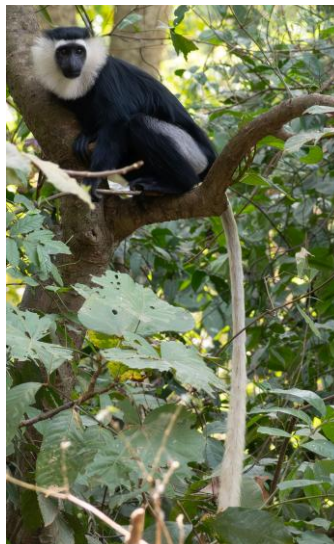


Pangolins & Other Mammals of Ghana

Destination: Ghana **Duration:** 15 Days **Dates:** 3rd Mar – 18th Mar 2025

-  Finding and spending a good amount of time with a **Black-bellied Pangolin!**
-  Expert guidance from the Charles Foley & pangolin finding master Robert Ntakor
-  Great views of the iconic Yellow-headed Picathartes – one of Africa's best birds
-  Finding a **Benin Tree Hyrax**, **Pel's Anomalure** & **Pardine Genet** spotlighting
-  Nice **Africa Elephant** sightings on foot when in Mole National Park
-  Many West African endemics, like **Gambian Mongoose** & **Red-flanked Duiker**
-  Staying at the unique Hans Cottage Botel with their resident crocodiles
-  Walking through various Ghanaian forests including the canopy walkway in Kakum
-  Finding 13 different species of primates including entertaining **Mona Monkeys**
-  Visiting the historical and harrowing Cape Coast Castle, a former slave fort.



Tour Leader / Guides

Charles Foley (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)
 Martin Royle (Secondary Royle Safaris Tour Leader)
 Robert Ntakor (Local Naturalist Guide)
 Gideon Nkator (Assistant Local Naturalist Guide)
 Ebenezer (Driver)
 Paul (Mole National Park Guide)
 Frank & Geoffrey (Amedozfe Naturalist Guides)

Participants

James Shiffer
 Jesper Meedom
 Louise Macklay
 Bill Gayer
 Morten Elmeros
 Bonnie Shirley
 Wendy Williams
 Alan Williams

Overview

Day 1:	Accra
Days 2-3:	Shai Hills / Atewa Reserve
Day 4:	Boabeng Fiema
Days 5-7:	Mole National Park
Day 8:	Kumasi
Days 9:	Bobiri Reserve / Picathartes Forest
Days 10-12:	Kakum National Park
Day 13:	Accra
Days 14-15:	Amedozfe / Kalakpa
Day 16:	Accra



Day by Day Breakdown

Overview

Ghana is an economic powerhouse in West Africa, with a thriving modern city in Accra and beautiful coastline the country has to a lot to offer for the international visitor, but it also has some of the last remaining tracts of rainforest and savanna in West Africa. National Parks such as Kakum and Mole are home to populations of lions, forest & savanna elephant, bongo and other large mammals which have been extirpated from many neighbouring countries. Whilst seeing some of the large mammals is very tough in Ghana there are some smaller species which have started to make this wonderful country quite famous.

Home to three species of pangolins, two species of tree hyrax, four species of anomalure (African flying squirrel) as well as a wealth of primates, diurnal squirrels and small carnivores the country offers a bounty for any mammalwatching enthusiast.

This trip is designed for the best mammalwatching the country has to offer and we have secured the services of the pangolin finding expert Robert Nkator and his team who are regarded as near pangolin whisperers with a great reputation among the mammalwatching community, we are confident of finding as many of these wonderful species as possible as we explore Ghana.

The trip visits a combination of primary and secondary rainforest and savanna as we target both of the smaller species of pangolin (we have a 75% success rate in seeing both of these species and around 90% in seeing one of the two species), which are the white-bellied (or tree) pangolin and the black-bellied (or long-tailed) pangolin. We also visit various forest which are perhaps the only (or certainly the most reliable) locations for species such as Pel's anomalure, white-thighed colobus, Gambian mongoose among other species.

And for anyone interested in extending their trip by a couple of extra nights we have an exciting and unique extension which will take you east of the Volta River (a major barrier in species movements in West Africa) where we will try to find the recently described Benin Tree Hyrax.

So if pangolins are on your list of mammals to see, this trip is for you, there is nowhere like Ghana for trying to see one of these amazing animals and it is not just the mammals as we will also be visiting a roosting site for one of Africa's top birds, the beautiful yellow-headed picathartes.

Below is a daily summary from the trip and a sightings log of all of the species seen followed by some pictures. We have the same itinerary planned for March 2026 and there is currently availability for anyone interested, please get in touch (info@royle-safaris.co.uk). We are likely to run this trip annually also and so if 2026 is not possible for you we can look at future options.



Day 1 **Accra**

Arrival

Accommodation:

Malbert Inn

Food:

Dinner was eaten at the hotel restaurant.

Transportation:

Private Vehicle.

People arrived today at different times today and there was nothing specific planned other than getting everyone collected from the airport and taken to the hotel. Once the group was together everyone had dinner and got ready for the early departure to visit Shai Hills tomorrow.

Day 2 **Shai Hills / Atewa Reserve**

Wildlife Watching & Travelling

Accommodation:

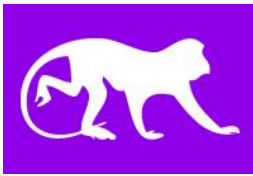
Royal Bleumich Hotel

Food:

Breakfast was in Malbert Inn, lunch on the road and dinner in Atewa.

