



Wild Globe Travel Consultancy

Tailored Wildlife, Wilderness and Adventure Travel Across the Globe.

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KENYA

Date - March 2009

Duration - 38 Days

Destinations

Nairobi - The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust - Aberdare National Park - Solio Ranch - Nyahururu - Thomson's Falls - Lake Bogoria National Reserve - Lake Baringo - Lake Nakuru National Park - Lake Naivasha - Crescent Island Game Park - Crater Lake Game Sanctuary - Hell's Gate National Park - Mount Longonot National Park - Maasai Mara National Reserve - Tsavo West National Park - Tsavo East National Park - Mombasa - Diani Beach - Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park - Shimba Hills National Reserve - Amboseli National Park - Ol Pejeta Conservancy - Meru National Park

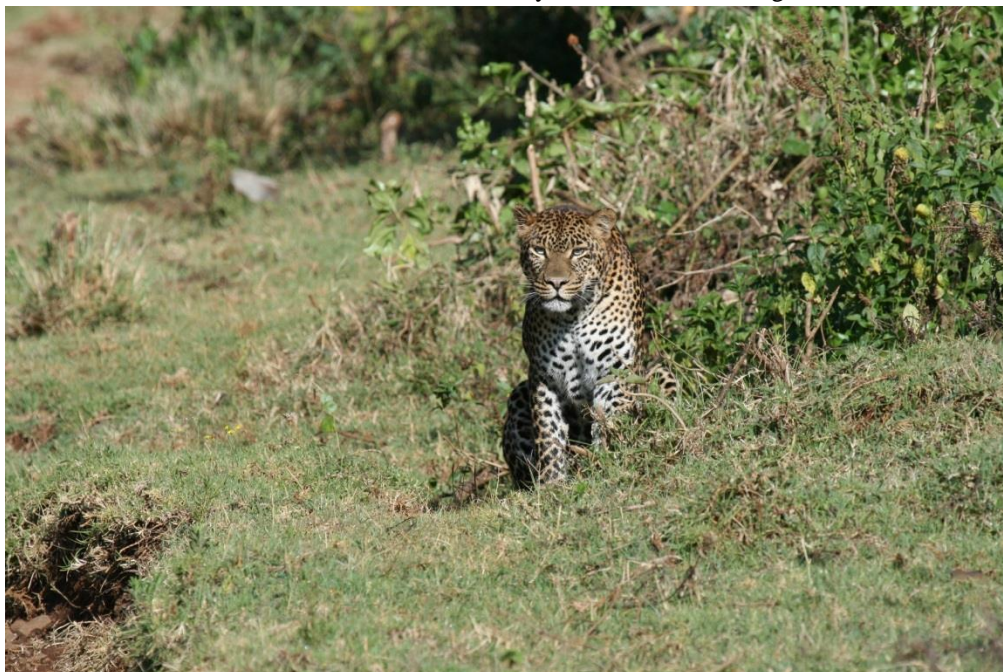
Trip Overview

I have spent a lot of time in Kenya and East Africa in general over the years and this trip was my second with a new local operator, who I first used for a short tour in 2008. As I had only recently returned from an extended stay in Tanzania, I did not have sufficient time to visit every planned destination on this trip, or to check all of the accommodation that I had hoped, and I therefore intended to return the following year with the same guide. In addition to visiting the major reserves across both trips, I also wanted to try a few less well known destinations in order to create a more interesting itinerary and to see as much wildlife as possible. I began at the

Giraffe Centre in Nairobi, which is a very gentle introduction to the country and allows tourists to feed and interact with a number of giraffes, as well as a few tame warthogs that wander around the grounds. Although the experience is hardly a wild one, it can be fun for first time visitors and every guest helps fund the serious conservation work undertaken here with the rothschild's giraffe subspecies, which are believed to number less than 500 throughout Uganda and Kenya. The Giraffe Centre has established a successful breeding programme and many of the animals born at the 120 acre site have been introduced to reserves across the country. My second destination was another wildlife sanctuary, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, which I have supported for a number of years and always try to visit when I am in Nairobi. Established in 1977 by Daphne



Sheldrick in memory of her late husband, the first warden at Tsavo National Park, the Trust operates an orphanage for elephants and rhinos, the majority of which have lost their mothers to poachers. In addition to raising the baby elephants and returning them to the wild at Tsavo East National Park, the Trust manages several fully equipped de-snaring teams and mobile veterinary units. Given the massive resurgence in commercial poaching, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is at the very forefront of conservation in Kenya and, although some of the stories regarding the orphaned elephants are truly heart breaking, the Trust acts as a beacon of hope amid so much barbarity and visits are always uplifting. It is a real joy to watch the young elephants guzzling on their huge bottles of milk and on this particular occasion, a tiny black rhino named Maalim was making one of his first public appearances after his mother had given birth prematurely and abandoned him. Given that, at three months old, he should have been almost twice the size, the future is uncertain for little Maalim, as it is for all rhinos and elephants in an age when the significance of an animal is measured only by the value of their horns or tusks and thousands are brutally killed every year. After rewarding visits to these important sanctuaries, it was time to look for some wild animals and move beyond Nairobi to a lodge within Aberdare National Park. I do not generally include



Aberdare when I travel in Kenya, as I find the wildlife activities to be slightly limited at both of the two main lodges. However, the area of largely heavily forested mountain, remains a superb one for a number of rare species and I wanted to look at the possibility of arranging future tours specifically to search for the mountain bongo subspecies, which are believed to number less than 150 and are only found in four isolated populations in central Kenya, as well as the African golden cat, an extremely elusive felid more common in west and central Africa. Whilst I was unlikely to find either animal without a concerted effort over several days, and even then the chances would be marginal at best, I did enjoy a successful stay at Aberdare and encountered a harvey's

duiker within a few minutes of my arrival. The beauty of the lodges at Aberdare are their elevated viewing platforms and I spent extended periods watching a number of animals, including elephant, buffalo, bushbuck, warthog, olive baboon and spotted hyena. At night the warthogs were replaced by giant forest hogs, which would leave the protection of the dense forest to visit the waterhole and saltlick beneath the viewing platform, until they were harassed by the resident hyenas and would disappear back into the thick undergrowth. Two Central African large-spotted genets were also seen each evening, although, as they were attracted by plates of fish and raw egg and would sit waiting patiently for their dinner, these were not the most natural of sightings. The viewing desk is an excellent option at night, but for when you do want to go to bed, the lodge operates a buzzer system that alerts each individual room if an animal approaches. The first three signals are for elephants, rhinos and cats and four distinct buzzes means that an unusual creature

