



Pygmy Hippo Expedition

April 2025

Trip Report

As part of Royle Safaris commitment to organising and running some of the most specialist mammalwatching trips as group tours around the world, we returned to Tai Forest in Cote d'Ivoire for a yet another Pygmy Hippo Expedition in April 2025. This would be our fourth trip to the park and after success with Pygmy Hippo sightings on the previous couple of group tours we were hopeful.

This trip didn't get as much interest as our previous tours and so we ended up running the 'group' as a private tour for one person (Mark Langston) and he was taken out into the forest with Karl Diakite and the local rangers and trackers as they went in search of the enigmatic Pygmy Hippo and other rare animals of this diverse and pristine rainforest park.

Because we didn't have a specific tour leader on this trip we don't have a detailed trip report, but as this was the first trip we ran to Tai forest which resulted in not just sightings of Pygmy Hippos but pictures! We wanted to share this with everyone, there were also some other interested species seen. The stakeout location which we had been developing with the local rangers there for a couple of years paid off with views of the hippo coming out into the little meadow and grazing for around 15 minutes. Mark just watched this without wishing to disturb the hippo until he decided to take a picture before the hippo was going to disappear.

We have only included species which pictures were taken of here, there were other species seen but pictures were not taken. With the trip being heavily focused on the Pygmy Hippo the list of other mammals (particularly bats and rodents would usually be larger if the trip interest was more diverse) the same can be said for the birds, reptiles and amphibians in which Tai forest can be very productive with great diversity of all of those species. All in all anyone wanting to visit Tai for either general wildlife or just the Pygmy Hippo will thoroughly enjoy the trip and stand a very good chance seeing some of the world's most endangered and rarely seen mammals in the whole of Africa.

We are planning to return to Tai in January 2027 (15-25 January 2027), we have availability on this trip for anyone interested. So if you are interested please let us know as there limited availability on this unique expedition style group tour. You can contact us at info@royle-safaris.co.uk and we will happily provide information and answer any questions.

Species List

Mammals

	Common Name	Binominal Name	
1	Beecroft's Anomalure	<i>Anomalurus beecrofti</i>	Tai Forest National Park
2	Sooty Mangabey	<i>Cercocebus atys</i>	Tai Forest National Park
3	Campbell's Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus campbelli</i>	Tai Forest National Park
4	Diana Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus diana diana</i>	Tai Forest National Park
5	Eastern Spot-nosed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus petaurista petaurista</i>	Tai Forest National Park
6	Pygmy Hippo	<i>Choeropsis liberiensis</i>	Tai Forest National Park
7	King Colobus	<i>Colobus polykomos</i>	Tai Forest National Park
8	Buettikofer's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomops buettikoferi</i>	Tai Forest National Park
9	Thomas's Galago	<i>Galagothomasi</i>	Tai Forest National Park
10	Water Chevrotain	<i>Hyemoschus aquaticus</i>	Tai Forest National Park
11	Long-footed Swamp Rat	<i>Malacomys cansdalei/edwardsi</i>	Tai Forest National Park
12	African Palm Civet	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	Tai Forest National Park
13	Bosman's Potto	<i>Perodicticus potto potto</i>	Tai Forest National Park
14	Maxwell's Duiker	<i>Philantomba maxwellii</i>	Tai Forest National Park
15	Western Red Colobus	<i>Procolobus badius badius</i>	Tai Forest National Park

Note: Some bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded as a sighting), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.

Birds

	Common Name	Binominal Name	Location
1	African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>	Tai Forest National Park
2	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	Tai Forest National Park
3	Yellow-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna elata</i>	Tai Forest National Park
4	Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>	Tai Forest National Park
5	Blue-throated Roller	<i>Eurystomus gularis</i>	Tai Forest National Park

6	African pygmy kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>	Tai Forest National Park
7	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	Tai Forest National Park
8	West African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros semifasciatus</i>	Tai Forest National Park
9	Black bee-eater	<i>Merops gularis</i>	Tai Forest National Park
10	African Harrier Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	Tai Forest National Park
11	Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	Tai Forest National Park
12	Guinea turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>	Tai Forest National Park
13	White-crested tiger heron	<i>Tigriornis leucocephala</i>	Tai Forest National Park

