

Namibia's Etosha Pan & Skeleton Coast

Naturetrek Tour Report

29 October – 14 November 2014



Black Rhino



Cheetah



Deadvlei



Violet-eared Waxbill

Report compiled by Rob Mileto
Photos courtesy of Keith Jones



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Day 1

Wednesday 29th October

London Heathrow to Frankfurt

A short hop took us to Frankfurt where the plan was to change planes and fly overnight to Windhoek. However, things don't always go to plan and a 'technical problem' with the aircraft meant we had an unexpected overnight stay in the exotic Maritime Conference Hotel. Since we were transported, fed, watered and given a comfy bed c/o Air Namibia, this proved to be no great burden.

Day 2

Thursday 30th October

Frankfurt to Windhoek

With the plane fixed, we were finally on our way and the daytime flight meant we were able to get bird's-eye views of mountains, deserts and forests along the way.

We arrived after dark and after clearing immigration and retrieving our luggage, we were met by our local driver/guides Festus and Jeremia. We were soon off in our two extended Land Rovers, where everyone got a window seat. The later than scheduled arrival meant it was far more sensible to spend the night in a local Windhoek hotel, rather than the planned, but more distant accommodation.

Day 3

Friday 31st October

Windhoek to Kulala

Weather: Mostly hot & sunny

A pre-breakfast walk gave us our first holiday bird – a Little Swift. This was closely followed by a whole host of birds frequenting the grounds of the hotel. Southern Masked Weavers were busy nest-building right in front of the main entrance and as we strolled, we had excellent views of African Palm Swift, Cape Wagtail, Grey-backed

Cameroptera, Laughing Dove, Red-faced and White-backed Mousebirds, and the ubiquitous African Red-eyed Bulbul.

After breakfast, it was time to pack up the vehicles and set off for Kulala. As is typical, progress was slow because there were so many new and wonderful things to see. Amongst our frequent morning stops was one to see a large 'kettle' of White-backed Vultures and one Lappet-faced Vulture. We also saw Black-winged Kite, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Short-toed Rock Thrush, White-rumped Swift, Chacma Baboons and soaring Verreaux's Eagles.

A picnic lunch was taken under a shady tree in a dry river bed in the company of Grey Go-away-Birds and Rosy-faced Lovebirds. Post-lunch, a short walk to a nearby wind pump and concrete reservoir afforded us excellent views of Lark-like Bunting, Familiar Chat and Shaft-tailed Whydah which were busy quenching their thirst.

Then it was off again... and again with frequent stops to see lovely things like our first Gemsboks and Springboks, along with a host of birds that included Karoo Chat, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Ruppell's Korhaan and the very smart Ludwig's Bustard.

We arrived at Kulala to a glorious sunset and later enjoyed a fine dinner. The comfy beds in the lovely chalets were really welcome after our long journey.

Day 4

Saturday 1st November

The dunes, Deadvlei, Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon

Weather: Hot & sunny

We were up before sunrise and off promptly in order to see the giant 300m dunes at their best – in the light of sunrise – and we were not disappointed with many photos being taken. First stop was Dune 1 (naturally!). Here we were primarily in search of the endemic Dune Lark, and the many prints and signs skilfully interpreted by Festus and Jeremia, kept us entertained while we searched. After not too long, this dinky pale lark was spotted and with patience we eventually all got excellent views.

Moving on, we were soon striding across the sand towards Deadvlei, with its eerie long-dead acacias. Most opted for the scenic route in; up a nearby dune crest and then down its steep, orange face and into the contrasting white clay of the ex-lake bed. Here we had a small but satisfying second breakfast.

Strolling back along the easy route at the base of the dunes, we spotted a (super fast) Shovel-snouted Lizard. Despite its speed, Festus managed to catch it so we all had a close look at this tiny reptile made famous by David Attenborough for its 'dance' on hot sand. Returning to the vehicles, we drove the short distance to the more famous, but perhaps less visually impressive, Sossusvlei. As we took a short walk, a Spotted Eagle Owl was seen in the depths of a nearby bush. This was a great find and it allowed us to approach remarkably closely. After many photos, we returned to the vehicles where a Black-backed Jackal was prowling about looking for tasty bits & pieces dropped by picnicking visitors.

