

# ROCKJUMPER IN FOCUS



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures



- ▶ **Passionate about our work**
- ▶ **Unrivalled customer service**
- ▶ **Celebrate & protect biodiversity**
- ▶ **Adaptable & dynamic team**

Team Rockjumper is spread across eight countries, with our headquarters in Mauritius and our main admin office in Hilton, South Africa. We designed our admin office “Rockjumper House” to be environmentally friendly, and it is run largely on green energy. Our professional office staff are ready to answer any questions you might have to get you out and birding as seamlessly as possible.

# THE NATURE OF ROCKJUMPER

At the 1998 International Ornithological Congress, Adam Riley and colleagues announced a new venture, Rockjumper Birding Tours. Neither he nor anyone could have foretold the trajectory Rockjumper would follow. Our company started out humbly enough with just a few Southern African tours a year. We had a lot to learn and we had to learn it fast, so we paid meticulous attention to what our participants liked and studied what made them tick. We asked ourselves what our people wanted in a birding adventure, and time and focus provided the answers.

Birds like that penetrate your soul. But sharing that experience with someone who cherishes it as much as you do amplifies it, raising it to a whole new level. It makes a surreal experience real, in a white-knuckle, profound and enduring way.

Sometimes you cannot believe what you have seen. Did that Bee Hummingbird really just suspend itself right in front of your face? Did that Tiger really walk right alongside our jeep? Did that happen? Did we really just see a million Sooty Shearwaters fill the air over the Pacific? Did we? Together we know we did. And as time passes, whenever we see each other, we still know it. And we have that forever.

Most of us who now make up the Rockjumper team grew up outside, in a semi-feral state, playing in the dirt and poking things with sticks. Eventually, we raised our gaze, looking up into the trees and the skies to marvel at the beasts dressed in feathers. As years flew by, we watched friends and colleagues get “real jobs”, but time and again we always chose nature. Today, as wildlife addicts, the only thing we like better than being outside and immersed in nature, is sharing that experience with like-minded friends.

Among our guides and our office staff, sharing nature and savoring these special moments are what it is all about. Now with over 20 years of experience, we arrange and lead tours to all the world’s key birding and wildlife sites, in an effort to provide our guests with authentic nature adventures and also to help conserve the birds and other fauna and flora that enrich our lives and spirits. From our comprehensive array of classic birding adventures to our tailor-made trips and conservation tours, we believe you always discover more with Rockjumper.

One of birding’s best attributes is how it is shared. Seeing a Resplendent Quetzal is indeed a marvelous thing.



Some of our office team outside Rockjumper House



Exploring Auckland Island in the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic region by Adam Riley

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# PLANET EARTH IS OUR OFFICE

Operating birding adventures in over 100 countries on every continent, Rockjumper is the largest and most well supported bird tour operator in the world. We offer a variety of tours, ranging from those designed for the keenest lister to tours where birding is just one element of a holistic travel experience. We are forever innovating new tours so that you can discover more of our amazing planet and its biodiversity. Our website offers a tour-selecting tool to zero in on the most suitable trips for you. Below is a list and short explanation of our tour categories.

## ▶ CLASSIC BIRDING

Quintessential birding adventures, including Classic trips, Highlights, Budget and Small Group birding tours

## ▶ CRUISES

Magnificent Antarctica, tranquility in the tropics, or sail the high seas to remote islands

## ▶ BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Focus on your bird photography on specially designed tours

## ▶ BIRDS & MORE

Enjoy birds whilst highlighting other themes such as wildlife, wildflowers, wine-tasting, culture, cuisine, music, etc.

## ▶ MEGA TOURS

For listers and more serious birders

## ▶ TAILOR-MADE TOURS

Custom designed for you and your travel companions



Birding the north bank of Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda by André Bernon



# CLASSIC BIRDING

Classic Birding Adventures are the core of our offerings, encompassing the most thrilling elements of nature travel, with birds at the center of the experience. Classic Birding Adventures are designed for the keen birder who wants to bird at a moderate pace for the majority of their tour, while also including the signature highlights of a destination, whether historical, architectural, anthropological, scenic, wildlife, etc. With a similar birding focus, we also offer Budget tours for those seeking lower cost alternatives, Small Group options, and Highlights tours if you wish to minimize your time away.



