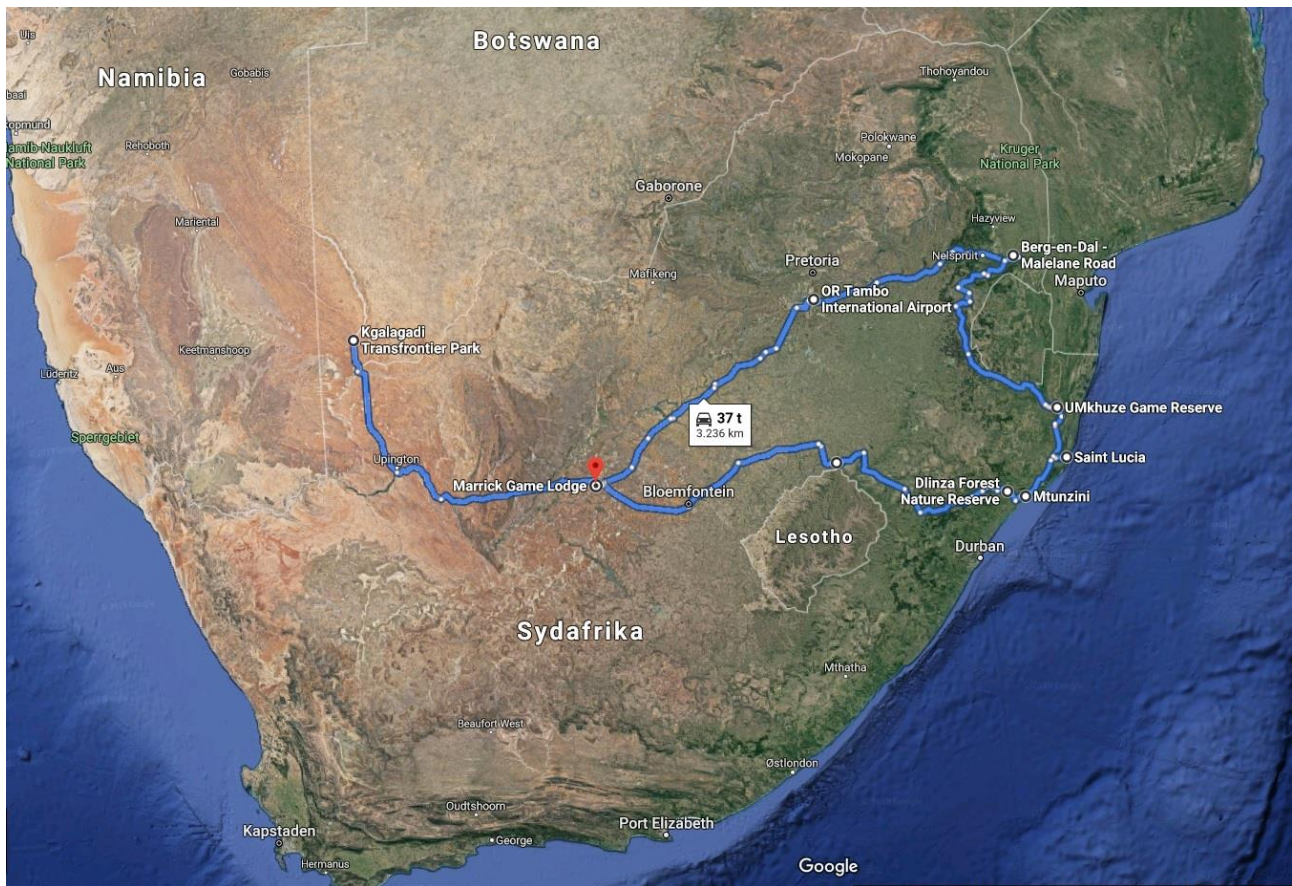
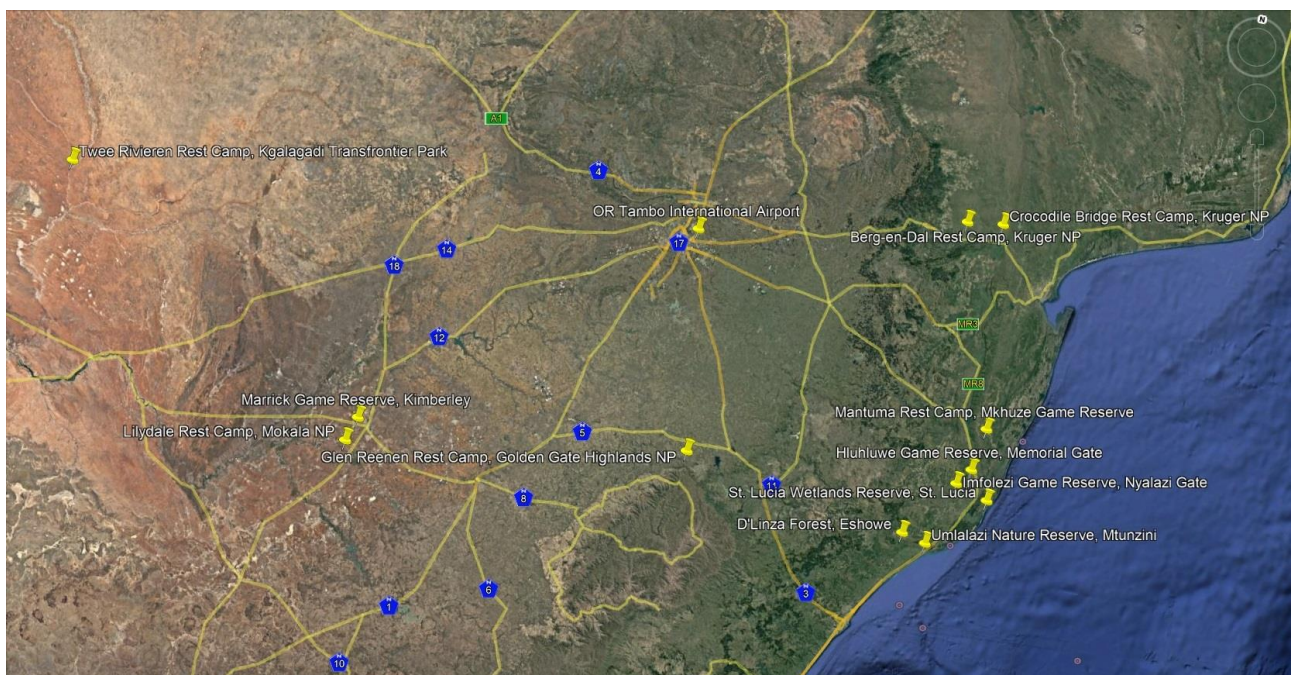


## Birding and mammal watching W to E in South Africa July 2019



Map of Southern Africa. Route driven over a period of thirty days. Google Earth Map.