After a late lunch back at Kulala and a welcome siesta, we went off to Sesriem Canyon and, walking down and into this impressive geomorphological feature, we came across many Speckled Pigeon and even a few fish in a small murky pool. Leaving the canyon behind, we found a scenic spot (not difficult) for sundowners and snacks at sunset and to the odd sound of barking geckos. Dinner was accompanied by some great singing and dancing by the Kulala staff.

Day 5

Sunday 2nd November

Kulala to Walvis Bay (via Solitaire and the Gaub River)

Weather: Cloudy then sunny

An overnight termite hatch meant there was a fair deal of wildlife activity as we made our way to Walvis Bay. At one point a Pale Chanting Goshawk and a Black-backed Jackel made unlikely 'breakfast' partners around a hatch site. Into the bargain, we were lucky enough to see a family of Bat-eared Foxes which are usually nocturnal. Later, one vehicle that stopped to admire the stunning scenery was further rewarded with views of Rock Hyrax, Acacia Pied Barbet and some Klipspringers.

We had a comfort & cake stop in Solitaire, a somewhat bizarre little oasis in the desert which serves world famous apple pie/strudel in 'Moose Macgregor's Bakery'. There were also many fine birds to be seen including Red-headed Finch, Cape Glossy Starlings and Sociable Weavers.

Driving on, we stopped for obligatory photos at the Tropic of Capricorn and, soon after, spotted some Hartmann's Mountain Zebra much closer than we had glimpsed them earlier - at great distance in a heat haze!

Lunch was a picnic in the (dry) Guab River bed followed by excellent views of Mountain Wheatear, (including one sporting the unusual grey plumage) and an elegant snake which was probably a type of sand snake. Just before we descended from the plateau, we briefly stopped again to take in the marvellous view, and get close to some Quiver Trees. These 'trees' are actually giant aloes, so have no actual wood. They are thought to be named from the practice of San people who hollowed out the tubular branches to form quivers for their arrows.

We then travelled on to reach the Langholm Hotel in Walvis Bay in the late afternoon, in good time for a shower and freshen up before dinner at the Pelican Bay.

Day 6

Monday 3rd November

Walvis Bay

Weather: Mostly sunny

After breakfast we headed for the harbour and started the day with a 'pelagic' boat trip to the open ocean beyond Walvis Bay lagoon. Even before we set off there was a Great White Pelican on the jetty and Lesser Flamingos in the water to entertain us. Setting off on our south Atlantic odyssey, we were soon joined on board by a Brown Fur Seal! He knew there was an easy fish breakfast to be had, as did the pelicans, Kelp Gulls and even a Cape Cormorant, who snatched fish from the hand of one of the crew. Very soon after this we had a school of Bottle-nosed Dolphins right alongside the boat and doing a little bow wave riding before heading off. This was closely

followed by short-lived but decent views of the much smaller, darker and rarer Haviside's Dolphin – what a start and we had yet to leave the shelter of the bay!

We now headed straight for the open sea whilst the wind was still modest. As we passed the spit at the harbour mouth, we were within a few metres of hundreds of fur seals. Then we were soon boating through frequent flybys by Sandwich and Swift Terns along with the occasional Sooty Shearwater, Cape Gannet and White-chinned Petrel. One of the latter was tempted by a fish thrown overboard and, in the clear ocean water, we watched it 'swim' down to retrieve the tasty meal. As we plied the waves we spotted African Penguins bobbing about on three occasions, one listing sideways, flipper in the air, presumably to catch some warming sun. A small black fin turned out to be attached to a small Sunfish, also known as a Mola Mola, and a small, mostly black bird, turned out to be a Wilson's Storm Petrel. These were somewhat unexpected treats, but perhaps not quite as rewarding as our next spot – a Southern Right Whale! We had several views of it surfacing for breath and of tail flukes as it dived, and at one point it also passed very fleetingly below the boat.

As we slowly made our way back to shore, we celebrated with local oysters and other snacks, washed down with some tasty sparkling wine. This was followed by a quick look at part of the spit where a host of Cape Cormorants were roosting along with a single and much rarer, Crowned Cormorant.

Lunch was followed by a slow drive to and around the local commercial salt-pans (including bright pink ones). Lots of birds were seen, the highlights including Ruff, Little Stint, Curlew and Marsh Sandpiper, (Pied) Avocet, Sanderling, Grey Plover, Cape Teal, countless Greater and a good number of Lesser Flamingos, and Caspian, Swift, Common, Sandwich and the endemic Damara Terns.

Dinner was at The Raft restaurant, situated on poles in the lagoon.

