



Endemic Mammals of the Horn of Africa


Destination: Ethiopia & Djibouti


Season: November - February

 Tracking **Dibatag**, various **Dik-diks** & **Beira** with expert local trackers and guides

 Spotlighting for very rare mammals such as **Maned Rats** & **Abyssinian Genet**

 Be some of the first to safari in some of the least visited parts of Africa

 Incredible variety of endemic mammals to be seen – target of 30-35 species

 Unique expedition style mammalwatching tour – the only group tour in the world

Dates:

Next group tour: 1st Dec – 15th Dec 2026

Extension: 15th Dec – 19th Dec 2026

Private / Tailored Tour information:

This tour can be booked anytime between of the year, however outside of our suggested time of year (November – February) the conditions can be difficult to see our targeted species.

There are also some special permits, permissions and rules which need to be adhered to for this trip. We will cover all of the official permits and permissions to enter the places we are visiting, however Ethiopia has strict regulations on the use of binoculars in the country. These regulations do change but as of now we will be providing permits which grant you a waiver to bring binoculars up to 8 power into the country. However things can and do change and so we will keep you posted nearer the time of the trip with any changes and what binoculars are recommended.

Whilst we have a good success rate in filling tours some people prefer to book a private tour to avoid any disappointment and guarantee the departure.

We can run this tour with any number of people (up to a maximum of 7 people), however the price advertised for our group tour is our cheapest rate (based on a full trip), for lower numbers the per person price does increase.

We also have flexibility for the duration of trip you would like to book.

We can also include many other areas of Ethiopia as extensions or if you wish to have a private tailor made tour designed for you. But please note at present some of Ethiopia is not safe to visit.

Prices (2026 season):

Group Tour (14 nights)

£3,895 per person

*single supplement £250

Djibouti Extension (4 nights)

£1,995 per person

*single supplement £100

Overview

Days 1: Dire Dawa – Hareg Mountain

Days 3-5: Hareg Mountain

Day 6: Hareg / Jigjiga

Day 7: Jigjiga / Gurdumi

Days 8-12: Gurdumi

Day 13: Gurdumi / Jigjiga

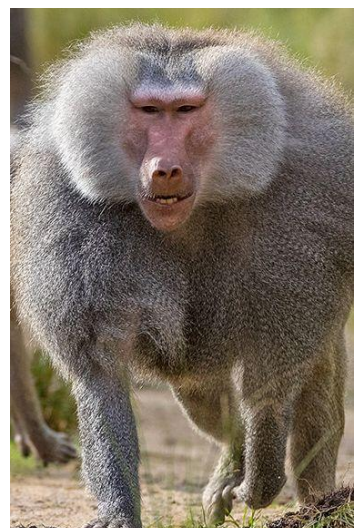
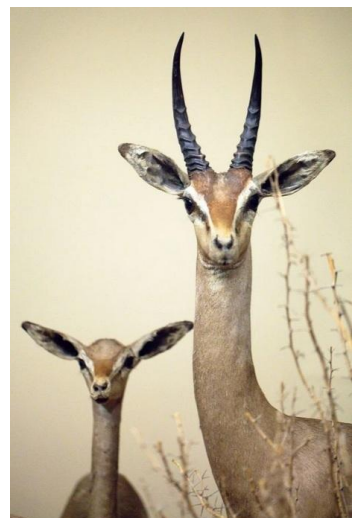
Day 14: Jigjiga / Addis Ababa

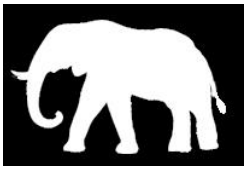
<< EXTENSION TO DJIBOUTI >>

Day 15: Addis Ababa / Djibouti City / Djalelo

Days 16-18: Djalelo / Assamo / Dittilou

Day 19: Djibouti City / Home





Tour Information

Introduction

In recent years intrepid mammalwatchers are finding new places to explore and find some of the world's most elusive and sought after species. Whether that is the island of New Guinea, the rainforests of Central & West Africa or various Indonesian islands with their host of endemic inhabitants; the net result has been an explosion in the amount and diversity of mammals which can be reliably seen.

Royle Safaris is the only international tour operator which views these expansions to new locations as an opportunity to work with the locals and increase eco tourism on the ground and run small group tours on a regular basis. One of the latest locations for mammalwatchers is the Horn of Africa. An area which has been ravaged by war in recent years and with countries like Somalia and Eritrea some of the Horn of Africa is still not safe or open to travel to, however that doesn't mean that the whole region is off limits. Northern Ethiopia (an area called Somali Region (not to be confused with the country Somalia) and Djibouti are remarkably safe and stable and they are also home to some of the regions most sought after species.

Our main targets on this trip are some of Africa's most range restricted ungulates; namely beira, dibatag, Salt's dik-dik, Genther's dik-dik, Silver dik-dik and Pelsen's gazelle. But it is not just the antelopes here which are our focus, we also should see the impressive hamadryas baboon as well as a range of rodent species, including gundis and maned rats. There is also a chance for Abyssinian genet, African golden wolf, African wild cat and many other species of mammals.