Map of South Africa. Sites visited marked with yellow pins; road numbers are in blue. Google Earth Map.

MAP OF SOUTH AFRICA: Sequence of localities visited were: 1. **Marrick Game Reserve** (altitude 1100 - 1200m). 2. **Mokala NP** (1100 - 1300m). 3. **Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park** (885 - 915m). 4. **Marrick Game Reserve**. 5. **Golden Gate Highlands NP** (1900 – 2100m). 6. **D’Linza Forest, Eshowe** (530 m). 7. **Umlalazi Nature Reserve, Mtunzini** (0 – 85m). 8. **Ngoye Forest** (300-500m). 9. **St. Lucia Wetlands Reserve, St. Lucia** (0 - 50m). 10. **Imfolezi Game Reserve** (50 - 300m). 11. **Mkhuze Game Reserve** (40 - 140m). 12. **Hluhluwe Game Reserve** (200 - 500m). 12. **Kruger NP** (175 - 600m).

### Trip organization

Our privately organised trip was a mixture of birding and mammal watching with emphasis on mammals in some places and birds at other sites. In this report you find information on where to make reservations, the quality of accommodations, advice on routes to drive, lists of birds and mammals seen at each site, regrets, recommendations, maps, photos of habitats, birds and mammals.

All accommodations were booked in advance using [www.sanparks.org](http://www.sanparks.org) for Kruger NP, Golden Gate Highlands NP and Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. I used the South African travel agency [www.afristay.com](http://www.afristay.com) for D’Linza Forest, Umlalazi Nature Reserve and St. Lucia Wetlands Reserve. To book Mantuma Rest Camp, Mkhuze I used the agency Far & Wild Safaris [www.africasafari.co.za](http://www.africasafari.co.za). OR Tambo Guest House 15 min drive from the airport was reached via [www.ortamboguesthouse.co.za](http://www.ortamboguesthouse.co.za). They have an airport shuttle that can pick you up on arrival. Marrick Game Reserve was contacted through their booking enquiry on [www.marricksafari.com](http://www.marricksafari.com). Car rental company contact and booking was done using [www.economycarrentals.com](http://www.economycarrentals.com). All contacts, reservations and payments went smoothly.

There were two reasons for booking in advance. It’s very difficult to secure accommodations in parks administrated by sanparks.org if not in due time which means almost one year before your stay. The other reason is safety. It is not wise to drive in the dark in South Africa. Having a bed for the night secures that you won’t end up moving to another place after dark.

### Advice on routes

**OR Tambo – Marrick Game Reserve:** Choose the N12 no matter what your GPS or Google tells you. It is the fastest road to Marrick. This info was given to us by Marrick in advance. Driving time is 5.5-6hrs.

**Marrick Game Reserve – Mokala NP:** When you leave the gate at Marrick turn right, drive 50m and turn left on good short-cut dirt road (18km long) that brings you to N12 S of Marrick (see map below). Turn right at N12 (if you go back to Marrick note the white wall you pass through entering N12 – on the wall is written Langberg, name of a farm on the dirt-road). Drive some 12 km (after 10km there’s a gas station on the left) and follow the signpost to the right towards Lilydale Gate (16km dirt-road). This is how you enter Mokala the fastest way (1hr). At the gate there is a walkie-talkie you pick up – it connects you to Lilydale Rest Camp. They open the electric gate for you. Then you drive slowly - birdwatching and mammalwatching - to Lilydale Rest Camp to register. There is good habitat all the way and a lot to see. You can leave in the other end of the park to cover as much habitat as possible. Remember an early visit to the Stofdam bird hide.

**Marrick – Twee Rivieren Rest Camp, Kgalagadi:** From gate drive left to the outskirts of Kimberley. Turn left again at first roundabout and left again at second roundabout (see map below). When on N8 you have 4hrs (400km) in front of you till you reach Upington – the first 300km road is fast in a seemingly uninhabited beautiful landscape with primary habitat. When you enter N10 from N8 you have 100km slow drive before Upington. There are lots of villages, people and a winding road in hilly countryside here. If you need supplies, there are many shops in Upington. After Upington there is 250km straight out road in a very flat semi-desert landscape. It’s simply an amazing landscape to drive through. And there’s is no traffic here.

**Golden Gate Highlands NP – D’Linza Forest, Eshowe:** We chose the R74 route over Winterton to reach the N3. It appeared a good choice – the road is in good condition and lawful average speed possible is high. Most South Africans drive much faster than permitted. On N3 (the Johannesburg – Durban highway) we drove down to the Mooi River turnoff that takes you on R622 towards Greytown and Kranskop. Some 7-10km after Kranskop you start a steep descent to the Tugela River. Before that you are driving on a plateau.





Sunset at waterhole, Marrick Game Reserve, Kimberley.

We made some stops on the route (e.g. a short visit to Benvie Garden which did not produce much at midday; Benvie Garden is always open even when no one is around – put your entrance fee 50ZAR in an envelope and box it in front of the house there). Benvie is excellent in the morning in other seasons judged from various reports. It will take 2hrs 45min from Benvie to Eshowe.

*Mkhuze GR – Berg-en-Dal Rest Camp, Kruger NP:* We chose route after talking to a South African in Mkhuze that takes the road past Malelane at least once a year. Best choice is to circumvent Swaziland/Eswatini. Take the N2 past Pongola and Piet Retief. Shortly after Piet Retief turn towards Amsterdam (R33). When you reach N17 turn right and continue until you reach R541 before Lochiel. Proceed towards eManzana where you turn right on R38 that passes Barberton and ends up on N4 close to the SW corner of Kruger NP. Turn right and pass Malelane village and follow the signposts to Malelane Gate at Kruger NP.



Honey Badgers, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.



Marabou Storks at Kruger NP.





View on Auob River bed in Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Two Ostriches are visible in the distance.

*Berg-en-Dal Rest Camp, Kruger NP – OR Tambo Airport:* when you approach the airport around Emahlaleni you may experience that Johannesburg is not signposted. Drive towards Benoni. Closer at OR Tambo everything is thoroughly signposted.

### **Wintertime weather**

We have our longest holiday in the European summertime – the only reason for choosing wintertime in South Africa. You will see more birds in other seasons. Temperatures vary significantly during winter in South Africa. This is due to low latitudes, a large variation in altitudes (see legend above) and habitat locations inland or coastal. At Marrick Game Reserve evening temperature fell quickly to below zero.



Suricates (Meerkats) posing at Marrick Game Farm.



Northern Black Korhaan, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park..





Winter landscape at 2100m near Glen Reenen Rest Camp, Golden Gate Highlands National Park.