Day 7

Tuesday 4th November

Walvis Bay and Swakopmund

Weather: Mostly sunny but windy pm

Today we had a welcome lie in and after breakfast we set off north through the desert to Swakopmund, famous for its German colonial architecture. At the nearly dry Swakop river on the outskirts of town we saw our first Chestnut-banded, Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plovers as well as a 'zitting' Zitting Cisticola.

We then drove round to the mouth of the Swakop (dammed with sand at the time) where we strolled up the beach. Bottle-nosed Dolphin, Damara Tern, and White-breasted, Cape and Crowned Cormorants were on the seaward side and African Oystercatcher, White-fronted Plover and smart Blacksmith Lapwings on the landward. A seemingly dead fur seal pup amongst the jetsam turned out, on close inspection, to be just asleep and very much alive – it was hard to tell if it, or we, were more surprised!

By the time we reached the suburbs and met Festus & Jeremiah, it was time for lunch at Café Anton's, rightly renowned for its fantastic cakes and pastries. Not only did the displays of these look stunning, they tasted so good too.

After lunch, we did a spot of shopping or sightseeing before heading off for a nearby dune which we climbed and drank in the dazzling view of the ocean and the desert. Some of us then 'bottom-shuffled' down a steep dune face to experience the 'singing' dune – very weird.

We took the coast road back to Walvis Bay. It had turned very windy and we could see patinas of sand snake across the road, a vivid reminder of the mobility of the dunes in this area. We had a quick and bracing walk along the promenade which revealed some nice Bar-tailed Godwits and Whimbrels, as well as the usual waders. Dinner was at an oceanside restaurant with some intriguing, and some obscure, quotes chalked on the walls.

Day 8

Wednesday 5th November

Walvis Bay to Damaraland Camp (via lichen fields, Cape Cross and wreck of The Seal)

Weather: Cloudy and cool – am; warm & sunny – pm

After breakfast we set off on the long drive along the Skeleton Coast to Damaraland. Shortly after Swakopmund we stopped to take a look at an area of what are known as lichen fields. Here the oranges, greys and greens of these fungi/algae amalgams encrust the rocks and stones, surviving primarily on moisture and nutrients in the frequent mists and fogs rather than in rainfall. Later, we visited the large and pungent colony of Brown Fur Seals at Cape Cross which had several attendant Ruddy Turnstones.

Our picnic lunch was taken scenically on the coast in view of the wreck of 'The Seal' and hundreds of Hartlaub's Gulls and many Swift, Sandwich and Common Terns. Some Bottle-nosed dolphins and a Pomerine Skua also made welcome appearances. Post lunch and turning inland, we headed up onto the plateau and in this rocky desert we saw what is claimed to be world's longest living plant (1,000 years+), the Welwitschia. We wandered amongst several individuals with their very short, thick, woody trunk and strap-like leaves that continuously grow from the base. Soon after this, we came across our first Giraffes, browsing gracefully on roadside trees, and our first 'banana' bills – Yellow-billed Hornbills.

Large flocks of Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark seemed to welcome us as we approached the impossibly scenic Damaraland Camp at the end of a long day. Dinner was a braai (barbeque) eaten under the stars in a boma (a traditional wooden fenced enclosure where stock are kept at night).

Day 9

Thursday 6th November

The Huab River – am. Twyfelfontein – pm

Weather: Partly cloudy but hot

Sunrise was stunning and we were treated to fleeting views of a Bokmakerie at breakfast. It was then off in search of the desert-adapted (African Bush) Elephants but stopping to take in many Lark-like Buntings and a single Cinnamon-breasted Bunting at a concrete reservoir. Once in the Huab River bed (where the elephants generally hang out) we paused many times to enjoy excellent views of Rosy-faced Lovebirds, Hamerkop, Red-billed Spurfowl, Purple Roller (for some) and a Benguela Long-billed Lark.

It took a while, but following signs (their prints and plops), we eventually came across a herd of nine, including some dinky little youngsters. We watched them for a good long while before heading back along the river bed and getting our first view of the unfeasibly coloured Crimson-breasted Shrike – what a star bird.

Having had the whole river bed largely to ourselves, a lone Land Rover parked under a large old Camelthorn tree caused minor irritation with some, until we realised that this was our 'bush' lunch. This had been cooked and beautifully set out on tables in the shade – what an achievement and what a treat!

