

The Cape

August 2017



Wildlife Travel

10th August	Early arrival Cape Town. Afternoon wander around Scarborough	o/n Scarborough
11th	Cape Point Nature Reserve: Buffel's Beach, Cape of Good Hope, Circular Drive, Gifkomnetjie. Night drive from Scarborough to Cape Point entry gate, to Simonstown and back to Scarborough.	o/n Scarborough
12th	Rooiels (am), Scarborough (pm)	o/n Scarborough
13th	Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens	o/n Pinelands, Cape Town
14th	Cape Point Nature Reserve: Cape Point and Oliphants Bay Rondevlei Nature Reserve, Strandfontein	o/n Pinelands, Cape Town
15th	Travel up the west coast to Langebaan	o/n Langebaan
16th	West Coast National Park	o/n Langebaan
17th	Langebaan to Nieuwoudtville, via Quaggaskop, Knersvlakte	o/n Nieuwoudtville
18th	Nieuwoudtville	o/n Nieuwoudtville
19th	Nieuwoudtville to Ceres, via Tanqwa Karoo NP	o/n Ceres
20th	Ceres to De Hoop Nature Reserve	o/n De Hoop
21st	De Hoop Nature Reserve	o/n De Hoop
22nd	De Hoop to Hermanus	o/n Hermanus
23rd	Betty's Bay: Stony Point and Harold Porter Botanic Garden	o/n Hermanus
24th	Hermanus to Cape Town Return to UK	



	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
Order Primates (Apes & Monkeys)															
Chacma Baboon <i>Papio ursinus</i>		X	X		X			X		X	X	X	X		X
Order Tubulidentata (Aardvark)															
Aardvark <i>Orycteropus afer</i> Burrows and termite diggings around Nieuwoudtville and in the Tanqwa Karoo									S	S					
Order Lagomorpha (Hares)															
Cape Hare <i>Lepus capensis</i>								X	X						
Scrub Hare <i>Lepus saxatilis</i> Hares were identified on the (probably dodgy) basis of habitat preference (Cape Hare being in open agricultural fields and more barren, open habitats, Scrub Hare being in more vegetated bush) and the presence of a rusty nape patch seen well on the animals in De Hoop.											X	X			
Order Rodenta (Rodents)															
Dune Mole Rat / Cape Mole Rat <i>Bathyergus suillis / Georchus capensis</i> Mole hills commonly seen throughout the trip: Dune Mole Rat is definitely the burrower at Rondevlei, where the hills notably larger.	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Cape Porcupine <i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i> One crossed the road during a night drive south of Scarborough: reported by locals as being a common raider of vegetable patches in the village. One dead animal at Nieuwoudtville.		X				S		S	D			S			
Cape Four-striped Grass Rat <i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>					X		X		X			X			
Southern African Vlei Rat <i>Otomys irroratus</i> Seen on two consecutive evenings in the marshy area by the boardwalk behind Scarborough beach.		X	X												
Acacia Rat <i>Thalomys paedulus</i> One in a tree by an impromptu lunch stop when crossing the Tanqwa Karoo.										X					
Cape Gerbil <i>Gerbilliscus afra</i> Burrows in the quarry at Langebaan and on the Knersvlakte							S	S							
Eastern Grey Squirrel <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i> One in Pinelands, Cape Town, in Stone Pines.				X											
Order Carnivora															
Bat-eared Fox <i>Otocyon megalotis</i> One road kill, near Pliketberg, and two at the roadside in Tanqwa Karoo									D	X					
Cape Clawless Otter <i>Aonyx capensis</i> Reported to regularly visit the beach at Scarborough in the evenings: I tried two consecutive evenings with no luck, but the strong winds/massive surf probably didn't help my chances. Also reported as seen regularly at Rondevlei, although not as predictable.															
Cape Genet <i>Genetta tigrina</i> One in the Milkwoods behind the dunes at Scarborough on the evening of 10 th . A viverid crossed the road during a night drive south of Scarborough on 11 th was presumably a genet, but only seen very briefly.	X	?													