has been spotted by the ranger on duty that night. I was buzzed four times just the once during my three-night stay and got up at 3.30am to spend a wonderful few minutes watching a crested porcupine. On the game drives through the forest, including to the higher elevations, all of the animals already seen around the waterhole were again encountered, with the addition of blue monkey, guereza colobus, common duiker and a few ochre bush squirrels. I had not expected to see any large cats at Aberdare, but was extremely lucky early one morning whilst transferring to the nearby Solio Ranch for a game drive, when the lodge called the driver of our vehicle and told him that a leopard had just been seen on an adjoining road within a short distance of us. As we made for the area, I was still not that confident of seeing the leopard and was surprised to find it sitting at the edge of the road in bright sunlight, salivating over a savanna hare on the other side of the trail. Sadly for the beautiful cat, our vehicle scared the hare away and the leopard eventually trudged off into the bush looking for an alternative breakfast. As one of the most successful private rhino breeding reserves in Kenya, Solio Ranch is playing an import role in the continued survival of both African rhino species and is where Maalim at the David Sheldrick orphanage will eventually grow up if he is able to overcome



his unfortunate start to life. There is no real sense of wilderness at the reserve, but both white and black rhinos are routinely encountered and at one stage I sat watching a group of 38 white rhinos, including several calves. Cat sightings, particularly lion and cheetah, are also common, although I did not see any on this occasion and spent my morning savouring the wonderful views of Mount Kenya and enjoying a steady parade of striking herbivores, including plains zebra, giraffe, defassa waterbuck, thomson's gazelle, common eland and beisa oryx, as well as the first black-backed jackals of the trip. After a brief stop at Nyahururu to take the easy hike to the base of Thomson's Falls, the next section of the tour would focus on four of Kenya's eight rift valley lakes, beginning with the alkaline waters of Lake Bogoria, which attract one of the largest flamingo populations on earth. Whilst I was keen to photograph the enthralling pink cloud of hundreds of thousands of flamingos, I was also hoping to see greater kudu, as these attractive antelope are absent in most Kenyan reserves. Perhaps surprisingly, given that the lake cannot support much more life than the organisms that feed the flamingos, a number of fish eagles were present and it soon became apparent exactly why, when a large eagle swooped down and killed a young flamingo and began eating it at the waters edge. I only had a few hours to spare at Bogoria and despite observing guenther's dik-dik and grant's gazelle, as well as a dead white-tailed mongoose while exploring the hot springs and geysers on the western shore of the lake, it did not look as if I was going to be fortunate with the kudu until I spotted a small group of four females literally as we were leaving. From the saline waters of Bogoria we headed north to overnight at a splendid little guest house on the shore of Lake Baringo, a freshwater lake, famous for the huge number of birds that can be observed here. I took a boat out the next morning to explore the lake, but before I did, I instructed the local guide that I did not want to bait fish eagles, as it has become



common practice for guides to insert a piece of balsa wood into a fish to keep it afloat and then to whistle to alert the expectant eagles that a meal is about to be thrown, which of course provides tourists with the opportunity to take a memorable action shot of the eagle. When I was younger I used to believe that this was totally acceptable and that there was very little harm in providing such a stunning bird with an easy meal. However, there are now so many boat tours on the freshwater lakes that the eagles are simply waiting to be fed in some areas and are not displaying the natural instincts necessary to teach their young to survive. Some more reputable companies are thankfully now stopping this activity on their trips and I also try to discourage it whenever possible. The boat trip on Baringo is still always an excellent one and within a couple of hours I had seen a staggering variety of storks,

cranes, herons, kingfishers, egrets, ibises, cormorants and bee-eaters, as well as African darter, hoopoe, hamerkop, lilac-breasted roller and dozens of other equally appealing species. Hippos were of course also easily observed and it was a real treat to watch a water monitor lizard catch a large fish and then climb up on the bank to eat it beside our boat. As with Bogoria, my visit to Baringo was brief and that afternoon my guide and I departed for the easy drive to Lake Nakuru National Park. Although Lake Nakuru is another alkaline lake, a small species of fish introduced in the 1950s has flourished and attracts large numbers of waterbirds, including thousands of pelicans. There are also several freshwater sources in the national park, which supports a large number of mammals, most notably healthy populations of black and white rhino, both of which were seen on our afternoon game drive. Nakuru is not a big reserve and over the years has earned a well deserved reputation for leopard sightings that was further enhanced by the hour or so that

we spent with a very relaxed leopard towards the end of the day. We were fortunate to find the graceful cat on our own, as Nakuru can get fairly busy, and watched it sleeping in a tree as only leopards can until dusk approached, at which point it stirred and jumped down directly beside our vehicle before walking along the road with us slowly following. It was a delightful way to end the day and we both



thought that there was a good possibility of seeing more leopards, as well as our first lions, when we returned the next morning. Happily we were correct and within four hours of entering the park, we had encountered lions, albeit it sleeping at distance in long grass, several white rhinos, one of which had a very young calf, two black rhinos, a large herd of buffalo and a leopard climbing a tree and proceeding to fall fast asleep after what had presumably been a very long night. Later that same morning my guide and I spotted another leopard in a tree almost simultaneously and we stood watching it in the vehicle for about ten minutes when I made a comment about the partially eaten impala that was hanging from a branch behind the leopard. My guide asked me where exactly the impala was and, after a fairly protracted period, he had still not seen it and I was beginning to wonder just how good he was going to be as a spotter, given that the carcass was clearly visible. After explaining in detail which branch it was on in relation to the sleeping cat, my guide informed me that he did not understand my directions, as there were no branches behind the leopard. Intrigued, I asked him to

point to the animal that he was looking at and, as his finger moved left of where I was looking, I suddenly realised that we were watching two different leopards within about twenty metres of each other. As they both appeared to be fully grown, I was not certain whether this was a male and a female in the middle of a mating cycle or whether one opportunist leopard was hanging around for a free meal, but it was great to observe two in such close proximity. The afternoon was less dramatic, but Nakuru is always productive and of the animals observed, spotted hyena, black-backed jackal, thomson's and grant's gazelle, common duiker, eland, defassa waterbuck, vervet monkey, guereza colobus and a huge troop of olive baboons were the most noteworthy. We were also fairly successful at our lovely lodge within the park, as a couple of gentle walks around the grounds produced nice views of rock and yellow-spotted hyrax, as well as the first slender mongoose sighting of the trip. After a two-night stay, it was time to move on to Lake Naivasha, where I had arranged a number of activities and excursions to assess options for future tours. I started with a boat trip on the lake, as Naivasha is another freshwater lake famous for its wealth of birdlife. Sadly, the water levels at the lake had diminished significantly since my previous visit, largely due to the pressure of the increasing local community and the corresponding light industry that has developed around the



area. The reduced water levels do not yet appear to have had a serious impact on the wildlife, as my gentle cruise in the early sunshine produced the usual vibrant array of birds and large pods of hippos, both relaxing in the lake and reclining serenely on the shore. I ended my boat trip at Crescent Island, which is actually a peninsular on the lake and not an island and is home to a small but extremely picturesque game park. Much of the movie *Out of Africa* was filmed at Crescent Island and I enjoyed a peaceful couple of



hours strolling among the relaxed giraffe, zebra, wildebeest and defassa waterbuck. I had hoped to find a python, as this is one of the best spots I know in Kenya to see these fascinating snakes and I have observed several over the years, including one massive specimen that had recently eaten a very large meal and did not make any attempt to move when approached. I was not lucky on this occasion, but the walk in glorious weather was lovely and I was happily surprised to find a pair of kirk's dik-diks, which I did not recall seeing here previously. In the afternoon we took the short drive to the Crater Lake Game Sanctuary, predominantly because I wanted to explore the area that I had arranged to go spotlighting in over the next three nights. As the name suggests, the 10,000 acre sanctuary is set partly within a forested volcanic crater, the bottom of which is largely covered by a pretty jade-green lake, home to a small

