

Peter H. Swales

**International Big Game &
Bird Hunting
Lower Altnaharry
KILTARLITY
INVERNESS IV4 7HR
SCOTLAND**

Tel +44 (0) 1463 741 894
Fax +44 (0) 1463 741 593
Mobile +44 (0) 7703594462
e-mail: PeterSwales@kiltarlity.com

Bird shooting in South Africa with Pieter Loubser

Pieter is based near Cape Town and his family and friends own huge areas of farmland, which produces unlimited feeding for wild birds. There are also a lot of water holding dams for farming purposes and these are very attractive to waterfowl. It is a great combination, water and feed for the birds, access for the hunter.

For a number of species there is no closed season (Guinea fowl, spurwing geese, Egyptian geese, rock pigeon, doves and crows). The waterfowl season extends from January to July. The geese and the South African shelduck are very common and other common species include red billed teal, southern pochard, Cape shoveller, yellow billed duck, red knobbed coot. Other ducks are not common but may be shot if encountered and they are white backed duck, hottentot teal, Maccao duck, African black duck.

They do not all inhabit the same waters and if variety is required then so is travelling to get to the different locations.

As with most waterfowl hunting, excursions are made at dawn and dusk to shoot from hides. Decoying is not a common practice in SA.

The Cape francolin season lasts from the beginning of May to the end of July and they are comparable with European partridge in size and flight. They are usually hunted by walking up, sometimes with pointers, but there is a move to try and drive them although the proponents of this method are still in the learning stage. The same applies to Guinea fowl.

The African quail season lasts from 15th September to 15th October, but this is a migratory species the comings and goings of which are hard to predict so its availability cannot be guaranteed, but if they are in residence hunting them over pointers is the preferred method.

The rock pigeons around Cape Town provide excellent sport. They flight each day between 2 and 6pm in an almost continuous stream. With a bit of breeze they fly hard and fast, often close to the ground like red grouse and big bags are possible.

Sandgrouse can be hunted at morning flight as they come to drink in the semi desert areas around Upington and Kimberly. Guinea fowl, waterfowl and pigeons are also found in this area.

Bag sizes vary depending on the season, weather and shooting skill, but 10 to 20 head of game birds per gun per day is usual and many more if pigeons are on the menu.

Around Cape Town bird shooting can combined with driven duiker using shotguns.

Accommodation is provided in the country and is clean and traditional with good food and drink and generally the price is based on people sharing twin bedded rooms.

Guests are met at Cape Town airport and transferred to the accommodation.

Transport is provided each day to the hunting areas and any necessary hides etc are provided.

Getting guns into South Africa is not difficult. A form is completed at customs and that is all. Ammunition is readily available unless you have an obscure calibre of gun.

A minimum sized team of 4 guns is required and a maximum of 8.

Precise itineraries can be drawn up once dates and species preferences have been decided.