

ITINERARY  
***SOUTH AFRICA: BIRDS, WINE & WILDFLOWERS***

*Cape Town and the Kruger National Park  
August 27-September 7, 2022*



*Expect beautiful flowers, endemic birds, big game and good wine, all on one tour! King Proteas from the Cape Peninsula, a majestic male lion from the Kruger National Park, wine from the Steenberg Winery in Cape Town and a Cape Grassbird from the the West Coast National Park. Photographs by guide Joe Grosel.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2022 Field Guides South Africa – Birds, Wine and Wildflowers tour:*

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

*These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:*

- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, flight arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items.
- a reference list.
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour.
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour.

*This new addition to our tour schedule combines South Africa's extraordinary diversity of birds, mammals and flowering plants with its equally appealing wine culture which goes back 360 years.*

On the southern tip of Africa lies a strip a unique evergreen, heath-like shrubland known as Fynbos, a term derived from the Dutch word *Fijnbosch* which, when literally translated, means "fine or delicate bush". Fynbos forms part of the Cape Floral Kingdom which is the smallest of the world's six Floristic Kingdoms and the only one contained in its entirety within a single country. Despite being the smallest of the floristic kingdoms, it is the richest per unit area, with over 9000 species. On this tour we will not only enjoy the Proteas, Ericas and Pincushions of the Fynbos but also the spectacle of hundreds of flowering annuals and bulbs from the west coast and southern karoo regions of the Cape.

Fynbos is just one of many distinctive habitats in South Africa and for this reason, the country's avian variety is equally, diverse with no less than 100 endemic and near-endemic bird species, along with two endemic families, the Sugarbirds and Rockjumpers. We will look for both these families plus many other Cape endemics before heading straight into the profusion of tropical bird species found in the north-eastern parts of South Africa.



*We'll use safari vehicles for our excursions in and around Kruger National Park, while in other areas, we'll travel in comfortable VW Kombi vans.*

The Mediterranean-type climate of the Cape region, with its cold, wet winters and hot, dry summers, along with its well-drained soils and coastal influences of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, makes this region ideal for the cultivation of vineyards. The first bottle of wine in the Cape was produced as far back as 1659 by its original governor, Jan van Riebeeck. With an established wine culture, South Africa is one of the top ten wine producing and exporting countries in the world and its wines are up there with the finest in the world. There will be at least four wine tasting sessions on this tour plus a fine selection of top South African wines on offer during all evening meals.

South Africa also possesses some of the best safari destinations on the continent and no visit to the country would be complete

without experiencing Africa's iconic mammals in their natural environment, including Elephant, Lion, Rhino, Leopard, Buffalo, Giraffe, and Zebra. We have selected the best wildlife regions of Kruger to maximize our chances of experiencing great wildlife encounters, and within the adjacent conservation areas, sightings of big cats are almost guaranteed.

To sum up, this tour combines the enjoyment of experiencing the scenic splendor, the floral magic, the avian diversity and the spectacular wildlife of South Africa, all over a good glass of wine!

**All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which, for tours departing on or after March 1, 2022, includes a booster).** Having a vaccinated group will greatly diminish but not eliminate the possibility of the group and individual participants being adversely affected by COVID-19. **We are requiring all of our staff guides to be vaccinated, including getting the booster.** Note too, that many travel destinations are or soon will be requiring proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may become a requirement for some travel destinations if they choose to declare that vaccinations do not last indefinitely. And having a booster means your risk is lowered and your travel plans and those of our group are less likely to be disrupted.

