



Flock

The Annual Gathering of Members of BirdLife South Africa

On the West Coast 2018

EXCURSION INFORMATION BOOKLET



Photo: Gisela Madden

NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

Please take note of the following if you are planning to attend any of the excursions listed in this booklet during Flock on the West Coast 2018:

- All listed excursions can be booked via the [online booking platform](#) located on the Flock on the West Coast 2018 [website](#).
- Bookings are subject to availability as spaces are limited.
- Bookings for the excursions will only be confirmed and spaces allocated upon receipt of **full** payment.
- No participants will be allowed to attend any of the excursions without signing and submitting an [indemnity form](#).
- Please ensure that you have read, understood and accepted the [Terms and Conditions](#) before booking for Flock on the West Coast 2018 and its associated excursions.
- Participants will be responsible for their own refreshments and stationary during the excursions and workshops.
- Weather on the West Coast and at sea can be changeable, so participants are encouraged to dress for potentially wet, cold and/or windy conditions.
- Participants are encouraged to wear a hat and sunscreen during all activities.

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Flock on the West Coast 2018 - Schedule of Excursions and Prices

	06-Mar Tuesday	07-Mar Wednesday	08-Mar Thursday	09-Mar Friday	10-Mar Saturday	11-Mar Sunday
Tide Times for Saldanha Bay	Sunrise: 06:40 Sunset: 19:17 High tide: 06:04 Low tide: 12:13 High tide: 18:22 Low tide: 00:19	Sunrise: 06:41 Sunset: 19:16 High tide: 06:41 Low tide: 12:50 High tide: 19:01 Low tide: 00:56	Sunrise: 06:41 Sunset: 19:14 High tide: 07:21 Low tide: 13:33 High tide: 19:49 Low tide: 01:45	Sunrise: 06:42 Sunset: 19:13 High tide: 08:13 Low tide: 14:39 High tide: 21:03 Low tide: 02:00	Sunrise: 06:43 Sunset: 19:12 Low tide: 03:09 High tide: 09:40 Low tide: 16:25 High tide: 23:01	Sunrise: 06:44 Sunset: 19:11 Low tide: 05:16 High tide: 11:33 Low tide: 18:00 High tide: 00:30
06:30				Faansie Peacock Strandveld Walking Tour		
07:00	Dassen Island (R600 pp)	Island Tour (R600 pp)	LAB Conference Registration: 07:00 - 08:00	Learn About Birds (LAB) Conference (Science and Layman's LAB) Science LAB Continues Albert Froneman Photography Seminar Local birding at WCNP and Velddrif (low tide) Island Tour (R600 pp) Malgas Island (R600 pp)	Local birding at sites not affected by high tide (Hiders: Seeberg, Abramskraal, Tsaarsbank)	Island Tour (R600 pp)
07:30	Pelagic (R1600 pp)	Malgas Island (R600 pp)				Dassen Island (R600 pp)
08:00						Albert Froneman Photography Excursion Malgas Island
08:30						Faansie Peacock Walking Tour
09:00						Pelagic (R1600 pp)
09:30						Island Tour (R600 pp)
10:00						Malgas Island (R600 pp)
10:30						Dassen Island (R600 pp)
11:00						Pelagic (R1600 pp)
11:30						Island Tour (R600 pp)
12:00		Local birding at WCNP and Velddrif (low tide)			Malgas Island (R600 pp)	
12:30					Dassen Island (R600 pp)	
13:00					Pelagic (R1600 pp)	
13:30	Wader workshop by Faansie Peacock (R450 pp)					
14:00		Dassen Island (R600 pp)				
14:30		Malgas Island (R600 pp)				
15:00						
15:30						
16:00						
16:30						
17:00			Science LAB Speed Talk Session			
17:30						
18:00		LAB Conference Registration: 14:00 - 18:00				
18:30				Closing Address & Raffle		
19:00		Quiz at Bouzouki's Restaurant	Cocktail function	Boesmanland Plaaskombuis	Beach Party at Marc's Beach Bar	