Post this lovely lunch and short siesta back at the camp, we set off for Twyfelfontein (Afrikaans for uncertain spring). A couple of lovely Secretarybirds and Namaqua Sandgrouse were seen en route. At Twyfelfontein, we took a short walk to view a mass of old engravings on the rocks. These depicted various local creatures and waterhole locations, and most are believed to have been carved into the sandstone by hunter gatherers that inhabited the region some 5,000(ish) years ago.

Day 10

Friday 7th November

Damaraland to Anderson's Camp, Ongava Reserve (via Petrified Forest)

Weather: Hot & sunny

Today we were treated to a 'bush' breakfast. Tables had been set atop a nearby hill and we enjoyed our food al fresco as the sun rose and the Pale-winged Starlings picked at our crumbs. What a fantastic start to the day.

As we sadly left the lovely Damaraland camp our spirits were raised by the fine sight of a nearby perched African Hark Eagle and later a Lappet-faced Vulture. Our first 'official' stop was at the Petrified Forest. Here, as well as many massive 'logs' of long dead and fossilised trees, there were also Great Sparrows, White-throated Canaries, more Welwitschia and several lovely little ground agama lizards.

Subsequent roadside stops on our journey were very productive and the star birds included Burchell's Courser and Alpine Swift, as well as House and Sand Martin and Barn Swallows all lined up on a phone wire.

We arrived at our destination, Anderson's Camp, for a late lunch overlooking the waterhole. This was sporting Warthogs, Red Hartebeest, Eland, and Cinnamon and Golden-breasted Buntings to greet us. The waterhole has an underground hide which proved a great place for close up views of the drinking creatures at eye level. Post lunch, some took advantage of this, whilst others took the opportunity for a short siesta.

On the late afternoon game drive, Lions were flavour of the day. Initially we found them strolling towards a waterhole. As they disappeared into the scrub, we headed for the waterhole to watch for their arrival. We waited and waited but no lions were to be seen, so we headed off in search of them but only found Red-crested Korhaan. We swung back by the waterhole...and there they were, drinking and lying about (as lions do). Some came within a few metres of the vehicles, which is always a thrill. As they made their way off, we made our way to a scenic spot for sundowner drinks and snacks.

After dinner with a Black Rhino at the waterhole, we set off for a night drive. In the beam of the spotlight we saw four more Black Rhinos, Lions, a hare, a nightjar (probably Rufous-cheeked) and perhaps most excitingly a

Southern Lesser Galago (bushbaby) at close quarters. Back at camp just after 11pm, there were two more Rhinos waiting for us at the waterhole along with half a dozen Spotted Hyena... what a fantastic end to the day!

Day 11

Saturday 8th November

Anderson's Camp to Okaukuejo in Etosha National Park

Weather: Partly cloudy but hot

We were out pre-breakfast tracking a White Rhino, partly on foot, but sadly only saw its footprints and dung. We also saw the dung of elephant, zebra, giraffe and springbok, so before we knew it, we were somewhat dung experts. We also saw our first and only Monterio's Hornbills.

Back at the camp, we breakfasted to the strange sight of a Giraffe drinking, not a straightforward task when your neck is 2m (6+ft) long

Post-breakfast, we departed for the adjacent Etosha National Park and were soon in the presence of Kori Bustard, Violet-eared Waxbills, Marico Flycatchers and Northern Black Korhaan. On a zebra carcass at a waterhole there were masses of vultures, the single Lappet-faced making it clear to the far more numerous White-backed that he/she was very much 'in charge'. There was also a very smart Greater Kestrel on a nest.

We arrived at the Okaukuejo Rest Camp at lunchtime and enjoyed a fine buffet lunch before retiring to our rooms for a siesta. The afternoon drive included a fine collection of larks. There was the very upright and confiding Spike-heeled Lark, the Red-capped Lark (looking decidedly not very red-capped) and the Pink-billed Lark with its... you guessed it... pink bill. There were also some stonking Double-banded Coursers, Pallid Harrier and Capped Wheatears and perhaps somewhat less stonking Greater Kestrels, Ant-eating Chats and displaying Ostrich. A waterhole was being shared by three large male Elephants, and a Kori Bustard strutted nearby, while a Yellow-billed Kite circled above. As we headed back to camp we chanced upon a Spotted Hyena heading out for the night and a Black Rhino wandering along the camp fence. That night, there were more rhino at the camp waterhole being 'buzzed' by what were probably Rufous-checked Nightjars.