The main trip here will stay in Ethiopia, however we have an optional extension to also visit Djibouti which offers more chances to see beira and some of the antelopes including Soemmerring's gazelle and more endemic rodents. We recommend completing both the main trip and extension for a full immersive experience of the Horn of Africa as well as maximising the chances to see all of these amazing species.

Being a brand new itinerary, we are unsure on who often we will run the trip, but we do hope that this becomes a regular annual departure to add to our mammalwatching calendar.

Itinerary

Day 1 **Dire Dawa / Hareg Mountain** *Arrival & Wildlife Watching*

Accommodation:

Camping

Food:

Lunch and dinner will be provided and cooked in the camp.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

This morning everyone needs to arrive into Dire Dawa on the 7am flight. This will most likely mean having to overnight in Addis Ababa the previous night. Once we have all landed and met at the arrivals hall we will meet the local team and pack up the vehicles and head towards Hareg Mountain.

Along the way to our camp we will be looking out for Salt's dik-dik and Pelsen's gazelle. This camp location is relatively new and a place where we hope to see beira which is very rare in Ethiopia, it is a species we will have a better chance of seeing in Djibouti. But of course in the dry scrub forests here we have a chance to see many other species of mammal. We will have the afternoon and night looking for wildlife, before our first night camping.

Days 2-5 **Hareg Mountain** *Wildlife Watching*

Accommodation:

Camping

Food:

All of your meals will be served in the camp.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

Over these 4 full days we will be exploring Hareg Mountain as we look for beira and various other species found here. A lot of the wildlife watching will be done on foot, slowly walking and tracking the wildlife through the low scrub. Spotlighting should also be possible in these nights and could be very productive.

Day 6 **Hareg / Jigjiga** *Travelling & Wildlife Watching*

Accommodation:

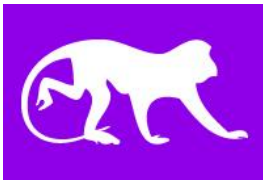
Local Hotel (TBC)

Food:

Breakfast is served in Hareg and then lunch en route and dinner at the hotel.

Transportation:

Private vehicle.



This morning we will leave and pack up the camp in Hareg and travel to Jigjiga which is our second camp and location we have selected for dibatag chances. The journey is a long one and so we will break up the travelling with a night in a local hotel. Along the way today we will most likely see hamadryas baboons along the roadside, this impressive primate is one of the top species of see in this part of the world.

Day 7 Jigjiga

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Camping

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel with lunch and dinner in the camp.

Transportation:

Private Vehicle & Walking.

Today we will leave the hotel after breakfast and our first stop will be the Somali Region Tourism Board, here we will get permits and hire a local guide to assist us over the next few days. From here we will continue to Gurdumi camp and our location for the next 6 nights. We will hopefully have some time to look for some wildlife tonight.

Days 8-12 Gurdumi Camp

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Camping

Food:

All of your meals will be served at the camp on these days.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

Over these days around Gurdumi camp we will be looking mainly for dibatag and also silver dik-dik. When looking for these species we will split into two groups and walk with our local trackers, rotating areas used between us until we have all seen the targeted species (and various other species which can be seen around here).

Day 13 Gurdumi Camp / Jigjiga

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Camping

Food:

All of your meals will be served at the camp today.

Transportation:

Private vehicles & Walking.

Today we will have a morning game drive whilst the camp is being taken down and packed up and then when ready we will depart and head back towards Jigjiga, camping near the town and within easy reach of the city for our morning flights tomorrow.

Day 14 Jigjiga / Addis Ababa

Travelling

Accommodation:

Double Tree by Hilton (5* Hotel)

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the camp, no other meals will be included today.

Transportation:

Private vehicles & Domestic flight.

This morning we will be taken from the camp to catch the late morning flight from Jigjiga to Addis Ababa (this flight is included) and then transferred the short distance to the hotel nearby the airport. For people only doing the main trip, this will be your final night on the trip, for people doing the extension to Djibouti this is the final night in Ethiopia before leaving for Djibouti tomorrow.

Optional Post Tour Extension to Djibouti

Day 15 Addis Ababa / Djibouti City / Djalelo Travelling & Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

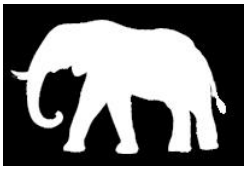
Camping

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel, lunch is not included and dinner in the city.

Transportation:

International Flight / Private Vehicles



This morning people who are only on the main trip will be transferred by the hotel to the airport to catch their return flights home and the people travelling onto Djibouti will be transferred to the airport to catch your flight to Djibouti City. This flight is not included and will need to be bought by yourself, when the flight schedule is released (around 9-10 months prior to departure) we will let you know which flight you need to book.

