

Safaria

BIRDING SAFARI #BIRDING KRUGER PARK



North of Lower Sabie on the eastern bank of the Sabie River lies an extensive range of sweet grasslands proving ample opportunity to go in search of the many grassland non-passerine species ranging from spur fowl to bustard and korhaans. There is also the possibility of spotting the rarer quails and button-quails.

DISCOVER MORE:

With the Southern region of the Kruger National Park representing some of the most bio-diverse flora within the 20,000sqm kilometers, it is a particular productive area to go in search of the Kruger Parks 520 recorded birds species. Naturally this is season dependent but following the Sabie River (from the Swazi word Sabisa meaning "to be careful" because of the slipper rocks and crocodiles) between Skukuza and Lower Sabie, a Birding Safari can be richly rewarded as the savanna provides diverse systems to explore. The main road although busy, straddles many different eco-zones providing an interesting mixture of flora.

Staying along the Sabie River front and following the riparian zone of large trees, this is a great vantage point to view some of typical water birds and waders in the Park. There is also the likely chance of viewing many of the larger raptors and aerial scavengers within the river bed or perching in the large trees. These include Vultures, Eagles and Storks.

Within the near vicinity of Skukuza Camp the bush thickens into a deep acacia thorn thick and this provides wonderful habitat for many of the smaller and more colorful birds from waxbills to bush-shrikes, eremomela, pytilia's and twinspots. A particular favorite of ours is to visit Lake Panic , the Skukuza Golf Course as well as nursery. This gives us the opportunity to leave our vehicle and go on foot in search of some of the species that dominate the thickets. Of particular interest in these areas are the ever elusive Gorgeous Bush Shrike and Narina Trogon. In the summer months one can spend an entire day just in these specific areas. With many large fruiting and flower trees and bushes there is a tremendous food supply for both the frugivorous and insectivorous species. A Birding Safari in the Kruger National Park wouldn't be complete without visiting Lake Panic. This rather famous location provides all year round water and offers a respectable number of birds even in the winter months. Whilst searching out many of the smaller more elusive bird species guests are also treated to regular large mammal sightings and quite often a short visit from the resident Leopard.

Here is a recent account of a Safaria Birding Safari in the Kruger National Park.

Kruger National Park Birding Safari with Safaria: February 2018

We welcome all levels of birders from dedicated to occasional as well as true beginners. On this specific Birding Safari our guests had recently fallen in love with this past time and would safely say that they regarded themselves as amateurs looking to learn about Southern African Birds and capture as many new lifers as possible. This made for a very fun and informative day with 96 Species of birds been sighted.



BIRDING SAFARI OVERVIEW:

Guests: (3) From United Kingdom and New Zealand.
Level: Amateur
Season: Summer (February)
Area: Southern Kruger National Park
POI: Sabie River frontage, Lake Panic, Golf Course & Nursery

Guests where collect our Safaria Open Safari vehicle from Paul Kruger Gate to ensure convenient and quick access to the Sabie River area. Collection time was at 05h30am.

AREA OF FOCUS:



GUIDED ROUTE:

We follow a very simple formula of staying close to water and following dense foliage that we could either be accessed by vehicle or foot. Breaking these destinations into time frames as follows:

- Section 1: From 05h30am to 09h30am
- Section 2: From 10h00am to 12h30am

Lunch Break

- Section 3: From 14h00 till 15h00am
- Section 2: From 15h30am till end of day

(ON SAFARI) PREFERRED CLOTHING COLOURS:



Cancellation policy: (Day Safari)

- We require full payment 2 days prior to going on Safari
- Should there be a cancellation received after payment has been made and within 3 workings days of going on Safari, this will incur a 50% cancellation fee.
- Any booking that is cancelled within 24 hours of departure will incur a 100% cancellation fee.
- In the case of a cancellation where a 3rd party, Lodge, Destination or Operator is involved, such as accommodation, flights, transfer shuttles or coaches, the prevailing Lodge, destination or Operators cancellation policy will apply.

On acceptance and payment of your Day Safari you willingly acknowledge and accept the following conditions:

1. I voluntarily agree to participate in the above-mentioned activity arranged and provided by Safaria Trading Pty Ltd and conducted in the Kruger National Park and surrounding areas. 2. My general health is good and there is nothing that renders me unfit to participate in the above-mentioned activity. 3. I acknowledge that there are risks and danger involved in the above-mentioned activity and assume full personal responsibility. 4. I understand that I will be transported by an Open Safari vehicle, which is exposed, subject to wildlife, people, road hazards and the natural elements. 5. I am aware of the hazards and distribution of malaria in Southern Africa and acknowledge that I will be entering a malaria area. 6. I am aware of the potential dangers of exposure to the sun - directly or indirectly. 7. I accept Safaria Trading Pty Ltd conditions of participation and I voluntarily assume the risk inherent in taking part in such an open vehicle safari tour and transfer. I together with my heirs, executors and administrators hereby completely release Safaria Trading Pty Ltd, its officers, servants, agents and representatives, from any (all) liability, in connection with my participation in any safari or tour, and from any (all) liability or claims that could accrue to me or my heirs, executors and administrators arising out of my participation in the safari or tour or in any related activities irrespective of whether such claim or claims arose through the negligence of any person, or from any of the risks, dangers or hazards inherent in an African safari or tour, or of any loss of, or damage to, any property from any cause whatsoever and I further indemnify and hold harmless Safaria Trading Pty Ltd and associated persons against any claims howsoever the same may arise.