Transportation:

Private Vehicle & Walking.



On the first morning we woke up early and visited the Shai Hills Reserve on the eastern outskirts of Accra. This is primarily savanna bushland park that is situated in the Dahomey Gap that separates the Upper from the Lower Guinean forests.

We saw several troops of **tantalus monkeys** - one of the Vervet monkey group species - as well as sizeable groups of **olive baboons**, a couple of small groups of female **Buffon's kob**, and 2 **common slender mongooses**.

We also visited a well known bat cave here, this had over 50 **Egyptian tomb bats** hanging in a cleft in the rocks, but the bat highlight was a *Coleura afra* or **African sheath-tailed bat**, a mid-sized brown bat that we found hanging on a rock just outside the cave. It was clearly a sick individual and too fatigued to adopt the 'push-up' posture that is typical of this species.

From Shai Hills Reserve we drove north-west to the Atewa range. This is a small mountain range which is officially protected but in reality this is a heavily exploited forest, but we like to visit the region as there is still a decent chance of seeing pangolins and other mammals here.

We arrived and had some lunch and then just relaxed before heading to the forest trail, a road that we would walk that follows the ridge up the range in the evening. As the sun went down we were treated to the spectacle of hundreds of high-flying **African straw-coloured fruit bats** dispersing for the evening in search of fruiting trees.

A walk along the Atewa forest path led to a couple of sightings of **Demidoff's galago**, but despite their loud calls, the western tree hyraxes remained stubbornly hidden - a theme that was to become common throughout the trip.

Day 3 **Atewa Reserve**

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Royal Bleumich Hotel

Food:

All the meals will be served at the hotel in between excursions into the forest.

Transportation:

Private Vehicle & Walking.

This morning we returned to the ridge road into Atewa and searched the forest along the Atewa track once more. At about 8.30am we were walking through a relatively open part of the forest when we heard Gideon's excited voice saying 'come, come'.

About 20 yards off the track and a few meters high on an open branch was a **Black-bellied pangolin**. The **pangolin** was fortunately not in a hurry and everyone got excellent views of it as fed on black ants that were covering both the branch and its body. A wonderful sighting of a rare and very hard to see species, and it was a happy crew that returned to the hotel later that morning.

In the evening we returned to the forest for a full-scale assault on the western tree hyrax. However the weather Gods had other ideas and a thunderstorm sent everyone soggy and tired back to the hotel. Apparently we used all of our luck on the pangolin this morning. I think that is a compromise most people would be happy with.



Day 4 **Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary** *Travelling & Wildlife Watching*

Accommodation:

Encom Hotel

Food:

Breakfast in the Royal Bleumich with lunch en route and dinner at Encom.

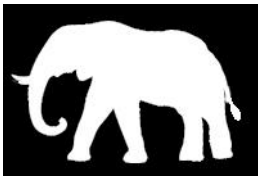
Transportation:

Private Vehicle & Walking.

This morning after breakfast we left Atewa and drove northwards to the Boabeng-Fiema monkey sanctuary. Along the way Charles saw a **Gambian mongoose** run across the road ahead of us and just avoiding being hit by a car.

The monkey sanctuary is a remarkable community conservation project that started in the late 1800's when the local monkey population became religious totems for two villages, Boabeng and Fiema.

The small patch of forests harbours enormous trees (the largest we saw in Ghana) and forms the main sanctuary of the endangered **White-thighed colobus monkey**. The communities involved in the project have increased to seven and the area is a popular outing for many school groups (it was independence day when we visited and we saw several hundred school children visiting to see the monkeys).



The communities have soothsayers to translate the messages from the monkeys and both monkeys and priests/preistesses are buried in a small graveyard in the forest.

The ubiquitous **Lowe's monkey** would climb all over people in search of hand-outs, while the **colobus** remained aloof in the trees (probably because they are leaf eaters which shun bananas!). In addition the primates we saw **Gambian sun squirrels** and a **Fire footed rope squirrel**.

From here we travelled to our hotel for the night and had dinner before a long drive tomorrow to Mole National Park in the north of the country.

Day 5 Mole National Park

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Mole Motel

Food:

Breakfast was in Encom with lunch en route and then dinner at Mole.

Transportation:

Private Vehicle & Walking.

This morning we had breakfast and set off once again and continued the journey north. The journey was pretty uneventful and we arrived at Mole National Park and then checked in and settled into the Mole Motel. In the evening around dinner time Martin arrived to join the group for the remainder of the trip.

After dinner when it was fully dark we went out for a walk around the motel grounds to see what we could see. There are some relatively friendly animals around the motel and the surrounding park authority buildings, including a pair of **common warthogs** feeding just outside our rooms.

Another large **warthog** and offspring resting next to a culvert, and there were also some female **central bushbucks** and **Buffon's kobs** around.

We saw many **kob** on the river bank and in the bush, then we heard a baboon calling loudly and an **African civet** ran through the forest in front of a viewing / observation deck. Brief views as it running quickly being scared by the baboons.

We waited around here for half an hour before retiring to our rooms for the night, on the way Charles heard some rustling and saw a black tailed morph of a **white-tailed mongoose** outside the rooms, but it ran off before he could get anyone out of the room.



Day 6 Mole National Park

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Mole Motel

Food:

All of our meals were served at the Mole Motel in between excursions into the park.

Transportation:

Private Vehicle & Walking.