Great Barbet by Glen Valentine



White-necked Rockfowl by Adam Riley

## GHANA: ROCKFOWL & UPPER GUINEA SPECIALS

This small friendly nation has evolved into a top birding hotspot. White-necked Rockfowl is one of the primary targets, and Kakum National Park hosts the continent's only rainforest canopy walkway. Numerous Upper Guinea Endemics are available and other forest highlights include Blue Cuckooshrike, Violet-backed Hylia and Congo Serpent Eagle. Further to the north, the Guinea woodlands hold Oriole Warbler, Violet Turaco and numerous kingfishers, bee-eaters, rollers, and sunbirds; while the Sahelian savanna zone supports such megas as Egyptian Plover and Standard-winged Nightjar.



Iiwi by Owen Deutsch

## HAWAII

The most remote archipelago on Earth hosts active volcanoes, verdant forest, and is surrounded by the wild Pacific Ocean. Hawaiian Honeycreepers are stars of the show, with the charismatic Iiwi, the Akepa, the Critically Endangered Palila, and the bizarre Akiapolaau headlining, but not to be outdone by snazzy seabirds such as White-tailed and Red-tailed Tropicbirds, White Tern, Red-footed Booby, and many more.



Buffy Helmetcrest by David Hodder

## COLOMBIA HIGHLIGHTS

Covering all three Andean ranges, inter-Andean valleys, and lowland rainforest, we seek endemics and scores of colourful tanagers, numerous antpittas, and over 50 species of dazzling hummingbirds! In 12 days we often exceed 500 species, combining spectacular scenery with friendly locals, pleasant lodges, and highlights such as Wattled Guan, Bogota Rail, Northern Screamer, Glistening-green Tanager, Oilbird, Black Solitaire, Buffy Helmetcrest, and more.

## CHINA: SICHUAN BASIN & THE TIBETAN PLATEAU

Amid its moss-draped forests, bamboo hillsides, and vast alpine meadows, Sichuan Province showcases China's best birding. Spectacular snow-capped peaks are home to fancy pheasants such as Golden, Koklass, Blood and Lady Amherst's, plus Temminck's Tragopan. Also, ten species of parrotbills are possible, as well as Pere David's Owl, Chinese Grouse, Snow Pigeon, Grandala, and even the sought-after Przevalski's Finch (Pinktail).



Grandala by Glen Valentine

## NEW ZEALAND

Endemic forest birds and amazing seabirds highlight this adventure to one of the world's most scenic destinations. Hitting Auckland, Tiritiri Matangi Island, rugged Stewart Island, and the unforgettable Milford Sound gives great chances for kiwis, saddlebacks, Blue Duck, New Zealand Falcon, Stitchbird, the tiny Rifleman, and captivating endemic parrots too.



North Island Saddleback by Adam Riley



# CRUISES

Whether you enjoy tranquility in the tropics or sailing the high seas to remote islands brimming with wildlife, our dozens of unique cruises offer the best nature experiences on the planet.



Sailing through the Lemaire Channel in Antarctica by Dale Morris

## ECUADOR: GALAPAGOS CRUISE

Straddling the equator, 600 miles west of mainland Ecuador lies the planet's most fabled archipelago. Beautiful volcanic formations, matchless wildlife and natural history. Perennially popular, with island endemics, stunning seabirds, sea lions, penguins, snorkeling, and outstanding photography.



Waved Albatross by Adam Riley

## INDONESIA: REMOTE WEST PAPUAN ISLAND CRUISE

A unique and exhilarating cruise, we explore isolated islands in a most exotic region. Beginning in Sorong, we hit Waigeo (Raja Ampats), and then the very rarely-explored Kofiau, seeking rare or little-known birds such as Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher, and Red and Wilson's Birds-of-paradise; the latter one of the world's most sought-after.

Across Lydekker's Line, we work the South Moluccas, finishing in Ambon for Carunculated Fruit Dove, Moluccan Woodcock, Lazuli Kingfisher, Salmon-crested Cockatoo, Purple-naped Lory, Boano Monarch, Hantu Boobook and Long-crested Myna. Opt for the Buru Extension for the little-known Madanga, among other specials.

A series of Rockjumper cruises visiting little-known islands of Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomons and across the Pacific to far-flung Micronesian and Polynesian islands are also on offer.