population of flamingos. After taking a stroll around the lake, I made the easy climb through the forest to the crater edge for splendid views of the lake and good sightings of giraffe, guereza colobus and vervet monkey. The three night drives were more exciting, in part because it was just good to be out spotlighting again and also because we enjoyed tremendous success with some fairly rare species, three of which we did not see again during the entire trip. Spotted hyena and cape hare were the mammals most often encountered at Crater Lake and we also saw our first bat-eared foxes, a highly timid family of five that scattered as soon as we rounded a corner and saw them at the edge of the road. We had further sightings of white-tailed mongoose and crested porcupine, both of which we had already seen at Aberdare, and a brief glimpse of a northern lesser galago, which we would enjoy prolonged views of later in the tour at Ol Pejeta. The highlight of our night drives was probably a zorilla or striped polecat, as I am used to finding these distinctive mustelids relatively easily across much of southern Africa, particularly in parts of the Kalahari, but have observed very few in East Africa. This was the only one seen throughout the trip and the other two solitary tour sightings were wild cat, which was actually spotted crossing a road as we drove towards the sanctuary and East African springhare, which were abundant at Crater Lake, but nowhere else. With the night activities already arranged, my last two days in the Naivasha area were spent hiking at Hell's Gate and

Mount Longonot, two national parks within close proximity of each other. Both parks are visually impressive and the austere landscape of Hell's Gate is particularly memorable, as is the enthralling hike through the dramatic gorge, which provides the opportunity for some fun rock scrambling along the narrow canyon walls. The more open areas before the gorge are also nice to explore and support a variety of wildlife that can be seen easily on foot or on bikes that can be hired from the entrance gate. I walked, but took my guide and vehicle with me for the return trip, and saw several animals on both journeys, including hartebeest, the coke's subspecies. Mount Longonot is a more challenging hike, not actually in terms of getting to the top of the dormant volcano, which is reasonably undemanding, but if you continue and circumnavigate the entire



crater rim, as I did. The incredible panoramas across the Rift Valley are certainly worth the additional effort and the dense forest carpeting the crater floor, would be an outstanding area to explore should the opportunity arise. Having reacquainted myself with some familiar destinations and discovered a few new ones, it was now time to move on to an old favourite, the Maasai Mara, which is contiguous with the Serengeti in Tanzania and forms one of the greatest protected areas on the planet. I rarely have specific target species when I enter environments as diverse as the Mara, but I do always look for cheetah here, as they can be elusive in other Kenyan reserves. The search on this occasion took just over an hour before we found a mother with four sub adult offspring. Considering that the average litter size is only four and that the mortality rate for cheetah cubs can be as high as 95% in some areas,

this mother had done exceptionally well to raise four young to approaching a year old and would be leaving them to fend for themselves in a matter of months. If two or three of the cubs are male, they are likely to stay together for life, whilst any females will lead a solitary existence until they have cubs of their own. We saw this beautiful family on three more occasions over the next four



full days, but they were the only cheetahs observed in the Mara and the only other cheetahs encountered during the entire trip were at Tsavo East. Lion sightings are rarely such a problem and I quickly lost count of how many were seen in the Maasai Mara. One pride numbered 24, including several young cubs, and on one day we came across seven different prides, individuals or mating pairs. The most graphic encounter featured two brothers that had just killed a buffalo and proceeded to take it in turns to rip it apart over several hours. By the next afternoon, with the assistance of probably 200 vultures and several spotted hyenas, only the skull, spine and a few shattered ribs remained. We would see this behaviour again a few days later, but in far more harrowing circumstances. Spotted hyenas were almost as abundant as the lions and when we found one of their dens, we had the pleasure of

watching the young pups playing together while the parents stood guard. Although the spotlighting drives were not as productive as I had hoped, lion, hyena, white-tailed mongoose and bat-eared fox were the main highlights at night, we did see several new species during the day, including large groups of banded mongoose and four side-striped jackals, which were found in the same stretch of savannah on every foray into that particular area. Whilst the concentrations of animals were not as high as they would be a few

months later, when up to two million wildebeest and zebra would migrate north from the Serengeti, the Mara is always remarkable and large herds of elephants and buffalo were routinely encountered, as well as the usual impressive array of arresting antelope. Topi, bohor reedbuck, oribi and steenbok were all seen for the first time and neither the topi or oribi would be seen again throughout the tour. At several crossing points on the Mara River, huge crocodiles sat in anticipation of their annual feast, while irritable hippos massed together in deeper sections of the same river, squabbling incessantly in the confined space and creating havoc when one attempted to move and climb up onto the riverbank. Having not experienced one in the Mara for over a decade, I also decided to take an early morning balloon flight and was rewarded with the spectacular aerial view of a herd of several hundred buffalo and, not surprisingly given the numbers, six female lions reclining patiently in the long grass within about



100 metres of their intended prey. Unfortunately, the wind was fairly high on the day of my flight and we had to land slightly earlier than intended to avoid being swept into Tanzania. Having seen most of the expected wildlife, as well as a massive number of raptors





and other birds, the one obvious exception was a leopard, which was corrected on the morning of our departure when another guide informed us of a nearby leopard in a tree and we arrived just in time to watch it climb down and walk off into the bush. It was a nice end to a fantastic stay and we headed to Nairobi in excellent spirits. After a relaxed night in the capital, we left early next morning to drive to Tsavo, where I had arranged three nights in Tsavo West and three in Tsavo East, although I personally still view Tsavo as one immense reserve, separated into two sections by the main road between Mombasa on the coast and Nairobi. Perhaps partly due to the stories I read as a boy of the famous Tsavo man-eating lions, Tsavo has forever been a destination that stirs my imagination and I have witnessed so many extraordinary events here over the years, that I am always thrilled at the prospect of returning. The combined area of the two parks is almost twelve times the size of the Maasai Mara and the vast, rugged expanses have retained a wild allure that is now missing in many African reserves. Within a few minutes of our arrival, a beautiful black mamba slithered across the road directly in front of our vehicle and this extremely rare sighting very much set the tone for what proved to be another thrilling stay. Our prospects looked even brighter when we arrived at the first lodge, as another guide informed us that a pack of wild dogs had been