Day 12

Sunday 9th November

Around Okaukuejo

Weather: Partly cloudy but hot

As we prepared for the early morning game drive there were Wattled Starlings, White-crowned Shrikes, a Jacobin Cuckoo and a big handful of other birds to see in the camp grounds. As we set out into the park, hyenas were making their way slowly back to dens and one particularly inquisitive sub-adult gave our vehicles a good sniffing. Even in the complementary light of the morning sun, it still had a very 'hard to love' face. Our first waterhole was sporting a classically African collection of simultaneously drinking Plains Zebra, watched, at distance, by a pair of Lions. The next waterhole was sporting a lion pride and so, unsurprisingly, little else. As we headed back for breakfast, pair of Red-breasted Swallows were obliging enough to give us great views.

After breakfast, some of us strolled the scenic route back to our chalets and were rewarded with views of African Pied Barbet, Crimson-breasted Shrike and African Cuckoo. Before we knew it, it was lunchtime and after this, another scenic stroll ended with a scorpion under a bin lid and a herd of Elephants at the camp waterhole.

The late afternoon game drive encountered a very cute young Ground Squirrel just as we left the camp. Later Festus somehow managed to see a Spotted Eagle-Owl sheltering in an extensive Sociable Weaver nest. As we drove our way around the tracks, we saw Greater Kestrel and Secretarybird on their respective nests, as well as a pair of Namaqua Sandgrouse with three fluffy chicks, and a pair of Tawny Eagles. The waterholes were relatively quiet, but we still managed to see a couple of sleeping Lions, Wood Sandpipers, Little Grebes and a lonely Moorhen. As we made our way back to camp, we came across a stalking lioness, but due to the strict camp curfew, we had to leave her to it.

Day 13

Monday 10th November

Okaukuejo to Mokuti (via Halali)

Weather: Cloudy but warm

As we were leaving Okaukuejo today, we breakfasted before setting off. As the day before, we saw hyena heading for home. We soon came across many lions in the grass. As we watched, a herd of zebra idled vaguely in their direction and the lions went into hunting mode, stalking and prowling... but it was not to be, the zebra didn't quite get close enough to warrant a chase.

As we made our way towards lunch at Halali camp were stopped at various intervals. There was one for a Clapper Lark and its odd parachuting flight, one for exquisite European Bee-eaters and Lesser Grey Shrike, and one for a male Kori Bustard in full and resplendent display. A waterhole gave us great views of African Fish Eagle, Lanner Falcon and African Jacana. Later our first Bateleur gave us a great, jinking flyover.

A buffet lunch was followed by a short walk to the Halali camp waterhole with a dinky Pearl-spotted Owlet on the way. The waterhole itself was quiet, initially with only a few Kudu present, but a scorpion under a bin on the return was a treat for those who missed it the previous day. It was then off to the eastern end of Etosha and a chance to walk on the pan itself - the vast expanse of near-white clay in nearly all directions giving a feeling of true wilderness. On the drive there were Blue Waxbills to be seen, a Yellow-billed Kite on an unidentifiable carcass, and some close-by stately Giraffes.

We popped into Namutoni Camp and strolled to the waterhole, seeing more Pearl-spotted Owlets on the way. The waterhole itself had the usual wading birds along with a few Maribou Stork, which were new for the trip. We were soon heading off for Mokuti camp (just beyond the park gates) and saw our first tiny Kirk's Dikdik on the way. A refreshing drink and flannel on arrival was most welcome, as were the Banded Mongoose, Blesbok and Smith's Bush Squirrels that reside in the camp.

Day 14

Tuesday 11th November

Around Namutoni

Weather: Overcast, then sunny and hot

Leaving with packed breakfasts, we were very soon back in the park and in the company of a pair of impressive Verreaux's Eagle Owls in a nearby tree. Soon after, one vehicle was treated to a Zebra giving birth and the tiny foal taking its first tottering steps. As we slowly made our way to the breakfast stop, a Yellow-bellied Eremomela was seen, as were a Barred Wren-Warbler, Pied Babblers, Emerald-spotted Wood Doves, Scaly-feathered Finches and Violet-eared Waxbills – stunning in the early morning sunlight. The breakfast stop itself was a semi-shady and semi-fenced enclosure with Ashy Tit and a fair selection of assorted beetles. We then drove slowly to Fischer's Pan. Here we saw some very close Burchell's Sandgrouse, and (for some) our only African Quailfinch and Red-backed Shrike of the trip. However, top spot of the day (if not the trip) was a mother Cheetah with two fluffy young cubs! Initially we spotted them in some long grass not far from the track but they soon made their way towards where we had just come from. We guessed where they might emerge and drove back to wait. Just like the lions earlier on in the trip, they failed to show at our chosen location. However, this time we managed to keep an eye on where they were (largely thanks to a very active cub who just would not keep still!). So, we kept watch and eventually they all made their way to shelter under a small bush only a few metres from the track and our patience was rewarded with stunning views of mother gazing out over the surrounding plains for prey with the cubs playing at her feet – truly captivating.