Version 3 (21 December 2017)

PELAGIC BOAT TRIPS

If Flock at Sea gave you a taste for pelagic birding then this is an excursion not to be missed! The boat will leave from the marina at Club Mykonos, heading out via Vondeling Island (known for its large colony of Cape Fur Seals) to the trawling grounds off the Saldanha Bay coast. Participants will be placed right in the heart of the clouds of seabirds that can be found around the back ends of the ocean trawlers. Species targeted will include Black-browed and Shy Albatross, Sooty and Great Shearwater, White-chinned and Northern Giant Petrel, and Wilson's Storm Petrel. Who knows what else could turn up! Please dress warmly and make sure to wear water- and windproof outer layers. Make sure to take your seasickness tablets!

Price per person per trip: R 1600



DASSEN ISLAND

Departing from Yzerfontein Harbour, guests will be transported to Dassen Island in 12-seater Zodiacs (rubber-ducks) where they will be allowed to disembark and enjoy close-up encounters with the island's birds. Dassen Island is uninhabited by humans and is home to a colony of African Penguins, breeding populations of African Black Oystercatchers (BirdLife South Africa's Bird of the Year 2018), Great White Pelicans, as well as Cape and Crowned Cormorants. Please dress warmly for the boat ride out and make sure to have a water- and wind-proof outer layer. Participants are also advised that disembarkation onto the island's jetty can be tricky.

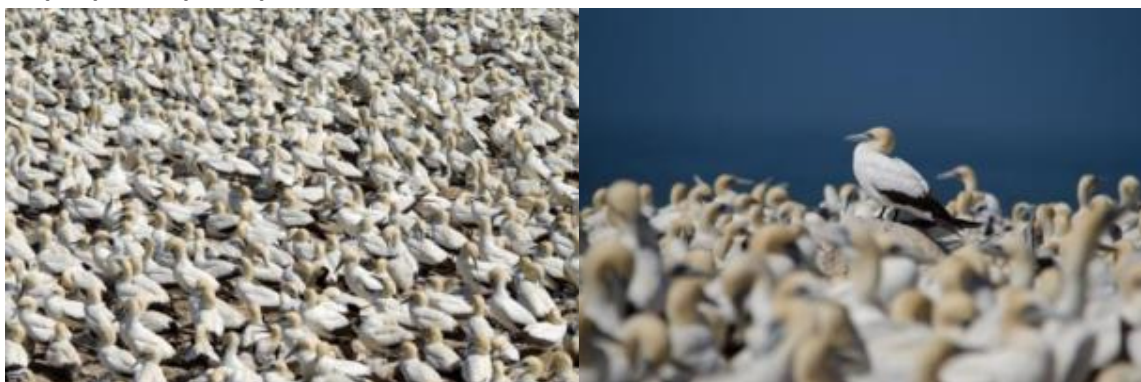
Price per person per trip: R 600



MALGAS ISLAND

Guests will travel by boat (Zodiacs) to Malgas Island from the Club Mykonos Marina, where they will be able to disembark on the island for approximately 40 minutes. This excursion will give participants a front row seat to watch and photograph the famous Cape Gannet colony which is home to approximately 20 000 breeding pairs (25% of the global population). Malgas is the Afrikaans name for a Cape Gannet and given the many individuals who breed there, it is certainly an appropriate name for the island. This trip is a must for photographers! Participants are also advised that disembarkation onto the island's jetty can be tricky.

Price per person per trip: R 600



SALDANHA BAY ISLAND TOUR

This three hour island tour on board a 25 pax catamaran will give guests a close-up view of the Saldanha Bay islands, including Malgas, Jutten and Schaapen Islands, which host almost 80 000 coastal seabirds. A guide will assist in pointing out the many cormorants and tern species which roost on these islands, as well as the Cape Gannets which breed on Malgas from the deck of the boat. Guests are asked to bring a wind proof outer layer. There will be a cash bar on board for those wanting to enjoy a beverage during their cruise.