Despite no wind and driving slowly, sitting in an open night-drive vehicle will turn you unbelievable cold unless you bring the warmest winter clothes you have and cover them with thick blankets handed out. Gloves and hat is also necessary. Freezing temperatures during night time were also part of our visit to Golden Gate Highlands NP. At Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park temperatures went close to zero in the morning. D'Linza Forest had lovely 25°C during daytime and early morning temperatures were around 18°C. The last evening weather suddenly changed. It became very windy and the temperature dropped 10°C. The next days in Mtunzini and St. Lucia were heavily troubled with stormy winds from the south and 8-9°C in the mornings. It resulted in almost no forest-bird activity at both sites. It also spoiled our two early prime time morning visits to Ngoye Forest (only 30 min. from Mtunzini) where only a handful of birds were seen. A local South African guide told us that we could forget about seeing Green Barbet in that weather – “they will stay inside their tree-holes”. And he was right. Birds were so few that the list is the poorest of all sites



Diminutive Green Twinspot at drinking puddle, D'Linza Forest.



Blue Duiker from canopy boardwalk near tower, D'Linza Forest





St. Lucia Wetlands Park seen from an elevated platform towards the coast.

despite the long list of bird species recorded in Ngoye. Weather greatly improved at Mkhuze, Imfolezi and Hluhluwe - pleasant day-time temperatures around 25°C and cool nights. The southern end of Kruger NP had lovely weather with temperatures between 25 and 29°C – one day temperature even reached 34°C.

### **Accommodations**

Marrick Farm, Marrick Game Reserve: **Food** - good. Rich and varied breakfast; dinner – rich, predetermined menu by the cooks; **Room** - good with air-con/heater; **Beds**: very good; **Location**: Farm with atmosphere – inside and outside. Site around 15 km SSV of Kimberley in a natural habitat of grassland with scattered trees, bushes and small koppies. Habitat is somewhat in between Karoo and arid savannah. Owners and staff are friendly and helpful. Night-drive guide - called Johnny - is excellent.



Aardwolf - a late afternoon surprise, Marrick Game Reserve.



Natal Red Duiker chewing on a fallen fruit, Umlalazi Nature Reserve.





Early morning view from canopy tower at D'Linza Forest, Eshowe. With patience scope views on *Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeons* are possible from here. We also saw them flying – both males and females.

**Twée Rivieren Rest Camp, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park:** **Food** - a la carte from the camp restaurant – very good quality. We brought our own breakfast (cereals, long-life milk and instant coffee) which could be supplied in the camp shop. We rarely made it back for lunch which is within set hours around midday. **Rooms** - nice clean with air-con/heater. **Beds** – good. **Location** – situated in the very southern end of a huge park. We considered it to be too far to go to Nossob Rest Camp without sleeping there (estimated almost 4hrs each way without stopping). It will not give you any reasonable observation-time doing Nossob in one day. You need to book Nossob one year in advance. Nossob is for people that bring in all their own food – there is no restaurant there.



Double-banded Courser at night, Marrick Game Reserve.



Burchell's Sandgrouse - male, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.





Umlalazi River near estuary at Mtunzini. There is mangrove on both sides. Take the boardwalk trail to the blind end of it – here we finally saw the *Mangrove Kingfisher*.

Glen Reenen Rest Camp, Golden Gate Highlands NP: **Food:** very good at Golden Gate Hotel's restaurant one km from Glen Reenen (towards Clarens) - the only kitchen nearby. **Rooms:** chalet very cold with small electric heaters that are far from sufficient to warm up the chalet. You need to buy firewood. However, beds were equipped with electric mattresses that will keep you warm the whole night if you use them for one hour - just before bedtime. **Beds:** good; **Location:** brilliant among beautiful sandstone rocks and great scenery. Very few hikers during winter – could be a problem in summertime? Reservation for dinner at hotel is not necessary during the winter – may be necessary during summertime? A family group of *Ground Woodpeckers* were always around the chalets often roosting on the chimneys.



African Wild Dog, Kruger National Park.



Martial Eagle on Scrub Hare, Kruger NP.





A heavily burned park during wintertime, Mkhuze Game Reserve. Very little to eat for wildlife.

Forest View B&B, Addison St., Eshowe, D'Linza Forest: **Food:** good breakfast (between 07-09; owner accepted a late breakfast with the cold part of the breakfast at 10 one day – you need to be at *Green Twinspace* drinking site at D'Linza Forest at 07 to see them). Lunch and dinner can be obtained downtown Eshowe – a short drive away. There's a good restaurant named Steers in a shopping center on Osborne Rd. and fast-food shops in the other end of Osborne Rd. next to the roundabout at Main St. **Rooms:** very good. **Beds:** very good; **Location:** large lovely garden not far from the forest.

Hunters B&B, Mtunzini, Umlalazi Nature Reserve: **Food:** very good breakfast – rich and varied; lunch and dinner bought from a small Fish & Chips Take Away and an Indian Shop with Take-Away - both on Station Rd. Ask kind owner about other options. **Room:** small - with a splendid view. **Beds:** good. **Location:** central in a quiet town with a magnificent view to The Indian Ocean.

Sandpiper Guest House, Sandpiper St., St. Lucia, St. Lucia Wetlands Reserve: **Food:** excellent breakfast. Lunch and dinner from many restaurants on McKenzie St. – we found very good food at John Dory's Restaurant. **Rooms:** good. **Beds:** very good. **Location:** quiet street with garden merging with park-like section of dune forest. *Natal Red Duiker* and *Bushbuck* were present on lawn at breakfast outside.

Mantuma Rest Camp, Mkhuze Game Reserve: **Food:** Rhino-Take-Away is the only option for food in this park. It is open from 08-10 (breakfast), 12-14 (lunch) and 16-18hrs (dinner). Place your order in due time (e.g. midday or no later than 16hrs to pick up the food 17.45). Only one person is working there and your food is not fast food as such. It worked fine for us with the evening meal from here except the first day when a male elephant blocked the Take-away for more than two hours in the afternoon while it ate half a tree a few meters away. The cook couldn't get to the kitchen and the guests couldn't get to the houses. Again, we brought our own long-life milk, muesli and instant coffee for breakfast. The shop in Mantuma has





Crocodile River Bridge near Berg-en-Dal Rest Camp, Kruger National Park. Many birds and animals can be seen from here.

very little to offer except bottled water, soft drinks and some very expensive foreign beers. **Rooms:** large and good – but a little worn. **Beds:** good with mosquito nets. **Location:** excellent in the middle of bush wilderness. There is no fence around the rest-camp; it is prohibited to walk around in the camp after dark.

Berg-en-Dal Rest Camp, Kruger NP: **Food:** very good restaurant. **Room:** small chalet, but room good – with the kitchen facilities you need such as fridge. **Beds:** good – but a little short in length (as in some other places). **Location:** lovely place in hilly country. There's a dam with a small lake alongside camp which attract wildlife and birds. However, the lake was almost dried out and very few birds came in. It is a known place for White-backed Night-Heron (season?), but we couldn't find it.



