

Namibia Night & Day

Naturetrek Tour Report

28th June – 10th July 2025



Brown Hyena



Burchell's Zebra



Bare-cheeked Babbler



Desert Elephant

Tour report by Neil Macleod, photos by Neil Macleod and James Rae



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Tour participants: Neil Macleod & Neville Piper (leaders) with nine Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 28th June

Our evening flight from London via Johannesburg landed at 12:50 the following day.

Day 2

Sunday 29th June

The group arrived at Hosea Kutako International Airport - all smiles and ready for the journey ahead. At 14:00, we began our westward journey, descending the dramatic Gamsberg Pass en route to Rooisand, our overnight lodge.

The drive offered fantastic wildlife sightings. Among the mammals, we observed: Chacma Baboons, Oryx (Gemsbok), Springbok, Klipspringer, A remarkable sighting of six or seven Bat-eared Foxes, a definite highlight of the afternoon.

We also saw Springbok and Gemsbok in excellent golden light, perfect for photography. The birdlife was equally impressive along the route.

We arrived at Rooisand by 17:30. As we settled in, we spotted several birds around the lodge, including African Palm Swift, Little Swift, Bradfield's Swift, Black-throated Canary and White-throated Canary.

At 19:00, we gathered for a hearty dinner. Afterwards, half the group visited the on-site observatory for an unforgettable stargazing experience. Wow — what a night! The clear desert skies offered stunning views of the stars and planets, capping off a brilliant first day.

Day 3

Monday 30th June

After a productive morning walk and birding session, we gathered for a relaxed breakfast at 09:00. By 10:00, we set off on a slow, scenic drive across the farm property, taking time to soak in the expansive landscapes and diverse wildlife. Wow! The scenery was absolutely breathtaking — wide open vistas, dramatic rock formations, and sweeping views of the escarpment. Nature did not disappoint, and we see: Chacma Baboon, again offering great views, a fantastic variety of bird species, including Lark-like Bunting, Dusky Sunbird, Pygmy Falcon, Southern Masked Weaver, Laughing Dove, Namaqua Dove, Ring-necked Dove, Red-headed Finch and Green-winged Pytilia.

We returned to the lodge at 12:30, filled with sightings and scenic impressions, and reconvened at 13:00 for lunch, sharing stories and photos from a spectacular morning in the field.

After a satisfying lunch, we enjoyed a short siesta, taking time to relax and refresh. We gathered again at 16:00 for coffee, tea, and a selection of freshly baked cakes straight from the farm kitchen—a delightful treat before our next outing.

At 16:45 we departed on an afternoon nature drive. The landscape was stunning, with golden grasses still lush from the last rainy season, rolling across dramatic hills and open plains. The drive offered some wonderful sightings, including Gemsbok, Greater Kudu, Mountain Zebra, and Chacma Baboon. Bird enthusiasts were not disappointed either, with several species spotted along the way, adding colour and movement to the landscape.

We returned to the lodge just after sunset at 19:00 and met again at 19:30 for a warm and hearty dinner. The evening didn't end there—after dinner, some members of the group ventured out once more, this time to enjoy stargazing under the clear, unpolluted skies. A perfect end to a perfect day.

Day 4

Tuesday 1st July

We began our morning with a leisurely breakfast at 08:30, taking in the final views of the stunning lodge perched on the edge of the Namib Desert. After breakfast, we packed our bags and set off at 10:00, bidding farewell to this beautiful, dramatic landscape. Our route took us down the escarpment, where we passed through striking rock formations, a testament to the ancient geology of the region. En route to our next destination deep within the Namib Desert, we made a brief stop at Solitaire—a remote desert outpost—for a quick refuel and coffee break. From there, we continued our journey and arrived at our new lodge at 13:00, followed by check-in and a relaxing lunch at 13:30.

The afternoon allowed time for a short siesta, before we regrouped at 16:30 when we set out on a guided nature walk through the lodge grounds and surrounding gardens. The walk was rich in botanical diversity, showcasing many endemic trees, shrubs, and plant species unique to Namibia's arid landscapes. We were also rewarded with excellent bird sightings, including White-backed Mousebird, African Hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Acacia Pied Barbet, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Pririt Batis, Speckled Pigeon, Ring-necked, Laughing, and Namaqua Dove and Cape Sparrow.