spotted in the area the day before and did not appear to have moved on. This was the news that I was waiting to hear, as these incredible animals were my main priority for this section of the trip, particularly as I had narrowly missed a pack in Tanzania a few weeks before. Tsavo is one of the best destinations in Kenya to view wild dog, Samburu is another, and it is gratifying to see how the reputation of these long misunderstood creatures is gradually being repaired. In part because of the manner in which they have to kill, tearing at the rear and underbelly of often much larger prey in a highly necessary but seemingly savage way, and partly due to the fact that they were perceived to be of no more significance than a pack of rabid domestic dogs, wild dogs have been persecuted for decades across much of Africa. Tens of thousands have been killed as vermin over the years and even experienced local guides would intentionally chase them out of an area because they scared away the other animals that the guides needed to show their guests. Thankfully, all of the misconceptions are now being addressed and people are finally discovering just how special, courageous and social these indomitable creatures actually are. In some reserves, guides are now receiving as many requests to see wild dogs as leopard or cheetah and I know from experience that in certain areas the customary bonuses paid to guides for finding these animals now exceed those paid for any other. As I discussed the possibility of finding this particular pack with my own guide, we decided that it made sense to check all of the areas they had been seen in, but that we would not concentrate solely on them until we were certain they had remained in the area, as wild dogs can cover immense distances in a single day and generally stay on the move unless they have young pups and are denning. This obviously took some of the inevitable pressure off a guide who was rapidly becoming indispensable and who made the extra effort of asking all of his colleagues to radio our vehicle should any of them come across the



wild dogs. We therefore set off early the next morning and it was not long before we found a leopard sleeping dreamily in a tree, about 30 or 40 metres from the side of the road. After we had enjoyed the sighting on our own for a few minutes, my guide informed his colleagues of our encounter and location, including a younger guide who had been struggling to show his increasingly impatient guests a leopard for several days. We moved on as soon as the other vehicles began to appear, but not before we had seen the young guide arrive and point the leopard out to his understandably thrilled clients. The rest of the day was an excellent one, but we did not find any sign of the wild dogs until we were returning to the lodge at dusk and happened to meet the young guide who we had assisted earlier. As the two drivers chatted, I asked his guests in the back whether they had enjoyed the leopard sighting earlier and they said that it had

been fantastic but that the wild dogs they had just spent over half an hour sitting with had been even better. When they pointed to the exact spot, I could clearly see tracks in the dust and it later transpired that their guide had not informed anyone of the sighting and had instead chosen to ensure that his guests had an uninterrupted view, almost certainly in the hope that he would receive a larger tip. This happens a great deal sadly and although it is sometimes understandable if you are concerned about disturbing a nervous animal, that was not the case on this occasion and my guide informed me that the young guy just shrugged when he was asked why he had not shared the information with his colleagues. To say I was furious was probably an understatement, as I had now missed my second pack of wild dogs as a result of a guide in a matter of weeks and, to make matters worse, the next morning we discovered that the

entire pack had been seen heading north away from the reserve. At least I did not have a guest with me this time, but it was still extremely disappointing and I knew that it was very unlikely that the pack would return during my stay. Without entirely forgetting the matter, we shrugged off the frustration the next morning and continued what turned out to be an amazing stay. Three days later I decided to take the short walk up to the top of Mudanda Rock in the Tsavo East section, principally to check the natural dam at the base of the large rock, as I have seen various animals using this water source in the past and the view from the top looking down is superb if the dam is in use. As I walked across the flat rock, several black shapes came into sight and it took me all of two seconds to realise that, totally fortuitously, I had stumbled across a pack of wild dogs. My guide soon joined me and we spent an absorbing hour or so watching these magnificent creatures relaxing in and around the water and gently interacting with each other. There were thirteen in all, which was the exact number of the pack we had missed at Tsavo West, so there was every chance that we had found the same animals. There was no way of telling for sure and all too soon our reverie was disturbed by a herd of elephants, that immediately



took over the dam and drove the wild dogs off. I never thought that I would be disappointed to see elephants, but my guide suggested that we try a road in the general direction they had fled and we made straight for the vehicle. It was a long shot of course, but, minutes later we were parked within about ten metres of the entire pack, which had gone to ground under a few bushes near the road. Although they were slightly more nervous now, gradually they began to relax again and a few hesitantly approached the vehicle. Eventually they totally ignored us and after perhaps half an hour, one dog jumped to its feet and sprinted away, almost instantly followed by the other twelve. It was an exhilarating experience, particularly given the earlier disappointment, and I had my guide to thank for getting us so close. My time at Tsavo had already been immensely rewarding and over the course of my stay I enjoyed one great sighting after another. The waterhole at the first lodge at Tsavo West is as productive as it is beautiful and you could easily photograph most of the major animals by just waiting there patiently for a day and an evening. In addition to yellow baboon and lesser kudu, both of



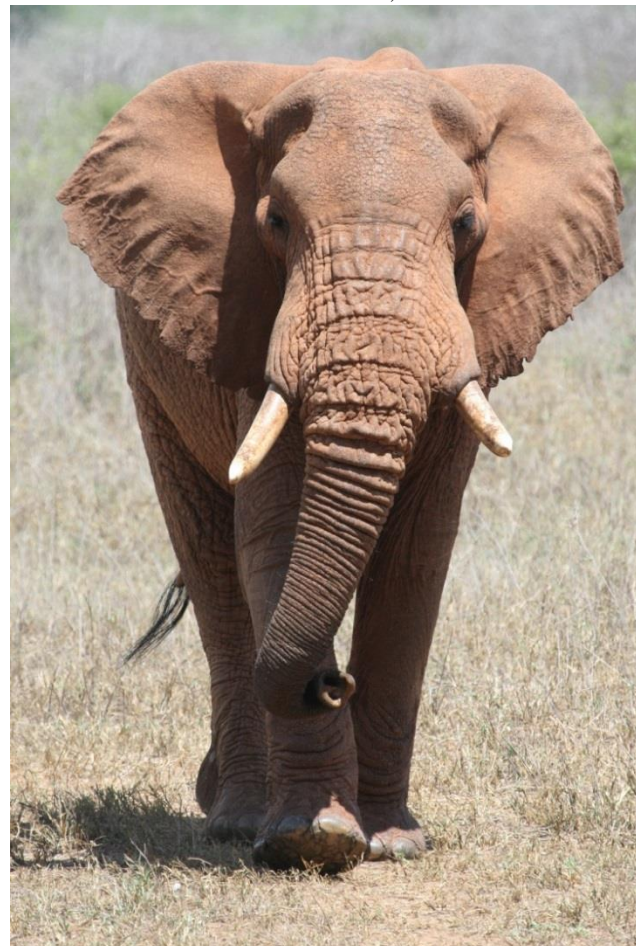
which were new animals for the trip, I was incredibly lucky to see a honey badger and an Egyptian mongoose whilst simply sitting there enjoying the view and one night, when I had not been able to sleep, I wandered down to the waterhole to find a leopard drinking. We had already seen four leopards during game drives, when my guide and I arranged for us to visit a different lodge for dinner one evening, which is a good way to get round the lack of night drives and to get out into the park with a ranger and a spotlight. The ranger was more than happy to accompany us and did not object to us using the spotlight on the drive between lodges, which resulted in good views of hyenas, lions and another leopard. I knew that the lodge we were heading to baited leopards with hanging meat, but my reason for