Reptiles

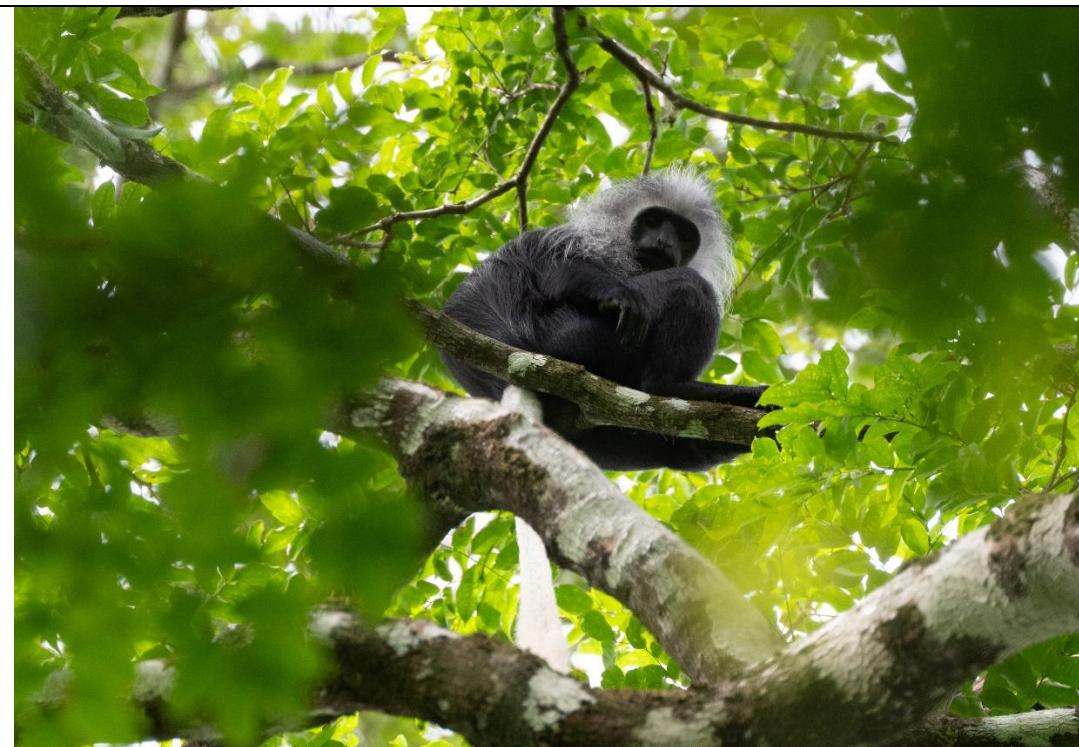
	Common Name	Binominal Name	Location
1	Green Bush viper	<i>Atheris squamigera</i>	Tai Forest National Park
2	West African Slender-snouted Crocodile	<i>Mecistops cataphractus</i>	Tai Forest National Park
3	Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	Tai Forest National Park

