backed Mousebird, Acacia Pied Barbet, Mountain Wheatear, Chestnut-vented- and Layard’s Warblers, Pirit Batis and the stunning, busy Fairy Flycatcher. Reedbeds along the sparse watercourses host the Namaqua Warbler, yet another endemic bird. Also to be found along Karoopoort’s rock-strewn slopes is the highly localized and elusive Cinnamon-breasted Warbler. After what should be an exceptional day out on the open plains of the Karoo, we return to Ceres to overnight.



Bokmakierie



Cape Batis



Common Ostrich



Rock Hyrax



Fairy Flycatcher



Pied Avocet



Lesser Flamingo



Orange-breasted Sunbird



Karoo Lark



Southern Double-collared Sunbird



African Oystercatcher



Namaqua Sandgrouse



African Penguin



Cape Rockjumper



Kittlitz's Plover

Included

- 3-night accommodation at aha Simons Town Quayside Hotel (B&B)
- 1-night accommodation at The Sharks Bay (B&B)
- 2-night accommodation at The Tulbagh Boutique Heritage Hotel (B&B)
- Flight from Bloemfontein to Cape Town
- Ground Transfers

Excluded

- All lunches and dinners
- Items of a personal nature
- International flights



White-breasted Cormorant



Swee Waxbill



White-backed Mousebird



Black-winged Stilt



Cape Sugarbird

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.

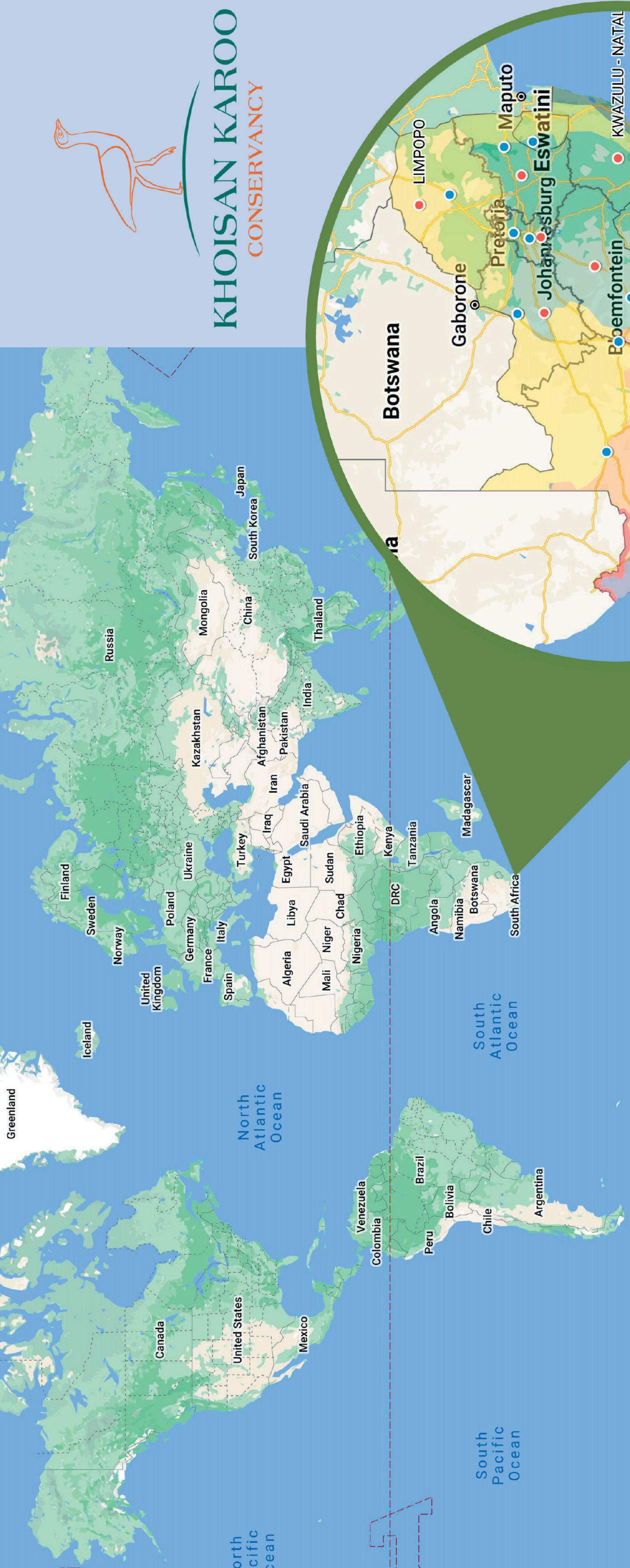
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South Africa is known as the adventure capital of the world. Whether it's seeing the big game animals, diving with Great White Sharks, death defying adventure sports or discovering the humanity and generosity of other cultures. Game viewing and safari 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.

When it's time to plan the most exotic golf getaway imaginable, think South Africa. The quintet of Sun City, Johannesburg, Cape Town, the Garden Route and Durban will provide the trip of a lifetime and memories for a lifetime too.



SOUTHERN SKY ADVENTURES

AFRICA...IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

*All itineraries can be adjusted/customised to suit your specific needs

*Contact us to enquire about special student deals

Photos were provided by Rick Nuttall, Jamie Paterson, Pc Ferreira and Southern Sky Adventures , unless otherwise indicated.



ABOUT Us

Southern Sky Adventures

For almost two decades Southern Sky Adventures has introduced discerning travellers to the sheer magnificence of AFRICA. A land of warm welcomes, breath-taking sunsets, pristine wilderness areas and diversity as colourful as the local artwork.

Our tailormade- and expertly-guided safaris showcase Africa's finest hidden gems, the elusive BIG 5, wild remote locations and a natural space to unplug from the stress of modern day living. We pride ourselves on the delivery of exceptional, once-in-a-lifetime and truly memorable travel experiences for not only families, honeymooners and friends but also business travellers, school- & university groups and adventure seekers.

Although passionate about travel, we care deeply for the preservation of these untouched wild areas, the inhabiting wildlife and the surrounding communities.

Sit back, relax and allow our team of destination specialists to design and deliver your dream vacation!



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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).

Come and enjoy the finest the Karoo has to offer.



**Khoisan Karoo
Conservancy**



www.khoisankaroo.co.za



**@khoisankaroo
conservancy**

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