*We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.*

#### **About the Physical Requirements & Pace:**

- **TRAILS:** In the Cape Town area, we will be doing most of our walks over short distances and never very far from the vehicles. In the botanical gardens there are paved paths of which some may be of moderate gradients so some participants may want to make use of a walking stick. On the 'safari' leg of the tour, the parks have free-roaming, dangerous animals, so much of the birding and game viewing will be done from the safety of safari vehicles. The majority of the birding on foot will be done within the safari camp grounds and there won't be any lengthy walks.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** In the Kruger National Park and adjacent private conservation area, we will be travelling in open safari vehicles. You'll need to be able to climb in and out of the vehicles.
- **PACE:** In the Cape Town area our day trips will commence just after early breakfast and we will return just before dinner in the evening, so fairly long days but with lots of dozing opportunities in the comfortable air-conditioned vans. Our lunch stops will be lengthy and relaxed. At the private safari lodge, the tour will take on the typical safari mode, with early morning game viewing and birding activities, returning to the lodge for brunch followed by a 'siesta' until afternoon tea with another outing in the afternoon. The afternoon excursions often return after dark to maximize our chances of picking up nocturnal species.



- **ELEVATION:** Johannesburg is at an altitude of about 4900 feet; the Kruger region is at an altitude of around 1000 feet.
- **WEATHER:** Late August and early September is spring in South Africa. Johannesburg has cool nights and brisk mornings with warm days averaging around 79 F. In the Cape, the weather can be unpredictable in terms of rain. Days are generally pleasant here with temperatures reaching the 70's F, but can be windy. Night temperatures drop to the mid 60's F. In the Kruger region, the days are hot, averaging at about 86 F during the day and 68 F at night. On the early morning excursions on the open safari vehicles the temperatures could be nippy as a result of the wind chill factor.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on occasion, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature. In Kruger, while traveling between lodges there will be a bathroom break at least every 90 minutes.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with your guide, or help you find the tour that is right for you!

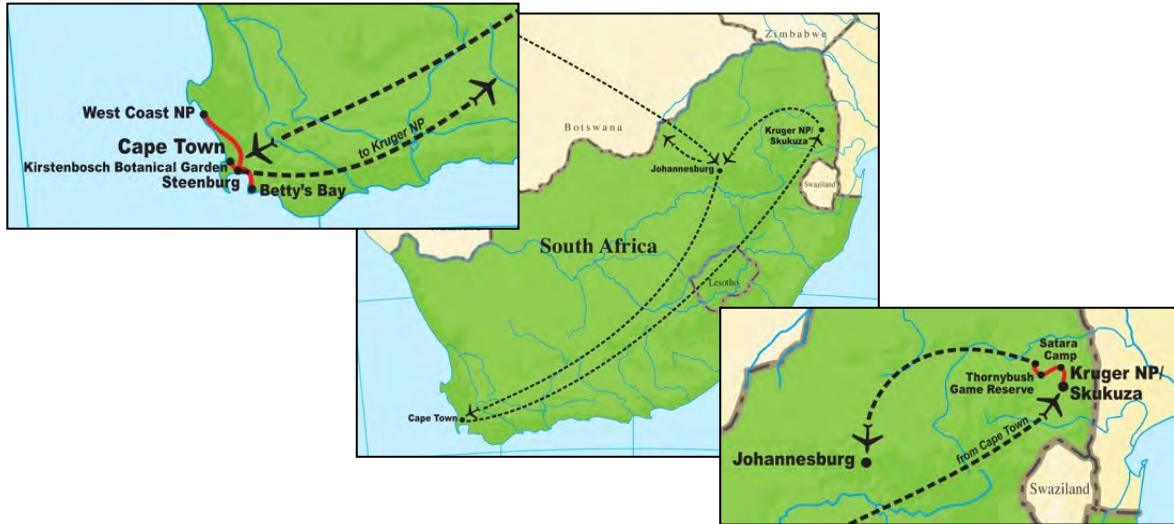


*We'll stay at the attractive Steenberg winery and boutique hotel with its beautifully manicured gardens and traditional Cape-Dutch architecture. Photograph by guide Joe Grose.*

The standard of lodging on this tour ranges from lavish in the Cape, where we will be staying in an award-winning boutique hotel with its own vineyard and winery, along with two signature fine dining restaurants, to comfortable in the Kruger National Park, where we'll be staying in a combination of thatched bungalows and guesthouses, both of which have en-suite facilities, tea/coffee stations, a/c and open verandas. All the establishments have a 24-hour electricity supply, but bring along a flashlight for when you have to walk between your chalet and restaurants after dark. Three nights will be spent inside the Kruger National Park itself, with two nights in a private conservation area to the west of Kruger known as the Timbavati and Thornybush Game Reserves. Here, we will be residing in our own private game lodge which is unfenced, giving guests uninterrupted views of the African bush and waterholes that attract a variety of large mammals. Our accommodation here is a typically smart African Safari Lodge with stylish, modern, en-suite rooms.

