

2025 Plett Bitou Birding Festival Programme

| Date | Start Time | Activity | Category | Ticket Price | | | Location Link | |
|---------------------------|------------|--|----------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| Friday, 24 October 2025 | 16:00 | Opening Dinner & Fundraiser Special Guest Speaker: Pierre Pistorius - Penguins Live Musician - Kurt Siegfried Venue: Belle Balance Time: 15:30 for 16:00 Note: Guests are requested to be seated by 17:45. The Welcoming and Presentation will commence at 18:00. Arrive from 16:00 for welcoming drinks in the Boma and an informal birding stroll through the Belle Balance Garden. The Boma Bar will also be open. | Dinner | R470 | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/7bAlW6GqtrWkr3v8 | |
| | 06:30 | Bird netting, ringing, recording and release - Kwendalo by Dr. Mark Brown Venue: Kwendalo Time: 6:00 for 6:30 This activity offers a unique opportunity to witness bird netting, ringing, recording, and release firsthand. Duration: +/- 3-4 hours | Activity | R155 | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 | |
| Saturday, 25 October 2025 | 09:30 | Guided Birding Walk - Kwendalo Location: Kwendalo Guide: Dr. Matthew Zylstra + BirdLife Plett Volunteers Time: 9:00 for 9:30 Duration: +/- 1 hour | Walk | R125 | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 | |
| | 11:00 | Birding Talk - Melanie de Morney Crowned Eagles of the Garden Route - Monitoring Africa's most powerful eagle Location: Kwendalo Speaker: Melanie de Morney Time: 10:30 for 11:00 Duration: +/- 1 hour | Talk | R125 | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 | |
| | 12:00 | Lunch Break Light meals available on-site Green Cafe open the whole day | | | R220 Saturday All Talks Ticket | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 |
| | 13:00 | Birding Talk - Mark Brown Sunbirds & Sugarbirds Location: Kwendalo Speaker: Mark Brown Sunbirds & Sugarbirds Time: 12:45 for 13:00 Duration: +/- 1 hour | Talk | R125 | | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 |
| | 15:00 | Guided Birding Walk - Goose Marsh Location: Goose Marsh Habitat: Estuary / Wetland / Coastal Time: 14:30 for 15:00 Guides: BirdLife-Plettenberg Bay Volunteers Duration: +/- 2 hours Please note: Parking at the estuary access point is limited so please park your vehicle mindfully and carpool together where possible. | Walk | R125 | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/eXORfGqv8wK2wD7 | |
| Sunday, 26 October 2025 | 7:00 | Guided Birding Walk - Hebron Nature Reserve Location: Natures Valley - Hebron Nature Reserve Habitat: Forest / Farmland Time: 6:30 for 7:00 Guides: Hosted by NVT Duration: +/- 2 hours | Walk | R125 | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/X1FEWQV0B1khwz4 | |
| | 08:00 | Beginner Birding Workshop with Prof. Hendri Coetzee Location: Kwendalo Time: 7:30 for 8:00 Guide: Prof. Hendri Coetzee Duration: +/- 2 hours | Walk | R125 | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 | |
| | 08:00 | Stand Up Paddle Birding Tour Date: Sunday 26th October & Wednesday 29th October Time: 7:30 for 8:00 Duration: +/- 3.5hrs Location: Natures Valley Lagoon Launch: Pin drop to be given Includes: Coffee & Muffins Leaders: Debra McCreedy + SUP Assistant A Wellness & Birding Experience | Wellness | R805 | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/Romq5E3MRDwW6w9 | |
| | 10:00 | Family Birding Playshop This fun family event is about getting to know our feathered friends in a different kind of way. We will play a range of activities that stimulate learning through doing by mimicking local birds and their behaviours. Recommended for kids and their parents. Children under 7yrs need to be accompanied by a willing parent. Juveniles over 7 may fledge unaccompanied if parents feel they must tend to the nest. (Recommended for children 4+ years) Location: Kwendalo Speaker: Dr. Matthew Zylstra Time: 10:00 - 11:30 Duration: +/- 90min | Wellness | R55 Kids | R105 Adult | R155 Family | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 | |
| | 12:00 | Birding Talk - Lauren Moriarty From Binoculars to Biodiversity: Connecting Communities through Conservation and Citizen Science – Why Your Observations Matter Location: Kwendalo Speaker: TBC Time: 11:30 for 12:00 Duration: +/- 1 hour | Talk | R125 | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 | |
| | 13:00 | Lunch Break Light meals available on-site Green Cafe open the whole day | | | R220 Sunday All Talks Ticket | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 |
| | 14:30 | Birding Talk - Mike Bridgeford Special Birds of the Bitou Location: Kwendalo Speaker: TBC Time: 14:15 for 14:30 Duration: +/- 1 hour | Talk | R125 | | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 |
| | 15:30 | Guided Birding Walk - Kwendalo Location: Kwendalo Guide: Dr. Matthew Zylstra + BirdLife Plett Volunteers Time: 15:30 Duration: +/- 1 hour | Walk | R125 | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9RTzD4DT1748SR36 | |

