

8 Day Limpopo Birding Tour

Birding Specialist Guide Brian Steele-Drew

Top Birds We Hope To See On This Trip

Orange Ground Thrush, Black-Fronted Bush-Shrike, Cape Parrot, Bat Hawk, Gurney's Sugarbird, Bohm's Spinetail, White-Breasted Cuckooshrike, Grey-Headed Parrot, Racket-Tailed Roller, Dickinson's Kestrel, Lemon-Breasted Canary, African Broadbill, White-Backed Night-Heron, Pink-Throated Twinspot, Thick-Billed Cuckoo, White-Headed Vulture, African Finfoot, Black-Throated Wattle-Eye, plus expect the unexpected!

Summer produces a massive influx of Palearctic & Inter African Migrants.

There are over **40 endemic and near endemic** species that have been recorded in the region.

Limpopo Has A Checklist Of Over 600 Species

Day 1

Destination Sunbird Lodge Phalaborwa



Fly from **Johannesburg** to the Town of Two Summers, **Phalaborwa**. You will be met at the airport and brought to **Sunbird Lodge** where you will be staying for 3 nights. Relax from your trip and stroll around the gardens, spotting your first Limpopo birds.

Optionally you can book an exciting evening safari in **Kruger National Park**, to get straight into the safari mood.

Day 2

Destination Olifants & Selati Rivers



An early rise today as you will participate in a **walking safari**. Experience the thrills of being in the bush on foot. Watch closely and listen to the calls of the birdlife while your guide explains all about the sights, and sounds of the bush. Return to the lodge to freshen up and relax. In the afternoon you will be taken on a **3 hour River Cruise on the Olifants River**. Watch hippo, crocodile and prolific birdlife, while watching a fantastic African sunset. Return to the lodge and enjoy dinner.

Day 3

Destination Mariepskop Indigenous Forest



A full day at **Mariepskop Indigenous Forest** situated in the northern **Drakensberg Mountains**. Mariepskop is one of the best kept birding secrets in South Africa, largely dominated by **Afro-montane Forest**, but also includes **Fynbos** habitat at the summit. Exploring both habitats assures a treasured days birding. **During the day you will have a lovely picnic lunch.** Return to the lodge at the end of the day for sundowner's and dinner.

Day 4

Destination Punda Maria Kruger National Park



Time to move on! We check out from **Sunbird Lodge** and enter the famous **Kruger National Park**. You will be taken north, final destination **Punda Maria** Camp. The character of northern Kruger is very unique. Enjoy the day birding with Brian and arrive at **Punda Maria** in the late afternoon. You will be staying for 3 nights at this lovely camp.

Day 5

Destination Punda Maria Hot Spots



You will be taken on a morning and afternoon birding game drive in the **Punda Maria** area today. With various waterholes, viewing points and great circular drives. **Hot spots: Mahonie Loop, Klopperfontein Water Hole and Dzundzwini marsh lands.** The Camp site is very productive with an **excellent hide** over looking a water hole. The "African Paradise-Flycatcher trail" in the camp site is well worth a visit.

Day 6



Destination Pafuri

Explore the world famous **Pafuri** region with spectacular scenery, enchanted riverine forests, beautiful sandstone cliffs on which the ancient **Baobabs** grow. Pafuri is the northernmost part of the Kruger National Park where two rivers meet, the **Limpopo and Luvuvhu Rivers**. **This is a Birder's paradise, undoubtedly the Mecca of birding in South Africa.**

Day 7



Destination Venda

Today you will be taken outside the Kruger National Park to an area known as **Venda**, a secret place with intriguing myths and legends. You will spend the day around **Vhuir-vhuri**, deep in the heart of traditional Venda. **A packed lunch and refreshments is an optional extra.** This area is very exciting as it has not been explored very much by birders..... the potential is enormous!

Day 8



Destination Phalaborwa

Check out from **Punda Maria** Camp and start the drive back to **Phalaborwa**. Enjoy your last day in the Kruger National Park and arrive at Phalaborwa in time for your flight back to Johannesburg. Now we see all the birds we missed on the way up!. The journey from Punda Maria to Phalaborwa Gate is 200km of pristine **Kruger National Park**. From the minute you arrive to your departure flight back your eyes will be feasted on the wonderful birds of Limpopo.

The accommodation

Sunbird Lodge in Phalaborwa

Sunbird Lodge is conveniently located less than 2km from the Kruger Park Phalaborwa gate. Experience the ambience of more than 2.5 acres of tropical gardens which give host to a wide variety of birdlife, just relax and let your hosts Samantha and David Lockhart ensure your stay is as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. Sunbird Lodge is a family run business, emphasising on good quality & friendly service. Lodge facilities include a swimming pool, African bar, satellite TV, WIFI hotspot and internet access.

The comfortable rooms have twin beds, en-suite bathroom with TV, air-conditioning and coffee & tea facilities.

Punda Maria Rest Camp in Kruger National Park

Punda Maria is the northernmost camp in the Kruger National Park. The camp is situated in the Sandveld region that is often described as the botanical garden of the Kruger National Park. There are numerous plant species that are unique to the area. Game species most likely to be sighted include Impala, Zebra, Buffalo, Elephant, Eland, Nyala, Kudu, Sable, Giraffe and a good chance of seeing Lion and Leopard, the area is a bird paradise.

The camp boasts luxury safari tents, two terraces of pretty white washed bungalows, a shop, restaurant, swimming pool and bird-hide.

The bungalow has twin beds, en-suite bathroom with shower and toilet and air-conditioning.

The guide

Brian Steele-Drew

Brian has been birding for over thirty years (10 years in the U.K. and 23 years in South Africa). He has experience in a diverse range of habitats. He is now based in Phalaborwa, Limpopo 5km away from the Kruger National Park.

He is a qualified FGASA Savanna Birding Specialist (Field Guide Association of South Africa accredited) Registered DEAT Guide LP 0844 (Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism)

Please contact us for the latest price

Included in your 8 day Limpopo Birding Tour are:

- 3 nights accommodation at Sunbird Lodge in a double room
- 3 nights accommodation at Punda Maria Camp in a 2-bed bungalow
- 3x breakfast at Sunbird Lodge
- 1x lunch on day 3
- all transport per air-conditioned vehicle
- all activities and safaris as mentioned
- entrance/conservation fees

Excluded are:

- All flights
- optional extra safaris & excursions
- all other meals
- drinks
- personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls etc
- gratuities

Whether you are new to birding or an experienced birder we can put together an exciting package modeled on your needs.
Birding information and checklists available on request.

Please contact Brian for more detailed information

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Time Flies When You Are Birding