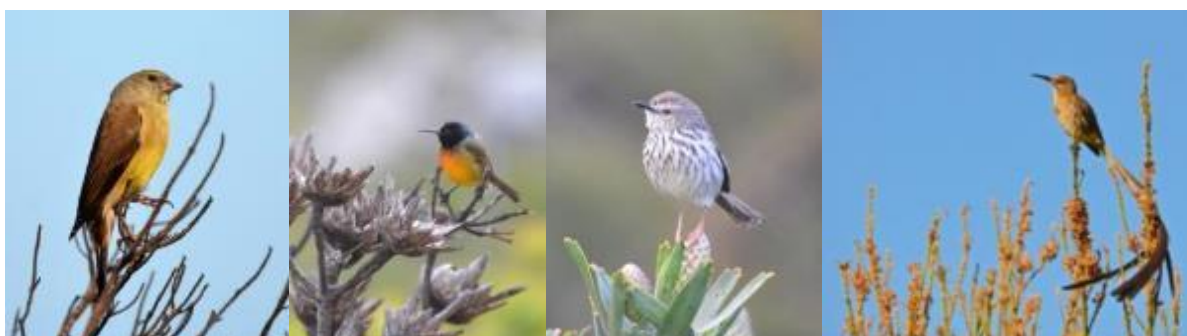
Price per person per trip: R 600



GROOT WINTERHOEK WILDERNESS AREA

The Western Cape is renowned for its unique flora and fauna. This excursion will be a full day outing which will target the mountain fynbos endemics, as well as some of the coastal plain specials. Guests will need to pack their own snacks, lunch and drinks for the day. Target birds will include Cape Rock-jumper, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Cape Siskin, Protea and White-throated Canary, Victorin's Warbler, Cape Clapper and Karoo Lark and Cape Sugarbird. This trip is a must for anyone who is looking to clean-up on Cape-based lifers.