This morning we rose at 5:30am for breakfast and then went on our first safari with Paul our local guide at 6ish. Just around the motel pool and restaurant we found a **green monkey** waking up and an unidentified **bat** (it looked like free-tailed bat of some kind) flying around as we left. At the viewpoint there was a large flock of helmeted guineafowl and then at park headquarters when we were getting the permits organised we had brief views of a **striped ground squirrel**.

Into the park and on safari we had female **kob** with young followed by many more **kob** and pair of **bushbuck** with beautiful Abyssinian rollers in trees next to the road. Some solitary male **kobs** were also dotted around as we drove along and we also had views of a nice rufous-crowned roller, several African grey hornbill and western plantain eaters.

There was a small group of **patas monkeys** and then we had really good views of a pair of bearded barbets (a Sahel region endemic species) followed by a solitary male **defassa waterbuck** and some distant Abyssinian ground hornbills; we tried to approach but they had flown by the time we got there.

In a large clearing there was a dead tree with a beautiful brown snake-eagle perched and offering good views and a couple of rare Forbe's plovers (a great birders bird here) and many stunning northern carmine bee-eaters on the ground and swooping as they hunted insects, in the distance there was a gymnogene displaying in the sky.



Just as we were preparing to leave the clearing area we spotted a single large male **western hartebeest** one of the largest members of the hartebeest family and another Sahel region endemic; as well as some male **olive baboons** around foraging. We had a second group of **patas monkeys**, but many animals around here were quite skittish, so it was difficult to get close views.

We did manage to get close views of grey-headed kingfishers and a pair of double-spurred francolins crossing road and then a very nice red-throated bee-eater next to the road. The bird life was very productive here and a highlight of this morning was a martial eagle perched in a tree just off the road. We got out to see it closer and spooked a **red-flanked duiker** (one of the key mammal species for this park). But the unexpectedness of the sighting and the speed of it meant that not everyone saw it. We stayed around the area and hoped to see the duiker again, but we didn't. We did see a bateleur however and when leaving to head to a some more forested areas we had a pair of **hartebeest** alongside the road, these gave us great views for a couple of minutes and then crossed the road, also pair of **bushbuck** and **ground squirrels** nearby and then in the mopani forest we saw even more **hartebeest**.

We arrived a dense patch of riverine forest and decided to look around here for another Sahel endemic the Kintampo rope squirrel. As we looked for the squirrel we did see some nice birds, and another small group of **hartebeest** as well as a **warthog**, and we disturbed a large Nile monitor lizard.

The river was mostly dry with just some stagnant pools of water, in which were there many young West African crocodiles. Walking around further we came across a lone young male **elephant** only around 50m away, very quiet and relaxed and a nice unexpected encounter on foot.

As we headed back towards the road and the vehicle some people had views of a **Kintampo rope squirrel** moving through the trees, but it is brief and poor views. We did have better views of a nice African paradise flycatcher flitting around and then heading away in the vehicle we had a **common duiker** crossing the road, and small group of **baboons** foraging on forest floor.

On our way back to the motel for an midday break and lunch Wendy spotted most likely **common slender mongoose** running across the road and we had further birds including a small flock of lesser blue-eared starlings and then nice view of Abyssinian ground hornbill close by this time.

Then all of a sudden group of female subadult **waterbucks** crossed the road followed by **hartebeest** and 2 families of **warthogs**. It was all going off in a short space of time on this stretch of road and before reaching the motel again we had a small family of **elephants**, largely hidden in thick bush a young **hartebeest** on the road and then pretty much at the motel and village a small troop of **patas monkeys** foraging.

Back for lunch and a rest and during this time at the observation platform 5 **elephants** bathing, deep and using trunk as snorkels, large herd of **kob** in swampy area also.

In the early afternoon we all regrouped to head back out and first watched the **elephants** playing (young males) by the waterhole beneath the motel, as well as some **warthogs** feeding in the lawns.

We had our afternoon safari at 3:30pm. At first we had nice views of a blue-bellied roller posing in good light before we went on foot around another patch of riverine forest, and finally tracked down a Kintampo rope squirrel, calling persistently but from the densest thickest bushes and couldn't see him at all! On the other side of yeh river we found one (maybe same one, maybe different), views but not great as it's dark. At least everyone saw the **Kintambo rope squirrel**. Walking around there was a very interesting carnivorous plant here too, sticking up out of the ground and not looking like anything we had seen before. Then before we headed back for dinner we found the same or another **squirrel** nearby, always difficult views as it lived up to its name in the thick rope like tangle of vines.

Back for dinner and then out after dinner spotlighting into the park. We had to split into 2 vehicles because of problems with the park headquarters and the booking of vehicles; so everyone except Martin, Gideon and Robert went out in one vehicle, with Martin, Gideon and Robert with some other tourists in a second vehicle.

We had views of **bushbuck** and **kob** near headquarters and village and brief some **northern lesser galagos** before a large number of **kob** in forest and a partial view of a unidentified **genet**. Then good view of **galago** next to the road jumping fast through the trees. Nice greyish eagle owl and long-tailed nightjar, both posing for pictures were the birds of note we saw. Many other **galagos** were seen by both vehicles.

Then the second vehicle had nice views of a pair of **pardine genets**, in a tree next to road, Martin, Gideon and Robert good views and pics. One jumped to the ground and ran off, one allowed great views in the tree before the final sighting of a big bull **elephant** feeding relaxed at the side of the road. The first vehicle had good **pardine genet** as well as **savanna hare** and **African civet**. Overall a good first night drive.

