



Trip Report - Cape Town Pelagics - Sunday, 23 August 2026

Birding highlights: 4 species of albatross, Soft-plumaged Petrel, Brown Skua, Humpback and Bryde's Whales, Long-beaked Common Dolphin.



Our seabirding started well with great views of **Cape** and **Crowned Cormorants** nesting on boats in the harbour.

The next highlight was several large rafts of African Penguins. This was followed quickly by a great **Brydes Whale** sighting feeding on bait fish along with **Great Crested Terns**.

As we round Cape Point we encountered the first of many **Cape Gannets**, **White-chinned Petrels** and **Sooty Shearwaters**. A single **Northern Giant Petrel** made a brief flyby.

Further out into deeper waters, the first albatrosses were seen. These included **Black-browed**, **Shy** and both **Indian** and **Atlantic Yellow-nosed**. A surprising number of **Soft-plumaged Petrels** caused a lot of excitement. Other highlights were several **Brown Skuas** and a single **Arctic Tern**.

The marine mammals were equally good with a massive school of **Long-beaked Common Dolphins** passing us on the way out. **Brydes Whales** proved common with a single distant **Humpback** seen by some. As always **Cape Fur Seals** were abundant.

The birding on our return into False Bay included great views of the endangered **Bank Cormorant** as well a few **African Oystercatchers**.

Species seen:

Shy Albatross
Black-browed Albatross
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross
Brown Skua
White-chinned Petrel
Soft-plumaged Petrel
Sooty Shearwater
Northern Giant Petrel
African Penguin
Cape Gannet
Cape Cormorant
Crowned Cormorant
White-breasted Cormorant
Bank Cormorant
African Oystercatcher
Kelp Gull
Great Crested Tern
Arctic Tern
Caspian Tern

Marine mammals:

Cape Fur Seal
Humpback Whale
Long-beaked Common Dolphin
Brydes Whale

Trip report: Cape Town Pelagics guide: [Vince Ward](#)

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.