visiting, the two night drives aside, was actually to see the crested porcupines and small-eared greater galagos, that I had been informed were observed there fairly regularly. We were fortunate with both species and during dinner three leopards appeared at the area where the meat was hung, although of course only the first was successful. I have seen animals attracted with food more times than I can remember over the years and usually it is not for the benefit of the animal and does more harm than good, especially in the case of apex predators. I felt that was the situation on this occasion, but this lodge has been allowed to continue the practice for years and even persist when they have no guests, just to ensure that the leopards remain habituated and will always return. The entire experience felt fairly surreal, particularly as most of the dinner guests barely looked up when the leopards arrived, but the evening finished well when we had a far more natural glimpse of one of these gorgeous cats on the drive back, as well as prolonged views of two white-tailed mongooses. Having spent several days partly searching for cheetah, we eventually found one that had just dragged an impala into the vegetation at Tsavo East. It was lying on its side exhausted after the considerable exertion of both the hunt and the effort to hide its meal. It rested for some time before beginning to feed and we left when other vehicles started to appear. Typically,

after waiting so long to see one animal, we then almost immediately found another three, brothers walking along one of the main tracks, beautifully framed against Tsavo's evocative red soil in superb light. We would encounter the same three males on subsequent days, but these were the last we would see of these graceful cats on the trip. We had not seen a rhino of any description since Lake Nakuru and were therefore delighted to find a black rhino within the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, a separate section of the park, created in a desperate attempt to protect the few remaining animals in a region that once contained the largest population of black rhinos in Africa. Literally thousands of these magnificent creatures roamed these ancient lands as recently as the 1960s and, although I cannot publish the exact number remaining at Ngulia, there are pitifully few. Elephants have also been severely persecuted during the last few decades, but there are relatively healthy populations remaining at Tsavo and it is always a great pleasure to see them in such an appropriately primal setting. We spent hours enjoying the antics of several herds, particularly frolicking in the water as only these huge creatures can and rolling in the park's famous iron-rich red soil, which gives many of them such a distinctive red hue. Four more species, dwarf mongoose, common waterbuck, klipspringer and gerenuk were also observed for the first time, the klipspringer as we searched specifically in their usual rocky habitat and the dwarf mongoose scurrying across our path when least expected. For all of these enchanting spectacles, and the many others savoured throughout the trip, one experience was so protracted and brutal, it still lingers above all others. I have seen a lot of animals killed during the course of my travels, and whilst I have never enjoyed that aspect of wildlife viewing or taken



any of the deaths lightly, I have been grateful to be able to witness the ultimate natural behaviour of some of the planet's top predators. These apex killers are entirely different when they are hunting, they are unrecognisable from the cute cats that sleep with all four legs in the air or the dogs that devote so much care and attention to their young pups, and until you have personally observed this side of them, you have seen only a fraction of the animal they were designed to be. This particular struggle centred around the eternal conflict between lions and buffalos, as a buffalo had been attacked by several lions just before we arrived at our lodge at Tsavo East



and was attempting to make its way to the relative safety of the waterhole in front of the lodge. The lions had since dispersed, satisfied that they had inflicted enough damage to be able to return at will to finish the almost defenceless buffalo when they needed to feed. This is fairly common, as a strong buffalo is an exceedingly dangerous adversary for even a number of lions and they will often injure one and wait until the wounded animal is too weak to be able to defend itself robustly. This individual had clearly been very badly hurt and, given the way it was slowly dragging itself forward, it looked as if one or both of its rear hamstrings had been severed. It took over an hour for the poor beast to lumber less than 100 metres and when I returned from an afternoon game drive, during which I found the pride responsible for the attack, it had only just made the shelter of a small muddy pool, some way from the main waterhole. It was lying on its side in the shallow water when I went to dinner and had barely moved when I returned to spend the evening watching the waterhole. Having listened to its cries of pain as it attempted to walk, I was hoping that it would die in the night or that at least the lions would return and finish it quickly. In the morning, however, it was still there and although it had raised itself slightly, I did not see any way that it would ever leave that pool. I did consider staying with it, as everyone was just carrying on as normal and I almost felt that its end should be recorded in some way, but I accepted that nature would take its course as it always does and that I would check the buffalo when I returned that evening. I was ultimately pleased that I did go out, as this was the day that I so unexpectedly encountered the wild dogs. I returned early in good light and discovered that the buffalo was still alive and had again barely moved after enduring a full day in the blistering sun. After watching it for some time, something suddenly changed and the buffalo attempted to pull itself to its feet. Several times it tried with increasing urgency and whilst I could not yet see them across the wide open plains, I knew that the lions were coming. With an incredible effort, the buffalo somehow managed to stand and proceeded to try and drag itself inch by inch away from the pool and towards the cover of the bush. The next hour was one of the most intense I have ever experienced, as I knew that I could not just leave, but the pitiful sight of a once

mighty animal literally dragging itself by only its front legs was almost too much to bear. I must admit that I was willing it to succumb to its injuries by this stage, but it was too strong and too brave and would simply not give up. Inevitably the lions appeared in the distance, five females and a male walking slowly towards a doomed buffalo that had managed to crawl less than twenty metres in two hours. It never made it to the bush and instead tried to turn and face the lions by a fallen tree. It did not succeed and the lions rushed in from the back and side, tearing at the buffalo's injured legs and forcing it to the ground. It never got up again, but its end was still not quick and I will never forget its screams as the lions began eating it alive. It was still screaming when a lioness finally ripped open its stomach and began feeding, at which point the vanquished giant finally fell silent. Despite having witnessed a number



of attacks and kills, I went to bed fairly shaken and when I returned the next morning the buffalo's teeth were bared in a final agonising grimace. It was partially eaten by this stage and over the next two days lions, hyenas, jackals and vultures all feasted on the remains. The entire episode left me reflecting upon the nature of what I do and while the lions were of course only behaving naturally, I now relate this story whenever I hear someone insist on seeing a 'kill', as they are rarely the edited, soft focus affairs that you see on the documentaries. I could not bring myself to photograph the final attack and, although it is a truly terrible picture taken at distance, I have included the photograph of the stricken buffalo in the pool to remind myself of the bravery of this particular

animal and that in life you should simply never give up. Tsavo is a beautiful, brutal and raw land, but it was ever thus and I left with even more admiration for the animals that live and die there. After such an intense few days, it was a good time for a break and our next stop would be the tropical paradise of Diani Beach, which I had added to the itinerary to assess for those guests who like to combine wildlife and beach holidays, as I have not spent a day on a beach in over twenty years. In truth, I had a couple of excursions planned, one of which was largely wildlife orientated, and Diani was also on the way to Shimba Hills, the next major wildlife destination. One of the main trips was to Mombasa, principally to check a few hotels and to take a short tour, including a dhow cruise and dinner at Fort Jesus, to refamiliarise myself with a city that I had not visited for years. Even then I ended up at Haller Park for a couple of hours, photographing the antelope and vervet monkeys in what was once a quarry. The park is nice enough, and the conservation initiative remains commendable, but it has seen better days and needs some work. My main trip at Diani Beach was a dhow safari to Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park and Wasini Island, which I had taken previously and loved. I was pleased to discover that the experience was just as memorable and that the operators had not changed since my last visit. The tour consists of a glorious ocean cruise on a traditional dhow, followed by a couple of hours snorkelling in generally crystal clear waters and finally a sumptuous fresh lunch on Wasini Island. The lunch aside, the highlights of my day were a humpback whale seen fairly close to the dhow, several playful Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphins and an octopus, as well as the usual dazzling array of colourful fish. Diani Beach itself is very pleasant, with some nice restaurants and first-class facilities at the two hotels I tried, both of which have private beaches. The Indian