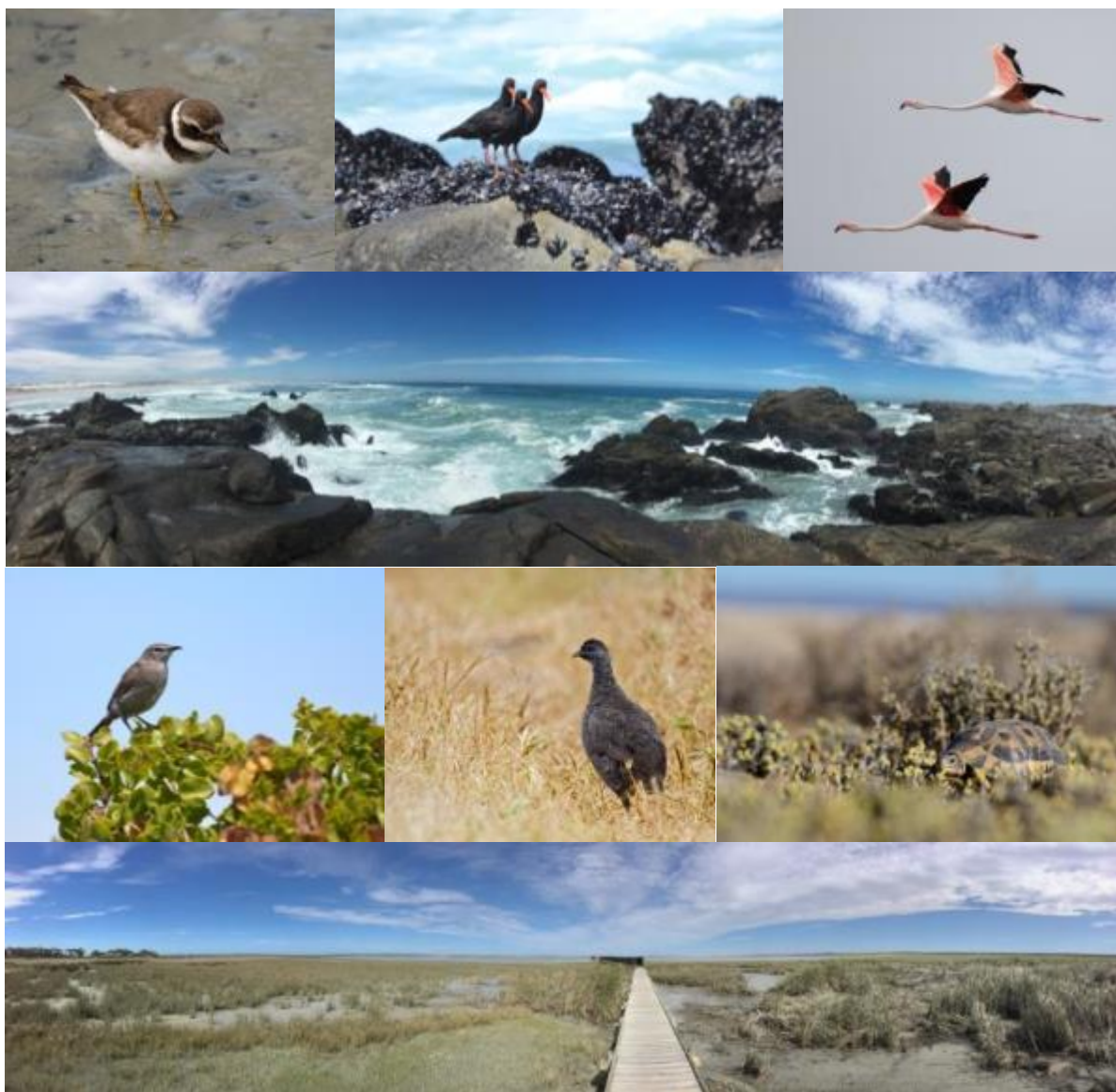
Price per person per trip: R 750



LOCAL BIRDING AROUND WEST COAST NATIONAL PARK

West Coast National Park (WCNP) is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and world renowned Ramsar site, encompassing the famous Langebaan Lagoon which is home to many wetland birds and migratory shorebirds, including Greater and Lesser Flamingo, Sanderling, Little Stint, Terek and Curlew Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel and Grey Plover, to name but a few. The rest of the reserve is Strandveld fynbos with bird highlights such as Southern Black Korhaan, Cape Spurfowl, Southern Grey Tit and Black Harrier. At each of the Park's four hides an expert guide will be waiting with a scope to help identify the West Coast's notorious little grey jobs (shorebirds). Guests are welcome to self-drive at this time or meet with one of the local bird club volunteers or BirdLife staff members who will be leading small trips around Langebaan and surrounds.

This excursion is free of charge.



VELDDRIF SALT WORKS AND BERG RIVER ESTUARY

Situated 40km north of Langebaan, the Berg River Estuary and Cerebos Salt Works combine into a birding hotspot with specials including Chestnut-banded Plover, Cape Teal, South African Shelduck, Pied Avocet and many more wetland and wader species. This has been a reliable spot for Red-necked Phalarope over the past few years and on route birders can try their luck finding Cape Long-billed Lark, Southern Black Korhaan and Blue Crane. An expert guide will be stationed with a scope along the R27 which intersects the Cerebos Salt Works.