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| Monday, 27 October 2025 | 06:00 | Stand Up Paddle Board Pilates Time: Sunrise - 5:30 for 6:00 Duration: +/-3.5hrs Location: Keurbooms Lagoon - Poortjes Launch: Opposite #29 Phobids Includes: Coffee & Muffins Leaders: Debra McCreedy + SUP Assistant | Wellness | R805 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/fcKLiXcYvGkqP2E19 |
| | 07:00 | Guided Birding Walk - Fynbos Private Nature Reserve Location: Fynbos Private Nature Reserve Habitat: Fynbos / Coastal Time: 6:30 for 7:00 Guides: Birdlife Plettenberg Bay Volunteers Duration: +/- 2 hours | Walk | R125 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/yvYrs2HhgGAEYv6 |
| | 07:00 | Guided Birding Canoe Experience - Bitou River 1 Venue: Launch from Bitou River Lodge - Exit Wetlands on the Bitou Time: 6:30 for 7:00 Guides: Johnathan Tucker - Wild Compass Experiences - Birdlife SA Volunteer Guide Coffee and light snacks at Wetlands on the Bitou are included. Shuttle back to the launch point included. | Activity | R830 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/f1qbN8uN7hMILh6c |
| | 16:30 | Guided Birding Walk - Robberg Nature Reserve Location: Robberg Nature Reserve Habitat: Fynbos / Coastal Time: 16:00 for 16:30 Guides: Chanel Visser - Cape Nature - Birdlife Plettenberg Bay Volunteers Duration: +/- 2 hours *PLEASE NOTE: Conservation Fee Payable on entry. Wild Card Holders gain access as per member cluster. | Walk | R125 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/yvYrs2HhgGAEYv6 |
| Tuesday, 28 October 2025 | 7:00 | Guided Birding Walk - Forest Hall Step back in time and into nature on this special walk at Forest Hall Estate, one of the Garden Route's most prestigious accommodation and wedding venue, a National Monument and one of the Crags' most historic landmarks. Small groups will set out across the estate's indigenous forest and open grounds in search of its diverse birdlife, while enjoying the tranquil atmosphere of this remarkable setting. After the walk, participants are invited to gather for tea, coffee, and light refreshments, followed by a guided tour of the beautifully restored 1864 Victorian Manor House. A perfect blend of birding, history, and heritage. Location: Forest Hall Habitat: Forest / Fynbos Time: 6:30 for 7:00 Guides: Birdlife Plettenberg Bay Volunteers Duration: +/- 2 hours | Walk | R155 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/yvYrs2HhgGAEYv6 |
| | 07:00 | Pelagic Birding Expedition 1 A guided ocean pelagic birding trip with Conserve Eden. The trip will be guided by Cape Nature Senior Marine Ranger Chanel Visser, and ornithologist Dr. Mark Brown. Venue: Plettenberg Bay - Central Beach - Launch from Ski Boat Club Time: 6:30 for 7:00 Guides: Chanel Visser - Cape Nature and ornithologist Dr Mark Brown - Conserve Eden | Activity | R1 200 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/EUMIALHd7HxTz7 |
| | 08:30 | Bird & Breakfast Location: Kwendalo Time: 8:30 - 10:00 Birding with a difference. This naturally mindful morning walk around Kwendalo is about experiencing birdlife in ways that enhance our wellbeing. We will wander, engage our senses, and tune into bird sounds and behaviours. The emphasis is less on counting and more about connecting with the species. Suitable for novice to expert birders. The experience will be followed by a healthy farm brunch at The Green Café. (Ticket includes breakfast, excl. drinks) Guide: Matthew Zylstra, PhD | Wellness | R305 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/v9RTzD4DT17dSR36 |
| | 09:00 | Guided Birding Canoe Experience - Keurbooms Estuary 1 Venue: Keurbooms River Time: 8:30 for 9:00 Guides: Johnathan Tucker - Wild Compass Experiences - Birdlife SA Volunteer Guide Coffee and light snacks are included after the paddle. | Activity | R880 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/NeY6fChuu9Hd6c |
| | 14:00 | Tenkwa Avian Rehab Tour Come and experience a special avian-focused behind-the-scenes tour of Tenikwa, focussed on penguin rescue, rehab and the release process. Followed by complimentary coffee and cake in Chester's Coffee shop. Venue: Tenikwa Wildlife Rehabilitation & Awareness Centre Time: 13:30 for 14:00 Guides: Tenikwa Wildlife Guide - Kerl McMorran NOTE: Guests wanting to do the Predator tour before can come an hour earlier and get 20% discount (Booking and payment directly at Tenikwa) | Activity | R385 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/EGV7HtCakufAaVr6 |