Ocean is of course the main attraction and although I could never spend a day on a beach, I did thoroughly enjoy a couple of swims in the enticing warm water. The duration of my stay at Diani was just about right and before I could get bored it was time to move on to



Shimba Hills, a little gem of a reserve that I had visited previously and the only destination in Kenya where you can still see sable antelope. Although to many, sable are understandably the main appeal, Shimba Hills has a great deal more to offer and I also visit for the number of rare mammals that can be seen so easily, many of them running around the lodge. During my two-night stay, I encountered eight mammals that I would see only here, a staggering number considering the length of visit and the fact that I had already spent the best part of two weeks in the Mara and Tsavo. In addition to the sable, which appear to be thriving and are easy to find, I was also fortunate enough to spot a suni, a type of dwarf antelope, and a small group of Angola colobus monkeys, which are common in other African countries, but are restricted to just this coastal area of Kenya. The colobus were seen while I was admiring the

resident pair of fish eagles from the raised terrace restaurant of the lodge, a wonderful wooden structure built overlooking an exquisite waterhole and lush forest. The lodge is actually the centre of much of the game viewing and at dinner two small-eared greater galagos were jumping from table to table looking to pilfer fruit, while below an African civet and two common genets were searching for any scraps that had been thrown for them. At one stage a marsh mongoose made a very welcome appearance at the edge of the waterhole, closely followed by several bushpigs emerging from the forest. More or less, there was one additional mongoose and one less galago, the entire performance was repeated the following evening and during the day vibrant red bush squirrels replaced the galagos and attempted to appropriate the bread rolls served with lunch. There were more monitor lizards around the waterhole than I think I have ever seen and on the afternoon of my final day I visited the Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary, a large protected area, established to resolve the burgeoning conflict between the local farmers and the increasing population of elephants in the region. I did not have time to take the invigorating hike to Sheldrick Falls on this occasion, but I thoroughly enjoyed my short stay at Shimba Hills and would certainly recommend including a couple of nights here for anyone interested in some of the less common and less easily



observed mammals. From a relatively unknown destination I moved on to perhaps the most recognisable national park in Kenya, Amboseli. The name may not be as familiar as some of the other reserves in the country, but almost every photograph of an animal or tourist with Mount Kilimanjaro in the background was taken from this park. Kilimanjaro actually rises just across the border in Tanzania, but it plays an essential role in the continued survival of Amboseli and not just in terms of thousands of visitors attempting to capture its timeless allure. Amboseli is in an arid area, with low annual rainfall and parched plains that were once covered by Lake Amboseli. Although the dry lake bed still floods in the wet season, the salt content of the soil is too high to sustain a great deal of plant life and for much of the year the plains more resemble a dusty desert than a lake. The fact that there are so many animals here is entirely due

to Kilimanjaro, as the melting snows run into underground streams, which in turn feed the natural springs within the park. The contrast between the desolate plains and green swampy areas is remarkable, with large swirling plumes of dust blowing just metres from a herd of elephants playing joyfully in the water. The park has an interesting mix of wildlife, partly due to the environment and partly to the local Maasai, who slaughtered a huge number of animals when they were excluded from the park in the 1970s, including almost all of the rhinos and lions. The lion population has never fully recovered and, as a result, this is probably the best reserve in



Kenya to see spotted hyena. We did actually find quite a few lions, although they were heavily outnumbered by the hyenas and even during the day it was clear that the hyenas were the dominant species at this park. There were so many that we even witnessed two clans fighting late one evening and whilst the incident did not appear to be serious at the time, when we returned the next morning, we



discovered that at least one had been killed. Contrary to popular belief, in many areas hyenas kill far more of their food than they scavenge and, given the low density of lions, this must certainly be the case at Amboseli. There were no fully committed hunts during our game drives, but we did see one resourceful hyena snatch a lone wildebeest calf in the distance. There were no adult wildebeests in the immediate vicinity and by the time we arrived, the unfortunate calf had already been despatched and partially eaten. Our lion sightings were largely unremarkable, with one notable exception, the very funny spectacle of a female desperately trying to induce an absolutely shattered male to mate. The lioness was relentless and went from gently nudging her disinterested partner to backing herself towards him and almost sitting on his head. She made four attempts in all to rouse some life in her exhausted mate, but the male

was clearly in no fit state to respond and she eventually gave up in disgust and wandered off. We had been fairly lucky with cats throughout the trip and I had been on the lookout for caracal and serval to hopefully complete the set of the six main East African cats. Ultimately I would fail, for although I had seen a caracal a few weeks before in Tanzania, that particular cat eluded me on this trip.

We did, however, spend more than an hour with a serval that I spotted hunting along the edge of one of the swamps. While I would have liked to have been closer, as always, it is not often that you get to stay with a serval for so long and it was interesting to watch it hunting small rodents until, almost inevitably, it came across a sleeping hyena and rapidly disappeared. The serval aside, the highlight of my stay at Amboseli was watching elephants bathing and playing in the deep water of the swamps and springs. You get a real understanding of just how much elephants like water when you see them at this reserve, as they are more than willing to almost fully immerse themselves and at times you can barely see the top of their heads. It was a delight to see them so deliriously happy and in all our stay at Amboseli was extremely rewarding. Hippos were routinely viewed out of the water and of the abundant plains animals, oryx were encountered



for the first time since Aberdare and slender mongoose for the first time since Nakuru. The birdlife has always been tremendous here and a series of superb sightings included grey crowned-cranes with very young and exceedingly fluffy chicks, a striking saddle-billed stork attempting to eat a massive fish and a steppe eagle, which was one of the few eagles we had not seen. As we left the park it appeared that the serval would be the only new mammal found at Amboseli, until I



decided to have a second look at a pair of jackals spotted in the distance. I had initially thought they were the usual black-backed jackals that we had become so accustomed to seeing, but they looked slightly different and when I checked in my binoculars, I could clearly tell that they were golden jackals. It was another nice way to leave a reserve and I knew that when we arrived at Ol Pejeta Conservancy, we were highly likely to find at least one more new species. Ol Pejeta had been a last minute addition to the itinerary and would generally have been visited earlier in the tour, when I was already fairly near the area. It was the first reserve of the trip that I had never visited previously and I only had two nights there, basically to see if it was worth adding to the tour that I was already planning for 2010. There are several conservancies in the Laikipia region and I chose Ol Pejeta mainly due to a personal recommendation and the fact that it is a private non-profit organisation which funds various initiatives within the local community, which I believe represents the future of wildlife conservation. I wanted to see for myself how this partnership with the local people works in practice and how well the animals were being protected as a result, with a view to possibly adding more conservancies to my next trip. Whilst two nights was never going to be sufficient to study every aspect of the work undertaken here in detail, the community health, education, water and agriculture programmes are clearly important elements of the conservation strategy and I was incredibly impressed with the entire operation. The rhino protection and management is ground breaking and there are more black rhinos at Ol Pejeta than anywhere else in East Africa. I saw several during my stay, as well as a number of white rhinos, and it was extremely gratifying to see a black rhino with a young calf. The conservancy has some of the highest predator densities in Kenya and I was advised before I visited that I was very likely to see cheetah. That did not actually occur during my short stay, but other guests did see them and I found a great deal of evidence of their presence, including a dead grant's gazelle, which had clearly been killed by a cheetah before it had been disturbed, possibly by our vehicle, and the carcass hastily abandoned. All of the other main predators occur and although we were not fortunate with leopard, they are resident in relatively large numbers, we did encounter several lions and hyenas, as well as a number of black-backed jackals. One of the hyenas had a large part of the front of its face ripped off, including its nose, and it was slightly disconcerting to see its actual jaw bone as it ate. Happily, it