The walk ended back at the lodge's bar area at 17:30, just in time to enjoy a drink and reflect on a day filled with landscapes, movement, and life.

Day 5

Wednesday 2nd July

We began our day bright and early, enjoying breakfast before departing the lodge at 06:30. After about an hour's drive, we reached the park gate just as the sun was rising, casting a beautiful glow across the landscape. We made full use of the morning light to photograph the iconic dunes near Deadvlei and Sossusvlei—truly a photographer's dream. After spending some time capturing the scenery, we continued on foot into Deadvlei, where we spent around two and a half hours exploring and taking in the dramatic, otherworldly beauty of the area. Once back at the vehicle, we drove a short distance to Sossusvlei, where we paused for a scenic coffee stop with a well-prepared picnic basket including coffee, tea, and biscuits.

We returned to the lodge for a late lunch at 14:00, and gathered again at 15:00 to welcome Neville, our astronomer, who set up his equipment and gave us an incredible look at the sun through a solar telescope. In the early evening, we regrouped at 18:30 for our daily checklist session, followed by an astronomy evening at 18:45, where Neville guided us through the night sky.

During the day, we also encountered a wonderful selection of wildlife and bird species. Among the mammals seen were Gemsbok, Blue Wildebeest, Springbok, and Black-backed Jackal. Some of the bird highlights included: Ostrich, Bradfield's Swift, Ludwig's Bustard, Rüppell's Korhaan, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Lappet-faced Vulture, White-backed Mousebird, Pale Chanting Goshawk, and Common Scimitarbill, to name but a few.

Day 6

Thursday 3rd July

We began the day with an early breakfast and departed the lodge at 07:30, packed and ready for our journey westwards. The golden morning light provided excellent opportunities for photography, especially of several large herds of Oryx and a herd of Blue Wildebeest. Along the road, we also observed Ludwig's Bustard, Rüppell's Korhaan, and various other bird species. A relaxed coffee stop at Solitaire gave us a break before continuing through the striking Kuiseb Canyon, gradually making our way toward the Atlantic coast. We arrived in Walvis Bay at 12:30 for lunch. In the afternoon, we enjoyed a scenic drive around the Walvis Bay Lagoon, where we saw a wide range of coastal and waterbirds, including Greater and Lesser Flamingo, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Hartlaub's, Kelp and Grey-headed Gull.

We then visited Bird Paradise, a small but rewarding wetland reserve, where we added several new species to our list. Highlights included Common Moorhen, Blue billed Duck, Cape Teal, Red-knobbed Coot, Cape Shoveler, Little Grebe and Black-necked Grebe, among many others.

Our journey continued with a scenic coastal drive from Walvis Bay to Swakopmund, following the Atlantic shoreline. We arrived at the charming Hansa Hotel at 16:30, an elegant, colonial-style hotel where we settled in for the evening.

Day 7

Friday 4th July

We begin the day with breakfast at the charming colonial-style Hansa Hotel in Swakopmund. The warm hospitality and great food set the tone for another exciting day. By 07:45, our bags are packed and ready, and at 08:00, we are collected from the hotel for an unforgettable Living Desert Tour.

The Living Desert Tour is a signature Swakopmund experience, offering an up-close look at the fragile and surprisingly vibrant life hidden in the Namib Desert. This interpretive 4x4 adventure, typically led by expert guides, focuses on the "Little Five":

- Namaqua Chameleon
- Perringuey's (Namib Dune) Adder
- Shovel-snouted Lizard
- Sidewinder Snake
- Cartwheeling Spider (Golden Wheel Spider)

Along the way, the guides interpret the desert ecology, explaining the survival strategies of these incredible creatures and the plants adapted to one of the driest places on Earth. You'll also learn about the unique geology and how the fog sustains life here. A fun, interactive and educational experience!

We return to the Hansa Hotel by 12:00, with sand in our shoes and smiles on our faces. After a short refresh, we're on the road again, driving north along the Skeleton Coast.

About 30 minutes north of Swakopmund, we stop at a remote, yet picturesque location known as Windmill 14. Despite its isolated setting, this spot delivers a surprisingly delightful lunch. While enjoying our meal, we are lucky to spot a new mammal species for the trip: the Whistling Rat—a burrowing rodent known for its high-pitched calls and sentinel behaviour. A special sighting!

