

After several visits to Kenya in the classic but wonderful Masai Mara reserve and Samburu NP up North, I wanted this time to come back to Kenya during the 2016 yearend vacation to visit other areas of the country where I could observe other species not possible to see in Masai Mara. Thanks to the nice reports written by Jon Hall, Richard Webb and Dominique Brugière, I decided to set up a trip in the following parks/reserves: Ol Pejeta; Aberdares NP; Amboseli; Tsavo East and the Arabuko Sokoke forest as shown in the itinerary below.

Dec 21: Nairobi - Nairobi Safari Club  
 Dec 22: Ol Pejeta - Sweewaters Serena Camp  
 Dec 23: Ol Pejeta - Sweewaters Serena Camp  
 Dec 24: Ol Pejeta - Sweewaters Serena Camp  
 Dec 25: Aberdares NP - The Ark  
 Dec 26: Amboseli - Sentrim Amboseli Camp  
 Dec 27: Amboseli - Sentrim Amboseli Camp  
 Dec 28: Tsavo East - Ndololo Safari Camp  
 Dec 29: Tsavo East - Ndololo Safari Camp  
 Dec 30: Tsavo East - Ndololo Safari Camp  
 Dec 31: Arabuko Sokoke - Mida Eco Camp  
 Jan 01: Nairobi

I booked this trip with Leboo Safaris, a local agency own by a French guy. The organization from Leboo Safaris was good and our guide Felix, was really great: not counting hours during game drives and extremely good at spotting animals! We were a group of 5 persons from my family for this trip and more interested in mammal watching than bird watching this time. Our prime targets were: rhinos and wild dogs in Ol Pejeta; giant forest hogs and bongos in Aberdares NP; taking a photo of elephants in front of the Kilimanjaro in Amboseli; Oryx and the rare Hirola in Tsavo East and Elephant Shrews and Ader's Duiker in Arabuko Sokoke.

Of course, I was not really expecting to see bongos or Ader's duikers ☺ but the trip went very well as we were able to see 52 different species of mammals. I found this to be a good score considering that we only did one night safari during that trip. I'm listing all the animals observed in the table below and I've highlighted in green the lifers for me.

I was really happy to see Hirolas as I knew that our chance to see them in Tsavo East was slim since their number is very small and the park is huge. We could see 2 lone individuals at the Aruba dam but they were very far away from the tracks and thus, the pictures I could take are not so great. Anyway, they are in my memory...

<b>Mammals with photos or well seen</b>				
<b>Species</b>	<b>Espèces</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Where seen</b>	<b>Pic</b>
Senegal Galago	Galago du Sénégal	Galago senegalensis	5-6 seen at Ol Pejeta (night)	
Blue Monkey	Cercopithèque à diadème	Cercopithecus mitis	Several in Aberdare NP	X
Blue Syke's Monkey	Cercopithèque à gorge blanche	Cercopithecus albogularis	Common in Arabuko-Sokoke forest	X
Vervet Monkey	Vervet bleu	Cercopithecus pygerythrus	Amboseli and Tsavo East	X
Mantled Guereza	Colobe guéréza	Colobus guereza kikuyuensis	Aberdare NP	X
Yellow Baboon	Cynocéphale	Papio cynocephalus	Amboseli and Tsavo East	X
Olive Baboon	Babouin Anubis	Papio anubis	Ol Pejeta and Aberdare NP	X
Lesser cane rat	Petit Aulacode	Thryonomys gregorianus	1 in Aberdare NP	X
Black-backed Jackal	Chacal à chabraque	Canis mesomelas	Common throughout	X
Large-spotted Genet	Genette tigrine	Genetta maculata	8-10 at The Ark (night)	X
Dwarf Mongoose	Mangouste naine	Helogale parvula	Some in Tsavo East	X
Slender Mongoose	Mangouste rouge	Herpestes sanguinea	1 in Tsavo East	X
White-tailed Mongoose	Mangouste à queue blanche	Ichneumia albicauda	2 in Ol Pejeta (night)	X
Banded Mongoose	Mangouste rayée	Mungos mungo	One family in Tsavo East	X
Spotted Hyaena	Hyène tachetée	Crocuta crocuta	Common throughout	X
Cheetah	Guépard	Acinonyx jubatus	2 at Ol Pejeta / 3 in Tsavo East	X
Leopard	Léopard	Panthera pardus	1 at Ol Pejeta / 1 in Tsavo East	X
Lion	Lion	Panthera Leo	Ol Pejeta, Amboseli and Tsavo East	X
Serval	Serval	Felis serval	1 in Amboseli / 1 in Tsavo East	