## About the Birding Areas

**Johannesburg** – Although your stay in Johannesburg will be brief with limited ‘birding time’ there will be a fair number of species to be seen in the hotel grounds and around the airport. The Safari Club Lodge has well established, lush gardens that are home to the likes of Cape Robin-Chat, Karoo Thrush, Red-eyed Dove, Speckled Pigeon, Cape Starling, Dark-capped Bulbul, Southern Masked Weaver, Cape White-eye and Speckled Mousebird. The birdfeeders often attract a good assortment of seed eaters including Red-headed Finch, Pin-tailed Whydah, Bronze Mannikin, Laughing Dove, Cape Sparrow, Grosbeak Weaver and Southern Red Bishop while ‘Fly-overs’ could include Sacred Ibis, Black-headed Heron, Grey-headed Gull, Pied Crow and Rock Martin.



**The Cape Town region** – Around the Cape Peninsula region we will be visiting the following birding areas:

- **Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens** – located on the lower slopes and at the base of Table Mountain, the greater part of the gardens consist of natural fynbos vegetation. The Proteas, pincushions and Ericas attract a variety of nectar feeding birds such as Cape Sugarbird and Malachite, Southern Double-collared, Greater Double-collared and Orange-breasted Sunbirds. The naturally wooded areas are home to Olive Thrush, Sombre Greenbul, Bar-throated Apalis, Southern Boubou, Cape Batis and Burchell’s Coucal while Cape Robin-chat, Karoo Prinia, Cape Bulbul, Cape Spurfowl, Red-winged Starling and Helmeted Guineafowl can be seen in the open shrubby areas. Peregrine Falcon, Jackal Buzzard and White-necked Raven are often seen soaring around the cliffs above the gardens.
- **The Betty’s Bay area** – the rocky crags and boulder-strewn slopes of the Helderberg Mountains are good habitat for Cape Rockjumper along with Ground Woodpecker, Rock Kestrel and Cape Rock Thrush. The Harold Porter Botanical Gardens in the town of Betty’s Bay has great fynbos and wooded streams supporting good numbers of Yellow Bishop, Sweet Waxbill, Black Sawwing, Dusky-brown Flycatcher, Cape Grassbird, Brimstone Canary, Cape Siskin and the super skulker, Victorin’s Warbler. Not far from the gardens is Stony Point a rocky shoreline with shrubby banks. This is a major breeding site for African Penguin and four coastal Cormorant species. There is a good selection of shorebirds and terns here plus the two local gull species namely Hartlaub’s and Kelp.
- **The West Coast National Park** – has a variety of habitats ranging from coastal estuary and intertidal zones to coastal dune fynbos and grassy plains. The special birds here include Black Harrier, Ostrich, Karoo Lark, Pied Starling, Cape Weaver, Large-billed Lark, Southern Black Korhaan, Karoo Scrub Robin and Bokmakierie.

**Kruger National Park** – the habitats of this area include a mix of acacia savannah, broad-leaved, deciduous woodland, open savannah, riparian forest, granite inselbergs and perennial rivers. We will spend three nights in the park itself and another two days in a private reserve in the western buffer zone (an extension of the greater Kruger park in which private lodges are located). In the park we will explore the southern woodlands on the first two days before moving further north into the vast basalt plains and open savannah landscapes. The habitats in the western buffer zone are dominated by open woodland and ‘bushveld’ bisected by large seasonal riverbeds. With over 300 resident and an additional 100 summer migrant species the Kruger National Park offers an exceptional birding experience. It is home to most of the African



flagship birds including Martial Eagle, Bateleur, five vulture species, from the small Hooded to the huge Lappet-faced, Kori Bustard, Ostrich, Southern Ground-Hornbill, Saddle-billed Stork and a good variety of the colourful bee-eaters, sunbirds, rollers, barbets, starlings, robin-chats and kingfishers. In addition to a vast and varied avifauna, we have excellent chances to see more of Africa's famed big game, perhaps including Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Spotted Hyaena, Wild Dog, and a whole array of antelope. Zebra, warthog and giraffe are fairly common here while smaller critters in the form of monkeys, bush squirrels and mongooses are also widespread.