This excitement caused us to be late for lunch – which the lodge had forgotten to prepare for us anyway! There then followed a rather farcical juggling of various menus and rather random decisions by the lodge staff over what was and wasn't available. We finally ordered mostly cheese and tomato toasties and double checked that all was now well with the order. The arrival of a pile of cheese and ham toasties caused a good deal of good natured amusement and resignation to the fact that things don't always go to plan, however hard you try...

A lovely African Paradise Flycatcher was seen on our post lunch stroll to our chalets, but would it keep still for a decent view and photos? Of course not, that is not what they do! After a siesta, the late afternoon game drive into the park focused on a waterhole. Here there was a host of birds including Whiskered Tern, Tawny Eagle, Little Stint, Wood Sandpiper, Ruff and great views of Kittlitz's Plover. A Slender Mongoose and Kirk's Dikdik were briefly seen on the slow drive back to the lodge, along with a couple of very stately looking adult male Kudu with magnificent spiral horns. These posed beautifully for photos in the sunset.

Day 15

Wednesday 12th November

Namutoni to Waterberg (via Lake Okjikoty)

Weather: Mostly sunny & hot

After breakfast we packed up and set off on the journey to Waterberg National Park. Our first unofficial stop was for a very nice Yellow-billed Kite in the road. Our first official stop was at Lake Okjikoty, the smaller of only two permanent natural lakes in Namibia. It is a sinkhole lake (or doline), that was created by the collapsing roof of a water-filled cave. Here we chased another African Paradise Flycatcher around the grounds for a while before having a look at the lake. Since this lake has water all year round, it supports fish and fish-

eating birds such as the Pied Kingfisher and Reed Cormorant that we saw, along with 'regular' birds like Lesser-striped Swallow and Black-backed Puffback, which we also saw. Lunch was in a nice Italian restaurant in Otjiwarongo. The food was a little tardy, but when it did arrive, the portions were huge!

We arrived at Waterberg Plateau in the early afternoon, which today had Marico Sunbird and Purple Roller as the welcoming committee. A late afternoon stroll through the chalets provided birds aplenty with excellent up close views of African Pied Barbet, Rosy-faced Lovebird, African Hoopoe, Golden-tailed Woodpeckers and flybys by a trio of Verreaux's Eagle, many Bradfield's Swifts and a Lanner Falcon. Grazing happily around some chalets were some Kirk's Dikdik.

Day 16

Thursday 13th November

Waterberg to Windhoek

Weather: Hot & sunny

We saw many of the same birds on the pre-breakfast walk along with Grey-backed Camaroptera and Barred Wren-Warbler. All too soon, it was time to pack up the vehicles one last time and head for the capital.

We had a light lunch at De Oude Koffieshop in Okahanja. Those who wanted to then had half an hour at the craft market across the road from the Café, indulging in some friendly haggling over trinkets, gifts and mementoes. There was more potential for gift shopping in Windhoek due to a quick (well, it was supposed to be quick...) stop for a local music CD in the 'Namibia Craft Centre'.

There was also time for a short guided drive around the sights of the capital, before heading to a small hotel just off the road to the airport for a chance to change and repack, as well as a cool drink and a light dinner.

Arriving at the airport in good time, we bade our fond farewells to our two excellent local guides and boarded our overnight and uneventful flight.

