

Tidal Pool Tour – 1 June 2021 – De Hoop Reserve, South Africa

Birds in the morning and little animals in the tidal pools along the coast in the afternoon. The birding tour we had the guide to ourselves but the tidal pool tour we had to share the guide with two other couples. There are advantages when traveling during the time of a pandemic – fewer people that you must share the guides with.

The De Hoop Reserve has some very large coast sand dunes.



Took this photograph showing the coast dunes (in the background sticking out above the green trees) height above the personnel housing.



The dunes are slowly encroaching upon the coast plants.



This ocean is the Indian Ocean and although the Indian is warmer than the Atlantic no one bothers to test the temperature of the water by wading much less jumping in.



Lots of waves.



The birds are Oyster Catchers and were too busy for us while looking for an afternoon snack.



These were the first sea urchins our guide found.



Each of got several chances to hold a couple of different ocean animals. After we held them, they were gently laid back into the tidal pool that they were found in.



Our guide hunting for more ocean critters for us to look at. The rocks were slippery and jagged and the waves unpredictable. So, when our guide said he would go look and bring back what he found everyone agreed to wait for him farther back on the sandy beach.



Limpets





No that isn't a mineral or stuck together sand, it's a marine flat worm of the ocean.



And there were various flowers.



An ocean coast with tidal pools makes Nancy a very happy woman.



Inland from the ocean and sand there are many different plants. This one was flowering.



The Reserve has more than its fair share of ostriches.

Note: Not all the animals in Africa are huge man-eating lions. But then again you don't want to be kicked by an ostrich. 😊