



The Annual Gathering of Members of BirdLife South Africa

At Sea AGAIN! 2017

Dear Sailor,

With the past couple of months flying (or is it sailing!) by, we thought it time to share some more information and news which will be of interest.

Passports

We've received several enquiries regarding passport requirements and would like to confirm that passports will not be necessary because our cruise is classed as a 'cruise to nowhere' (although we prefer to call it a 'cruise to a birders' paradise'). You can therefore travel with your ID books/cards. Please note that if you are travelling with children, you will need to travel with their original birth certificates.

Shuttle service

A shuttle service will be available between the airport and harbour. The cost is R140 per person one way or R280 per person return. MSC Cruises has advised that you should book and prepay for these in advance. Please phone their call centre on 011 798 3600 to make a booking.

Embarkation and disembarkation

Embarkation on 24 April starts at 10h00 and closes at 13h00. Once the ship arrives back in Cape Town at 10h00 on 28 April, it will take approximately 2 hours for all passengers to disembark.

Accommodation options prior to and after the cruise

We're excited to announce for those of you who would like to stay in Cape Town before we set sail, or upon our return, that The Commodore Hotel, a luxurious four-star hotel situated at the V&A Waterfront, is offering Flock at Sea participants exclusive discounted rates. Rates are valid from 21 April 2017 to 23 April 2017 and 28 April 2017 to 29 April 2017, and are subject to availability. The rates offered are as follows:

Luxury Room		Deluxe Room		Executive/Family Room	
Single	Double	Single	Double	Single	Double
R1, 820.00	R2, 130.00	R2, 220.00	R2, 530.00	R2, 420.00	R2, 730.00

To make a booking, please contact Linda-Marie Du Toit at The Commodore Hotel on 021 415 1122, or via email at lmduitoit@legacyhotels.co.za and quote the block ID: 1318696.

Other options include our many Birder Friendly Establishments (BFEs) in and around Cape Town. Visit our website to find out more about them: <http://www.birdlife.org.za/gobirding/birder-friendly-establishments>

Red Data books

Seabirds are one of the most threatened groups of birds on the planet, having deteriorated at a faster rate than any other group of birds assessed during a similar time period. Seabirds now account for 34% of all threatened species included in the 2015 Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. The publication contains up to date accounts covering the distribution, ecology, population trends and threats faced by this fascinating group of birds and is essential reading for any birder doing pelagic birdwatching in South Africa's territorial waters.

BirdLife South Africa would like to offer attendees of Flock at Sea Again 2017 a 30% discount on the advertised price of the book. To place an order and to qualify for this discount please contact Martin Taylor (martin.taylor@birdlife.org.za) and quote your surname as a reference. Books will cost R225 each under this promotion.

Merchandise

Our fabulous Flock at Sea AGAIN! 2017 merchandise is near completion and we will be able to share the details with you in our next communication.

If you're on Facebook, don't forget to join our Flock at Sea AGAIN! 2017 group to join in with the conversation and to see interesting posts and updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/184051415289185/>

Should you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact Emma Askes, our Events Coordinator, on emma.askses@birdlife.org.za

Best regards,

The Flock at Sea AGAIN! 2017 Organising Committee

Please note that this email is being sent to the main booking contact (i.e. the email address that was used to confirm your booking through MSC Cruises). Please ensure that the passengers with whom you are sharing receive this notification.

Emma Askes

Events Co-ordinator



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