



## **INTRODUCTION**

This 14-day package will provide you with the single endemic species to the country, the desert adapted Dune Lark. It will also take you through the Namib Desert where other species such as Rüppell's Korhaan, Burchell's Courser, Gray's Lark, Benguella Long-billed Lark, Ludwig's Bustard, and raptors such as Greater Kestrel, Lanner Falcon and the huge Lappet-faced Vulture may be encountered. From the desert, we travel northwards towards the Etosha National Park; en route, we may encounter Monteiro's Hornbill, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Violet Wood-Hoopoe, White-tailed Shrike, Hartlaub's Francolin, Rockrunner and Bare-cheeked Babbler.

When in the park we shall have the first opportunity to observe some of the big game as well as enjoying good birding. Birds like Blue Crane, Kori Bustard, Pink-billed Lark, Red-capped Lark, Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark and Sociable Weaver are common and the park supports an abundance of raptors from the diminutive Pygmy Falcon, the long-legged Secretary Bird, Bateleur, Martial Eagle, and African White-backed Vultures.

## **NOTES**

- The following day-to-day itinerary is a guideline for the tour, as accommodation availability will determine the exact itinerary.
- Depending on flight schedules, it is advised to arrive the day before the safari to have an early morning start on Day 1.
- The tour will conclude on day 14 after arrival at the Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek).
- If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late the Batis Office would be able to assist in this regard.

## **INCLUDED IN PACKAGE**

Destinations:	Windhoek area, Sreetshoogte, Walvis Bay, Damaraland, Etosha National Park and Waterberg Plateau Park.
Dates:	<b>07 June 2012 – 20 June 2012</b>
Duration:	14 days/13 nights
Accommodation:	All accommodation will be in good standard hotels/lodges/guesthouses with en suite facilities
Meals:	As listed in itinerary

## **EXCLUDED FROM PACKAGE**

- All International and/or Domestic Flights
- Accommodation the night prior and after the tour
- Gratuities
- Optional activities
- Travel insurance
- Laundry, telephone calls, other items of a personal nature
- Beverages
- Items not specified

### **DAY 1:**

#### **Hosea Kutako International Airport – Lodge in Windhoek area**

You will be met by one of Batis Birding team at the Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek). After completing all the airport formalities and loading your luggage, we then depart to a nearby lodge for the night. There will be ample time to do some birding and in the evening you will be handed your Batis checklists and a briefing of the tour will be given by your leader. Birds likely to be found are several species of raptor and with luck Burchell's Sandgrouse. Also found here are Acacia Pied Barbet, Sociable Weaver, Scaly-feathered Finch, Red-headed Finch, Black-chested Prinia, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Rattling Cisticola, Long-billed Crombec, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, as well as Lappet-faced and African White-backed Vultures.

Accommodation: Lodge/Hotel/Guesthouse in Windhoek area  
Meals: Dinner  
Included activities: Birding in the afternoon

### **DAY 2:**

#### **Lodge in Windhoek area**

Birding around the farm and Avis Dam area. This is mainly thornveld and will be a superb introduction to central Namibian birding. Birds likely to be found are White-backed Mousebirds, Barred Wren Warbler, Pirit Batis, Cape Penduline Tit, Bradfield's Swift, Monteiro's Hornbills, and Rockrunner.

Accommodation: Lodge/Hotel/Guesthouse in Windhoek area  
Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner  
Included activities: Birding around the Windhoek area

### **DAY 3:**

#### **Lodge in Windhoek area – Spreetshoogte area**

From here we head South East to Spreetshoogte towards the Namib Desert having a picnic lunch as well as doing some birding along the route to our next overnight destination on the edge of the Namib Desert. Species we can expect to encounter here are Karoo Scrub Robin, Yellow Canary, Ashy Tit, Cardinal Woodpecker, Pirit Batis, Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler, Pale-winged Starling, White-throated Canary, Rock Kestrel and with luck Karoo Long-billed Lark and Karoo Eremomela. Before dinner, we will complete our daily checklists and look forward to the next morning's birding, which should deliver some of our first real arid specials.