Wilson's Bird-of-paradise by Glen Valentine

## ANTARCTICA

It's the most remote place on Earth. Eyes widen when you tell people you are going, or that you've been. Fabled and forbidding, it is not a place most folks ever think they will see. Few do see Antarctica, of course, and even fewer know that possibly the most spectacular part of a journey there is the visit to the Subantarctic Island of South Georgia, packed with literally millions of penguins and seals, and haunted by giant petrels and skuas. Retrace the steps of Ernest Shackleton as you visit the highest, driest, coldest continent. Truly otherworldly, there is no place like the ice continent, which is why we charter our own ship, allowing us flexibility to maximize our cruise for the best birding experiences, including chances for the fabled Emperor Penguin.



Snow Petrel by Dušan Brinkhuizen



King Penguin colony on South Georgia by Adam Riley



# BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Rockjumper's Bird Photography Tours are crafted to maximize opportunities for gathering amazing images by visiting key sites and hides for specialty species and endemics. The style of these tours will vary slightly between destinations but, essentially, they will all have a common goal: to photograph birds and to photograph them well.



Bird photography in Namibia by Marius Coetzee

# WILDLIFE

Rockjumper Wildlife Tours & Luxury Safaris offer handcrafted safari experiences, based on our client's specific wildlife interests. Many trips are custom-designed and we also offer a variety of set departures.



Thirsty Lions in Etosha National Park, Namibia by Adam Riley

## THAILAND: BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Snap shorebirds while soaking up the marvelous wetlands outside of exotic Bangkok, as we seek shots of the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Nordmann's Greenshank and other snazzy shorebirds. In and around the famous national parks superb photo hides await, where we'll work on images of Siamese Fireback, Silver Pheasant, the gorgeous Silver-breasted Broadbill, the stunning Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo, Blue Pitta, and more.



Siamese Fireback by Markus Lijle



Plate-billed Mountain Toucan by Adam Riley

## ECUADOR: BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Here, at the planet's heart of bird diversity, we make use of fantastic photography hides and spectacular feeder arrays, focusing our lenses on dazzling hummingbirds and rare antpittas, to max out memory cards with incredible imagery. Hitting Papallacta Pass, Yanacocha, Antisana, and other famous, scenic spots, eyes pop almost as often as shutters do.

## RWANDA MOUNTAIN GORILLA SAFARI

Focused on the bamboo-clad slopes of the Virunga Volcanoes, see one of the last refuges for Mountain Gorilla and the beautiful Golden Monkey. Visiting poignant sites such as Dian Fossey's grave, and the Genocide Memorial in Kigali, the Mountain Gorillas are the backbone of this unforgettable tour, and time spent with these gentle giants is regarded as one of the greatest wildlife experiences on the planet.



Mountain Gorilla by Adam Riley



Tiger by Marius Coetzee

## INDIA TIGERS & TAJ MAHAL

Search for the mythical Bengal Tiger, and behold the marvelous Taj Mahal, as we make our way through spectacular India, hitting all the best tiger hotspots. Along the way, we'll enjoy many famous cultural sites, delicious food, and seek wildlife including Leopard, Sloth Bear and Dhole (Asian Wild Dog), as well as birds such as Crested Serpent Eagle, Brown Fish Owl, and Sarus Crane.



# BIRDS & MORE

Bringing together two or more fascinating focal points at a destination, Rockjumper's Birds & More tours are a deeper dive, designed for those who wish to focus primarily on birds and still experience other regional highlights. Satisfy multiple interests for a well-rounded experience by combining easy birding with culture, cuisine, wine, music, history, wildflowers or other wildlife. Visit our website to view all of Rockjumper's Birds & More offerings.



Male Lions during game drive in Manyoni Private Game Reserve by Adam Riley

## KENYA & TANZANIA: BIRDS & BIG GAME

Among our most popular tours; visiting East Africa's famous game reserves, we focus on fabulous birding and amazing wildlife spectacles, including the stunning wildebeest migration. Tallying about 500 bird species, expect to see Golden-winged Sunbird, Fischer's Lovebird, Secretarybird, Bateleur, Southern Ground Hornbill, and a huge diversity and number of animals, while traveling with a maximum of 6 participants in an open safari vehicle. The spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, the endless plains of the Serengeti, Amboseli in the shadow of Mt Kilimanjaro, Mt Kenya, Samburu and Lake Nakuru are features, plus we visit with the iconic Maasai people.