Day 7 Mole National Park

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Mole Motel

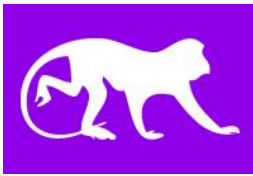
Food:

All of our meals were served at the Mole Motel in between excursions into the park.

Transportation:

Private Vehicle & Walking.

This morning there were some **green monkeys** waking up and bickering in the trees around the pool and restaurant at breakfast. They were off looking for seed pods for their breakfast.



Then we went off out for another game drive, like yesterday we stopped and walked around at places to see if we could flush a duiker or come across some mongooses. There were some interesting birds around including palm nut vultures, giant kingfishers, and a large flock of red-billed quelea. As if to taunt us and our efforts to see one yesterday we came across a gang of 4-5 **Kintampo rope squirrels** moving quickly through vegetation, collecting vegetation for a nest and all easily seen. There were also some **baboons** on road barking at us and a little way ahead a group of male **elephants** on the bush.

We walked around an area which would be good habitat for red-flanked duiker, but didn't find one. We did however have a pair of painted snipe and some black crakes in a marshy area and more **rope squirrels** though.

At a larger waterhole there were lots of nice birds and some crocodiles around. We watched a large lanner falcon hunting guineafowl on other side of the waterhole and then found couple of roosting **yellow-winged bats** roosting in some eye level bushes.

We returned to the motel for lunch and during the heat of the middle of the day some **elephants** were around the waterhole with some **patas monkeys** around the motel before lunch and then after lunch they were replaced by some **baboons** as we got ready to leave for our afternoon safari.

Out again in vehicle and combination of walking and driving around, we saw a couple of **bushbuck**, but the temperature was very hot today and so activity was less than yesterday. In a small clearing we saw an African hobby come out of nowhere and snatch a wire-tailed swallow out of the air above us, which added some drama to the afternoon.

Some more **bushbuck**, **kob** and **baboons** but all in all pretty quiet. Waling we also flushed a small flock of double-spurred francolin and then at the main waterhole near the motel, there were many **warthogs**, cattle egrets, wattled lapwings and **kobs** around. As the afternoon progressed and the temperatures dropped more **bushbuck** and **kobs** came out of the dense bush.

Close to the motel Paul then spotted a **red-flanked duiker** on the side of the road, it moved quickly into the thick bush and out of sight, but this time pretty much everyone had good views.

Then after dinner we went back out for another night drive. Once again split into 2 vehicles (vehicle 1) had Martin, Robert, Gideon, Bonnie, Alan, Wendy and Morten joined by Rakeem and driver Latif. (vehicle 2) was Charles, Paul, Bill, Lou, Jesper & James.

Once again there were many **kob**, **galagos** and **bushbuck** around and seen well. We also saw our first **pardine genet** pretty quickly. Then had a very nice **red-flanked duiker** seen well big in thick vegetation and an excellent pair of **galagos** next to the road, these ones stopped long enough for pictures!

We also had a brief **white-tailed mongoose** at first and then a second and third individuals seen better. All of these white-tailed mongooses were the black-tailed morphs. Both vehicles also had brief **African crested porcupine** views towards the end of the drive too. Notable other sightings included several other **pardine genets**, a mystery **mongoose**, lots of **galagos** another **red flanked duiker** as well as a **common duiker** and then near the motel a very large West African crocodile.



Day 8 Kumasi

Travelling

Accommodation:

Royal Basin Hotel

Food:

Breakfast was served in Mole with lunch en route and dinner in Kumasi.

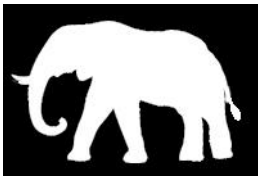
Transportation:

Private Vehicle.

This morning we had a slightly later start to the day as we had breakfast and left Mole Motel at 6:45am before loading the vehicle back up and headed back south through the centre of the country.

Today was pretty much a full day of travelling, as we did on the way to Mole National Park we stopped again in the town of Kintampo (of rope squirrel fame) for a short break, but we had made really good time and it was too early for lunch so we carried on through to the town of Techiman.

We had lunch in Techiman and then drove further until we reach the accommodation for the night in Kumasi, qwe had dinner here before retiring for the night.



Day 9 Bobiri / Picathartes Forest

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Hotel 734

Food:

Breakfast was taken in Kumasi with lunch in a roadside restaurant and dinner at the hotel.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

This morning we left Kumasi after breakfast and headed to the nearby Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary for a morning walk. It was overcast this morning, with some rain falling overnight. The forest here is small but primary growth and it can be productive for pangolins, so we would check it out. We had some **West African pied hornbills** overhead and pair of **green squirrels** in thick tangle of vines. Robert had brief **red-legged sun squirrel**, seen by some of the group but not all.

The birding was good in the morning here including red-headed malimbe and rufous flycatcher-thrush and then very nice views of a western black dwarf hornbill, which is by far the rarest hornbill in the area.

There were also some interesting invertebrates on the road trails including very large solitary ants, beautiful red, white and black patterned butterflies taking minerals from the wet road, millipedes and beetles were also all seen on the roads. Then back at the base camp / little guest house here we found another **red-legged sun squirrel** before leaving. All in all it was a pretty quiet morning (but well worth the visit), left around 11am and headed for lunch.

