



19 DAY

NAMIBIA,
BOTSWANA AND
ZIMBABWE

*Birdwatching
Trip*

30 JUNE - 19 JULY
2025

aves  africa

TRIP OVERVIEW

This itinerary gives you the opportunity to visit some of the top birdwatching and wildlife viewing sites in Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe in the company of an Aves Africa guide

While this trip covers three different countries the majority of our time will be spent in Namibia, one of southern Africa's most popular and rewarding birding destinations. A land of remarkable biodiversity, breath-taking scenery and unique cultures, Namibia is also a land of stark contrasts. From the cold Atlantic Ocean and the inhospitable Namib Desert to the dry woodlands of the Namibian escarpment and on to the lush sub-tropical northern provinces bordering the Kavango and Kwando river systems, this is a magical birdwatching destination.

Birdwatching in Namibia is excellent with in the region of 685 bird species occurring of which 89 are endemic to the southern African region. Seven of the ten families endemic to the African mainland are represented with the bustard and lark families being particularly well represented. Although Namibia has a single endemic species in the Dune Lark it does boast 15 near endemic species including Gray's Lark, Rüppell's Korhaan and Herero Chat, White-tailed Shrike, Violet Wood-hoopoe, Rockrunner, Bare-cheeked Babbler, Rüppell's Parrot, Carp's Tit and Hartlaub's Francolin. Complementing these Namibian near endemics is the vast avifaunal diversity that is found in the north-eastern reaches of Namibia, as well as in the Chobe region of Botswana and Zimbabwe, making a visit to this region so attractive from a birdwatching perspective.

On top of the excellent birding, Namibia, as well as the northern reaches of Botswana and Zimbabwe, is home to some of the best game viewing areas in southern Africa including Etosha National Park, Bwabwata National Park and Chobe National Park. With its combination of superb scenery, accessible endemic birds and abundant game this is a destination which should be top of any birdwatcher's bucket list.



ITINERARY OUTLINE

On this 19 day Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe birdwatching trip we traverse a multitude of habitats starting out in the dry central and northern reaches of Namibia before heading eastwards to the sub-tropical riparian forests and rivers systems of north-eastern Namibia and Botswana before finishing the trip on the Zambezi River at the world famous Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. While the focus will be on birdwatching there will be ample opportunity for mammal watching at several key sites included in the itinerary.

The tour starts in Windhoek, Namibia where we visit some local birding sites before heading southwards to the Namib Desert and world famous Sossuvlei. From there we descend down off the central plateau towards the coastal town of Walvis Bay where we will spend two days in search of waterbirds as well as some of the desert specials found in the adjacent Namib Desert including Benguela Long-billed Lark and Gray's Lark. From the coast we head inland, crossing the vast plains of Damaraland and on towards the majestic Spitzkoppe Inselberg where we search for Herero

Chat before heading on to the granitic Erongo Mountains. We spend the better part of two days in search of several Namibian specials including Hartlaub's Spurfowl, Rockrunner and White-tailed Shrike before traveling north to Etosha National Park, one of Africa's largest wilderness areas, where we spend three days birding as well as game viewing.

From Etosha we head north-eastwards, traveling along what was formerly know as the Caprivi strip, entering the core of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. We spend three nights at Namushasha River Lodge, nestled on the banks of the Kwando River, exploring the mix of pans and wetlands and Combretum dominated woodlands. Bird diversity in this region is exceptional with a number of the Okavango specials occurring.

From Namushasha we cross the border into Botswana and spend two nights in the vicinity of Chobe National Park before finishing the trip at the mighty Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.