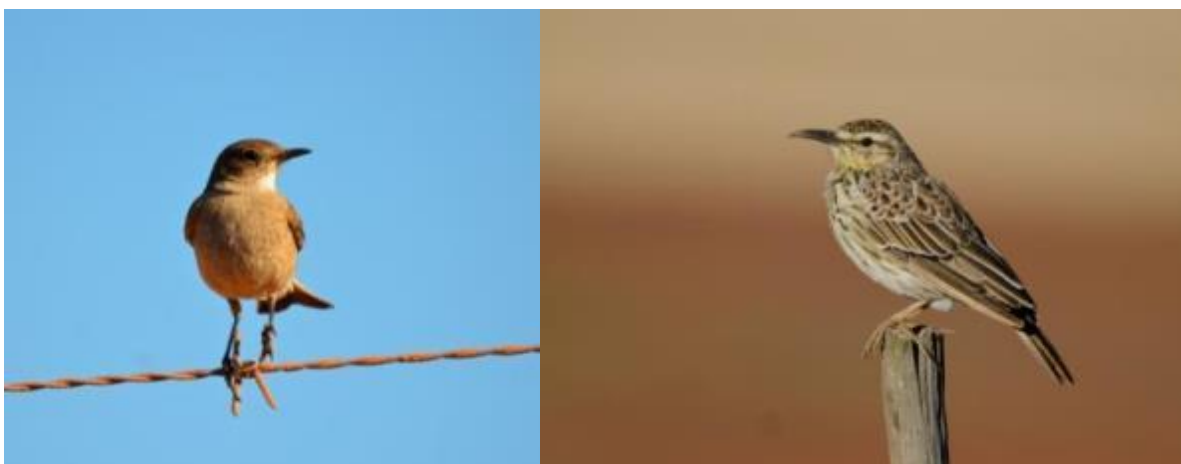
This excursion is free of charge.



FAANSIE PEACOCK'S WADER WORKSHOP & STRANDVELD WALKS

World famous author and artist, Faansie Peacock, will be offering a four hour workshop on 6 March 2018 at 13:00. Faansie will give attendees an in-depth course on wader biology, behaviour, ecology, identification and much more. Workshop participants will also be given priority booking to attend the walks around the Langebaan Country Estate, led by Faansie, in search of the local endemic lark species, such as Cape Long-billed Lark and other strandveld birds such as Sickle-winged Chat and Southern Black Korhaan.

Workshop price per person: R 450; Strandveld walks: no charge.



BIRDING KOEBERG NATURE RESERVE & TALK ON AFRICAN BLACK OYSTERCATCHERS

Join Dr Mark Brown (Nature's Valley Trust) on Saturday 10 March 2018 for a guided walk around ESKOM's Koeberg Nature Reserve followed by a talk about the 2018 Bird of the Year the African Black Oystercatcher. This excursion will start at 10:30. Bookings of this excursion are only open to registered LAB delegates and can be made by emailing flock2018@birdlife.org.za with your invoice number.

Cost: FREE



BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR & PRACTICAL SESSION ON MALGAS ISLAND WITH ALBERT FRONEMAN

Acclaimed bird photographer Albert Froneman will present a hands-on seminar to teach you all you need to know to head out and achieve success with photographing birds. The seminar will cover a range of topics but will ultimately aim to prepare participants for the practical bird photography session on Malgas Island.

- Digital photography concepts relevant to bird photography
- Camera and lens choices
- Settings for success
- Photographing birds in flight
- Field techniques
- Tips and tricks

The seminar will take place at 13:30 on 9 March in the Club Mykonos Conference Venue rooms 1&2. This will be paired with a dedicated field excursion / bird photography practical on the morning of Saturday 10 March with Albert to Malgas Island. The practical session will be aimed at learning in field how to capture some unique images of the Cape Gannets and other birds that frequent the island.

Spaces are limited so book now to avoid disappointment!

Please note the seminar and excursion will only take place if a minimum of 20 bookings are confirmed.

Cost: R1450 per person (includes seminar and excursion)



All images above taken by Albert Froneman

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT:

Melissa Whitecross, Emma Askes or Gisela Ortner at flock2018@birdlife.org.za or +27(11) 789 1122

All photographs unless otherwise indicated were taken by Melissa Whitecross.