After lunch went to the nearby area of forest known for its picathartes roosting sites. We hired local guides Christian & Samuel to help us to the roosting site and also to see if we could find anything else in the forest. The forest here is also very good for white-bellied pangolin after dark and so we were planning on coming back here after dinner.

As we walked through the forest we had a **common cusimanse** seen very briefly by some cross the path and scurry away into the forest. We then arrived at the picathartes roost at 4pm and waited for them to arrive, they would come to roost in before it was fully dark. As it started to get dark there were loud rumbles of thunder all around and then at around 5:15pm one yellow-headed picathartes showed up and hopped from the forest into the clearing and under the rock. We all had nice views of this very iconic species. Then the rain started to fall and we headed back to the hotel for dinner. The rain just got heavier and heavier and didn't stop. So we couldn't get back out, not only was the rain torrential but the road up to the village was all clay mud and the bus wouldn't make it up there in these conditions.

Day 10 Picathartes Forest & Kakum NP

Wildlife Watching & Travelling

Accommodation:

Hans Cottage
Botel

Food:

Breakfast in the hotel before lunch and dinner in the Botel.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

This morning we had a walk around a small forest in between the hotel and the Picathartes Forest, not wanting to risk getting stuck on the road on the way to Picathartes forest. It was much cooler this morning after the rain. There were many birds around early this morning. We spotted birds such as black-headed paradise flycatcher, little greenbul, dusky-crested flycatcher, yellow-mantled weavers among others. We also spotted a small mystery **squirrel**, most likely a small species of sun squirrel but we couldn't get good views and so it remains a mystery.

In the puddles along the sides of the trail from last night's rain many frogs were calling and very active, a couple of snouted grassland frogs seen well mating just on the side of the road. We then across a very active tree with several species of birds in there, including Klaas's cuckoo, black morph of the black cuckoo, little greenbuls, black-headed paradise flycatcher and yellow-naped weaver before we turned back and headed to hotel to pack up and leave.

We then left at 10am and headed to Hans Cottage Boatel which would be our base for our time in Kakum National Park. We arrived here in time for some lunch, and watched various birds (many village weavers, egrets and cormorants roost here) around the crocodile lake and then we went off to Kakum National Park for 3:30pm.



At the entrance of the park there were some Peter's rock agamas and rainbow agamas around, and we then went for a walk in the forest. It was another very quiet again walk.

We then walked to the canopy walkway which is famous here in Kakum. We had some nice birds including black casqued hornbill and buff-breasted sunbird as we waited for the resident family of anomalures to emerge from their holes.

Whilst we were on the canopy walk way waiting Morten had views of a group of **Low's mona monkeys**. Just after dark we heard **Thomas's galagos** and then had great views of an Akun eagle owl which came and landed right near the main tree hole. Hopefully its present wouldn't disturb the anomalures too much, but having a large predator just outside may scupper our chances now.

Then as we were just patiently waiting about James spotted a **Pel's anomalure** gliding from another direction where most people were not watching. It landed on the side of a trunk and we all had amazing views. What an animal and also Jesper's 800th mammal species! And what a cool one too.

Then a second **Pel's anomalure** came out of the original tree we were looking at. Great views of both individuals. Then a little later on we had views of a **Thomas dwarf galago** seen well followed by another **Pel's anomalure** flying over the walkway and landing nearby. We heard many western tree hyraxes calling but couldn't find one. Then as we were just about to leave and head back to the park entrance Robert spotted a **West African potto**, but not great views mostly just eye shine.

On the walk back out we had a **Emin's pouched rat**, but it was very difficult to see in thick bush and a second **potto**, also not seen well. But a great evening and not a bad way to start the time in Kakum.



Day 11 **Kakum NP**

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Hans Cottage
Botel

Food:

All meals were served in the accommodation in
between excursions to Kakum.

Transportation:

Private vehicle &
Walking.

This morning we had breakfast overlooking the many roosting and nesting egrets, weavers and cormorants on the small islands in the crocodile lake, and also saw some of the crocodiles swimming around too. Then at 7:15am we left and headed to Kakum National Park.

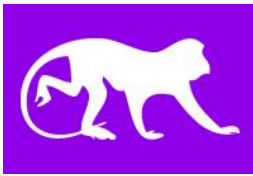
At park entrance we had some **Low's mona monkeys** in the trees and when we entered the park we walked straight to the canopy walkway. This was very productive tree with a couple of **Low's mona monkeys**, several **lesser spotted-nosed monkeys** a brief appearance from a young **olive colobus** (Martin only) and a couple of **African giant squirrels** as well as a **red-legged sun squirrel** all busy feeding / foraging in the same large tree. We spent some time around here checking out the trees this morning and as well as these mammals we had some collared sunbirds and yellow-browed camaroptera around the canopy too.

Walked around on the canopy and then massive group(s) of school children started to arrive so we left the walkway and headed back into the forest and away from the cacophony.

The only sighting of note we had in the late morning was some nice views of a **fire-footed rope squirrel** in low bushes and then on the ground foraging pretty close.

We then returned to Botel for a rest and lunch, before going back to Kakum in the afternoon. This afternoon was the most humid day of the trip so far, with a slight breeze later in the evening cooling things a little, but the oppressive heat may have been a factor in the forest being relatively quiet again. We did have a brief **red-legged sun squirrel** and then some excitement as Charles got a pangolin shaped animal in the thermal, but it turned out to be a pair of **fire-footed rope squirrels** in a weird pangolin-shaped position. Some of the group saw them well and others struggled.