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was plainly an old wound and the hyena did not appear to be overly inconvenienced by it. One animal I did want to see was a grevy's zebra, which is a different species to the plains zebra and is only found in certain regions. I knew that Ol Pejeta was home to a healthy population and was delighted to find small herds on each of our game drives. The grevy's zebra was the 77th and final new mammal



seen on the trip. Oryx were one of several antelope species observed in what are immensely picturesque surroundings and we also encountered a few jackson's hartebeest, another hartebeest subspecies. At dusk, northern lesser galagos would appear in the trees around our lovely tented camp and one evening, just as we were sitting down to dinner, a black rhino emerged from the bush and began drinking at the small adjacent waterhole. It was a magical moment and, needless to say, dinner was delayed as everyone took the opportunity to quietly slip outside and admire the magnificent creature before it left as silently as it had arrived. In addition to the conservation initiatives involving Kenyan wildlife, Ol Pejeta also operates a chimpanzee sanctuary, which was instigated partly in conjunction with the Jane Goodall Institute and cares for over 40 chimps

rescued from dire circumstances in other parts of Africa. I did not get time to visit on this occasion, but I added it to my notes for the next trip, as I knew already that I would be returning. My final destination was Meru National Park, where I had three nights, but only two full days due to the time that it would take to drive there. As often happens on extensive wildlife tours, my view of Meru suffered to some degree by it being the last reserve visited on a long and successful trip, for although I had some excellent sightings, which I would have been thrilled with earlier on the tour, and had thoroughly enjoyed previous visits, by now I was mainly looking for fairly rare animals and did not have any success. I therefore made a note that I would visit again when I returned the following year. Meru became famous in the 1960s as the home of Elsa, a lioness raised from a cub by George and Joy Adamson and immortalised in the best selling book *Born Free*. Elsa, that died of natural causes aged five, is buried in the park and some of Joy Adamson's ashes were scattered on her grave after her murder by a former employee at Shaba National Reserve in 1980. Visitors generally want to see lions

at Meru as part of the Elsa legend and I eventually came across a small pride towards the end of my last day. Elephants, buffalos and even rhinos were all far more conspicuous and we also encountered healthy herds of eland, lesser kudu and common waterbuck. The reserve, which is actually part of a much larger conservation area including the Bisanadi, Kora and Mwingi reserves, has several gorgeous natural springs and some of the stretches along the Rojewero and Tana rivers are as beautiful as anywhere in Africa. The Tana River is the longest in Kenya and there is a nice walkway and viewing platform on the Rojewero, where you can leave the vehicle and stroll down for superb views of the hippos and crocodiles. Despite its international reputation and diverse wildlife, Meru now receives few visitors and my guide and I spent the last two days of the trip on our own, which could not have suited me more. The tour ended with a first sighting of a palm-nut vulture, another herd of grevy's zebras and two gerenuks, both of which were browsing in customary fashion on their hind legs in the lower branches of an acacia tree. Almost every aspect of the tour had been a wonderful success, as the local operator had organised everything superbly and my guide had been first class. In terms of the wildlife, 77 different mammals was fairly impressive considering I did not include a large number of rodents and bats observed, but not identified. However, more than the number of animals seen, I had been privileged to spend time with some of the most beautiful creatures on the planet and to witness some extraordinary natural behaviour. I cannot wait to return in 2010.