After lunch, we continue our journey past Henties Bay, turning inland towards the desert town of Uis. On the outskirts of Uis, we make a poignant stop at a series of roadside graves. These mark the final resting place of individuals who tragically died from poisoning caused by the *Euphorbia virosa*, a highly toxic desert plant. Its milky sap can be fatal, even in small amounts, and was sometimes mistakenly used as a source of water or medicinal remedy. The graves stand as solemn reminders of the desert's hidden dangers.

The road toward Brandberg yields more surprises: birdlife is abundant, and among the sightings are some regional specials. As we get closer to the rugged Brandberg region, we're thrilled to spot Meerkats—a lively troop foraging close to the road. Watching their behaviour is a definite highlight.

We reach our destination, the Brandberg White Lady Lodge, at 16:30. After check-in and a bit of downtime, we regroup at 19:00 for a special evening treat: stargazing with expert astronomer Neville. With Namibia's famously clear skies and minimal light pollution, we gaze into the Milky Way, tracing constellations and distant planets while Neville shares his astronomical insights.

Day 8

Saturday 5th July

The geological story of Twyfelfontein is just as captivating as its wildlife and cultural heritage. This region, situated in the arid Kunene Region of northwestern Namibia, is part of the Huab Basin and features rock formations that date back more than 250 million years to the Late Permian and Early Jurassic periods. The most dominant rock type in the area is Etjo Sandstone, a fine-grained, reddish sandstone that forms the dramatic outcrops and plateaus characteristic of the landscape. This sandstone was originally deposited in an ancient desert environment, forming from dunes that have since been compressed and cemented into rock—this is what gives the area its iconic red and orange hues.

Below the sandstone lies the Damaraland Basement Complex, consisting of much older granites and gneisses, often exposed in nearby valleys and hill slopes. Interbedded within the sedimentary layers are also volcanic rocks, especially basalts, which are remnants of ancient volcanic activity associated with the breakup of the supercontinent Gondwana about 180 million years ago.

Another fascinating feature in the area is the presence of desert varnish—a dark, shiny coating on exposed rock surfaces. This varnish, caused by the slow accumulation of manganese and iron oxides, has helped preserve the world-renowned rock engravings of Twyfelfontein, carved into the sandstone by San (Bushman) hunter-gatherers thousands of years ago.

The region's striking landforms, such as mesas, cliffs, and boulder-strewn slopes, have been shaped by millions of years of erosion, revealing the layering and resilience of these ancient rock formations. Watercourses like the Aba-Huab River—although ephemeral—have also contributed to the sculpting of this dramatic landscape, cutting through rock and creating seasonal oases that sustain life in this harsh desert environment.

We have breakfast at 7:30. After breakfast, we enjoy a peaceful bit of bird watching around our rooms, in and around the nearby dry riverbed. Among the birds we observe are the charismatic Yellow-billed Hornbill, along with several other interesting species that make the most of the morning light and shade in this arid region.

We depart at 9:00 and begin our journey across the rugged terrain. Along the way, we are treated to some excellent birding. We see several new species for our trip, including the elegant Burchell's Courser, the localized Benguela Long-billed Lark, and the always-impressive Ostrich, striding across the plains. We also spot Springbok grazing near the road and a stunning Rüppell's Korhaan, blending well into the dry grassland.

At around 11:00, we enjoy a surprise stop—a peaceful break with tea and coffee served from our picnic basket, set against the quiet desert backdrop. To add to the wonder, we do a session of sun gazing using a telescope, a fascinating way to glimpse solar activity safely and reflect on the vastness of our universe.

We continue our journey and arrive for lunch at 13:00 at our next destination. After a satisfying meal, we take a well-earned short siesta, recharging in the heat of the day.

At 15:00 we meet again for our afternoon activity, a game drive in search of the Desert-adapted Elephants. And what a success! We are rewarded with a beautiful, unforgettable sighting of five elephants—four adults and one young calf estimated to be about two years old. We spend over an hour with these gentle giants, observing them up close, photographing them, and marvelling at how they survive in such a harsh, dry landscape.

We return to our lodge, arriving back at 18:30. At 19:30, we meet again to complete our daily checklist, followed by a delicious dinner under the stars. An absolutely stunning day in the heart of Twyfelfontein.