*Dazzling flowers and gorgeous birds, that's what the Fynbos habitat provides. Here, an Orange-breasted Sunbird perches on a Leucospermum (pincushion) in the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Photograph by guide Joe Grosel.*

## Itinerary for South Africa: Birds, Wine and Wildflowers

**Note:** This day-by-day itinerary is based on current air schedules; if schedules change, some modifications may be in order.

**Day 1, Sat, 27 Aug. Departure.** South African Airways direct flights have always been good - comfortable and the service outstanding. Please choose a flight that will arrive in Johannesburg by **Sunday 28 August**.

**Day 2, Sun, 28 Aug.** Arrival in Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport. After clearing Customs and Immigration in Johannesburg, proceed to the international arrivals lounge where a chauffeur from The Safari Club South Africa Lodge will be waiting to transfer you to the lodge (look out for your name on the whiteboards held up by the chauffeur). The lodge is only four miles from the airport. Your tour leader will meet you at the lodge on your arrival. *Night at The **Safari Club SA**.*

**Day 3, Mon, 29 Aug.** After breakfast at the Safari Club Lodge there will be time for our first bit of birding in the lovely gardens where we hope to see a few endemics in the form of Cape Sparrow, Karoo Thrush, Cape White-eye and Cape Weaver. Then we'll be shuttled back to the OR Tambo airport to take a late morning flight to Cape Town. On arriving in Cape Town after the two-hour flight we collect two 10-seater vans and proceed to the beautiful Steenberg Winery and Hotel located in Cape Town's Constantia region at the foot of Table Mountain. Steenberg Hotel will be our base while in Cape Town with a four-night stay. Once checked in we'll enjoy a light lunch and a birding walk around the estate and golf course where we hope to see some local specialties such as Karoo Prinia, Cape Bulbul, Olive Thrush, Cape Wagtail, Neddicky, Southern Double-banded Sunbird and Cape Canary. The evening will be spent in Steenberg's exclusive wine-tasting facility to sample some of the estate's superb wines. Dinner at Catherina's restaurant at the Steenberg Estate.

**Day 4, Tue, 30 Aug.** This is South Africa's official spring day so after breakfast at Steenberg it would be fitting to celebrate the day in one of the loveliest gardens in the World, Cape Town's Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Lying at the

base of the Table Mountain chain and within the suburbs of Cape Town it is world-renowned for its floral displays of fynbos of the Cape Floristic Kingdom. This incredible diversity of plant life, in turn attracts the best of the Western Cape birds, including many of the highly sought after endemics. We will look out for Cape Francolin, Malachite Sunbird, Cape Batis, African Olive Pigeon, Cape Sugarbird, Southern Boubou, Sweet Waxbill and maybe Black or Red-breasted Sparrowhawk amongst a kaleidoscope of Pincushions, Ericas and Restios. Lunch at the gardens will be followed by a drive along the spectacular Cape Peninsula route to the Cape Point National Park. Here we may see some of the Cape Peninsula's endemic mammals, with Cape Mountain Zebra and Bontebok on top of the list. The day will end with dinner at the oldest wine producing estate in South Africa, Groot Constantia (1865). A short talk by one of the estate's wine makers about the history of wine in South Africa will form part of the evening's program.

