



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

South Africa KwaZulu-Natal Day Trips Oribi Gorge 2022



Knysna Woodpecker by Steve Davis

Today we will depart early for Oribi Gorge, which is situated near Port Shepstone along the Kwa-Zulu Natal south coast. The drive to this scenic nature reserve should take approximately 2 hours. This beautiful reserve is a wonderful mix of coastal forest, grassland and beautiful riverine and riparian habitat along the Umzilkulwana river gorge.

Birding in this nature reserve is often very rewarding with a number of specials occurring. Species associated with the forest habitat in the reserve include Natal Spurfowl, Knysna and Purple-crested Turacos, Narina Trogon, Lemon Dove, Red-fronted and Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Square-tailed Drongo, Brown Scrub-Robin, Barratt's Warbler, Cape Batis, Southern Boubou, Olive and Gorgeous Bush-Shrike, Black-bellied Starling, Grey, Olive and Southern Double-collared Sunbird, Dark-backed Weaver, Swee and Grey Waxbill, Green Twinspot and Forest Canary to name a few. This particular reserve also supports a small and rarely seen population of African Broadbill, here at the southern limit of its range. African Crowned Eagle is another special that we may be lucky enough to encounter soaring high above the forests on clear mornings whilst the reserve also provides chances of seeing Forest Buzzard and as well as seeing the impressively large Cape Vulture (an inaccessible breeding colony is located nearby). The riverine habitat is another worth exploring as Mountain Wagtail, African Finfoot and the scarce Half-collared Kingfisher are all regularly encountered here.

Amongst all the above-mentioned specials we also stand a good chance of finding one of South Africa's most sought-after endemics, the Knysna Woodpecker. This small forest denizen is rather shy as far as Southern African woodpeckers go but can usually be located by its unique call and Oribi Gorge is certainly one of the top spots to find this tricky species.

The impressive sandstone cliffs, the mix of grassland and forests in this nature reserve also provide the ideal habitat for a number of mammal species that we could potentially find during the course of the day. Whilst Oribi have become a worryingly rare sight in the reserve, other antelope that we are more likely to see include Bushbuck, Common Reedbuck and the tiny forest-dwelling Blue Duiker. Blue and Vervet Monkeys also occur and are often the first to alert to the presence of one of the gorge's resident Leopards. Although these cats are found in the reserve, they are very rarely seen during the day.

After what should prove to be a wonderful day exploring this stunning reserve you will return to Durban and your hotel in the late afternoon to early evening.

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.