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| Wednesday, 29 October 2025 | 07:00 | Guided Birding Walk - Groot Rivier Boardwalk - Universal Access Route Location: Natures Valley - Groot Rivier Boardwalk Habitat: Allomontane Forest Time: 6:30 for 7:00 Guides: Hosted by NVT - Prof. Hendi Coetzee Duration: +/- 2 - 2.5 hours | Walk | R125 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/7BQoo8C6CvY6Yo08 |
| | 07:00 | Keurbooms Ferry Birding Experience Location: Keurbooms River Ferry Launch Jetty Habitat: Forest / River Time: 6:30 for 7:00 Guides: BirdLife/Plett Volunteers Duration: +/- 4.5 hours | Activity | R505 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/P9MUKCmww5c6C9 |
| | 07:00 | Guided Birding Canoe Experience Bitou River 2 Venue: Launch from Bitou River Lodge - Exit Wetlands on the Bitou Time: 6:30 for 7:00 Guides: Johnathan Tucker - Wild Compass Experiences - BirdLife SA Volunteer Guide Coffee and light snacks at Wetlands on the Bitou are included. Shuttle back to the launch point included. | Activity | R830 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/g1obN8uA2hMILh6 |
| | 08:00 | Stand Up Paddle Board Tour Date: Sunday 26th October & Wednesday 29th October Time: 7:30 for 8:00 Duration: +/- 3.5hrs Location: Natures Valley Lagoon Launch: Pin drop to be given Includes: Coffee & Muffins Pax: 10 Participants Leaders: Debra McCreevy + SUP Assistant | Wellness | R805 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/Romq5XF3M8DoyWRw9 |
| | 09:00 - 14:00 | Old Nick - Wednesday Market Don't forget to bring your binoculars - Birding in the Gardens is great. | | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/6duFR830nq6bws38 |
| | 16:00 | Guided Birding Walk - Brackenburn Private Nature Reserve Location: Brackenburn Private Nature Reserve Habitat: Forest Time: 15:30 for 16:00 Guides: BirdLife/Plettenberg Bay Volunteers & Dr. Matt Zylstra Duration: +/- 2 hours | Walk | R125 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/PaUffE8WU4F4Rhs86 |
| Thursday, 30 October 2025 | 06:30 | Bird netting, ringing, recording and release - Bitou River Lodge by Dr. Mark Brown Venue: Bitou River Lodge Time: 6:00 for 6:30 This activity offers a unique opportunity to witness bird netting, ringing, recording, and release firsthand. | Activity | R155 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/g1obN8uA2hMILh6 |
| | 08:00 | Guided Birding Walk - Bitou Vlei 1 Location: Bitou Vlei Habitat: Vlei / Wetland Time: 7:30 for 8:00 Guides: BirdLife/Plettenberg Bay Volunteers Duration: +/- 2 Hours | Walk | R125 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/gGPeyfNgyVMjNmE9 |
| | 10:00 | Guided Birding Walk - Bitou Vlei 2 Location: Bitou Vlei Habitat: Vlei / Wetland Time: 9:30 for 10:00 Guides: BirdLife/Plettenberg Bay Volunteers Duration: +/- 2 Hours | Walk | R125 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/gGPeyfNgyVMjNmE9 |
| | 08:30 | Bird & Breakfast Location: Kwendalo Time: 8:30 - 10:00 Birding with a difference. This naturally mindful morning walk around Kwendalo is about experiencing birdlife in ways that enhance our wellbeing. We will wander, engage our senses, and tune into bird sounds and behaviours. The emphasis is less on counting and more about connecting with the species. Suitable for novice to expert birders. The experience will be followed by a healthy farm brunch at The Green Café. (Ticket includes breakfast, excl. drinks) Guide: Matthew Zylstra, PhD | Wellness | R305 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/68RTd4DT17d8SR36 |
| | 12:00 | Raptor Rescue Tour and Display Experience a captivating display, a guided tour of the facility, and a unique opportunity to learn about these magnificent birds and the crucial conservation efforts dedicated to their protection. Venue: Raptor Rescue Rehabilitation and Awareness Centre Time: 11:30 for 12:00 Guides / Hosts: Laura Fotheringham, Mark Robson | Activity | R155 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/gp27sp1oiFgGfE5A |
| | 16:30 | Birds and Beer at Cloud 7 Fisanthoek Brewery Join us for a relaxed afternoon combining birding and craft beer. The experience begins with a guided forest walk focused on birdsong identification, followed by a visit to the Cloud 7 Brewery. Guests will enjoy a beer tasting of their handcrafted, 100% organic brews made with pure rainwater, along with a light snack meal. Location: Cloud 7 - Fisanthoek Brewery Habitat: Forest - Bird Song Focused Time: 16:00 for 16:30 Guides: BirdLife/Plettenberg Bay Volunteers Duration: +/- 2 hours Note: High clearance vehicles recommended | Walk | R235 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/no1nYPeap2nXGvq7 |