The Great Wildebeest Migration by Elliott Neep

Eiland in West Coast wildflower scenery by Adam Riley



## SOUTH AFRICA: BIRDS, WINE & BIG GAME

Crafted for those who wish to enjoy South Africa's most sought-after birds and mammals, whilst also sampling South Africa's award-winning, famous wines. We base ourselves in Cape Town and Ceres, where we explore famous wine estates and birding sites. Thereafter, we move northwards to Zululand, where we have exclusive use of Zebra Hills Safari Lodge in a private 'Big 5' game reserve. Here, we will continue our South African wine adventure whilst we also thrill at game drives and some of the country's finest birding. From the endemic-rich Fynbos Kingdom of the Western Cape to the teeming wildlife of Zululand, this tour offers the very best of southern African birding, game viewing and wine!

Sphinx and Khafre Pyramid by Markus Lije



## EGYPT: BIRDING & ANTIQUITIES

Timed with peak migration, thousands of storks, raptors, waders and a plethora of passerines grace the skies, making birding easy and fun. Combine this with breathtaking antiquities, luxurious hotels, a 4-day Nile cruise from Aswan to Luxor, sensational snorkeling and shopping, and Egypt is one of the world's greatest delights.

Add on the Jordan - Petra Extension and see one of the world's ancient cities, along with Sand Partridge and Sinai Rosefinch.

## HUNGARY & AUSTRIA: BIRDS, WINE & MUSIC

A special offering, combining excellent birding sites with Hungary's finest wine estates, we top it all off with classical musical concerts in Budapest and Vienna! Highlights include Great Bustard, White-tailed and Eastern Imperial Eagles, Bearded Reedling, Black, White-backed and Syrian Woodpeckers and Ring Ouzel. Other memorable experiences will be tasting wines at beautiful estates in the Zemplen and Bukk Hills while also taking time to enjoy traditional gypsy music, classical concerts and even a private performance by the Liszt Chamber Orchestra in Budapest.



Chain Bridge in Budapest, Hungary

Mount Kilimanjaro from Amboseli National Park by Rainer Summers





# CONSERVATION

Central to our passion for wildlife is conservation, and right from our start in 1998, Rockjumper has supported bird conservation projects around the world. In 2006, we launched the Rockjumper Bird Conservation Fund (RBCF), and today a minimum of US\$50 from each Rockjumper tour registration goes into the RBCF. Of course, eco-tourism itself can be a great way to demonstrate a place's economic value. With Rockjumper Conservation Tours, we work with conservation organizations to highlight issues and wildlife in biodiversity hotspots across the globe.

If you are involved with conservation, and interested in learning more about Rockjumper Conservation Tours, contact us today at: [conservationtours@rockjumperbirding.com](mailto:conservationtours@rockjumperbirding.com)



Camp Avocet 2017 courtesy of ABA

Rockjumper is a proud co-sponsor (with our partners at ZEISS Sport Optics) of the American Birding Association's Young Birder Camps.

Learn more about our conservation goals, ethics and partners on our website. Team Rockjumper is actively involved in raising awareness of birdlife, in encouraging local communities to value their birds, and in promoting the value of enthusiastic trained nature guides in local communities.



White-winged Flufftail by Arno Ellmer

Near to our hearts is the critically endangered White-winged Flufftail and the work of the Middelpunt Wetland Trust. Rockjumper is the BirdLife International species champion for the White-winged Flufftail; one among many projects we are proud to support.

# CUSTOMER LOYALTY PROGRAMS

Once a Rockjumper, always a Rockjumper. We are thrilled to offer our valued guests great opportunities to save on the best birding adventures across the planet. Travel with Rockjumper, discover more, aid conservation and you save along the way.

1. Any guests who sign up for two **back-to-back** tours, we will deduct **US\$300** off the total price.
2. Any guests who sign up for their **5th tour** with us will be offered a **10% discount** off the tour price, to a maximum value of US\$1000.
3. A **US\$400** discount voucher is awarded to any of our loyal guests who **refer someone** who has not travelled with us before, provided the referred person signs up for one of our scheduled departures.
4. A **10% Early Bird Discount** will be awarded to any guest who books one of the first spaces on a tour 12 months in advance.

Terms and conditions apply. Check our website for full details.



Birding in Morocco by Markus Lilje



Canopy Walkway, Ghana by Dave Shackelford



Cuba group by Forrest Rowland



Bhutan group by Dave Shackelford



Our innovative 7 Continents Program offers progressively larger discounts as you tour with us to each of the world's 7 continents with savings generally covering the cost of an entire tour. Be sure to register before the end of June 2019.

[www.rockjumperbirding.com](http://www.rockjumperbirding.com)

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## CONSERVATION PARTNERS







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