NINETEEN DAY NAMIBIA BIRDWATCHING TRIP

An outline of the itinerary is provided below:

30 June 2025	1 July 2025	2 July 2025	3 July 2025	4 July 2025	5 July 2025
<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Arrival day</div><div></div><div>Arrebusch Travel Lodge, Windhoek</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Morning birdwatching at Daan Viljoen Nature Reserve</div><div></div><div>Accommodation</div><div>Namib Desert Lodge</div><div></div><div>Target Birds</div><div>Augur Buzzard, Pirit Batis, Orange River Francolin, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Monteiro's Hornbill, Rockrunner, Barred Wren-Warbler, Chestnut-vented Warbler</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</div><div></div><div>Accommodation</div><div>Namib Desert Lodge</div><div></div><div>Target Birds</div><div>Ludwig's Bustard, Tractrac Chat, Red-capped Lark, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Lappet-faced Vulture, Rufous-eared Warbler</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Sossuvlei excursion</div><div></div><div>Accommodation</div><div>Alte Brucke, Swakopmund</div><div></div><div>Target Birds</div><div>Verreaux's Eagle, Pygmy Falcon, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Rüppell's Korhaan, Karoo Long-billed Lark, Stark's Lark, Pale-winged Starling, Sociable Weaver, Mountain Wheatear</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</div><div></div><div>Accommodation</div><div>Alte Brucke, Swakopmund</div><div></div><div>Target Birds</div><div>Bank Cormorant, Cape Cormorant, Crowned Cormorant, Lesser Flamingo, Cape Gannet, Bar-tailed Godwit, Hartlaub's Gull, Kelp Gull, African Black Oystercatcher, Chestnut-banded Plover, Grey Plover, Caspian Tern, Damara Tern</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Morning birdwatching in Swakopmund</div><div></div><div>Accommodation</div><div>Ai Aiba Rockpainting Lodge, Erongo Mountains</div><div></div><div>Target Birds</div><div>Black-throated Canary, Herero Chat, Monteiro's Hornbill, Tractrac Chat, Benguela Long-billed Lark, Dune Lark, Gray's Lark, Bradfield's Swift</div></div>
6 July 2025	7 July 2025	8 July 2025	9 July 2025	10 July 2025	
<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</div><div></div><div>Accommodation</div><div>Ai Aiba Rockpainting Lodge, Erongo Mountains</div><div></div><div>Target Birds</div><div>Auger Buzzard, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Lark-like Bunting, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Freckled Nightjar, Rockrunner, White-tailed Shrike, Hartlaub's Spurfowl, Carp's Black Tit, Mountain Wheatear</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Morning birdwatching in the Erongo Mountains</div><div></div><div>Accommodation</div><div>Okaukuejo Rest Camp, Etosha National Park</div><div></div><div>Target Birds</div><div>Familiar Chat, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Verreaux's Eagle, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Rosy-faced Lovebird, White-backed Mousebird, Short-toed Rock-Thrush</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</div><div></div><div>Accommodation</div><div>Okaukuejo Rest Camp, Etosha National Park</div><div></div><div>Target Birds</div><div>Black-faced Babbler, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Blue Crane, Tawny Eagle, Martial Eagle, Red-necked Falcon, Monteiro's Hornbill, Northern Black Korhaan, Lappet-faced Vulture, White-backed Vulture, Chestnut Weaver</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</div><div></div><div>Accommodation</div><div>Halali Rest Camp, Etosha National Park</div><div></div><div>Target Birds</div><div>Bateleur, Kori Bustard, Burchell's Courser, Blue Crane, Bradfield's Hornbill, Pink-billed Lark, Stark's Lark, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Southern White-faced Owl, Burchell's Sandgrouse, Secretarybird, Carp's Tit</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Activities</div><div>Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</div><div></div><div>Accommodation</div><div>Halali Rest Camp, Etosha National Park</div><div></div><div>Target Birds</div><div>Blue Crane, Tawny Eagle, Martial Eagle, Red-necked Falcon, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Monteiro's Hornbill, Lappet-faced Vulture, White-backed Vulture, Chestnut Weaver</div></div>	