Accommodation: Lodge/Guest farm in Spreetshoogte area  
Meals: Breakfast/Picnic Lunch/Dinner  
Included activities: Birding en route to Spreetshoogte

#### **DAY 4:**

##### **Spreetshoogte area – Walvis Bay**

We leave early via the Spreetshoogte pass, stunning scenery and landscape that will astound you! Besides searching for Herero Chat, Cinnamon-breasted Warbler, and raptors over the pass, we will also look for Karoo Chat, Rüppell's Korhaan, Ludwig's Bustard, Burchell's Courser and other arid adapted species. We will travel towards the coast where the Benguella current from the Atlantic Ocean brings in dense coastal fogs. We may also encounter Gray's Lark, which blends in well with the pale gravel surrounds. There is also a good chance of encountering Lappet-faced Vulture and a few other species of raptor such as Greater Kestrel, Lanner Falcon and Black-chested Snake-Eagle. We will arrive late afternoon in Walvis Bay and complete our list for the day before going out for dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel/Guesthouse in Walvis Bay  
Meals: Breakfast/Picnic Lunch/Dinner at a restaurant in Walvis Bay  
Included activities: Birding via the Spreetshoogte

#### **DAY 5:**

##### **Walvis Bay**

Today we spend most of the day birding around the lagoon and if we have not located the Dune lark the day before we do a concerted effort to find it today. The sheer numbers of birds around the lagoon are impressive and the area has the highest density of Chestnut-banded Plover in the world. Most of the Palearctic migrants will be arriving at this time and some will still be in partial breeding plumage. Depending on the rainfall at this time large numbers of Greater and Lesser Flamingoes can also be seen, often Red-necked Phalaropes are encountered on the evaporation pans of the Salt works within the area, as well as good numbers of Black-necked Grebe. After a good days birding we return to our lodgings and do a repeat of the previous evening.

Accommodation: Hotel/Guesthouse in Walvis Bay  
Meals: Breakfast/Picnic Lunch/Dinner at a restaurant in Walvis Bay  
Included activities: Birding around the lagoon

#### **DAY 6:**

##### **Walvis Bay – Lodge in Damaraland**

Today we travel through the desert towards the old tin mine of Uis and will hopefully pick-up on any of the desert specials we may have missed so far, our main target today before leaving the arid Namib, is to search for the Benguella Long-billed Lark. En-route to our overnight destination we may encounter Monteiro's Hornbill, White-tailed Shrike and Damara Red-billed Hornbill. We will reach our destination late afternoon and hopefully still have some daylight to do some birding in the vicinity of our lodge. We will keep an ear open for the unmistakable grunts of the Giant Eagle Owl, our largest owl as well as the African Scops Owl our smallest owl species, Pearl-spotted Owls will also no doubt provide us with their distinct calls.

Accommodation: Lodge in Damaraland  
Meals: Breakfast/Picnic Lunch/Dinner  
Included activities: Birding en route to Damaraland

### **DAY 7:**

#### **Lodge in Damaraland**

The entire day will be spent at this location to search for the shy and secretive Hartlaub's Francolin, an early morning call will be necessary to locate the bird while still active. The other specials we shall be looking out for are the Rockrunner, White-tailed Shrike, Orange River Francolins, Rüppell's Parrot, Violet Wood-Hoopoe, Carp's Tit, Bare-cheeked Babbler and Damara Red-billed Hornbill. We should also see Springbok, Oryx, and Hartmann's Mountain Zebra and with luck even African Elephant. Again, with luck on returning late from a game drive we may encounter Bronze-winged (Violet-tipped) Courser, Nightjars and Owls.

Accommodation: Lodge in Damaraland  
Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner  
Included activities: Birding around the lodge area, Morning game drive and afternoon game drive

### **DAY 8:**

#### **Lodge in Damaraland – Lodge in Western Etosha**

Today we travel northbound for the Etosha National Park where we enter on the west through the Galton Gate. Once in the park we have our first opportunity to see four of the big five and an abundance of antelope, Giraffe and other game. Etosha is also home to an abundance of raptors and ground dwelling species such as Northern Black Korhaan, Red-crested Korhaan, Double-banded Courser and numerous lark species. Our first night in the park is spent in the west and drives in this area should deliver excellent photographic opportunities.