Amphibians

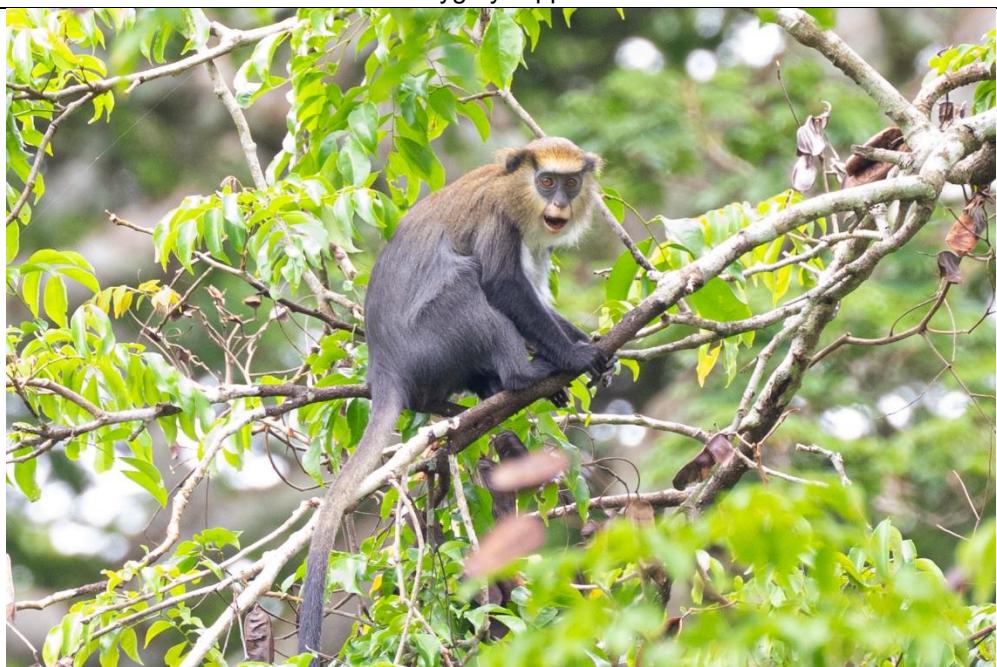
	Common Name	Binominal Name	Location
1	Western Tree Frog	<i>Leptopelis occidentalis</i>	Tai Forest National Park