We then went back to the platform and on the far tree platform some of the group spotted a couple of groups of **olive colobus** heading down to roost for the night and then after dark we started to look for nocturnal species, but it was hard to thermal with the residual heat on the leaves from the hot day throwing off the imagers. We had several unconfirmed animals we couldn't get views of, but then a very nice **Demidoff's dwarf galago** and **Lorraine's dormouse** seen well and close. At the headquarters there was an **Gambian pouched rat** foraging around the car park which some people saw.



Day 12 Kaum National Park

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Hans Cottage
Botel

Food:

All meals were served in the accommodation in between excursions to Kakum.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

We rose and went back into Kakum this morning for one last attempt at the black-bellied pangolin. There had been some heavy rain overnight and it was much cooler first thing this morning. Back on the canopy walkway we had a western long-tailed hornbill flying overhead and a small group of **lesser spotted-nosed monkeys** in the tree tops. Some nice birds including forest woodhoopoe, little green sunbird, Maxwell's black weaver and Sabine's puff back were also seen well whilst on the walkway this morning.

Walking along the forest trails again we had a stripe-headed greenbul seen well for a usual skulking bird. The sun started to come out, heating up everything again and alas our quest for a second black-bellied pangolin of the trip failed.

We once again returned to the Botel for some rest and lunch before going back in the park in the late afternoon for one last assault on the white-bellied pangolin. In the late evening light we had a **green squirrel** in thick bush as we walked to a newly built observation platform deep in the forest and waited until night fall. We heard many galagos and tree hyrax calling all around and saw a couple of bats flying (no hope of getting an ID) it also reminded us that there had been a surprising lack of bats in and around the forest throughout this whole trip.

Walking back along the trails after dark we had an arboreal mouse scurrying around a tree but only in the thermals, before finding a **Gambian pouched rat** in the thermal and seen by some in the thick tangle of vegetation. Couple of roosting bristlebills and then amazing close views of a **Gambian pouched rat** climbing the vines around the trail. Other mammals seen on the walk included a **Thomas dwarf galago**, seen well looking down at us and then a second brief **Thomas dwarf galago** after a very likely tree hyrax very high and clear in thermal but couldn't find it in the light and binoculars, very strange that this abundant animal would elude us.

Then Charles found a **praomys**, moving in and out of cover just off path, nice views. Most likely west African soft-furred mouse, but unconfirmed. Robert then had brief views of a **West African potto** and we found a few other animals in the thermals but couldn't see properly in the thick vegetation.

We return to the Botel for the final night of the main trip to rest up and reflect on a great trip so far. Tomorrow Charles, James and Bonnie would be leaving, whilst the rest of the group would head east of the Volta river to see what new species we could find.



Day 13 Cape Coast / Accra

Sightseeing & Travelling

Accommodation:

Airport Hotel

Food:

Breakfast was at the Botel with lunch and dinner in Accra.

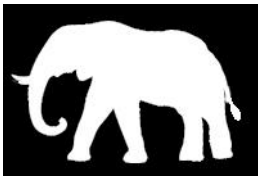
Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

This morning we rose a little later today for a more relaxed breakfast; once again the birds were out in force around the crocodile lake.

Then we left at around 9am and headed to the Cape Coast and the historical Cape Coast castle, which we would visit. This is a very interesting and harrowing tour around the castle and slave dungeons. Originally built as a trading post in 1555 this fort has had many incarnations, but it is most infamously known for its role in the international trans-Atlantic slave trade, visiting the horrid cells where hundreds of men and women were kept before being shipped off to plantations in the new world is an journey into depths of human depravity. A hard tour, but a worth-while one to understand the fate of thousands of people over decades.

After leaving the Cape Coast we drove back towards the capital, and on the way we stopped for lunch and then arrived at the hotel in good time for a little rest before Charles and James left for the airport to fly home, Bonnie was dropped at her hotel as she was flying back tomorrow.



Day 14 **Amedozfe**

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Aberaerica Hotel

Food:

Breakfast was served in Accra with lunch en-route and dinner in Amedozfa.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

At 9am the rest of the group left Accra and travelled north-east and across the Volta River to the higher elevation land on the other side, the plateau and hills here are home to West Africa's highest settlements and in one of these (Amedozfe) we would base ourselves for the last two nights of the trip.

We arrived at the hotel on the top of a ridge at 2:30pm and immediately noticed a very different feel up here from the rest of Ghana we had travelled around. The rugged hilly terrain and cooler climate was a welcome break from the hot weather in the lowlands.

We checked in and rested for a while until the evening where we met the local guides Frank and Geoffrey for a night walk around the forested ridges here.

There was some distant thunder rumbling and whilst we were being briefed by Frank about what we could see the rain started to pour down in the valley below us. Luckily it looked like it would stay dry around where we are but would have to wait and see as the rainstorm continued all around us as we had dinner.

After dinner we went out with Frank and Geoffrey to walk along the ridgeline. We found some roosting plantain eaters in an isolated tree and then almost straight away we found the main target of these regions, a **Benin tree hyrax** on a distant tree branch, it was very distant but the shape, size, colouration and eye shine all indicated a hyrax and as we watched a second one came from underneath and could see that one better. All in all they were poor distant views but two definite **Benin tree hyraxes**.