Leopard - early morning, Kruger NP



Purple-crested Turaco, Kumasinga Hide, Mkhuze



Crocodile Bridge Rest Camp, Kruger NP: We went to this camp the last night because we couldn't get the night at Berg-en-Dal. The only reason for not choosing Crocodile Bridge is the lack of a restaurant. **Food:** no restaurant in this camp and the shop is small with a limited selection. **Room:** clean chalet small. **Beds:** good. **Location:** at the entrance to the park; open savannah around the camp. Camp with park-like tree cover.

Mokala NP was visited on a day-trip from Marrick; Imfolezi was visited one afternoon leaving St. Lucia and Hluhluwe was visited on a daytrip from Mkhuze. Hilltop Rest Camp in Hluhluwe [pronounced 'slusluve'] could be a good choice for some nights in the park. Raptor watching is good from Hilltop judged by a large identification table in front of the restaurant there. Mokala NP is also worth staying in for some nights.

*In conclusion*, with respect to accommodations, we would stay at the Golden Gate Hotel in wintertime instead of Glen Reenen Rest Camp – it's too cold at Glen Reenen at this time of the year. The other accommodations were fine, and we would not hesitate to pay them a visit again. If you want to save money, you can probably find a cheaper place than Sandpiper Guest House in St. Lucia. There are many tourists in St. Lucia and therefore also many B&B's. Marrick Game Reserve is reasonably prized with respect to food and accommodation. However, night-drives are expensive, but you get full value for the money invested. You probably need two-three night-drives to be sure to see Aardwark, Aardwolf and especially Small-spotted (Black-footed) Cat. This cat can be tricky and non-cooperative. But one thing is for sure, you won't regret a visit to this marvellous place. Marrick was one of the absolute high-lights on our trip.

## Regrets

During the whole trip no rain was encountered. This dry weather regime significantly affected the semi-desert environment of Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, which had its last rain back in March 2019. By that time the yearly precipitation should have reached 260mm but only 60mm fell that year. So it was extremely dusty and dry and few passerines and raptors were around (not a single vulture was seen by us or any we talked to), no big cats were seen (except a leopard by one group of people) and bird and mammal activity was really slow. We would have chosen another park had we known these circumstances.

It is also worth knowing that Mkhuze Game Reserve is heavily burned every winter as part of a yearly management regime. It resulted in huge areas with bare, ashy ground with very little to eat for wildlife. Logs and trees were still burning (very visible during a night-drive) but were under control. We would have moved out and gone to Hilltop Rest Camp, Hluhluwe if we hadn't prepaid the stay at Mkhuze.

Imfolezi was burned equally hard and besides that we had a very unpleasant ride from St. Lucia to Imfolezi that we won't repeat again. The whole stretch from Mtubatuba at N2 to Nyalazi Gate, Imfolezi looked like a 'war-zone'. There was an unpleasant atmosphere along the whole stretch. One-two days before we passed, thousands of angry people blocked the road, crushed ten-thousands of bottles, chopped trees and dropped them on the road, removed the tar, lit huge fires of wood and tyres on the road to block the access to the game reserve. We were told it was lack of electricity and water that caused the riot and it happened from time to time. We would have stayed in St. Lucia had we known what was ahead of us.

## Mammals seen

Altogether, we passed our previous number of species seen in 2017 (61 mammals) with four. Among these were 18 new recordings of mammals not seen on the first trip. Highlights were the following species:

*Eastern Rock Sengi, African Wild Dog, Honey Badger, Striped Polecat, Banded Mongoose, White-tailed Mongoose, Aardwolf, African Wild Cat, Small-spotted Cat, Aardwark, Black Rhinoceros, Blue Duiker, Natal Red Duiker, Liechtenstein's Hartebeest.* We also had some spectacular views on a group of *Lions*, had our own *Leopard* and experienced a close encounter between a *Spotted Hyena* and a *Leopard* jumping down from a tree. The Spotted Hyena withdrew slowly, the cat remained motionless and gazed at the leaving hyena – mutual respect.



The mammal list below follows the sequence and taxonomy of species in Stuarts' Field Guide to the Mammals of Southern Africa, fifth edition 2015.

[illegible]



	<p>Key to symbols:</p> <p>Numbers are given below 20 sightings – above that a C is written for Common.</p> <p>Common also signals daily encounters.</p> <p>A number above 20 refers to one flock of the species in question</p> <p><b>Species</b></p>	Marrick Game Reserve	Mokala NP	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	Golden Gate Highlands NP	D'Linza Forest, Eshowe	Umlalazi Nature Reserve, Mtunzini	St. Lucia Wetlands Reserve, St. Lucia	Imfolezi Game Reserve	Hluhluwe Game Reserve	Mkhuze Game Reserve	Ngoye Forest	Kruger National Park
32	Small-spotted (Black-footed) Cat	3											
33	Lion												10
34	Leopard												3
35	Aardwark	4											
36	African Elephant								18	1			C
37	Plains (Burchell's) Zebra		C		C		C	C	C	C			C
38	Hook-lipped (Black) Rhinoceros												1
39	Square-lipped (White) Rhinoceros		4				6	9	8				C
40	Hippopotamus						9			10			C
41	Warthog	1	C				16	15	10				C
42	Giraffe		10	11			9	1	6	C			C
43	African Buffalo		C				12		C				C
44	Eland		1										
45	Greater Kudu	1	15				10			C			C
46	Nyala							4	C	C			1
47	Bushbuck						2						8
48	Roan Antelope		15										
49	Gemsbok			C									
50	Waterbuck		7				C						C
51	Mountain Reedbuck				2								
52	Common (Southern) Reedbuck						1						
53	Grey Rhebok		1										
54	Black Wildebeest (White-tailed G.)		C		C								
55	Blue Wildebeest (Brindled Gnou)		C	C			C	6	15	C			C
56	Red Hartebeest		C	1	C								
57	Lichtensteins's Hartebeest												4
58	Blesbok				15								
59	Tsessebe		C				8						
60	Impala						C	C	3	C			C
61	Springbok	C	C	C									
62	Steenbok	2	5	3									5
63	Natal Red Duiker					C	C			4			
64	Blue Duiker					5							
65	Common (Grey) Duiker	1					1			10			10

## Notes on mammals

Only mammals naturally occurring in Marrick Game Reserve are listed. Some mammals are raised for sale and hunting here, e.g. Sable Antelope, African Buffalo, Black Impala and others. Hunting areas and ecotouristic areas are widely separated – you won't notice the presence of hunting.

In Mokala NP some mammal species have been reintroduced after disappearance, e.g. White Rhinoceros. We heard rumours of Lion being the next reintroduction in Mokala NP, something that also has occurred in Karoo NP (our 2017 trip).

