



Trip Report - Cape Town Pelagics – Sunday, 2 November 2025

Trip Highlights: **Southern Fulmar**, four species albatross, Parasitic Jaeger, both Northern & Southern Giant Petrels.



On Sunday 2 November, the weather conditions were favourable for the scheduled pelagic to go ahead. Leaving the False Bay Yacht Club shortly after 7am, we encountered the usual coastal species such as **Kelp** and **Hartlaub's Gulls**, **Cape** and **White-breasted Cormorants** and a few **Greater Crested Terns**.

As we made our way down to Cape Point, we came across a single **African Penguin** some distance from the nature reserve. Arriving at Cape Point, Alan radioed any potential trawlers, and it was looking promising to spend some time with '*Freesia*'.

Making our way out into the deep, we began to see species like **Common Tern**, **Cape Gannet**, **White-chinned Petrel**, **Sooty** and **Great Shearwaters**, and they became regular as we approached

the trawler. **Shy** and **Black-browed Albatrosses** came thick and fast and a few **Parasitic Jaegers** made an appearance. There was a melee of albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters in *Freesia's* wake and everyone on board was grateful that we could spend a few hours with them, idling behind her.

A few remaining **Cape (Pintado) Petrels** and arriving **Wilson's Storm Petrels** were a welcome sight. Four species of albatross, including multiple **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** sightings occurred on the day, with one potential 'white-back' slipping under the radar. The bird of the day was undoubtedly a **Southern Fulmar** trying to fit in among the many species behind the trawler.



Southern Fulmar (*photo from Gabriel Jamie on our other boat*)

We made our way back into the shelter of False Bay just after 1pm where we enjoyed a quick lunch before making our routine stop at Partridge Point to check in on the **Bank Cormorant** colony and the **Cape Fur Seal** haul-out. We arrived back at the yacht club shortly after 2pm after another fantastic day at sea!

Pelagic species seen and approximate numbers:

Albatross Black-browed 50
Albatross Shy 60
Albatross Atlantic Yellow-nosed 5
Albatross Indian Yellow-nosed 1
Petrel Pintado 20
Petrel Southern Giant 10
Petrel Northern Giant 5
Petrel White-chinned 150
Petrel Wilson's Storm 5
Shearwater Sooty 50
Shearwater Great 300
Jaeger Parasitic 3
Fulmar Southern 1
Gannet Cape 30
Skua Brown (Subantarctic) 5

Coastal species:

Penguin African 1
Cormorant Bank 35
Cormorant White-breasted 15
Cormorant Cape 250
Oystercatcher African 2
Gull Hartlaub's 20
Gull Kelp 30
Tern Greater Crested 20
Tern Common 30

Non-avian sightings:

Cape Fur Seal

Trip report: Cape Town Pelagics guide: [Rob Cooper](#)

A message from Cape Town Pelagics: A huge thank you to our experienced skippers who are able to safely lead us to the best birding areas and skillfully manoeuvre the boat into just the best position while all on board are busy concentrating on the birds! Coordinating a pelagic trip over a year in advance with guests from all across South Africa and different countries around the world requires an organized office team. We thank them for their special eye for detail - and for the sometimes last-minute rearrangements and frustration if the weather delays the trip to another day! Our biggest thank you is to our Cape Town Pelagics guides who take time out of their work, often involving seabirds and conservation, and time away from their families, to provide our guests with a world-class birding experience. Cape Town Pelagics donates all its profits to seabirds, and so all the participants who join the trip make a contribution towards bird research and conservation - a big thank you from all of us.