**Day 5, Wed, 31 Aug.** We take a day trip around the very scenic False Bay route to the hamlet of Rooi-Els where a walk of a mile or so along a stony track should produce sightings of the endemic Cape Rock-Jumper along with Ground Woodpecker, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Cape Bunting, White-necked Raven and Cape Rock Thrush. The smallest Protea of them all grows along this track beside colourful *Pelargoniums*, *Helichrysums* and *Salvias*. At the town of Betty's Bay we visit the African Penguin colony at Stony Point which also features four Cormorant species, three of which, the Bank, Cape and Crowned are endemic. We'll also spend some quality time in the lovely Harold Porter Botanical Garden with its natural fynbos vegetation and attractive views of the mountains and ocean. After lunch at the botanical gardens we take a drive through South Africa's most famous wine producing area, Stellenbosch where we will enjoy some wine tasting and dinner at the Spier Estate before returning to Steenberg.



*The perky Cape Rockjumper is a sought-after endemic and one of two species that make up a unique bird family found only in South Africa and Lesotho. Photograph by guide Joe Grosel.*

**Day 6, Thu, 1 Sep.** Another full day trip, this time to the West Coast National Park with its turquoise lagoon and swaths of annual, spring wildflowers not to mention some very appealing mammals and birds. We spend most of the day in the park taking in the floral splendor whilst looking out for the likes of Black Harrier, Karoo Scrub-Robin, Pied Starling, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Bokmakierie, Large-billed Lark and Cape Grassbird plus a variety of mammals including Steenbok, Eland and Red Hartebeest (antelope). The lagoon is home to both Greater and Lesser Flamingo and many waterfowl such as the Cape Teal and Yellow-billed Duck. On our return journey to Cape Town we will pop into the nearby village of Darling with its many wildflower reserves where an early dinner will be enjoyed at one of the many local restaurants before returning to Cape Town and Steenberg.

**Day 7, Fri, 2 Sep.** After a leisurely breakfast we drive to Cape Town airport and take the midmorning, direct, two and a half-hour flight to Skukuza, the headquarters of the Kruger National Park. The Skukuza Airport is about 10 miles from the camp so we will be transferred by open safari vehicle to our lodgings in the Skukuza Camp. We will be staying in thatched en-suite chalets with air conditioning. Once settled in, there will be time for a quick lunch and then straight into an



afternoon game viewing and birding excursion. This will be a fine opportunity to get acquainted with Kruger's widespread species including Gray-go-away-Birds, Fork-tailed Drongos, Magpie Shrikes, Arrow-marked Babblers along with numerous starling, hornbill, spurfowl and roller species. Dinner will be taken at the best restaurant in Kruger, the Cattle Barron with its fine selection of red wines. *Night in the Skukuza Rest Camp, Kruger National Park.*

**Day 8, Sat, 3 Sep.** This should be a memorable day as we take a long but very scenic drive to our next camp Satara, first traveling along the riparian habitats of the Sabie River stopping off at the Lower Sabie Camp for breakfast and a leg stretch before heading further north. On the first leg of the day's journey mammals preferring the wooded habitats should be seen. These include Greater Kudu, Waterbuck, Bushbuck, Nyala and hopefully Leopard. On the journey north to Satara Camp the vegetation progressively becomes more open and the typical plains game and birds should start appearing. We will be looking out for the likes of Ostrich, Kori Bustard, Secretarybird and Ground Hornbill. Typical savannah mammals such as Blue Wildebeest, Common Zebra and Impala should be plentiful. Some of the smaller bird that are fairly common in the savannahs around Satara Camp include Red-billed Oxpecker, Southern Cordonbleu, Swainson's Spurfowl, Rattling Cisticola, Brown-headed Parrot, Sabota Lark, Burchell's Starling, Black-crowned Tchagra and Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark. Large raptors are also well represented here with Bateleur, African Hawk-Eagle, Brown Snake-Eagle and Tawny Eagle seen on most days. A light lunch will be taken at a tearoom en-route and we should reach Satara Camp by late afternoon. A pre-dinner wine sampling session will be a fine way to end our final night in the national park. *Night in thatched cottages in the **Satara Camp.***



*The open plains of the Kruger's Satara region are particularly suited to Cheetah and these two stunning males were photograph there by guide Joe Grosel on a recent safari to Kruger.*