For Lodge Bookings:

Provisional bookings:

Provisional bookings will hold for a maximum of 7 days after which there will be an automatic release of the space.

Safaria Reserved Rights

In the event that Safaria, at any time, receives another firm enquiry, accompanied by the payment of a 25% deposit, seeking available accommodation being held by any of the lodges in its collection for the Guest, then Safaria reserves the right to request the Guest to immediately release the said accommodation; or Pay a non-refundable deposit to the relevant lodge in the sum equivalent to 25% of the full account, so as to secure the reservation.

Refunds

In the event of a refund, the final refund payment will exclude bank charges / currency fluctuations incurred when payment was received by Safaria. This however, does not include credit card merchant charges. Safaria. This however, does not include credit card merchant charges.

Travel Cancellation Insurance

Guests are obliged to ensure that they have taken out (or the travelling guest has taken out) adequate travel insurance to cover the financial implications of Safaria and its Lodges Cancellation Terms and Conditions. The Guest will bear the sole and absolute responsibility therefore. Implications of Safaria and its Lodges Cancellation Terms and Conditions. The Guest will bear the sole and absolute responsibility therefore.

General Accommodation Cancellation Policy:

(Please note that the prevailing Lodges Cancellation Policy will apply)

Contact us +2783 5567249 – info@safaria.co.za - www.safaria.co.za

LIST OF SIGHTINGS:

We managed to capture 96 confirmed sightings for the day. These were confirmed in pairs and documented in duplicate. All sightings were visually confirmed with many species also providing vocal confirmation. Below is the confirmed list of species recorded within a 12 hour period.

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1	Babbler, Arrow Marked	33	Guineafowl, Helmeted	65	Prinia, Tawny flanked
2	Barbet, Black Collard	34	Hamerkop	66	Puff back, Black Backed
3	Barbet, Crested	35	Heron, Greenbacked	67	Pytilia, Green backed
4	Bateleur	36	Heron, Squacco	68	Roller, European
5	Batis, Chin Spot	37	Hoopoe, Africa	69	Roller, Lilac Breasted
6	Bee-eater, Eurpoean	38	Hoopoe, Green Wood	70	Roller, Purple
7	Bee-eater, Southern Carmine	39	Hornbill, Grey	71	Scrub Robin, White Browed
8	Boubou, Southern	40	Hornbill, South. Yellow billed	72	Scimitar, Common
9	Bul Bul, Dark capped	41	Hornbill, South. Red billed	73	Shrike, Gorgeous Bush
10	Buzzard, Lizard	42	Hornbill, Southern Ground	74	Shrike, Orange Breasted Bush
11	Camaroptera, Green backed	43	Ibis, Hadedda	75	Shrike, Grey Headed Bush
12	Cisticola. Rattling	44	Jacana, African	76	Shrike, Red Backed
13	Cisticola, Red-faced	45	Fiscal, Common	77	Sparrow, House
14	Cormorant, Reed	46	Flycatcher, Paradise	78	Sparrow, Southern Grey Headed
15	Cormorant, White breasted	47	Flycatcher, Ashy	79	Spurfowl, Natal
16	Coucal, Burchells	48	Fycatcher, Southern Black	80	Starling, Burchells
17	Crake, Black	49	Flycatcher, Spotted	81	Starling, Glossy
18	Crombec, Long billed	50	Go-away Bird, Grey	82	Starling, Greater blue eared
19	Cuckoo, Jacobin	51	Goose, Egyptian	83	Starling, Violet backed
20	Cuckoo, Klaas (j)	52	Greenbul, Sombre	84	Sunbird, White bellied
21	Dove, Cape turtle	53	Kingfisher, Brown hooded	85	Swallow, Barn
22	Dove, Laughing	54	Kingfisher. Pied	86	Swallow, White throated
23	Dove, Emerald spotted	55	Kingfisher. Woodland	87	Tchagra, Brown crowned
24	Drongo, Fork tailed	56	Kite, Yellow billed	88	Tchagra, Black crowned
25	Duck, White faced	57	Lapwing, Blacksmith	89	Thick Knee, Water
26	Eagle, African fish	58	Lapwing, Crowned	90	Vulture, White Backed
27	Eagle, Brown snake	59	Mousebird, Red faced	91	Wagtail, Pied
28	Eagle, Tawny	60	Oriole, Black headed	92	Waxbill, Blue
29	Eagle, Whalbergs	61	Oxpecker. Red billed	93	Weaver, Thick Billed
30	Egret, Litte	62	Parrot, Brown headed	94	White Eye, Cape
31	Finch, Jamesons	63	Pigeon, African Green	95	Whydah, Pin tailed
32	Finch, Red billed	64	Plover, Three banded	96	Woodpecker, Bearded
				97	Woodpecker, Cardinal