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|-------------------------|-------|--|----------|------|---|
| Friday, 31 October 2025 | 06:00 | Stand Up Paddle Board Pilates Time: Sunrise - 5:30 for 6:00 Duration: +/-3.5hrs Location: Keurbooms Lagoon Launch: Opposite #29 Phibids Includes: Coffee & Muffins Pax: 10 Participants Leaders: Debra McCreedy + SUP Assistant | Wellness | R805 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/tcClzcvVGGaIP2E19 |
| | 07:00 | Guided Birding Walk - Redford House Location: Redford House Habitat: Fynbos Time: 6:30 for 7:00 Guides: BirdLife Plettenberg Bay Volunteers Duration: +/- 2 hours | Walk | R145 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/AFdAp1L2YgDri6S7 |
| | 07:00 | Keurbooms Ferry Trip 2 Location: Keurbooms River Ferry Launch Jetty Habitat: Forest / River Time: 6:30 for 7:00 Guides: BirdLife Plett Volunteers Duration: +/- 4.5 hours | Activity | R505 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/PRMUECmzmg65tD09 |
| | 09:00 | Guided Birding Canoe Experience - Keurbooms Estuary 2 Venue: Keurbooms River Time: 8:30 for 9:00 Guides: Johnathan Tucker - Wild Compass Experiences - BirdLife SA Volunteer Guides Coffee and light snacks are included after the paddle. | Activity | R880 | https://maps.app.goo.gl/7tqYqCCbhw9PhdE6 |
| | 13:00 | Event Closing Social Location: Roadside Cafe Time: 12:45 for 13:00 | Lunch | | https://maps.app.goo.gl/0tqNWTASm8FEZWA |

Colour Code Key:

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| Activity |
| Walks |
| Talks |
| Meals |
| Wellness |
| Event Suggestion |

Sunrise: approx 05:33
 Sunset: approx 18:49

Fundraising Beneficiary: BirdLife Plett