Geology of Twyfelfontein

The Twyfelfontein area is a geological treasure trove, with rocks that tell a story stretching back over 250 million years. It lies in the Huab Basin and is dominated by the striking Etjo Sandstone—a red to buff-coloured sandstone deposited during the Early Jurassic period in an ancient desert environment. These massive dunes turned to stone form the dramatic cliffs and plateaus of the area.

Beneath the sandstone are older basement rocks (granites and metamorphic gneisses) formed deep within Earth's crust, and occasionally exposed along riverbeds or rocky slopes. The landscape also features volcanic rocks, especially basalts, that resulted from major volcanic eruptions associated with the breakup of the supercontinent Gondwana around 180 million years ago. These flows create stark contrasts in the terrain. Wind and water erosion have shaped the region over millions of years into what we see today—boulder-strewn slopes, dry riverbeds, and sculpted rock formations. One notable feature is the presence of desert varnish, a dark mineral coating that forms slowly on rock surfaces. This varnish helped preserve the ancient San rock engravings for which Twyfelfontein is famous.

Nearby features like the Organ Pipes (a series of dolerite columns resembling a church organ) and the Burnt Mountain (a vividly coloured hillside formed by volcanic and sedimentary interaction) add to the region's geological intrigue.

Day 9

Sunday 6th July

We began our day in the stillness of the early morning, meeting at 05:45 under the deep, dark Namibian sky — one of the clearest and darkest in the world, perfect for stargazing. With the sky still cloaked in night, we explored the wonders of the southern hemisphere sky, guided by Neville, our expert astronomer.

What we saw in the sky:

- Small and Large Magellanic Clouds - These are dwarf galaxies orbiting the Milky Way, visible only from the southern hemisphere. They appear as faint, cloudy smudges — reminders of galaxies in close gravitational dance with our own.
- The Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC) is about 200,000 light-years away.
- The Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC), home to the Tarantula Nebula, is even brighter and closer.
- 47 Tucanae (Tuc 47) Globular Cluster This is one of the brightest and most massive globular clusters in the night sky, located near the SMC. It contains millions of stars tightly packed in a spherical formation and is estimated to be around 13 billion years old — nearly as old as the universe itself.
- Tarantula Nebula found within the LMC, this is the largest and most active star-forming region in our galactic neighborhood. Though 160,000 light-years away, it glows so brightly it's visible even with binoculars. It's a stellar nursery teeming with hot, young stars.
- Venus shining like a brilliant morning star low on the horizon; Venus was visible in the eastern sky. This planet often appears before sunrise or just after sunset — hence its nickname, the “Morning Star” or “Evening Star.”
- Taurus the Bull & The Pleiades (Seven Sisters) The Taurus constellation was rising, and within it, we saw the Pleiades — a stunning open star cluster known since antiquity. Often mistaken for the “Little Dipper,” these blue stars are relatively young and form a tight, sparkly cluster visible to the naked eye.
- Orion Nebula (M42) Part of the Orion constellation; this nebula is one of the closest stellar nurseries to Earth — a place where stars are born. Located in Orion's “sword,” it's a swirling cloud of gas and dust visible through binoculars or telescope, glowing faintly in the pre-dawn sky.
- Andromeda Galaxy - Just faintly visible, this is the closest spiral galaxy to our Milky Way and on a slow collision course with it — though not for another four billion years! To the naked eye, it appears as a small fuzzy patch, yet it's home to a trillion stars.
- The Milky Way stretching across the sky like a celestial river; the Milky Way Galaxy offered its glowing band of stars, gas and cosmic dust — our home in the universe.

We ended our cosmic journey as the eastern sky began to brighten, bathing the land in golden light. After this celestial morning, we returned for a much-welcomed breakfast.

Twyfelfontein Rock Art

At 8:30 we were packed and ready to go. Our next destination was the Twyfelfontein Rock Art Site, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the richest collections of petroglyphs (rock engravings) in Africa.

On a leisurely 1.5-hour walk, we explored:

- Over 2,500 rock engravings, many of which date back over 6,000 years.

- Symbols of Giraffes, Rhinos, Lions, human footprints, and abstract patterns, believed to be created by the San (Bushmen) for spiritual and cultural purposes.
- These images offer insight into the lives, beliefs, and environment of ancient hunter-gatherers.