Accommodation: Lodge in Western Etosha  
Meals: Breakfast/Picnic Lunch/Dinner  
Included activities: Birding on the way to the lodge

### **DAY 9:**

#### **Lodge in Western Etosha – Halali Resort (Etosha National Park)**

Today we travel eastwards through the park and have lunch en-route at the Okaukuejo restaurant. Birds which we may see along this route are Red-necked Falcon, Greater Kestrel, Chat Flycatcher, southern Ant-eating Chat, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Scaly-feathered Finch, Red-headed Finch, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Fawn-coloured Lark, Rufous-eared Warbler, which occurs in small parties in sparse, low vegetation and the beautiful Violet-eared Waxbill. The Tsumasa walk up the little dolomite koppie in the camp area can produce Swainson's Francolin, Meyer's Parrot, Black-faced Babbler and Freckled Nightjar. After dinner we will look for various owls in the campgrounds and we should see Pearl-Spotted Owlet, African Scops Owl and with luck southern White-faced Scops Owl. Halali is also known for good leopard sightings!

Accommodation: Halali Resort  
Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner  
Included activities: Birding en route

**DAY 10:****Halali Resort (Etosha National Park) – Namutoni Resort (Etosha National Park)**

Early morning walk around the camp grounds before we will travel towards Namutoni, visiting several waterholes along the way. Depending on the rain season we might see huge amounts of lesser and greater flamingo which migrate from the coast to breed in the nutrient rich waters of the Etosha pan. Also look out for Bat Hawk at dusk hawking bats over the waterhole. The camp grounds offer another good opportunity to find owls that we might have missed elsewhere.

Accommodation: Namutoni Resort  
Meals: Breakfast/Picnic Lunch/Dinner  
Included activities: Birding en route

**DAY 11:****Namutoni Camp (Etosha National Park)**

Today we will explore the Namutoni area which offers a big variety of habitats from Terminalia forests, wide grasslands on pan edges and dense Acacia savannahs. We will search for Black-faced Babbler as well as Burchell's Sandgrouse. Around Fisher's Pan we will look for Blue Crane. The waterholes offer good opportunity to see raptors hunting passerines and Sandgrouse that come down to drink.

Accommodation: Namutoni Camp  
Meals: Breakfast/Picnic Lunch/Dinner  
Included activities: Birding en route

**DAY 12:****Namutoni Camp (Etosha National Park) – Waterberg Plateau Park**

After breakfast, we will proceed to Waterberg and have the opportunity to catch up with any of the species, which we may not have seen earlier. The telephone poles on the roadside offer opportunity to see raptors, such as Brown and Black-chested Snake- Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Martial Eagle and large numbers of Pale Chanting Goshawk. We will stop over in Otjiwarongo for lunch and then proceed to the Waterberg. This locality is good for many specials including Rüppell's Parrot, Violet Wood-Hoopoe, Hartlaub's Francolin (Spurfowl), Rockrunner and so Bradfield's Hornbill within the camp grounds.

Accommodation: Waterberg Plateau Resort  
Meals: Breakfast/Picnic Lunch/Dinner  
Included activities: Birding en route

**DAY 13:****Waterberg Plateau Park**

Birding around the camp area. The Waterberg Plateau Park has a large variety of bird species including Bearded and Bennet's Woodpecker, Verreaux's Eagle, Auger Buzzard and a variety of Sunbird species. If lucky, an opportunity to spot the critically endangered Cape Griffon Vulture is also possible. The Waterberg is the only known breeding area for Cape Griffon Vulture in Namibia. The Plateau hosts a good variety of game including Black Rhino, Waterbuck and Cape Buffalo. Damara Dik Dik also frequents the lawns around the chalets.

Accommodation: Waterberg Plateau Resort  
Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner  
Included activities: Birding around the camp

**DAY 14:****Waterberg Plateau Park – Windhoek airport**

We do some early morning birding and then travel back to Windhoek either in time for your return flight or overnight in Windhoek.

Accommodation: N/A  
Meals: Breakfast  
Included activities: Early birding around the camp

**TOUR PRICE: 2012**

Day 1 – 14

Contact us for the tour price

**NOTES:**

- a) The costing for the Tour Program is based on a minimum of six (6) guests.
- b) This is a quotation and is valid for set departures for 2012 tours only.
- c) No reservations have been made and all accommodation, flights and transport are subject to availability.
- d) Should any of the accommodation mentioned not be available, we reserve the right to substitute it with an alternative suitable venue, which might affect the final quoted price.
- e) Quoted price is also subject to availability, fuel/gas price and possibly exchange rate fluctuations.
- f) 20% non-refundable deposit is required on confirmation of safari.
- g) Full payment is required forty five (45) days prior to arrival.