The following species were seen only during night-drives: Large-eared Mouse, Cape Fox, Bat-eared Fox, Striped Polecat, White-tailed Mongoose, Small-spotted Genet, Aardwark and Cape Hare. Thick-tailed Galago was outside our house in Mantuma Rest Camp, Mkhuze in trees just after dark.

*Cape Hare* – has black ear tips and roams in rather open habitat. It was only seen on night-drives.

*Scrub Hare* – has a cinnamon patch between the ears on the hind neck. It is always associated with bushy habitat and nearby cover. At Mkhuze it was common on a night-drive, but none were seen during the day.

## Birds seen

List of birds follows the *sequence* of species in the field guide 'Birds of Southern Africa' by Sinclair et al. 2011 (except Secretary Bird). Only birds *seen* are listed. Some species were also seen on route from place to place. Only new species to the list from travelling between sites have been included below (marked with \*). The *taxonomy* of orders, families and species is adjusted to more recent changes presented in HBW and Bird Life International's 'Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World 2014 and 2016'. Therefore, the same order and/or family name may appear two or more times below when taxonomy has changed drastically. A few common names are also changed accordingly, but it should be possible from the list to figure out which species they refer to in Sinclair et al.

In comparison with our previous wintertime trip to South Africa (2017) 84 new recordings of species were obtained. I must admit, I had expected more species. However, the bad weather in Mtunzini, Ngoye and St. Lucia, a heavily burnt Mkhuze and the severe draught situation in Kgalagadi explains very well the missing encounters. The 2019 total was therefore lower than the 2017 trip, 295 vs 323.

Due to the family context (birder and two non-birders – all adults) 'small brown jobs' were omitted during birding unless quick identification could be made, e.g. by song.

Highlights include species that I would really have liked to see last time in 2017, species difficult to see, spectacular species, birds rare in South Africa, out-of-season surprises and some species that are new to my bird list:

*African Pygmy Goose, Pygmy Falcon, Palm-nut Vulture, Long-crested Eagle, African Cuckoo-Falcon, Bat Hawk, Ludwig's Bustard, Northern Black Korhaan, Temminck's Courser, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Burchell's Sandgrouse, African Olive Pigeon, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Green Malkoha, Southern White-faced Owl, Mangrove Kingfisher, African Pygmy Kingfisher* (out of season surprise at Nsumo Pan, Mkhuze – seen twice in scope – same individual in area between two hides), *Swallow-tailed Bee-Eater, Ground Woodpecker, Eastern Nicator, Spotted Ground Thrush, Dusky Sunbird, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Neergard's Sunbird, Black-faced Waxbill, Violet-eared Waxbill, Grey Waxbill and Green Twinspot.*

## Overlooked bird species

Some species that I expected to be relatively easy in South Africa in the right habitat – also during winter – somehow escaped my attention. Or maybe it was wintertime after all and definitely the bad weather on the Durban coast that explains the lacking encounters. Amongst these were Pink-throated Twinspot, Orange-breasted Waxbill, African Quail-Finch, Retz Helmetshrike, Black-throated Wattle-Eye, African Broadbill, Woodward's Batis, Rudd's Apalis, more Honeyguide species, Livingstone's Turaco, Pink-backed Pelican and several more species. Everything is (almost) possible, but nothing is guaranteed!



[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]



	Key to symbols:  Numbers are given below 20 sightings – above that a C is written for Common.  A number above 20 refers to one flock of the species in question  Species	OR Tambo Guest House garden	Marrick Game Reserve	Mokala NP	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	Golden Gate Highlands NP	D'Linza Forest, Eshowe	Umlalazi Nature Reserve	St. Lucia Wetlands Reserve	Imfolezi Game Reserve	Hluhluwe Game Reserve	Mkhuze Game Reserve	Ngoye Forest	Kruger NP
136	Little Bee-Eater								3	2		7		3
	<i>Coraciiformes</i> ; <b>Coraciidae</b>													
137	Lilac-breasted Roller											1		C
	Purple Roller				1									
	<i>Bucerotiformes</i> ; <b>Bucerotidae</b>													
138	Southern Ground Hornbill													8
139	Trumpeter Hornbill						17	4	8				1	2
140	African Grey Hornbill			6	8									6
141	Southern Yellow-billed H.			10	11					1		1		C
142	Crowned Hornbill								2			1		
143	Southern Red-billed H.													C
	<i>Bucerotiformes</i> ; <b>Phoeniculidae</b>													
144	Green Wood-Hopoo										2			2
145	Common Scimitarbill		2	1	1							1		
	<i>Bucerotiformes</i> ; <b>Upupidae</b>													
146	African Hoopoo		4		4				1			2		3
	<i>Piciformes</i> ; <b>Lybiidae</b>													
147	Black-collared Barbet										1	C		3
148	White-eared Barbet						C	9	15			C		
149	Crested Barbet	3								1	5	17		6
150	Acacia Pied Barbet			6	3							11		3
151	Red-fronted Tinkerbird							1		1		14		
152	Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird						10	4	1					
	<i>Piciformes</i> ; <b>Indicatoridae</b>													
153	Brown-backed Honeybird							1						
	<i>Piciformes</i> ; <b>Picidae</b>													
154	Golden-tailed Woodpecker											6		
155	Cardinal Woodpecker							1			1	3		
156	Olive Woodpecker						1						1	

[illegible]



[illegible]

	<p>Key to symbols:</p> <p>Numbers are given below 20 sightings – above that a C is written for Common.</p> <p>A number above 20 refers to one flock of the species in question</p> <p>Species</p>	OR Tambo Guest House garden	Marrick Game Reserve	Mokala NP	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	Golden Gate Highlands NP	D'Linza Forest, Eshowe	Umlalazi Nature Reserve	St. Lucia Wetlands Reserve	Imfolezi Game Reserve	Hluhluwe Game Reserve	Mkhuze Game Reserve	Ngoye Forest	Kruger NP
212	Rattling Cisticola											2		
213	Black-chested Prinia			1	7									
214	Tawny-flnked Prinia													1
215	Drakensberg Prinia					2								
216	Greenbacked Cameroptera					2								
217	Yellow-breasted Apalis						1	1				3		
	<b>Muscicapidae</b>													
218	Fiscal Flycatcher		7											
219	Southern Black Flycatcher						2		8	2	4			
220	Marico Flycatcher				C									
221	African Dusky Flycatcher					1		9		1	6	3		
	<b>Monarchidae</b>													
222	African Paradise Flycatcher					1		1		1	1			
	<b>Platysteiridae</b>													
223	Cape Batis					4							1	
224	Chinspot Batis								4	1	1			
	<b>Zosteropidae</b>													
225	Cape White Eye	6	5	2		10				2				
	<b>Motacillidae</b>													
226	Cape Wagtail	2	4	3		6		1						
227	African Pied Wagtail						3	2						7
228	Cape Longclaw					2								
229	Yellow-throated Longclaw							2						
230	African Pipit		12											
	<b>Laniidae</b>													
231	Magpie Shrike													C
232	S. White-crowned Shrike													3
233	Common Fiscal Shrike		1		C			10	5	1	15			
	<b>Vangidae</b>													
234	White-crested Helmetshr.										C			17
	<b>Malaconotidae</b>													
235	Black-backed Puffback						11	10	1		3			1
236	Southern Boubou								1	2	4			
237	Crimson-breasted Shrike		1		8									
238	Brown-crowned Tchagra								1		1			1
239	Black-crowned Tchagra										5			