Once we have arrived we will have dinner before leaving and driving the 1.5 hours to Djalelo camp. The camp is rustic and but nice and run by a group called the Decan foundation. The surrounding area has gerenuk, Dorcas gazelle, Soemmerring's gazelle and if you're lucky Ruppels fox may come to the camp at night.

Days 16-18 Djalelo / Assamo / Dittilou

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Camping

Food:

All of our meals will be served in the camp in between wildlife watching activities on these days.

Transportation:

Private vehicles & Walking.

Over these three days we will explore a variety of camps. These camps are called Djalelo, Assamo and Dittilou. The exact itinerary and amount of time we will spend at each will vary trip to trip and depend on the best chances of seeing the targeted species based on local sightings.

Like Djalalo, Assamo is run by the Decan foundation and is a similar style to the Djalelo Camp. Decan has a caretaker who stays at the camp and knows where the Beira are so he will be helping our guides to find the species. There is also a chance for several rodents around Camp and at night maybe Ruppel's fox too. There are also Somali Sengis and Gundis around the Camp and we will hope for these whilst here too. Dittilou camp is a little different and can be quite good for nocturnal species including maned rat, Abyssinian and common genet, Zorilla, White-tailed mongoose and various other species. During the day this is a location for the Somali sengi and also the Djibouti partridge (which whilst not a mammal is a very sought after bird). There are also Klipspringer around and we heard hamadryas baboons on occasion.

Day 19 Djibouti City / Home

Travelling & Departure

Accommodation:

NA

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the camp and is the only meal included today.

Transportation:

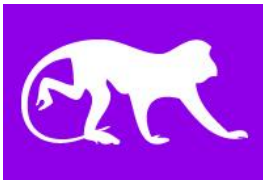
Private vehicle.

Today will be a 2 hour drive or so after breakfast from the camp, back to Djibouti City in time to catch your flight home.

Your tour and all Royle Safaris services end upon transfer to the airport

Please note that the itinerary stated above is correct as our planned intentions for the tour.

However adverse weather conditions and other local considerations can necessitate some modifications of the itinerary during the course of the tour; any changes will be made to make the best of the time, weather conditions and other constraints forced upon us and all changes will be made in conjunction with our terms and conditions.



Tour Inclusions

Absolutely everything mentioned in the above itinerary is included (except where it is expressly mentioned as an optional extra).

- All accommodation as mentioned above or of a similar standard as mentioned (most of the trip is camping).
- All meals as mentioned in the itinerary; ***please note that some lunches and dinners are not included when travelling through Addis Ababa in this itinerary.***
- Bottled mineral or purified (boiled) water will be provided throughout and on request.
- Private vehicles for all transfers and safari drives.
- English speaking local driver and guide with years of experience in working in the areas we are travelling.
- All fuel, tolls, taxes and other expenses relating to driving.
- Permits and permissions needed to visit all of the areas covered in the trip itinerary.
- Binocular permit (exact scope of what that will be can only be verified once we have an idea on the conditions nearer the time of the trip)
- Professional zoologist escort provided by Royle Safaris (where available – please inquire if a zoologist is available for your trip – they are subject to availability)
- All safari drives, hikes and night safaris as mentioned in the itinerary.
- A selection of field guides of the local areas will be available on request from the local guide.
- Also documentaries about the local area are sometimes available (depending on the electricity usage in the areas we are camping).
- Entrance fees and permits needed.
- Night excursions where possible.
- Tent, camp cook and cooking equipment – we may also be able to provide sleeping bags / mats and pillows but need to confirm this first – so plan on having to bring your own until told otherwise.
- Internal flight from Jigjiga to Addis Ababa (in economy class)

Tour Exclusions

Nearly everything you will need is included in the price you have already paid for the tour. However there are some things not included.

- International / domestic flights to and from the tour start and end points and the international flight connecting the main trip and Djibouti extension.
- Travel insurance including any fees that result from emergency medical or evacuation needs.
- Visa fees for entering the country(s).
- Vaccinations and any medication are not included.
- Any food other than the meals provided and mentioned in the above itinerary; ***please not that some lunches and dinners when travelling through Addis Ababa are not included in this itinerary***
- Any drinks not including in the meal.
- Personal camping equipment such as sleeping bags, sleeping mats and pillows – we will look to include these items if we can and will inform you prior to the trip – however plan to have to bring these items with you.
- Any items of a personal nature are not included, such as souvenirs, medication, toiletries, laundry and phone calls.
- Tips are also not included.
- If any internal flights are cancelled on this trip (should any be included in the itinerary); due to unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances then any extra costs incurred such as hotels, food and transfers are extra.
- Any departure taxes which may be due when leaving are not included (but may be included in the cost of your flights).

Please refer to our Terms & Conditions (<http://www.royle-safaris.co.uk/terms-conditions/>) before booking any trips – email or paper copies of Terms & Conditions can be provided if needed