**Day 9, Sun, 4 Sep.** This morning we take an early drive further north to the Olifants River traversing at least three major Kruger habitats. Birding from the bridge crossing the Olifants River is always rewarding with probable sightings of Great Egret, Saddle-billed Stork, Greater Painted Snipe, White-fronted Plover and a good selection of Vultures that bathe in the shallow pools. This route is also good for the big cats and Spotted Hyeana. On returning to Satara camp we'll have breakfast at the camp restaurant before leaving for the Thornybush Private Game Reserve (part of the Greater Kruger Conservancy) where we stay in a lovely private lodge. All drives here are in open safari vehicle and rangers are allowed to traverse off-road to get better views of the big-five mammals. The nights at Thornybush are usually filled with the sounds of nocturnal mammals and birds with the territorial male lions dominating the chorus! *Night in a private lodge in the **Thornybush Game Reserve.***

**Day 10, Mon, 5 Sep.** We start the day with the traditional safari style coffee and biscotti's before setting out in search of Rhino, Leopard and Lion, three mammals for which this area is well known for. The deciduous woodlands here are good

for a great variety of passerines including Southern White-crowned Shrike, Cape Penduline-Tit, Red-headed Weaver, White-browed Scrub-Robin, Chin-spot Batis, Black-backed Puffback, Ashy Flycatcher, Golden-breasted Bunting and Black Cuckooshrike. In spite of being in the bush in the dry season we won't forget the wildflower component of the tour and some winter-flowering plants such as *Aloes*, *Euphorbias* and the stunning Impala Lilies *Adenium multiflorum* will be targeted during our excursions. Through the heat of the day we have the option of taking a nap or watching game come into the camp waterhole for a drink. This afternoon's excursion will extend beyond sunset with the intention of seeing some nocturnal species including owls and nightjars. Mammals that are often seen here after dark include Large Spotted Genet, African Civet, Lesser Bushbaby, Scrub Hare and African Porcupine. On our last evening in the bush we will take pleasure in some final wine tasting and a bush barbeque under the stars.

*Night in a private lodge in the **Thornybush Game Reserve**.*



*Although the month of September constitutes the advent of spring, the 'bushveld' region of north-eastern South Africa is at its driest and waterholes are a hive of activity during the heat of the day when, particularly elephants come in to slake their thirst.  
Photograph by guide Joe Grosel.*

**Day 11, Tue, 6 Sep.** There will be time for one final morning bush excursion before brunch and a transfer from the Thornybush Game Reserve to the Eastgate Airport which is only about 15 miles away. We'll take the lunchtime flight back to Johannesburg arriving in good time to take the evening flight back to the US.

**Day 12, Wed, 7 Sep.** Arrive in the US.

## About Your Guides

**Marcelo Padua** was born in Belem at the mouth of the Amazon River. Growing up he spent his free time at his uncle's farm in an Amazon rainforest reserve observing everything from insects to mammals and birds. Marcelo began studying English at an early age and attended high school in Middletown, Pennsylvania, in a student-exchange program. He is remarkably fluent and even taught English for a couple of years back home in Brazil.

Following university in Rio de Janeiro, Marcelo transferred to law school in Cuiaba, but working as an English-speaking naturalist guide during school holidays soon made it clear to him that birding was much more than a hobby! With just a year to go until his bar exam, he turned his back on the law to hang out his shingle as a birding guide. He met Bret Whitney in 2005 and embarked on a full-time guiding career with Field

*"I'd go anywhere with **Marcelo Padua** because I know the tour will be seamless, fun and we will get the birds." D. N.; *Beyond the Ports of Portugal**



Guides in 2010. With his great sense of humor, impeccable organizational skills, and love of seeing birds, Marcelo has quickly become a reference for birding in Brazil, spending over 200 days each year in the field. A warning: Watch out if he sees displaying manakins of any kind! Marcelo makes his nest at the crossroads of the Pantanal and the Amazon in Cuiaba with his wife, Ana.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Marcelo's complete tour schedules; just click on his photo.