[illegible]

[illegible]



## Notes on birds

*Green Twinspot*. In front of the D'Linza entrance across a piece of grassland along the forest edge there is a small bird-hide. It's no more than 200m from where you park. There is a small puddle here where Green Twinspot shows up between 07 and 08 in the morning. We also saw the species from the excellent Kumasinga Hide, Mkhuze, but only three individuals despite visiting the hide several times.

*Red-backed Mannikin*. It shows up in the same places as Green Twinspot above.

*Grey Waxbill* appears in the early morning at Kumasinga Hide in Mkhuze Game Reserve.

*Swallow-tailed Bee Eater*. We had a hard time finding this species. They move around a lot during winter. At Marrick there were none present until we came back from Kgalagadi for a final night-drive. In Kgalagadi there were no birds around until the final day four. Even then birds were only present a few minutes before flying off to a new site far away and beyond reach.

*Green Malkoha*. I had this species at kuMfazana Pan – near the S end of Lake St. Lucia. There is a boardwalk here to a birdhide. The forest along the boardwalk is full of wine-tangles – a niche preferred by Green Malkoha when foraging.

*African Olive Pigeon* in the garden of our airport hotel OR Tambo Guest House. They were regularly drinking from pond and spring in garden. Five noted, but may involve more individuals. Also at D'Linza Forest tower.

*Ludwig's Bustard* was only seen on a night-drive at Marrick Game Reserve.

*Pygmy Falcon*. Search near Sociable Weaver nest colonies – this is where Pygmy Falcon nests and feeds. But it is very small and easily overlooked.

We did not see the Red-necked Falcon in Kgalagadi – a park guard told us that it is not often seen in winter and it often sits quietly inside the crown of a tree. Further N in Kgalagadi there is a better chance to find it.

*Bat Falcon*. Near Berg-en-Dal Rest Camp - posed in naked tree-top on small hill at dusk (along entrance rd.)

*Palm-nut Vulture*. One adult was gliding low over *Raphia* palm Forest, Mtunzini in stormy weather. It was seen nicely from the boardwalk inside the forest.

*Dusky Sunbird*. Only seen from Stofdam bird hide in Mokala NP. Drank from small pipe with running water.

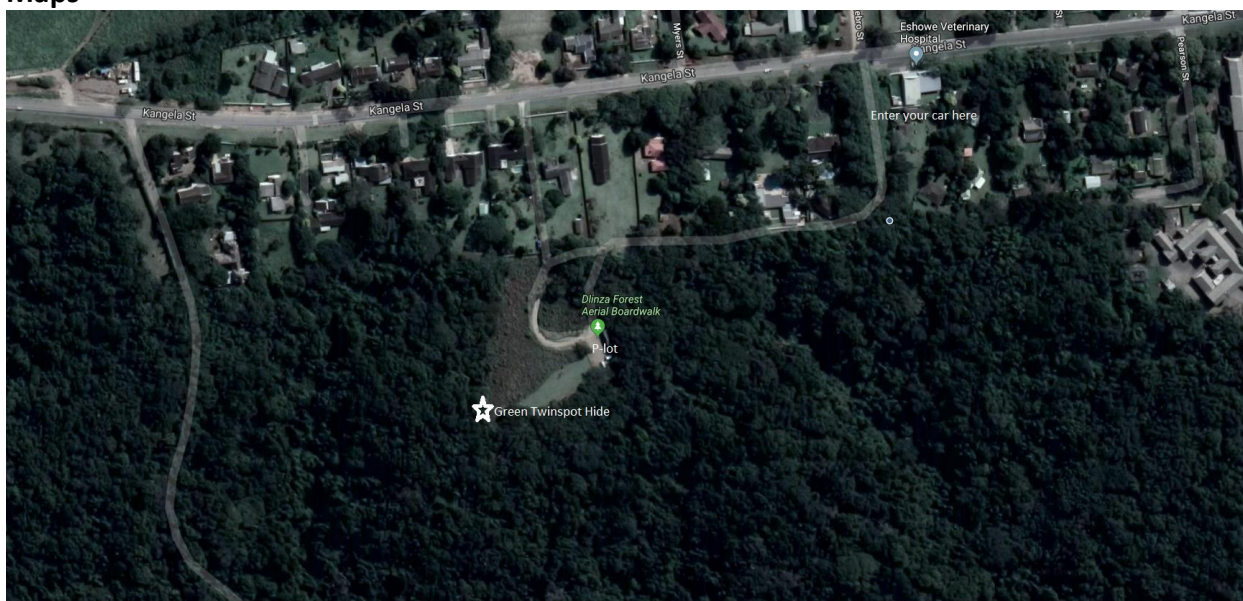
*Namaqua Sandgrouse*. The Kij Kij waterhole on Nossob Riverbed is a good spot. They arrive around 09.30.

*Burchell's Sandgrouse*. We saw a few at the Kij Kij site. Search also along road over the dunes between Nossob and Auob Riverbeds. We had a few quietly foraging along roadside.