11 July 2025	12 July 2025	13 July 2025	14 July 2025	15 July 2025
<p> Activities Morning birdwatching in Etosha National Park</p> <p> Travel to Hakusembe River Lodge and afternoon river cruise</p> <p> Accommodation Hakusembe River Lodge, Rundu</p> <p> Target Birds White-browed Coucal, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Slaty Egret, Dickinson's Kestrel, White-crowned Lapwing</p>	<p> Activities Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</p> <p> Accommodation Namushasha River Lodge, Caprivi</p> <p> Target Birds Hartlaub's Babbler, Arnot's Chat, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Meve's Starling, Sharp-tailed Starling, Souza's Shrike, White-backed Vulture</p>	<p> Activities Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</p> <p> Accommodation Namushasha River Lodge, Caprivi</p> <p> Target Birds Swamp Boubou, Luapula Cisticola, Wattled Crane, Slaty Egret, African Pygmy-Goose, Goliath Heron, Rufous-bellied Heron, African Openbill, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, African Rail, Saddle-billed Stork, African Swampphen</p>	<p> Activities Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</p> <p> Accommodation Namushasha River Lodge, Caprivi</p> <p> Target Birds Coppery-tailed Coucal, Bat Hawk, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Long-toed Lapwing, Square-tailed Nightjar, Swamp Nightjar, Meve's Starling, Holub's Golden Weaver, Southern Brown-throated Weaver</p>	<p> Activities Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</p> <p> Accommodation Chobe River Cottages, Botswana</p> <p> Target Birds Chirping Cisticola, Coppery-tailed Coucal, White-browed Coucal, Southern Carmine Bee-eater, Red-necked Falcon, Rufous-bellied Heron, White-backed Night-Heron, Pel's Fishing Owl, Meve's Starling</p>
16 July 2025	17 July 2025	18 July 2025	19 July 2025	
<p> Activities Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</p> <p> Accommodation Chobe River Cottages, Botswana</p> <p> Target Birds Tropical Boubou, Chirping Cisticola, Three-banded Courser, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Slaty Egret, Brown Firefinch, Long-toed Lapwing, White-crowned Lapwing, Orange-winged Pytilia, Racket-tailed Roller, Collared Palm Thrush, African Skimmer</p>	<p> Activities Morning and afternoon birdwatching activities</p> <p> Travel to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe</p> <p> Accommodation Shearwater Explorer Village, Zimbabwe</p> <p> Target Birds Brown Firefinch, Bat Hawk, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow, Collared Palm Thrush, Schalow's Turaco, Southern Brown-throated Weaver</p>	<p> Activities Morning visit to Victoria Falls</p> <p> Afternoon Zambezi boat cruise</p> <p> Accommodation Shearwater Explorer Village, Zimbabwe</p> <p> Target Birds Tropical Boubou, Senegal Coucal, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Rock Pratincole, Black Stork, Schalow's Turaco, White-backed Vulture</p>	<p> Activities Morning birdwatching in Zambezi National Park</p> <p>Tour ends</p>	





ABOUT US

Aves Africa Birding and Wildlife Tours specializes in delivering unforgettable birdwatching and wildlife experiences for small to medium groups.

We aim to offer a personalized service to our clients with a focus on small groups and adapting the pace of our tours to suit our client's needs with our specialty being set departure, as well as customised tours, to countries across Africa including Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Aves Africa is owned and managed by Martin Taylor. Martin is a FGASA accredited specialist bird guide with over twenty year's experience birdwatching and working in the conservation field in Africa. He is passionate about threatened bird species and was the lead editor of the 2015 Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland, the author of the 2018 State of South Africa's Bird Report and a member of BirdLife South Africa's List Committee for several years. In the past he has acted as coordinator of SADC region for the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative, which aims to protect habitat for Palearctic migratory bird species and was involved in several capacity building initiatives assisting conservation organisations across southern Africa. His birdwatching travels have taken him across Africa including Angola, South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, the Seychelles, Central African Republic and Zimbabwe.

Aves Africa is based in the Lowveld of South Africa in the small town of Hoedspruit.





THANK YOU

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

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