Your Field Guides leader will be accompanied throughout the tour by a **local guide**.

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$8875** (The majority of price increase is due to the inclusion of internal flights within South Africa this year)

**DEPOSIT: \$900**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE: April 29, 2022**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional\*): \$525** (singles are limited at our lodge in Cape Town and Thornybush; depending on the make-up of our group, we may have to double up at these locations)

**LIMIT: 12**

### **Special Note: Tour fees may be subject to change due to the global economic effects of COVID-19.**

We have published the itinerary and price for this tour with the understanding that during these uncertain times we are likely to encounter unforeseen changes. Some of our tours may incur higher costs due to increases in currency exchange rate fluctuations or COVID-19 related fees imposed by countries and/or suppliers. Travel and hospitality companies all over the world have been adversely affected by the pandemic, and there is no guarantee that all of the lodging and transportation we have booked for this tour will still be available at the time of departure. We hope to maintain our services as indicated in our itinerary as well as our published tour fee. However, if changes are required we will make every effort to maintain the quality of the itinerary as it is published with the most appropriate substitutions available. Should any necessary changes or other unforeseen causes result in an increase in service rates to us, we reserve the right to pass on those increases in fees to the tour participant.

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Sharon Mackie. Sharon will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**Accommodations:** The standard of lodging on this tour ranges from lavish in the Cape, where we will be staying in an award-winning boutique hotel with its own vineyard and winery, along with two signature fine dining restaurants, to comfortable in the Kruger National Park, where we'll be staying in a combination of thatched bungalows and guesthouses, both of which have en-suite facilities, tea/coffee stations, a/c and open verandas. All the establishments have a 24-hour electricity supply, but bring along a flashlight for when you have to walk between your chalet and restaurants after dark. Three nights will be spent inside the Kruger National Park itself, with two nights in a private conservation area to the west of Kruger known as the Timbavati and Thornybush Game Reserves. Here, we will be residing in our own private game lodge which is unfenced, giving guests uninterrupted views of the African bush and waterholes that attract a variety of large mammals. Our accommodation here is a typically smart African Safari Lodge with stylish, modern, en-suite rooms.

**DOCUMENTS:** US citizens will need a current passport for travel to South Africa. No visa is required. We recommend the validity date of your passport extends six months beyond your return date home. South Africa requires two blank pages for their stamps each time you enter the country and as a precaution, it is best to have at least one blank page for all the countries you will visit or transit on this tour. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the South African consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey.

**As noted above, all participants and your Field Guides guide(s) will be required to have completed a full course of vaccination at least two weeks prior to the tour. Be sure to share proof of such vaccination with our office and bring a physical copy of your vaccination proof on tour.**

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

**Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

*Please also note, we ask you to limit your baggage to one medium size soft duffel and a carry-on. Wheeled duffels are allowed, but please **do not bring suitcases** (including soft-sided ones) as these will not pack well and will **have to be left in Johannesburg throughout the whole tour.***

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is **\$8875** for one person in double occupancy\* from Johannesburg. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 10, internal flights within South Africa, all meals from dinner on Day 2 through lunch on Day 11, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee **does not include** airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is **\$525**. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

\*If you have a trusted friend, relative, or significant other with whom you wish to share a room on tour, please let us know and your tour manager will make that assignment. Field Guides is not currently pairing roommates who do not know each other, and the single supplement will apply if you do not have a roommate. *Note:* There may be occasions on certain tours where singles won't be available at all hotels/lodges. If this is the case, your tour manager will let you know. You will be advised ahead of time who you will be rooming with and you will have the opportunity to connect with that person before the tour, if you would like.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please [contact our office](#). Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$900** per person, or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by April 29, 2022**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

Please note that if you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will require **proof of travel insurance**. Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**CANCELLATION POLICY: FOR 2022 TOURS:** Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-



transferable. **FOR 2023 TOURS & BEYOND:** Note that beginning in 2023, the 50% refund period will become 179 to 90 days before departure, with no refund thereafter.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. If you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will **require proof of travel insurance**. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

**Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii.** We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and

expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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