The surrounding Damaraland landscape, with its striking red sandstone and wide-open vistas, added a dramatic backdrop to this remarkable cultural site.

Petrified Forest and Solar Observation – 11:00

By 11:00 we arrived at the Petrified Forest, where we were greeted again by Neville, who had gone ahead to set up his solar observation equipment.

Before exploring the forest, we had the unique opportunity to observe the Sun safely:

Neville used a telescope fitted with solar filters to let us view the solar surface, including:

- Sunspots: Darker, cooler areas on the sun's surface caused by magnetic activity.
- Granulation: A textured pattern on the sun caused by rising and falling plasma.
- If active: Possibly solar prominences or flares — dramatic bursts of plasma extending from the sun's surface.

Afterwards, we explored the Petrified Forest itself:

- Massive, fossilized logs up to 45 meters long, some over 280 million years old.
- These trees were swept in by ancient floods and then mineralized, turning to stone over the eons.
- A true window into prehistoric times, set in Namibia's ancient geological landscape.

From here, we continued our journey, stopping for lunch along the road, reflecting on a morning that spanned the cosmos, prehistory and early human culture — all before noon.

We arrive at our overnight accommodation at 16:30, met for the checklist and then dinner at 19:00.

Day 10

Monday 7th July

We began with a peaceful and awe-inspiring early morning stargazing session with Neville at 5:30. Under the quiet pre-dawn skies, we took a moment to reflect on the grandeur of the universe before turning our attention back to Earth for breakfast.

By 7:30, we were packed and ready to go, setting off on what would become a 13-hour wildlife adventure through Etosha National Park — one of Africa's premier game-viewing destinations. From the moment we entered the park, we were immersed in a world teeming with life.

Throughout the day, we enjoyed non-stop wildlife action, with excellent weather, clear views, and ample time to photograph the animals and birds we encountered.

Highlights included:**Birds**

Ostrich, Egyptian Goose, Red-billed Spurfowl, African Palm and Little Swift, Grey Go-away Bird, Kori Bustard – Africa's heaviest flying bird, Red-crested Korhaan and Northern Black Korhaan, Little Grebe, Pied Avocet, Blacksmith Lapwing and Crowned Lapwing, Marabou Stork, African Harrier-Hawk and Black-headed Heron

Each stop brought new bird species, many seen at waterholes or grasslands, offering superb photographic opportunities.

Mammals

- Springbok – in massive herds stretching across the plains
- Burchell's Zebra – numerous and photogenic
- Blue Wildebeest – in impressive numbers
- Southern Giraffe – gracefully moving through the thornveld
- One Lone Bull Elephant – a majestic solitary figure
- Steenbok – small and alert, often seen in pairs
- Ground Squirrels – dashing between burrows
- Slender Mongoose – quick-footed and curious

We were surrounded by thousands upon thousands of animals, creating an unforgettable wildlife spectacle. The variety and density of species truly underscored Etosha's status as a Rolls Royce among African game parks.

By the time we returned to our lodge at 18:30 we were exhilarated but happily exhausted — cameras full, spirits high, and memories made that will last a lifetime.

An absolutely superb day in Etosha National Park, where every moment felt alive with movement, sound, and wonder.

Day 11**Tuesday 8th July**

We depart our lodge in Etosha at 08:30, heading south toward the renowned Okonjima Private Reserve. En route, the drive is made especially rewarding with excellent bird sightings, including Common Ostrich, White-backed Duck, Egyptian Goose, Blue-billed Teal, Cape Teal, Red-billed Teal, Red-billed Spurfowl, African Palm Swift, Double-banded and Namaqua Sandgrouse, among others. A lovely coffee stop en route adds to the relaxed pace of the journey.

We arrive at Okonjima at 13:00, just in time for a leisurely lunch. After a short break to settle into our rooms and enjoy the warm hospitality of this exceptional lodge, we gather again at 15:00 for coffee, tea, and cake.

At 15:30, we set out for our afternoon activity — Leopard tracking. The experience exceeds all expectations. We are treated to two separate Leopard sightings, both offering fantastic photographic opportunities and the rare privilege of observing these elusive cats in the wild.

Along the way, we also encounter a variety of plains game, including Springbok, Zebra, Wildebeest, and Red Hartebeest. The golden light of the late afternoon adds a magical touch to the landscape.