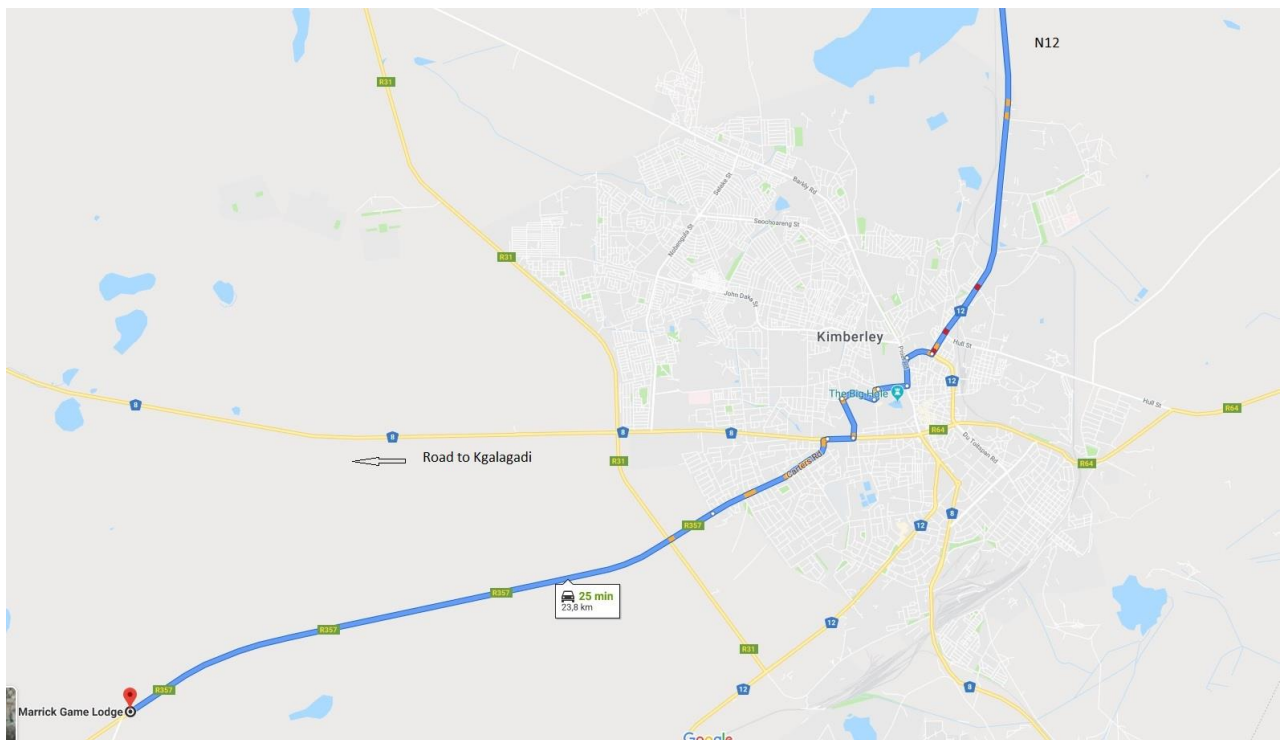
*Sentinel Rock Thrush*. Is an altitudinal migrant – one individual seen on Koppie in Kruger NP.

*Red-billed Buffalo Weaver* – it's hard to see unless waiting at nest colony near dusk, when the birds return.

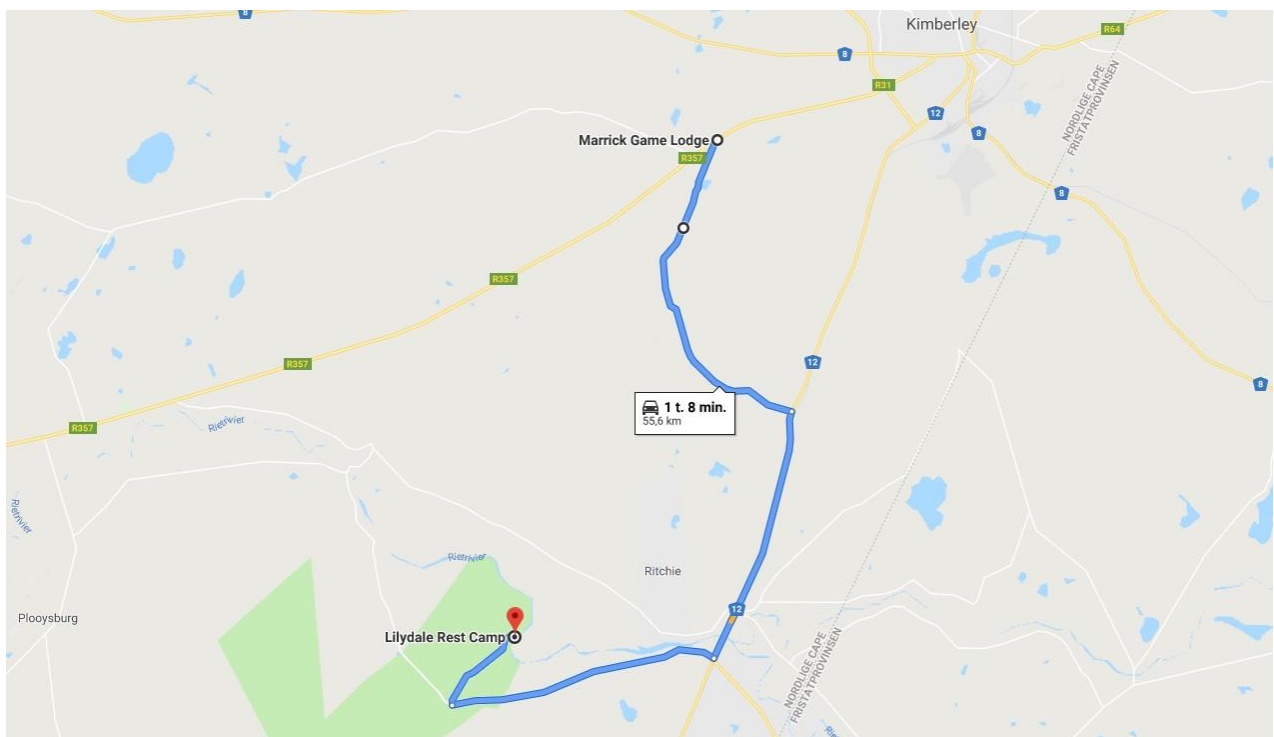
## Maps



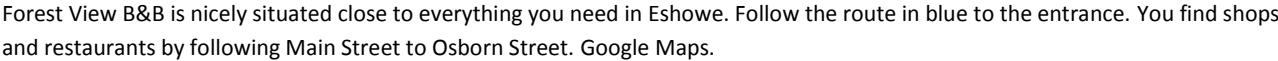
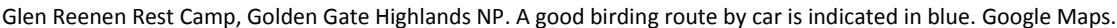
Aerial view on entrance section of D'Linza Forest, Eshowe. Green Twinspot hide is marked with a star. Google Earth Map.