Bush Elephant	Elephant d'Afrique	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Common throughout	X
Common Zebra	Zèbre de Grant	<i>Equus quagga boehmi</i>	Common throughout	X
Southern white Rhinoceros	Rhinoceros blanc du Sud	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	OI Pejeta	X
Black Rhinoceros	Rhinoceros noir	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	OI Pejeta	X
Giant Forest Hog	Hylochère	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Aberdare NP and The Ark	X
Desert Warthog	Phacochère du désert	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	Tsavo East	X
Common Warthog	Phacochère commun	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	OI Pejeta / Aberdare NP / Amboseli	X
Hippopotamus	Hippopotame	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Amboseli / Tsavo East	X
Reticulated Giraffe	Girafe reticulée	<i>Cameleopardis reticulata</i>	OI Pejeta	X
Masai Giraffe	Girafe Masai	<i>Cameleopardis tippelskirki</i>	Amboseli / Tsavo East	X
Topi	Damalisque Topi	<i>Damaliscus lunatus topi</i>	A few in Tsavo East	X
Jackson's Hartebeest	Bubale de Jackson / Lelwel	<i>Alcephalus busephalus lelwei</i>	OI Pejeta	X
Coke's Hartebeest	Bubale de Coke	<i>Alcephalus busephalus cokei</i>	Amboseli / Tsavo East	X
Hirola	Hirola	<i>Beatragus hunteri</i>	2 in Tsavo East	X
Blue Wildebeest	Gnou bleu	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Amboseli	X
Impala	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Common throughout	X
Grant's Gazelle	Gazelle de Grant	<i>Gazella granti</i>	Common throughout	X
Thomson's Gazelle	Gazelle de Thomson	<i>Gazella thomsonii</i>	Common throughout	X
Gerenuk	Gérénuq	<i>Litocranius walleri</i>	A few in Tsavo East	X
Cape Buffalo	Buffle d'Afrique	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Common throughout	X
Common Eland	Eland du Cap	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	OI Pejeta and Tsavo East	X
Bushbuck	Guib harnaché	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	OI Pejeta and Aberdares NP	X
Lesser Kudu	Petit koudou	<i>Tragelaphus imberbis</i>	Several in Tsavo East	X
Beisa Oryx	Oryx beisa	<i>Oryx beisa</i>	1 at OI Pejeta	X
Fringe-eared Oryx	Oryx à oreilles frangées	<i>Oryx beisa callotis</i>	Common in Tsavo East	X
Kirk's Dik-dik	Dik-dik de Kirk	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>	Common in Tsavo East	X
Defassa Waterbuck	Cobe defassa	<i>Kobus defassa</i>	OI Pejeta and Aberdares NP	X
Common Waterbuck	Cobe à croissant	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Tsavo East	X
Bohor Reedbuck	Redunca Nagor	<i>Redunca redunca</i>	A few in Amboseli	X
Ochre Bush Squirrel	Ecureuil ocre	<i>Paraxerus ochraceus</i>	Several at The Ark	X
Red-bellied Coast Squirrel	Ecureuil rouge	<i>Paraxerus palliatus</i>	2 in Arabuko Sokoke	X
Black-tailed Scrub Hare	Lièvre des rochers	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	Some in OI Pejeta & Amboseli	X
Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew	Musaraigne-éléphant à croupe dorée	<i>Rhynchocyon chrysopygus</i>	3 in Arabuko Sokoke	X
		<b>SubTotal Species Recorded = 52</b>		
<b>Mammals in enclosure or with just glimpse observation</b>				
Grevy's Zebra	Zèbre de Grévy	<i>Equus grevyi</i>	Several within a fence at OI Pejeta (no explanation why)	
Northern white Rhinoceros	Rhinoceros blanc du Nord	<i>Ceratotherium simum cottoni</i>	3 of the 4 remaining in the world inside a fence at OI Pejeta	
Bush Duiker or Suni	Céphalophe de Grimm ou Suni	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i> or <i>Neotragus moschatus</i>	1 near The Ark	
Unidentified bats	Chauve-souris non identifiée	??	A lot at night at The Ark	
		<b>Total Species Recorded = 56</b>		

I'm adding to this report a few pictures of some of the iconic species we observed during that trip or that were new to me.



Jackson's Hartebeest



Leopard



Giant Forest Hog



Fringe-eared Oryx



Ochre Bush Squirrel



White Rhino



Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew



Jackals hunting baby Grant's gazelle



Black Rhino



Red-bellied Coast Squirrel



Blue Syke's Monkey



Hirola