	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
Egyptian Mongoose <i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>						X						X			
Cape Grey Mongoose <i>Galerella (=Herpestes) pulverulenta</i>	X		X		X		X				X				
Yellow Mongoose <i>Cynictis penicillata</i> Random roadside sightings of all three of these mongooses									X		X		X		
Marsh Mongoose <i>Atilax paludinosus</i> One seen well at Strandfontein, Cape Town					X										
Caracal <i>Caracal caracal</i> Scat and tracks in the Koue Bokkerveld										S					
Aardwolf <i>Proteles cristata</i> A very active latrine in the Kokerboom 'Forest', near Nieuwoudtville, scat containing lots of invert remains including scorpion telson, and fur									S						
Cape Fur Seal <i>Arctocephalus (p.) pusillus</i>		X			X									X	X
Order Hyracoidea (Hyraxes)															
Cape Rock Hyrax <i>Procavia capensis</i> Particularly unconcerned animals at the viewpoint between Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope, and at Stony Point, Betty's Bay. Very obvious on isolated roadside boulder piles when crossing the Tanqwa Karoo.	X	X	X		X	X	X			X		X		X	
Order Perissodactyla (Odd-toed Ungulates)															
Cape Mountain Zebra <i>Equus zebra zebra</i> 2 near Oliphants Bay, Cape Point NR; at least 30 seen in the Postberg sector of West Coast NP; 10+ De Hoop					X		X				X	X			
Hippopotamus <i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i> Plenty of tracks and signs in Rondevlei NR. The animals themselves (a re-introduced population of around 10 animals is present here) are apparently very rarely seen, only emerging at dusk, after the reserve has closed to the public.			S		S										
Order Artiodactyla Family Bovidae (Antelopes and Cattle)															
Rhebok <i>Pelea capreolus</i> In and around De Hoop NR											X	X	X		
(Southern) Springbok <i>Antidorcas (m.) marsupialis</i> 'Wild' animals in the Postberg sector of West Coast NP and in Tanqwa Karoo NP (3 animals seen, one of which was a melanistic animal, all chocolate brown except a white forehead flash). Elsewhere, seemingly a farm animal							X	X		X	X		X		
Cape Grysbok <i>Raphicerus melanotis</i> One disturbed from dense fynbos near Oliphants Bay, Cape Point NR; reported to be a fairly common resident in and around Scarborough village, but I couldn't track any down during my stay					X										
Steenbok <i>Raphicerus campestris</i>						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
(Cape) Klipspringer <i>Oreotragus (o.) oreotragus</i> Three seen well on the hillside behind Scarborough. One at the roadside in Koue Bokkerveld	X									X					

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Gemsbok <i>Oryx gazella</i> A (very) loose herd of around 12 animals in the Tanqwa Karoo										X					
Blue Wildebeest <i>Connochaetes taurinus</i> Two with Zebra in the Postberg sector of West Coast NP: well out of appropriate range							X								
Black Wildebeest <i>Connochaetes gnou</i> Two looking very out of place in a roadside field with three domestic cattle, on the edge of Betty's Bay. A nearby house had an Eland grazing its lawn...															X
Bontebok <i>Damaliscus pygargus</i> Cape Point, West Coast NP and De Hoop		X			X		X				X	X	X		
Red Hartebeest <i>Alcelaphus (Bucephalus) caama</i> A herd of 12 near Gifkomnatjie, Cape Point, and 3 on the Tanqwa Karoo: always seemed much more wary and keen to disappear than the other 'boks'		X								X					
Cape Eland <i>Taurotragus o. oryx</i> 'Wild' animals at Cape Point, West Coast NP and De Hoop. Four hand-tamed animals are present at Rondevlei, to help with conservation grazing of the site. One on a lawn in Betty's Bay...		X			X		X				X	X	X	X	X
Order Cetacea (Whales and Dolphins)															
Southern Right Whale <i>Eubalaena australis</i> At least 30 animals off of De Hoop, including one animal repeatedly breaching, a mating pair and a mother with very small calf, in a calm sea. Around 5 animals, distantly, off Hermanus, on a much windier, choppier day												X			X
Humpback Whale <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> One passed by, quite distantly, from Cape Point					X										
Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> A pod of around 15 animals in the bay at Hermanus.															X



Top: Cape Klipspringer (Scarborough) and Scrub Hare (De Hoop NR); Middle: Gemsbok (Tanqwa Karoo NP) and Cape Mountain Zebra (Cape Point NR); Bottom: Cape Rock Hyrax and Red Hartebeest (both Cape Point NR)