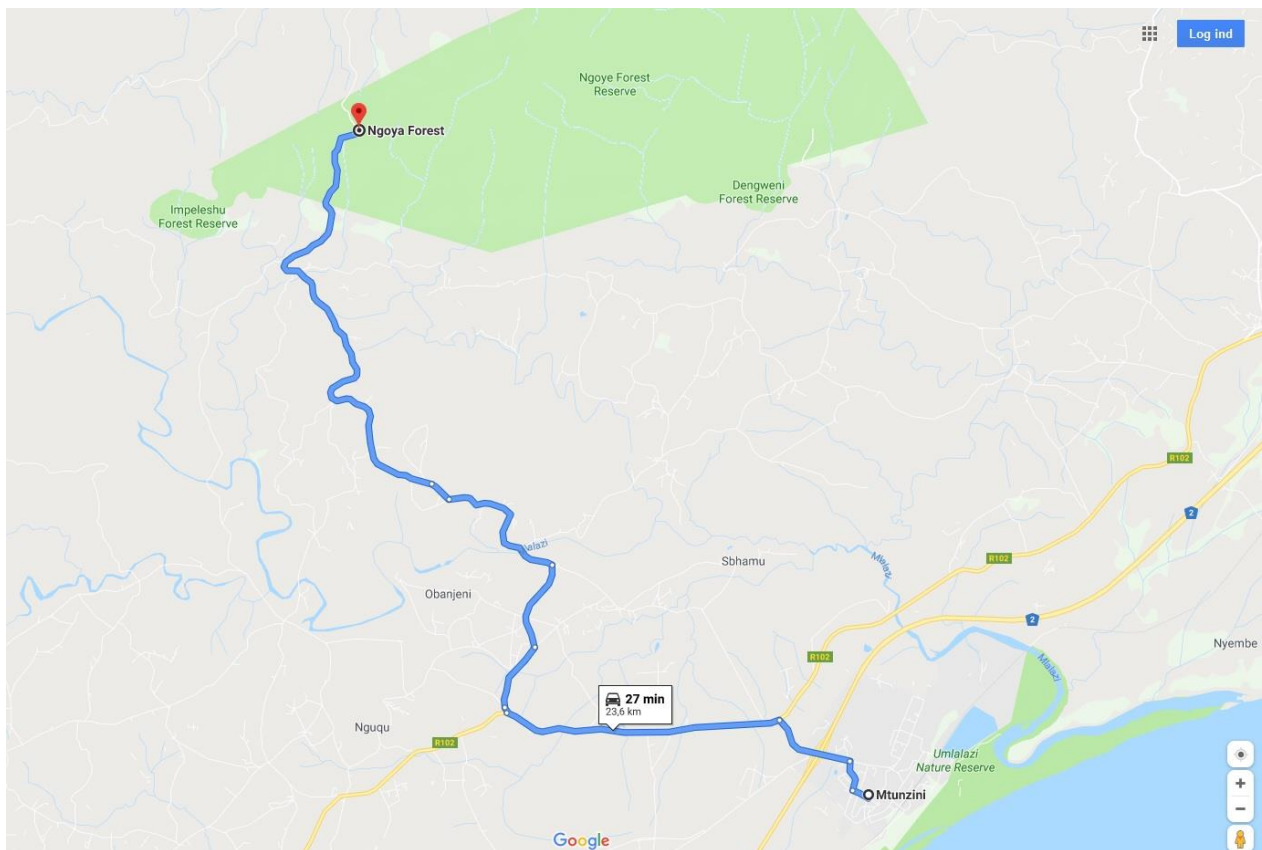
From N12 to Marrick Game Reserve – entrance at road, farm N of road. Route to Kgalagadi is indicated by an arrow. Trevor, the owner at Marrick can get you in touch with a local specialist bird guide that can take you to ‘The Big Hole (Bradfield’s Swift), private areas at Kamfers Dam N of town (Chestnut-banded Plover, Flamingos) and many other places around Kimberley. Google Maps.



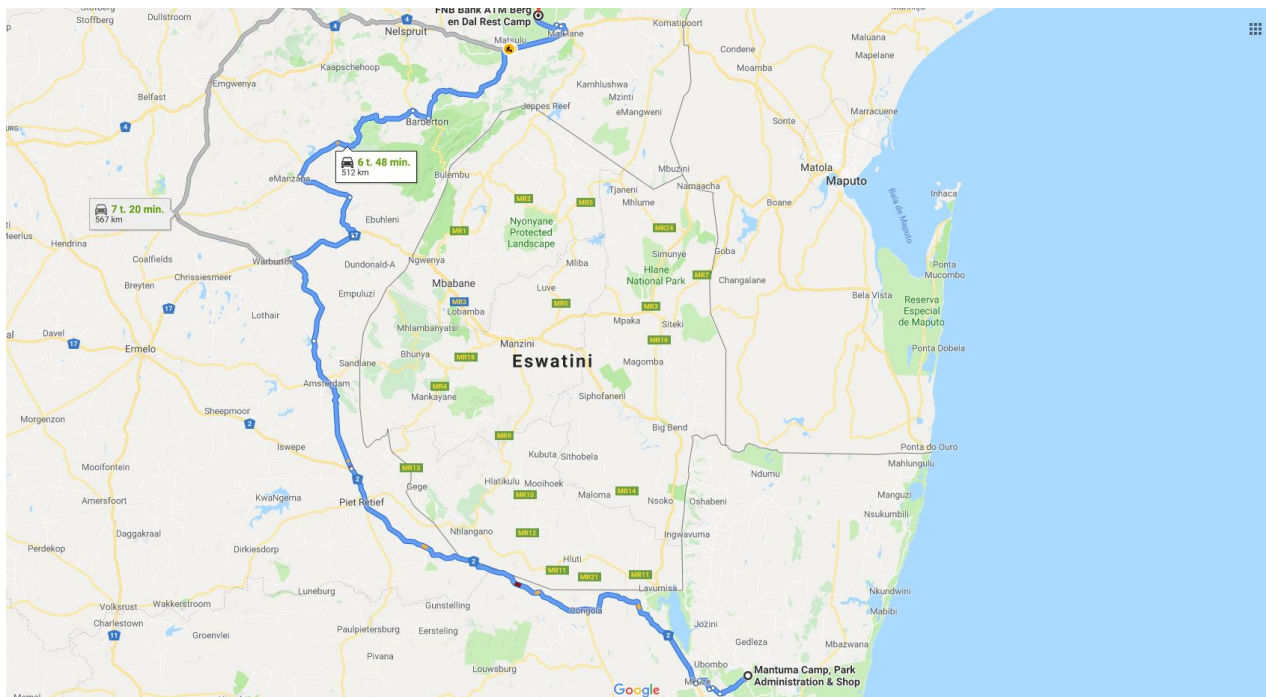
From Marrick Game Reserve to Lilydale Rest Camp, Mokala NP. See explanation to route under headline ‘Notes on routes’. Google Maps.







Route from Mtunzini to Ngoye Forest. Tar road all the way. If you come from Eshowe (D'Linza Forest) you can easily miss the turn-off on R102. It is not well sign-posted from this direction and the turn-off road is a bit backwards in the same direction you come from. From Mtunzini you won't miss it. At Ngoye Forest there is a Ranger Station next to the road on your right-hand side. Park close by and walk the road (very little traffic) observing birds. Google Maps.



Driving route from Mantuma Rest Camp, Mkhuze to Berg-en-Dal Rest Camp, Kruger NP. See detailed explanation under headline 'Notes on routes'. Google Maps.