

Hi all, my names Harry and this is my first trip report (hopefully of many to come) although i have been lurking around for about a year now

In Late September i left the UK for a 2 and a half month trip around Australia (unfortunately not all mammalwatching although i will have a few targets such as platypus and tree kangaroos), but before all this i have been in Singapore from the 30th of September till the 6th of October and what i was not expecting to be a particularly fruitful trip for mammalwatching with me mainly focusing on herping soon exceeded my mammalian expectations. After my long 21 hour journey i arrived in Singapore, i was staying in the Lyf Funan hotel which is found directly inside the mall and has direct connection to fort canning park not many mammals to be found there during my evening walk though i do believe plantain squirrels will be found here like they are throughout the city, and no doubt the introduced brown rats which are present throughout the urbanised areas. I did see quite a few birds including the red junglefowl, rock dove, zebra dove and the ever present Javan myna.

1st of October:

as well as the finding of wild animals i am also a keen zoo goer and because of this the 5 parks at the Mandai were high on my agenda of things to do while i am in Singapore starting off at Singapore zoo at around 10AM, i was told by a staff member that they often have **Dog-faced fruit bat** roosting underneath shelters, the ones i found were underneath the indoor view of the orangutans although the pictures i got of them were subpar at best (my camera seemed to be a bit temperamental throughout this trip (hopefully i can find a fix before i head onto Australia.)) After I finished up at Singapore zoo i headed over to the River Wonders where just after the giant panda enclosure i saw a lone **Long-tailed Macaque** interestingly with a 126 tattooed on its chest a system the Mandai (and many other organisations) used to identify individuals that they have given veterinary checks, vaccines and giving them contraceptives.

I realised that after i was finished at the River wonders i realised i still had plenty of my day left and went to the newest parks, the Rainforest Wild Adventure West where i saw the last of the mammals for the day, a **plantain squirrel** by the African Wild dogs, i then caught the shuttle bus that leaves every 15 minutes to the East Adventure park where i found 4 more dog faced fruit bats roosting under the fake rock of the karsts by the Francois' Langurs. these were the last of the mammals i saw that day (at least the last of the wild ones)

2nd of October:

today was extremely hot, especially for someone who had just come from single diget weather in the UK, around 35 degrees, although i am sure the native mammals (both human and wild) are used to this kind of weather, i was not and thus today was a short day, just out in the morning, any hope of me being able to walk around anyone of the park connectors later on was gone by 12 and so i decided to go back to the hotel and plan the rest of my days.

3rd of October:

Today was by far the most productive for mammal viewing seeing 2 of my targets but that was later on. I had booked a herping tour with exploreherpetology and guide Trin who was excellent. I was told by the company that although the main focus is herps (so this in my books is a must do if you want a guide to take you around (i also found it rather difficult to

find guides for Singapore, something that surprised me and maybe an opportunity for any mammalwatchers in the country to pounce upon) mammals are also commonly seen. This tour took place in the Thomson nature park, what was once an old settlement meaning there are plenty of ruined buildings around creating an interesting environment. In terms of what herps we saw i will keep it brief, the list included multiple Wagler's pit viper, a mangrove cat snake, a draco lizard (I can't remember specifically but I believe it was sumatrensis.) As for mammals we saw many more Long-tailed macaques, a group of about 30 at one point, we saw different groups of the macaques maybe about 5 times (this is clearly a species that anyone will be able to find if they put in the effort. Later on in the morning I noticed a dark cat sized animal run across a path, too dark to see colouration however the body shape and gait could leave it to be nothing other than the **Lesser Mouse Deer**, the first of my targets I had seen. Throughout the day we saw many more of the plantain squirrels and one **Common Treeshrew**, although common it is nice for me to see something other than the invasive greys of the UK.

At around noon we split up and went on our own ways as the sun became too hot to continue, but later that night around 8PM we met up again this time at one of the many park connectors (a note on Singapore nature parks all close at 7pm however these connectors remain open and are an excellent place (and the only place) to catch nocturnal species. The first of which was the **Sunda colugo** my second target found, a bizarre creature often called a flying lemur due to its flap of skin between front and back limbs much like flying squirrels or marsupial gliders. Not long after the colugo saw a juvenile **Asian Palm civet** climbing some bamboo identifiable thanks to the white markings on the face, although i was a shame i was not able to bring my (at present) broken camera to get a better look at it. We also saw many more mouse deer on this trail, a species I did not expect to be this common, in total it was 8 individuals we saw. However these were not the only ungulates we saw, a pair of female **Sambar deer** had shown themselves up the hill, although we only managed to get good views from the side with their heads being obscured. Trin also decided to tell me that someone had let him know that around an hour we had left the area in the day the Raffle's banded langur were in full view on the road we had left the Thomson nature park according to another guide telling him. This was not the news I had wanted to hear with it being my number 2 most wanted species, 1 being of course the Sunda pangolin, which might not be of shock to any of you but we did not see. Throughout the night walk we saw flying Dog faced fruit bats and one **brown rat** running into the bushes also. That was the end of the night walk for us and one note i will give to people, getting a lift from a ride hailing app such as tada or grab is rather difficult being that late and that far out, i had at least 5 cancel on me, however the longer wait i would say is worth it rather than getting the bus back after a long sweaty and possibly muddy night.

4th of October, the last day of mammalwatching -

Today i had decided to head down to the gardens by the bay, not for the plants (I'm not a psychopath) but rather, for the otters, my final target. Whilst i was down there i did take a stroll through the gardens though as i still have a small part of my brain that is not infected by the mammalwatching virus and still your bog standard tourist, but i am certainly glad i did as i would not have seen a group of 8 **Smooth-coated otters** rolling in the sand. A behaviour used to clean, groom their hair to be able to catch insulating air and work the water resistant oils through their coat. My camera was still broken so i had to resort to pictures on my phone which isn't ideal, but needless to say I will be back to photograph all of

these species properly, and to find the last two targets i had here. Singapore, we have unfinished business.

Unfortunately this is the end of my time in Singapore but i now head onto a cross country journey through Australia, from the tropics of Queensland to the deserts of Uluru (where I am obviously saving my luck from pangolins and langurs for a marsupial mole (it's good to have dreams, no matter how unrealistic)

Mammal list: for the purposes of beginning to post on mammalwatching my life list will start a new.

Dog-faced Fruit Bat

Plantain Squirrel

Common Treeshrew

Brown Rat

Asian Palm Civet

Lesser mouse deer

Sambar Deer

Sunda Colugo

Long Tailed Macaque

It is a shame i was not able to share pictures on this but should i get my camera working again there will be plenty from Australia