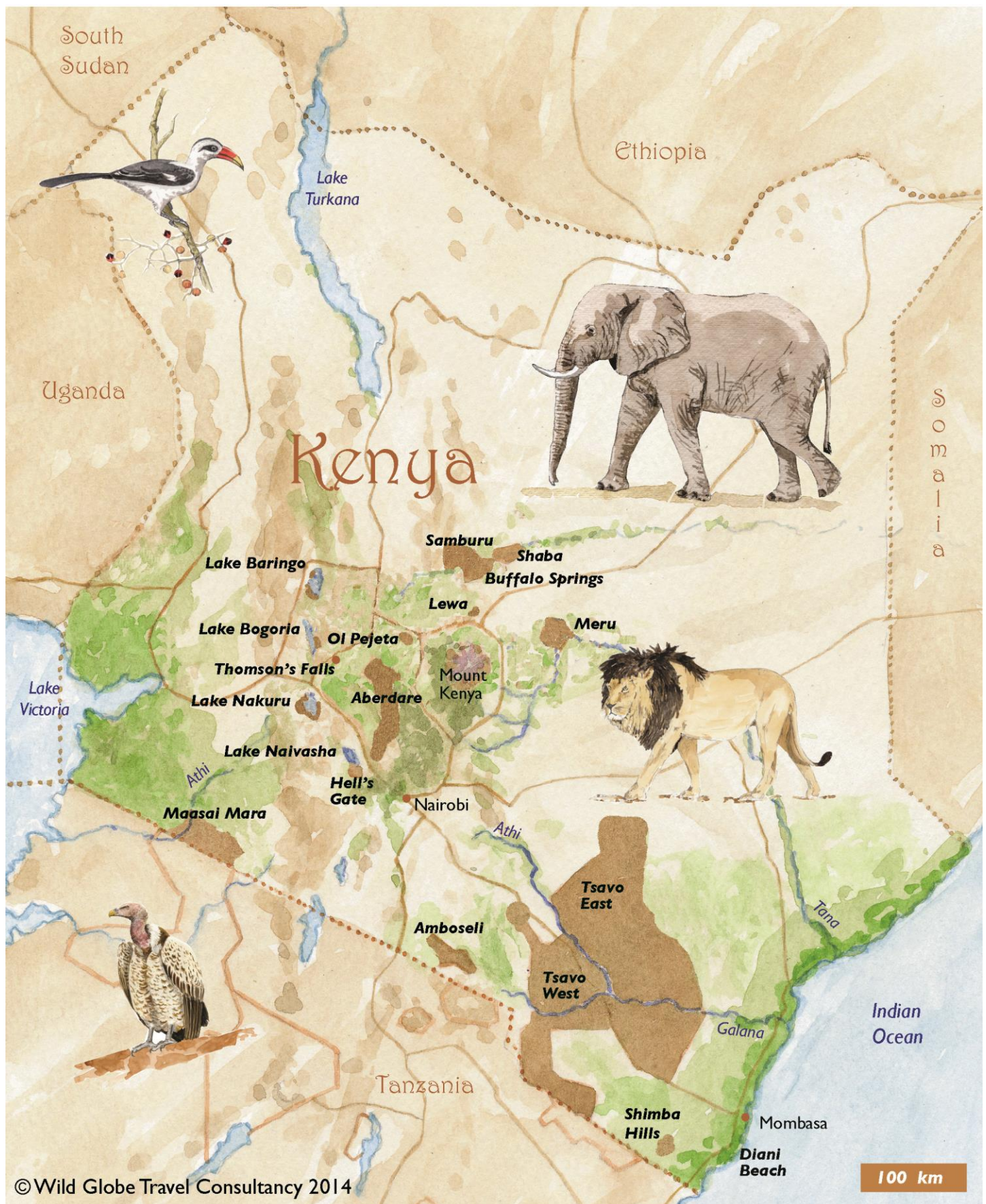


No.	Species	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Large numbers at every reserve in which they occur.
2	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Sixteen individuals in four reserves.
3	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Family of five in the Maasai Mara, three brothers and an individual eating an impala at Tsavo East.
4	Serval	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>	Prolonged sighting at Amboseli.
5	Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>	One approaching the entrance to Crater Lake.
6	African Wild Dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	Pack of thirteen at Tsavo East.
7	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	Common throughout the trip.
8	Side-striped Jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>	Four on several occasions in the Maasai Mara.
9	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	A pair at Amboseli.
10	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>	Five at night at Crater Lake and several by day and night in the Maasai Mara and at Ol Pejeta.
11	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	Widespread and encountered at every major reserve.
12	Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	One drinking at the lodge waterhole at Tsavo West.
13	Zorilla	<i>Ictonyx striatus</i>	One on a night drive at Crater Lake.
14	African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	Two individuals around the lodge at Shimba Hills.
15	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	Multiple sightings in the Maasai Mara and at Tsavo.
16	Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>	Common at Tsavo East and West and one group at Shimba Hills.
17	White-tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	Individuals seen at Aberdare, Crater Lake, Maasai Mara, Tsavo West and Ol Pejeta, all at night.
18	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	One each at Nakuru and Amboseli.
19	Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	Two at the lodge at Shimba Hills.

20	Egyptian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>	One at the lodge waterhole at Tsavo West.
21	Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	At least three on consecutive nights at Shimba Hills.
22	Central African Large-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta maculata</i>	Two at Aberdare National Park.
23	Grant's Gazelle	<i>Gazella granti</i>	Large numbers at every reserve, excluding Aberdare and Shimba Hills.
24	Thomson's Gazelle	<i>Eudorcas thomsonii</i>	Large numbers at every reserve, excluding Tsavo, Shimba Hills and Meru.
25	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Viewed in good numbers at every reserve.
26	Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	Relatively large herds at Shimba Hills.
27	Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Several at Tsavo East and West and Amboseli.
28	Defassa Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa ssp</i>	Seen in the Mara and at the Central Kenyan reserves.
29	Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Abundant in the Mara, common at Tsavo and Amboseli.
30	Topi	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>	Large numbers in the Maasai Mara.
31	Oribi	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>	A few individuals in the Maasai Mara.
32	Suni	<i>Nesotragus moschatus</i>	One individual at Shimba Hills.
33	Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	Individuals at several reserves.
34	Harvey's Duiker	<i>Cephalophus harveyi</i>	One briefly at Aberdare National Park.
35	Gerenuk	<i>Litocranius walleri</i>	Regular sightings at Tsavo East and West and Meru.
36	Lesser Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus imberbis</i>	Small numbers at Tsavo East and West and Meru.
37	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	Four at Lake Bogoria.
38	Beisa Oryx	<i>Oryx beisa</i>	Small herds at Aberdare, Amboseli and Ol Pejeta.
39	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	Several pairs and individuals at Tsavo West.
40	Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>	Low numbers at Amboseli, Ol Pejeta, Meru and the Mara.
41	Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	Two subspecies seen across several reserves.
42	Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>	Seen at every reserve excluding Shimba Hills.
43	Kirk's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>	A pair at Crescent Island and several in the Mara.
44	Guenther's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua guentheri</i>	One at Lake Bogoria, common at Tsavo West.
45	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	Large numbers in the Mara and a handful at Ol Pejeta.
46	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Daily sightings at Aberdare and lower numbers at several other reserves.
47	African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Healthy populations encountered in every reserve.
48	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	Abundant throughout the trip.
49	Grevy's Zebra	<i>Equus grevyi</i>	Small herds in Ol Pejeta and Meru.
50	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	Common at every reserve, including various subspecies.
51	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	High numbers at every major reserve in which they occur.
52	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Common at every location with fresh water sources.
53	White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Large numbers at Solio, Nakuru, Ol Pejeta and Meru.
54	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Fifteen at Solio Ranch, Nakuru, Tsavo and Ol Pejeta.
55	Olive Baboon	<i>Papio Anubis</i>	Numerous at Aberdare, Nakuru, Mara and Ol Pejeta.
56	Yellow Baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Large populations at Tsavo, Shimba Hills and Amboseli.
57	Angola Colobus	<i>Colobus angolensis</i>	Group of five at Shimba Hills.
58	Guereza Colobus	<i>Colobus guereza</i>	Several at Aberdare and Nakuru.
59	Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>	Low numbers at Aberdare, Diani Beach and Shimba Hills.
60	Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	Widespread, excluding Shimba Hills and Ol Pejeta.
61	Small-eared Greater Galago	<i>Otolemur garnettii</i>	Two each at Tsavo West and Shimba Hills.
62	Northern Lesser Galago	<i>Galago senegalensis</i>	One at Crater Lake and three at Ol Pejeta.

63	Common Warthog	Phacochoerus africanus	Widespread and encountered at almost every destination.
64	Giant Forest Hog	Hylochoerus meinertzhageni	Several around the lodge and in the forest at Aberdare.
65	Bushpig	Potamochoerus larvatus	Six to ten at Shimba Hills.
66	Rock Hyrax	Procavia capensis	Common at several reserves.
67	Yellow-spotted Hyrax	Heterohyrax brucei	Less than ten in total at Nakuru, Mara and Tsavo.
68	Cape Hare	Lepus capensis	Several at Crater Lake, Mara, Tsavo and Ol Pejeta.
69	African Savanna Hare	Lepus microtis	Small numbers at Aberdare and Lake Nakuru.
70	Crested Porcupine	Hystrix cristata	One each at Aberdare and Crater Lake and four at Tsavo.
71	Red Bush Squirrel	Paraxerus palliatus	Several around the lodge at Shimba Hills.
72	Ochre Bush Squirrel	Paraxerus ochraceus	Three individuals at Aberdare.
73	Striped Ground Squirrel	Xerus erythropus	Two seen around the lodge at Lake Naivasha.
74	Unstriped Ground Squirrel	Xerus rutilus	Four or five at Tsavo.
75	East African Springhare	Pedetes surdaster	Several at night at Crater Lake.
76	Indo-pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops aduncus	Around twenty on the Diani Beach dhow safari.
77	Humpback Whale	Megaptera novaeangliae	One on the Diani Beach dhow safari.





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