Continuing on we found a couple of **Demidoff's dwarf galagos** moving around the trees and then a **Gambian Epauletted fruit bat** feeding in a tree nearby the road. Further along the road which lead along the ridge from the villages to plantations further down the valley we saw a couple of **straw-coloured fruit bats** in a tree briefly and as well as a few **hammer-headed bats** feeding too. It seemed like every tree here was in fruit and the large cashew plantations around here were certainly attracting large numbers of fruit bats.

Then Geoffrey found a **greater cane rat** feeding just off a side path, by the time we all arrived it had gone but the freshly dug area where it was digging for roots was obvious. In fact Geoffrey said that he didn't think we would be interested in this species as it is such a pest for the locals he didn't consider it interesting. Needless to say that we made it clear to him that if he found another we would be interested in seeing one.

In some farmland as we turned around and headed back to the hotel we flushed an Ahanta francolin, which is a very rare bird and major target for birders. Further sightings on the way back included many **straw coloured fruit bats** flying and feeding in cashew trees and then a nice view of a West African house gecko on the trail. We were very pleased with the first walk here, there was a good diversity and density of life in this forest, which bode well for another try tomorrow.

Day 15 **Tafi Atome Sanctuary / Amedozfe**

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Aberaerica Hotel

Food:

All of our meals were served at the accommodation in between excursions into the forests.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

This morning was our final full day in Ghana and we left the hotel at 8:40am and picked up Frank along the way and went to Tafi Atome sanctuary which is back down into the lowlands off the plateau.

On arrival we were met by the greeting party of **Mona monkeys**, including females and suckling youngsters. Waiting for us to get some bananas from the local villagers to feed them. Tafi Atome Sanctuary is a good community project very similar to Baobeng Fiema. With some resident groups of **mona monkeys** which were just as entertaining and energetic as the Low's mona monkeys in Baobeng Fiema.

We interacted with the monkeys here including the big alpha male who showed up (from nowhere) as well as the bucket of banana arrived. Francis gave a little talk about history of the monkeys and sanctuary here and we enjoyed a walk into the forest. As well as the monkeys we also brief views of a **red-legged sun squirrel**.

Frank then told us about a waterfall nearby which has some bats roosting nearby. We didn't know exactly what to expect but we decided to have a look. There were some nice birds along the walk through the forest to get to the waterfall and we also heard a fire-footed rope squirrel calling, but couldn't find it.

Once we arrived at the falls we immediately knew that Frank had downplayed the falls and the bat roost. Even before we arrived at the falls we could hear the bats and then started to see hundreds of bats flying around and roosting on an exposed cliff face. The falls themselves are not as full as they are in the wet season but they are still



impressive and also are West Africa's largest. But the real highlight here is the huge colony of thousands of **straw-coloured fruit bats** and smaller numbers of **Egyptian rousettes** which live here and make a huge racket.

We arrived back for a late lunch at the hotel and then rested before leaving for a night walk. We tried a new forest which was very close to a village and we almost straight away heard hyraxes calling, in fact we had heard some from the hotel restaurant. When walking in the forest we found a **Demidoff's dwarf galagos** and there were many more insectivorous bats flying around than the other forests we had explored in Ghana. We also had a brief **praomys** species on the forest floor and found many roosting birds including a beautiful violet turaco.

Carrying on we had an excellent view of another **Demidoff's dwarf galago** and found some **straw-coloured fruit bats** feeding in fruiting trees and then having great views of a **Veldkamp's epauletted fruit bat** which is identifiable from the Gambian epauletted fruit bat by its much smaller size when seen well as this was. Then on the side of the trail a **Hylomyscus** of some species (maybe Allen's based on what we could see and distribution) was seen by some in the group. Then Geoffrey found a **Benin tree hyrax** high in tree, difficult views as usual with tree hyrax but could see it looking down at us but at least it was much closer views than yesterday. As we continued we found a large (approx. 1.7m) African file snake seen close and well.

Then we hit the jackpot with the best views we can ask for of **Benin tree hyrax** resting on branch right over trail around 10m high. Amazing views of this awesome newly discovered species. Then as we headed back out of the forest towards the ridge road we found a **Beecroft's anomalure** seen very well by some but not others before it took off and glided away.

The on the road we found a African wood owl perched above the road and a large Egyptian toad on the road, then our final sighting of note was a beautiful diamondback night stalker (which may be the best name for any snake in the world) on road and for close view as it climbed up the bank and posed for us. Excellent night walk to finish the tour.

Day 16 **Accra**

Travelling & Departure

Accommodation:

NA

Food:

Breakfast was served at the hotel with no other meals included today.

Transportation:

Private Vehicle.

This morning we had a late start with breakfast at 9am and then we packed up and left Amedozfe around 10am to head back to Accra. Along the way we had some nice bird sightings including spotted flycatcher and a pair of lanner falcons and the ubiquitous pied crows.

Along the way we stopped on banks on the Volta for a drink and a break before continuing onwards to Accra and straight to the airport to check into our evening flights home.