Day 17

Friday 14th November

London Heathrow (via Frankfurt)

We arrived at Heathrow (via Frankfurt) on time, bade each other fond farewells and made our ways home, full of memories of the 220 bird and 40 mammal species seen on our 3,000+ km tour of that lovely place that is Namibia.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded H=heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	2	18	22			6	4	16	15	4	14	3	5	
2	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	4						10	17	21	14	24	21	24	15
3	Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>							2	2			6	13	17	5
4	Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>								14	16					
5	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>									2	2	6	5		
6	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>				16	4						2	1		
7	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>				1					2	10	11	13		
8	African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>				4										
9	White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>				3										
10	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>				2										
11	Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>				1										
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>											1	3		
13	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				100's	✓									
14	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>				10's	✓									
15	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>							1							
16	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>											2			
17	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>										4	4	3		
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					1	1	1							
19	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				2										
20	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>							10							
21	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				16	2									
22	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>				10	1	1								
23	White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>					6	22						3		
24	Reed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>												1		
25	Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>				101	40	50								
26	Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>				1	1									
27	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>		1	2				2			2	1			
28	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	1								1		1			2
29	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>											1		2	

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
30	African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>											1				
31	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		14								16	15	17	15	2	12
32	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>	1		2				2	2	2	1	3	3			
33	Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	1	2	3												
34	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>														1	
35	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>												2	1		
36	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>										1	1				
37	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	3	2	4							2	1	1	3		1
38	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>							1								
39	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	1										2	1	3	2	
40	Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	3		1					1						3	
41	African Hawk Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>								1	2						
42	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>								1							
43	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>			1												
44	Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>	2	1							1	1					2
45	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>		2	1								1	2	1		
46	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>			2								5				
47	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>			1												
48	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>												2		2	
49	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>										4		5	4		
50	Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>	2	1	1												
51	Ruppell's Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>	4	1	6				2	10	8				1		
52	Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis afroides</i>									2	6	11	14	3		
53	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						4					1	1			
54	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>						1									
55	African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>				3	6								1		
56	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓	1										
57	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓	2							3			
58	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>					4	5		3	4	19	16	22			
59	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>									2		2				
60	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				6	2										
61	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				2	5										

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
62	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>					3							6		
63	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>					4		6				1	1		
64	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>				2	6									
65	Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>					3									
66	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>											1			
67	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>					40									
68	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					12									
69	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				2	1									
70	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>													1	
71	Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>					1		1						1	
72	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>										1	3	4		
73	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				4	6	6								
74	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				36	44									
75	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				5	7								2	
76	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				✓	✓									
77	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				12									3	
78	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>														
79	Burchell's Courser	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>		4						5						
80	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>										4				
81	Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>			4	✓	✓	✓								
82	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>			14	✓	✓	✓								
83	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				13										
84	Swift Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>				✓	✓	✓								
85	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				✓	✓	✓								
86	Damara Tern	<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>				1	1									
87	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				12	21	11								
88	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>													2	
89	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				2										
90	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>				3		1								
91	Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>							12	16	17	5	16			
92	Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>								1						
93	Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>													3	

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
94	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>					3		2							
95	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>		5		11										
96	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	H	1	1					12	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	4			1			6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>												6		
99	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>							1	21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
100	Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>	2						16						15	1
101	Ruppell's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>							2		1					
102	Grey Go-away-Bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>	5						2	6		2	7	6	7	11
103	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>										1	1	H		
104	Dideric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>												H		
105	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>										3	4			
106	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>													1	
107	Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>		1								1				
108	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>												2		1
109	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>											3			
110	Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>								6	5					
111	Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>								3						
112	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	6									1				
113	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>								4	4	5	2			2
114	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>									16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>	1		4										14	5
116	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	20									16	✓	✓		✓
117	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	4													
118	White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>							1				1		1	
119	Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>	1			2										
120	Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>							1						1	
121	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>	1													
122	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>													1	
123	Swallow-tailed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>	1	4					2					3		
124	Olive Bee-Eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>							1							
125	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>											21	3		6

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
126	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>								2			2	1		1	1
127	Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>								1					1		1
128	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>								3	4	4		6		1	2
129	Monterio's Hornbill	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>										2					
130	Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>												2	6		
131	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>							2	2	1	14	3	4	7		
132	Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>			1								4				2
133	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>															3
134	Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>	1														
135	Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>								2							
136	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>											1				
137	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>												1	1	2	1
138	Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>								2	1	1	1				
139	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>								H			H				
140	Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>											1	2			
141	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>												4	2		
142	Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	2	4	2											16	
143	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>											1	1			
144	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	4							6	4	4	14	5	9	19	7
145	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>													2	2	2
146	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>			1						2	2	5	4		1	
147	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	6	9	4			4	5	4	4	2	3				2
148	Carp's Tit	<i>Parus carpi</i>								2							
149	Ashy Tit	<i>Parus cinerascens</i>													1		
150	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>									1			2		1	
151	Sabota Lark	<i>Mirafra sabota</i>	2							2	4	4	6	4			
152	Fawn-colored Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>					1										
153	Dune Lark	<i>Calendulauda erythrochlamys</i>		4													
154	Benguela Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>								1	2						
155	Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>										5	2	2			
156	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>										4					
157	Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>										1					