Pygmy Hippo



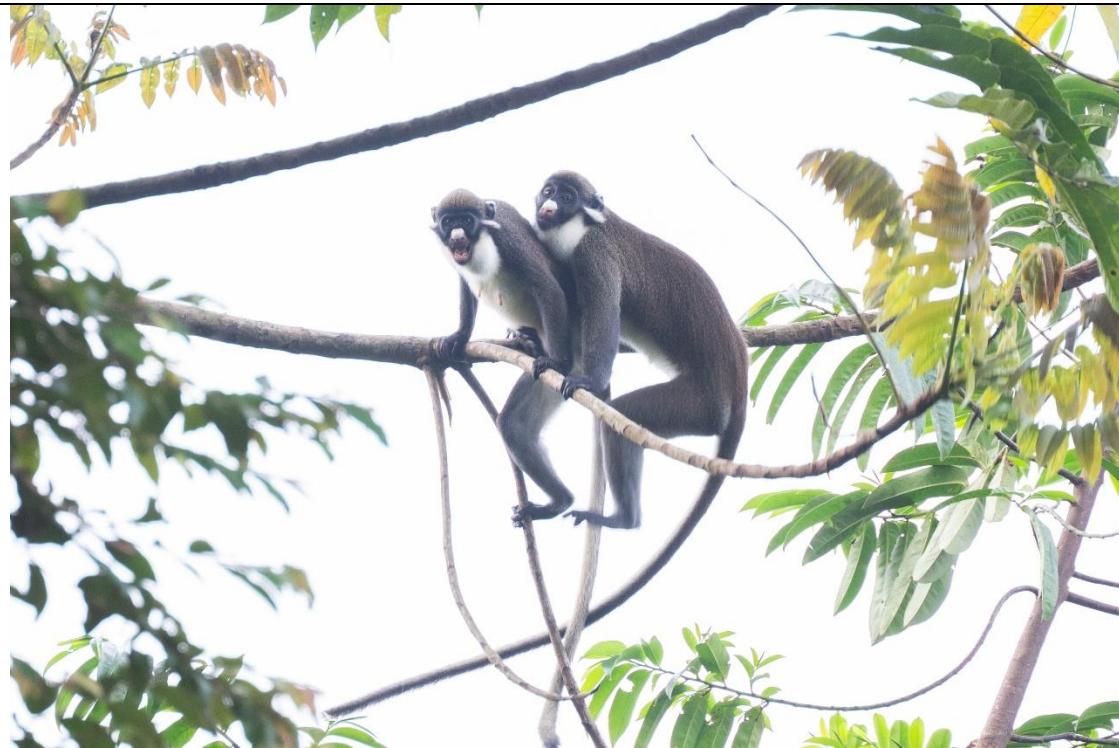
King Colobus



Campbell's Monkey



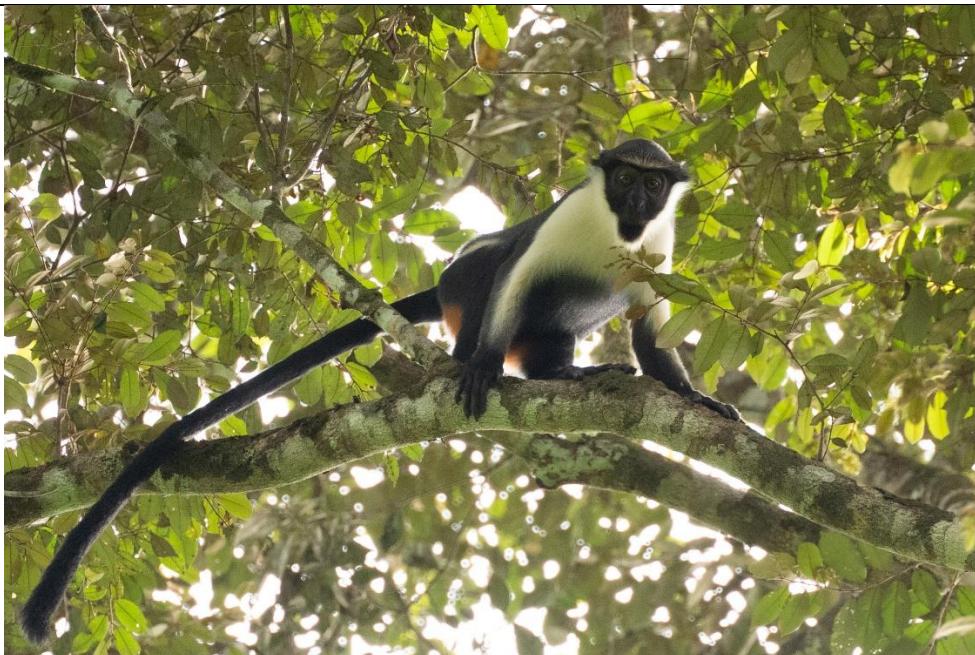
Western Red Colobus



Eastern Spot-nosed Monkey



Sooty Mangabey



Diana Monkey



Bosman's Potto



Thomas's Galago



African Palm Civet



Water Chevrotain



Maxwell's Duiker



Lord Derby's Anomalure



Long-footed Swamp Rat



Buettikofer's Epauletted Fruit Bat



Lizard Buzzard



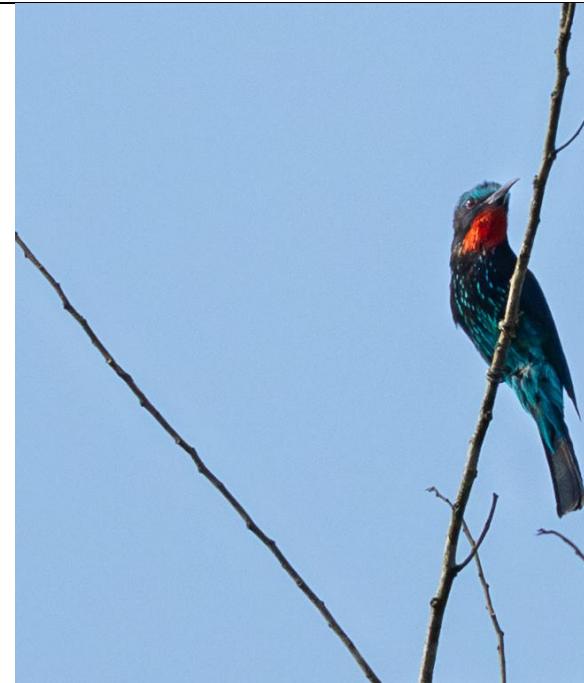
African Harrier Hawk



Crowned Eagle



Cassin's Flycatcher



Black Bee-eater



Blue-throated Roller



Black-casqued Hornbill



Yellow-casqued Hornbill



West African Pied Hornbill



White-faced Whistling Duck



Hartlaub's Duck



White-crested Tiger Heron



Hadada Ibis



Great Blue Turaco



Guinea Turaco



African Pygmy Kingfisher



West African Slender Snouted Crocodile



Water Monitor



Green Bush Viper



Western Tree Frog