We return to the lodge by 19:00, just in time to freshen up before dinner. An unforgettable day, blending travel, wildlife, and the thrill of big cat tracking in one of Namibia's finest private reserves.

After dinner, several members of the group opted for a night activity—a night drive on the Okonjima Private Reserve. And wow, were they rewarded! The drive offered exceptional sightings, including several Brown Hyenas, Porcupine, Scrub Hare and a variety of other nocturnal species. It was a stunning end to a marvellous day. The group departed at 20:30 and returned about an hour and a half later, thrilled by the experience.

Day 12

Wednesday 9th July

Early in the morning, coffee and tea were served at 06:30. We departed shortly after 07:00 for our morning activity – more Leopard tracking. What an incredible experience! We had absolutely wonderful views of two separate Leopards, along with sightings of many other mammals, including Blue Wildebeest, Impala, Springbok, Greater Kudu, Gemsbok, Steenbok, and a lively group of Banded Mongoose.

The morning only got better. Before returning to the lodge, we extended our activity with an extraordinary opportunity to track African Pangolins on foot. What a privilege—fantastic, close-up views and brilliant photographic opportunities. We returned to the lodge at 10:30 for a well-earned and delicious brunch, still buzzing from an unforgettable morning.

After brunch, we had some time to relax and enjoy the tranquil surroundings of the lodge. Some chose to rest, while others spent time at the viewing deck, watching birds and small game passing through the area. The peaceful midday break was a perfect contrast to the excitement of the morning.

Our final afternoon game drive did not disappoint.

We were treated to incredible sightings, including a majestic Leopard, graceful Steenbok, Springbok, Red Hartebeest, Mountain Zebra, and the elusive Damara Dik-dik, along with several other mammals that made the drive a memorable one. Birding enthusiasts were rewarded too, as we spotted several new bird species, adding a delightful touch to our growing list. We ended the drive on a high note—literally—on the Top of Thim Hill, where we enjoyed our final sundowner drinks with an absolutely stunning view across the landscape.

Back at the lodge, we gathered for our last dinner together at 19:30—a wonderful meal shared with great company and heartfelt conversation. It was the perfect end to a remarkable day, before we all retired for the evening, looking forward to meeting again at breakfast the next morning.

Day 13

Thursday 10th July

This morning, our last in Namibia, begins with an early start as we pack the vehicle with our bags and luggage at 07:00. After a final breakfast at the wonderful Okonjima lodge, we depart at 08:15 for Windhoek Airport.

En route, we are treated to a few final sightings that add to our growing list of species. We spot three new bird species: Burchell's Starling, Gabar Goshawk, and Intermediate Egret. A final mammal sighting, the Common Duiker, rounds off our wildlife experience beautifully.

We arrived at the airport in good time for check-in and formalities. After heartfelt goodbyes, we part ways—each of us carrying special memories from a truly unforgettable journey through this remarkable country, Namibia.

Species seen: Birds 173, Mammals 39, Reptiles 10



Namibia Night sky by James Rae

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		June-July 2025												
Common name	Scientific name	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>										✓			
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>									✓	✓			
Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>										✓			
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>					✓								
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>					✓					✓	✓		
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>										✓	✓		
Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>					✓								
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		
Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓		
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>						✓							
Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓			
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓			
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	✓								✓	✓	✓		
Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>				✓	✓								
Rüppell's Korhaan - N	<i>Heterotetrax rueppelii</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓						
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>							✓	✓	✓		✓		
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>							✓		✓		✓		
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>	✓												
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>										✓			
Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>											✓		
Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>					✓								
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓					✓			
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>					✓					✓			
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>										✓			
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>										✓			
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					✓				✓	✓			
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓								
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					✓								
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					✓					✓			
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					✓				✓				
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>					✓				✓	✓	✓		
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					✓								
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>					✓								
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>					✓								
Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>					✓								

