

Namibia, september 2016

Report by Sophie and Manuel

We went to Namibia in september, which is the best time of the year to spot animals because they are dependent of the water and have to go eventually to the waterholes.

In the popular national parks you have to be get out of the park by sunset and can only go in by sunrise, which can be very frustrating if you are looking for carnivores. I remember one time where we found a leopard prey in a tree and couldn't find the leopard and had to go back before having the chance to have a glimpse. Some of the parks allow organised night drives with coloured flashlight not to disturb the diurnal animals.







We are still not quite sure what to think about the private game reserves such as the Erindi Game Reserve where they brought animals inside their gated land. Some animals don't occur there anymore today but they did some time ago which is in our opinion not that problematic. Certain animals however, like the hippopotamus, the crocodiles, the waterbuck and the blesbok never naturally occurred there because of lack of water.








Our favourite place of the trip was without a doubt Bushmanland, which is a conservancy next to the Khardum National Park, which is a beautiful National Park without fences. You can basically spot the same animals as in the National Park but you can look for them whenever you want. Although it is probably more difficult to spot the animals here than in other more touristic parks, because the animals are not used to human presence and therefore rather shy, it is in our opinion definitively worth it: When you finally spot an animals the feeling and emotions are definitively more intense ☺








Itinerary:







Day 1: Arrived in Windhoek and drive to Otjiwarongo
Day 2: Drive from Otjiwarongo to Bushmanland
Days 3 to 4: Stay in Bushmanland
Day 5: Drive from Bushmanland to Divundu
Day 6: Stay in Divundu (Mahango Game Reserve, Buffalo Core Area)
Day 7: Drive from Divundu to Etosha National Park
Day 8: Drive from Etosha National Park to Hobatere Concession
Day 9: Drive from Hobatere Concession to Etosha National Park
Days 10 to 12: Etosha National Park
Day 13: Drive from Etosha National Park to Bushmanland
Day 14 to 15: Stay in Bushmanland
Day 16: Drive from Bushmanland to Erindi Game Reserve
Day 17 to 19: Stay in Erindi Game Reserve
Day 20: Drive from Erindi Game Reserve to the Airport







Mammals list:







Aardvark	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>	About 5 sightings in Erindi Game Reserve. One at sundown and the others during night drives.	
African bush elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Seen wherever we were. Biggest density being in the northeast.	
Mohol bush baby	<i>Galago moholi</i>	A lot on the trees of Bushmanland.	
Malbrouk	<i>Chlorocebus cynosuros</i>	A lot around big trees in Buffalo Core Area.	
Vervet monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	One sighting early morning in Bushmanland.	
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	Next to the road sometimes. A lot in Buffalo Core Area.	
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	One sighting on a night drive in Bushmanland.	
Caracal	<i>Caracal caracal</i>	One sighting on a night drive in Erindi Game Reserve.	







African Wildcat	<i>Felis silvestris lybica</i>	Three sightings during night drives in Divundu and Erindi Game Reserve.	
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Several sightings. One in Mahango Game Reserve, a lot in Etosha National Park, Erindi Game Reserve and Hobatere.	
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Two sightings. The first during the night at a waterhole in Bushmanland, the second during sunset in Etosha National Park.	
Small-spotted genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	Seen a couple during night drives.	
Yellow mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	One sighting during sunset in Etosha National Park.	
Slender mongoose	<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>	Three sightings in Bushmanland.	
Banded mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	Two sightings in Etosha National Park.	


Spotted hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	A lot of sightings.	
Brown hyena	<i>Hyaena brunnea</i>	One sighting during the night at a waterhole in Etosha National Park.	
Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristata</i>	One sighting during a night drive in Erindi Game Reserve.	
Cape fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>	Four sightings during night drives and at waterholes in Etosha National Park.	
Black-backed jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	A lot of sightings during day and night.	
Bat-eared fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>	Four sightings in total. Two of them in the morning in Etosha National Park and Hobatere and two other during night drives in Erindi Game Reserve.	
African Wild Dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	One sighting in Erindi Game Reserve.	

Striped polecat	<i>Ictonyx striatus</i>	One sighting during a night drive in Bushmanland.	
Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	Four sightings. Two during daytime in Etosha National Park. The two others in Erindi Game Reserve: One during sundown and one during a night drive.	
Plain Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	Seen a lot.	
Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra</i>	One sighting in the western part of Etosha National Park.	
Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Seen a lot in Etosha National Park and Erindi Game Reserve.	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Three sightings, two in Etosha National Park and one in Erindi Game Reserve.	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	Seen a lot.	

Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Seen in Mahango Game Reserve and Buffalo Core Area as well as Erindi Game Reserve.	
Giraffa	<i>Giraffa</i>	Seen a lot.	
Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>	Seen a lot in Etosha National Park and Erindi Game Reserve.	
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Seen a lot.	
Topi	<i>Damaliscus lunatus jimela</i>	Seen in Mahango Game Reserve and Buffalo Core Area.	
Springbok antelope	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	Seen a lot in Etosha National Park and Erindi Game Reserve.	
Kirk's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>	Couple of sightings next to the main roads as well as in the parcs.	

Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	Seen a lot. More often during the night or sundown/sunset.	
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Seen a lot in Mahango Game Reserve and Buffalo Core Area.	
Common eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Seen in the western part of Etosha National Park and Erindi Game Reserve.	
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus sylvaticus</i>	Seen Buffalo Core Area.	
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	Seen a lot.	
Common duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	A couple of sightings mostly during the night.	
Roan antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	Seen in Khaudum National Park.	
Sable antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	Seen in Mahango Game Reserve and Buffalo Core Area.	

Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	Seen a lot in Etosha National Park, Hobatere and Erindi Game Reserve.	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Seen a lot in Mahango Game Reserve and Buffalo Core Area. Black-faced seen in Etosha National Park.	
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Seen in Buffalo Core Area and Erindi Game Reserve.	
Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>	One sighting in Buffalo Core Area.	
Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>	Seen in Mahango Game Reserve.	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Seen in Dolomite Camp, Etosha National Park as well as Erindi Game Reserve.	
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	Seen a lot during night drives.	
Spring Hare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>	Seen a lot during night drives.	

<p>Cape Ground Squirrel</p>	<p><i>Xerus inauris</i></p>	<p>Seen a couple of times next to the road.</p>	
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