



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

South Africa

KwaZulu-Natal day trip

Dlinza Forest & Amatikulu NR

2022



Gorgeous Bushshrike by Adam Riley

Today requires an early start so as to maximise the birding potential at Dlinza Forest near Eshowe. The forest reserve of Dlinza is entirely contained within the town, yet still supports a diverse avifauna combining both coastal and mistbelt bird species. We will search for African Goshawk, the rare Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Narina Trogon, Crowned Eagle, Purple-crested Turaco, Crowned and noisy Trumpeter Hornbills, African Emerald Cuckoo, Cape Batis, Green Twinspot, Chorister Robin-Chat, Grey Cuckooshrike and the highly endangered Spotted Ground Thrush. We are likely to also be entertained by the diminutive and at times surprisingly confiding Blue Duiker, a tiny antelope species that feeds almost exclusively on fallen leaves. In addition, South Africa's only forest canopy walkway is situated here and we will spend most of our morning birding from this superb viewpoint.

From Eshowe we return to sea level at the small, but beautiful and highly productive Amatikulu Nature Reserve. The reserve features extensive grasslands, acacia thickets and dense coastal forest atop tall dunes. With luck we may flush Swamp Nightjar, Marsh Owl or Black Coucal as we search for White-fronted Bee-eater, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Croaking and Pale-crowned Cisticolas, Black-bellied Bustard and European Roller. The grasslands are also host to Giraffe, Impala, Greater Kudu and Common Zebra, and Red-billed Oxpeckers can usually be found in attendance. Inside the forest we will keep an eye out for Orange-breasted and Gorgeous Bushshrikes, Blue-mantled Flycatcher, Lemon Dove, Square-tailed Drongo, Purple-banded Sunbird, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Green Coucal, Red-capped Robin-Chat. Moving down to the estuary we will probably be greeted by the high-pitched, gull-like call of African Fish Eagle, which soars in the thermals along with Western Osprey, Great White Pelican and Woolly-necked Stork. Up to six species of kingfisher are possible along the shoreline while Collared Pratincole and Greater Crested Tern can often be found flying over the water.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

The tour price INCLUDES:

- Lunch on the day;
- Ground transportation in a suitable vehicle, driven by a Rockjumper guide;
- All fuel as required by the itinerary & tolls;
- All entrance and conservation fees as required by the itinerary;
- Activities mentioned in the itinerary;
- Guiding services and costs of a Rockjumper leader throughout.

The tour price above EXCLUDES:

- Any bottled drinking water/ beverages/alcoholic drinks;
- Optional activities/excursions not mentioned in the itinerary outline;
- Special gratuities;
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, gift shop purchases, telephone calls, etc.
- Any item not specified above as included.