Species List

Pangolins & Other Mammals of Ghana Tour / March 2025

Mammals (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Western Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus major</i>
2	Beecroft's Anomalure	<i>Anomalurus beecrofti</i>
3	Pel's Anomalure	<i>Anomalurus pelii</i>
4	Red-flanked Duiker	<i>Cephalophus rufilatus</i>
5	Low's Mona Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus lowei</i>
6	Mona Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>
7	Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus petaurista</i>
8	Green Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>
9	Tantalus Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus tantalus</i>
10	African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>
11	African Sheath-tailed Bat	<i>Coleura afra</i>
12	White-thighed Colobus	<i>Colobus vellerosus</i>
13	Gambian Pouched Rat	<i>Cricetomys gambianus</i>
14	Common Cusimanse	<i>Crossarchus obscurus</i>
15	Benin's Tree Hyrax	<i>Dendrohyrax interfluvialis</i>
16	Straw-coloured Fruit Bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>
17	Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>
18	Northern Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>
19	Fire-footed Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus pyrrhopus</i>
20	Kintampo Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus substriatus</i>
21	Senegal Galago	<i>Galago senegalensis</i>
22	Demidoff's Dwarf Galago	<i>Galagoides demidovii</i>
23	Thomas's Dwarf Galago	<i>Galagoides thomasi</i>
24	Pardine Genet	<i>Genetta pardina</i>
25	Unidentified Genet	<i>Genetta</i> sp.
26	Lorraine's Dormouse	<i>Graphiurus lorraineus</i>
27	Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>
28	Red-legged Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus rufobrachium</i>
29	Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
30	Allen's Wood Mouse	<i>Hylomyscus alleni</i>

[illegible]

8	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
9	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
10	Common Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
11	African Cuckoo-hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
12	Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>
13	Hadedda Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
14	Greyish Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>
15	Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>
16	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
17	Red-necked Buzzard	<i>Buteo auguralis</i>
18	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
19	Yellow-browed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i>
20	Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>
21	Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nivosa</i>
22	Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>
23	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>
24	Black Casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna atrata</i>
25	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
26	Buff-breasted Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra adelberti</i>
27	Forbes's Plover	<i>Charadrius forbesi</i>
28	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
29	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
30	Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>
31	Brown Snake-eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
32	Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>
33	Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>
34	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
35	Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>
36	Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>
37	Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
38	Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>
39	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
40	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
41	Grey Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>
42	Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
43	Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanolaema</i>
44	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
45	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>

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Amphibians (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Snouted Grassland Frog	<i>Ptychadena longirostris</i>
2	Eygyptian Toad	<i>Sclerophrys regularis</i>
3	Togo Toad	<i>Sclerophrys togoensis</i>

March															
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										2					
										3	7			1	
								1							

Fishes (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Spot-tailed Robber	<i>Brycinus imberi</i>

March															
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				~10											



Black-bellied Pangolin



Low's Mona Monkey



Mona Monkey



Olive Baboon



Tantalus Monkey



Senegal Galago



Northern Patas Monkey



White-thighed Colobus



Pardine Genet



Common Warthog



African Savanna Elephant



Western Hartebeest



Central Bushbuck



Buffon's Kob (females)



Buffon's Kob (male)



Lorraine's Dormouse



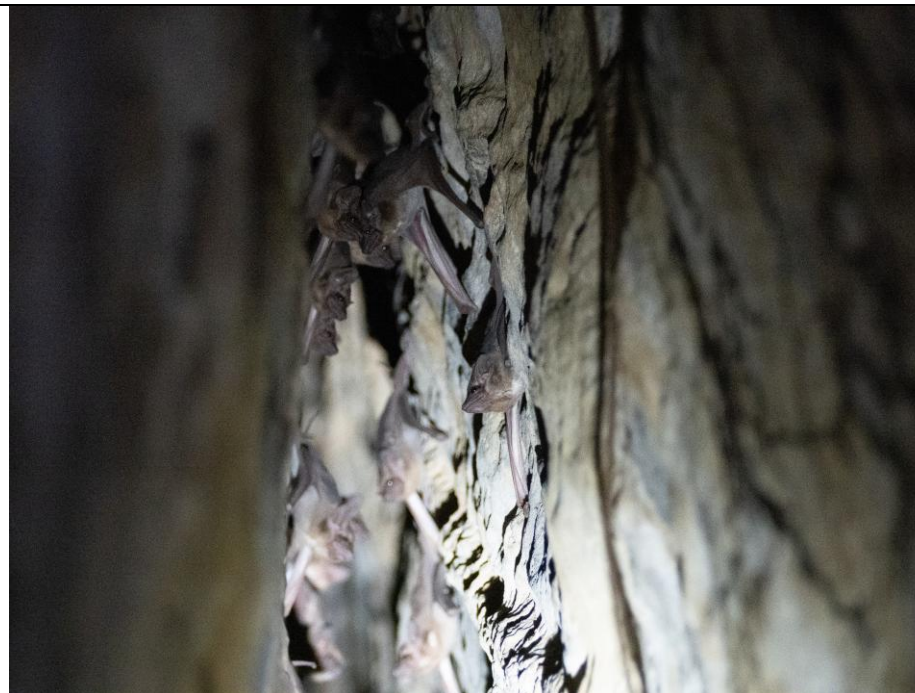
Gambian Sun Squirrel



Pel's Anomalure



Benin Tree Hyrax



Egyptian Tomb Bat



African Sheath-tailed Bat



Straw-coloured Fruit Bat (all those dots are bats)



Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat



Yellow-headed Picathartes



Akun Eagle-owl



African Wood Owl (and mystery rodent)



West African Pied Hornbill



Abyssinian Ground Hornbill



Grey-headed Kingfisher



Blue-breasted Kingfisher



Black Bee-eater



Red-throated Bee-eater



Lesser Blue-eared Starling



Yellow-mantled Weaver



Red-headed Malimbe



Abyssinian Roller



Long-tailed Nightjar



West African Crocodile (Hans Cottage Botel)



Peter's Rock Agama



Snouted Grassland Frog



Egyptian Toad