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
158	Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>	1							2							
159	Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>								1							
160	African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	16	6					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
161	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>												2			
162	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>								6		12					
163	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>					2			6	17						
164	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	7	9	9				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
165	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>								1		1					
166	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>													4	2	
167	Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>										2	2	2	3	1	
168	Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>											1				
169	African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>					1										
170	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>												4			
171	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>					H						1	1			
172	Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>	1	3	2		1			1	2	1				1	
173	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>	1												1	1	
174	Barred Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>												1			
175	Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>												1			
176	Bare-Cheeked Babbler	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>								1	6	1					
177	Chestnut-vented Warbler (Titbabbler)	<i>Sylvia subcaerulea</i>	1														
178	Orange River White-Eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>										2					
179	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>															
180	Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	17	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
181	Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>										1	2				
182	Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>	14	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
183	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa</i>	1						1	3	4	2	1			2	1
184	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>										1	1				
185	Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>	4	1	12			4	3		1	1					
186	Karoo Chat	<i>Cercomela schlegelii</i>	1														
187	Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>	3	5	4				1	2	6						
188	Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	1								7			4			
189	Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	1								1						

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
190	Chat Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>		1	2							3				
191	Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>												2		
192	Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>		1										1		
193	Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>													2	
194	Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>		2	1				1	1						
195	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>		2	10	55			16	6	11	14	8	9		
196	Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>				4					✓		✓			
197	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		16	3	2	4	3								
198	Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>				7				2	4					
199	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>			2		2		1	2						
200	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>								4	2	3		4		
201	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>			1					2	1		4	3		
202	Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>												4		
203	Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	5		6					16	18	13	11	4	8	3
204	Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>									14					
205	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>								13			3	4	2	
206	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>												1		
207	Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>			5					12	14	2				
208	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>											2	6		
209	Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>									2		1	4		
210	African Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza fuscocrissa</i>												2		
211	Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>								2	4			3		
212	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	5		H	2	4	17							1	
213	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>											2			
214	Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>						2		11		1	4			
215	Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	3													
216	White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>								1						
217	Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>	2					17		40						
218	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>						1		11	11		6			
219	Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>								1						
220	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>								18			1			

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Mammals

1	Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>			16				1	1						
2	African Bush Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>							9		3	45	1	1		
3	Southern Lesser Galago	<i>Galago moholi</i>									1					
4	Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	40					10	2						19	27
5	Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>								1						
6	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>													3	
7	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>								10	2	12	11			
8	Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>									1					
9	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	1									1		2		
10	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>											10	14	6	6
11	Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>												1	1	
12	Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>			8											
13	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>								6	2	7	2	2		
14	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	2	3	1					2	15	13	3	2		
15	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>		2	4											
16	Brown Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>			1000's	✓										
17	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
18	Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>			30		10									
19	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>								7	1	6	1			
20	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>								5	4		2	4	4	5
21	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>						5		2	2	5	6	3	8	
22	Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>								2						
23	Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>									1					
24	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>								4	14	✓	✓	✓		
25	Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus caama</i>								1				4	14	
26	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>			6					54	✓	✓	✓	✓		
27	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	40	14	20			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
28	Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>												7	9	
29	Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>								1	1					
30	Kirk's Dikdik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>										4	2	11	2	

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
31	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>			4											
32	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>			1				1	1	1	2	2	2		
33	Common Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>									5	3				
34	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	6								14		15	12		
35	Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	19	25	30				14	3		7	10	9	5	1
36	Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>				1										
37	Haviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>				3										
38	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>				7		2								
39	South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>			3					3	1		1	6		
40	Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>											14	15		
41	Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>								1						

Other fauna

Welwitschia, *Welwitschia mirabilis*

A brown-veined white

A swallowtail

A praying mantis

A striped Skink

Common Barking Gecko, *Ptenopus garrulus*

A giant millipede

Red tip

African Monarch, *Danaus chrysippus*

Sunfish/Mola-mola, *Mola mola*

A ground agame

A sand snake

A scorpion

Yellow Pansy

Tenebrionid beetles, *Various*

Shovel-snouted Lizard, *Zeros anchietae*

Etosha Agame, *Agama etoshae*

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!