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African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>										✓		
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓							
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					✓							
Burchell's Courser	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>							✓					
Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>									✓	✓		
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>					✓							
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>					✓	✓						
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>					✓	✓						
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					✓							
Damara Tern	<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>					✓							
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>									✓			
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>										✓		
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>					✓							
Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>					✓	✓						
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>					✓	✓						
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>										✓		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>										✓		
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>					✓					✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					✓							
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>									✓	✓		
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>												✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					✓							
Hammerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>										✓		
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓							
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>			✓							✓		
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>									✓			
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>										✓	✓	
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>				✓	✓							
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>									✓	✓		
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>						✓					✓	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								✓				
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>									✓	✓	✓	
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>								✓				
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>								✓				
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>												✓
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>				✓					✓			
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>							✓					
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>							✓					
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>			✓	✓	✓							
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>			✓						✓			
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>			✓	✓							✓	
Damara Red-billed Hornbill - N	<i>Tockus damarensis</i>										✓	✓	
Monteiro's Hornbill - N	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓	
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>										✓	✓	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>										✓	✓	
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>			✓	✓					✓	✓		
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>		✓			4							
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓		
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>					✓				✓			
Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pirit</i>			✓	✓							✓	
White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>											✓	
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>						✓		✓				
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>										✓	✓	
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>									✓	✓		
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguimans</i>								✓				
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>					✓		✓					
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>			✓	✓	✓				✓			
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>			✓	✓	✓				✓			
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>		✓			✓		✓		✓			
Gray's Lark - N	<i>Ammomanopsis grayi</i>					✓							
Benguela Long-billed Lark - N	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>							✓					
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>									✓			
Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓			
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>						✓	✓					
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>					✓							
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>			✓							✓		
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>										✓	✓	
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>									✓			
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>		✓					✓			✓	✓	
Barred Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>									✓			
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>									✓			
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>			✓				✓		✓		✓	
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>					✓							
Bare-cheeked Babbler	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>							✓			✓		
Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>											✓	
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓	
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>												✓
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	

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White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>											✓	
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Agricola infuscatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	✓							✓				
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>								✓		✓		
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>						✓						
Tractrac Chat	<i>Emarginata tractrac</i>					✓	✓	✓					
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>		✓										
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>									✓			
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>							✓			✓		
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>		✓										
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓	✓	✓					✓		
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>	✓	✓										
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>										✓	✓	
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>					✓					✓		
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>											✓	
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>										✓	✓	
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>		✓									✓	
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>		✓							✓	✓	✓	
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>										✓	✓	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓						
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>									✓			
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>	✓											
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>		✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>			✓								✓	
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>		✓						✓				
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuanii</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>									✓	✓		
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>									✓		✓	

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	June-July 2025											
		29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>								✓				
African Savanna Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>							✓		✓			
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>										H	H	
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>										✓	✓	
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>											✓	
Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>										H		
Brown Hyena	<i>Parahyaena brunnea</i>										✓		
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>					✓						✓	
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>									✓	✓		
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>								✓		✓		
Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>						✓						
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>	✓									✓		
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>					✓	✓						
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	✓		✓					✓		✓	✓	
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	✓							✓		✓	✓	
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kirk's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>											✓	
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	✓											
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	✓			✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Bush Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>												✓
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>		✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	✓	✓										
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>										✓		
Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>										✓		
Noki	<i>Petromus typicus</i>							✓	✓				
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>	✓		✓		✓				✓			
Damara Ground Squirrel - N	<i>Xerus princeps</i>								✓				
Hartman's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>		✓								✓	✓	
Four Striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>				✓								
Littledale's Whistling Rat	<i>Parotomys littledalei</i>						✓						
Black Faced Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus petersi</i>									✓		✓	
Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus quagga burchellii</i>									✓			

		June-July 2025											
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White Rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>										✓		
Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>										✓	✓	
Temminck's Ground Pangolin	<i>Smutsia temminckii</i>											✓	

Reptiles & amphibians

		June-July 2025											
Common name	Scientific name	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kalahari Tree Skink	<i>Trachylepis spilogaster</i>			✓									
Three Striped Skink	<i>Acritoscincus duperreyi</i>			✓	✓								
Button Scaled Gecko	<i>Chondrodactylus fitzsimonsi</i>												
Namaqua Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo namaquensis</i>						✓						
Namibian Rock Agama	<i>Agama planiceps</i>						✓	✓					
Variegated Skink	<i>Trachylepis variegata</i>							✓					
Wedge Snouted Skink	<i>Chalcides sepsoides</i>							✓					
Western Sand Lizard	<i>Pedioplanis undata</i>							✓					
Ground Agama	<i>Agama aculeata</i>										✓	✓	
Wahlberg's Skink	<i>Trachylepis Wahlbergii</i>											✓	