

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA 21 MAY 2022 - 30 MAY 2022



I have always wanted to see some (ok all....) of the large gatherings of primates on the planet. I had read about a large 250-300 member troop of Guinea Baboons in the Makasutu Forest in The Gambia. The troop had been studied in the past and was reported to be semi-habituated. After spending time with the super troop of Hamadryas Baboons in Awash National Park in Ethiopia, I put going to the Makasutu Forest on my primate watching bucket list.

Fast forward to 2022 when I had everything planned to see Saiga in Russia in May. That possibility was obviously cancelled so I made a short list of places to go instead. I was traveling with my friend Deb Bradley and after going over the options, we both agreed on The Gambia.

I had initially wanted to stay at the Mandina Lodge. The lodge is often listed on places to stay before you die so seemed like something I would enjoy. The lodge was also right next to the Makasutu Forest and the baboons were known to sometimes walk around the lodge grounds and lounge by the pool. I contacted the Gambia Experience

based in the United Kingdom. But after three unanswered emails, I started to look elsewhere.

Not really having any other tour company that I knew people had used, I started a google search for tour operators based in country that would focus on wildlife. Tour Gambia (tourgambia2016@gmail.com) kept popping up, run by Modou Barry (who goes by Barry). All the online reviews for him were fantastic. We contacted him and within 24 hours he was planning our trip. This trip did incorporate birds and reptiles, but never to the detriment of a mammal opportunity.

Day 1 - I flew from Washington D.C. to Brussels then onto Banjul on Brussels Airlines. Deb was supposed to meet me in Washington, but a delayed flight meant she would miss the first night and full day. While I had hoped to stay at Mandina, Barry told us the lodge was closed for renovations and instead we would be staying at the Ngala Lodge about 30 minutes from the airport. Ngala is one of the more high end lodges, right on the beach with beautiful rooms and friendly staff. The lodge is also child free which was an added bonus. I can highly recommend it. When I got there I was having a chat with the lodge manager that went something like this...

Me - So what kind of nocturnal mammals can you see at the lodge.

Manager - Mammals?

Me- Yeah, you know any bats or rodents.

Manager - Well there is this really large rat.

Me - Oh the Gambian Pouched Rat right!!! (imagine this with a super excited, fast talking, slightly crazy sounding voice while opening may hands apart to gauge the size).

Manager - yeah..... sure... that one.

Me - How do I go about seeing said rat (again crazy voice)

Manager - after staring at me like I was in fact crazy for an awkward moment , well if you come back around midnight, I can have one of the guards walk you around.

Me - Perfect!

After securing my “rat deal” I decided to wait until the following night when Deb was with me to look.

Day 2 - Barry had asked me the night before where I would like to visit by myself. Obviously Makasutu was the spot. He suggested we leave Ngala around 9 am (what sleep in??) as the baboons would be more visible after this. With Barry was one of his

guides Mustapha Badjie who would travel with us and help with wildlife spotting for the rest of the trip. His spotting skills were fantastic and he was also wonderful to be with. We drove about 40 minutes inland then arrived to the forest. While driving into the core area of the forest we saw Striped Ground Squirrels and several Green Monkeys. We parked near a set of buildings that included what must have been a previous restaurant with a large pool. There was also a small dock on a river edge. There were several human male individuals sitting on chairs talking. We approached them and asked if they had seen the baboons. Sure enough one of the men pointed to a small bridge and seven Guinea Baboons were sitting on or near the bridge grooming each other.





I told Barry I would be fine by myself, then started walking to the core area of baboons. There must have been at least 175 sitting in an opening of the forest. This was the start of the next two hours of some splendid baboon watching. Unlike the Hamadryas baboons who kept their distance, this troop for the most part (I will comment later on this) went about what they were doing while I was watching them all around me. I had three young males try to make eye contact with in almost comical fashions, but never being outwardly aggressive. After about one hour of watching, Barry found me and asked if I wanted some tea. I started to walk back to the building area and he told me not to bother. As I started to say but... he started to do full English tea service with none of the baboons caring. One large male was briefly interested while the tea was being poured, then he walked off. I had never been around a large group of primates that acted like this. No one was feeding the baboons, and I saw zero evidence the day I was there that they had been getting fed. I think the troop pretty much got used to being around humans day in and out. I saw all age groups and all kinds of baboon interactions. It was hands down, my favorite baboon experience. At one point one baboon made an alarm call, and in about ten minutes I watched as about 200 monkeys

run past me towards the noise. After the two hours, Barry asked me if I wanted to go on a boat ride. I then did a 40 minute ride with Mustapha on a river outlet. Being mid day at this point, we saw no mammals. We then proceeded to start leaving the forest, when the troop re appeared by a small craft center. I decided to hang out with them for another 1.5 hours. This time they were in the process of feeding on bean pods and many of the troop were up in trees.



A taxi then pulled up with four western tourists. The tourists briefly looked at the Baboons, then walked off. Once the taxi was left alone a bunch of the baboons of all age groups decided to jump on the taxi, then try to disassemble pieces of it. The taxi driver tried to run them off twice after I told him about it, but each time they kept coming back.



One of my favorite baboons was a female with twins. I watched her for a long period of time and she seemed not bothered by me slowly following her. So some of the younger baboons (ones that probably had recently been booted by their mothers from nursing) would walk by me and if no other baboons were around they would scream at me like I was going to pick them up (note of all the primates this would never cross my mind with a baboon). While I was watching the mother with the twins, another adult female started grooming her. I was maybe 4 meters from them. I turned around at one point

and a youngster was sitting about 2 meters from me. When it noticed I was looking at it, it screamed out then ran. When I turned back around, the female baboon doing the grooming ran right at me angry and vocalizing. I thought a few things at this moment including by not limited to, “ I am innocent!, We were having such a nice peaceful time, and most importantly, damn, this is going to hurt”. I have worked with primates for long enough that I decided to not run and I lowered my head and make submissive baboon noises (while mumbling “not my fault”) that I had been hearing. The female, confused most likely that I did not run off, stopped short right in front of me, gently touched my left shoe, then walked off. Piece of advice, ignore the youngsters by themselves!





After this Barry took us to Tungina Village where he and Mustapha were from. They had purchased a small piece of land and were currently in the process of making rooms and an area for budget travelers to stay in. The property was next to a small forest fragment. On the way in we saw a troop of Green Monkeys. There was a small grassland area on his property that we walked through looking for small mammals. Barry also saw hedgehogs on occasion near this area. After lunch, Mustapha and I did a walk in the forest patch. There is a nice trail through the area. When Mustapha spotted a Temminck's Red Colobus, we followed it into a brushy patch, then out into a

mud flat, all in vain to catch up to try to catch up to them. While almost at the forest edge Mustsapha calmly told me there was a snake on the path. As I was asking, “what species?” and moving forward to see it, a Forest Cobra hooded up at us.

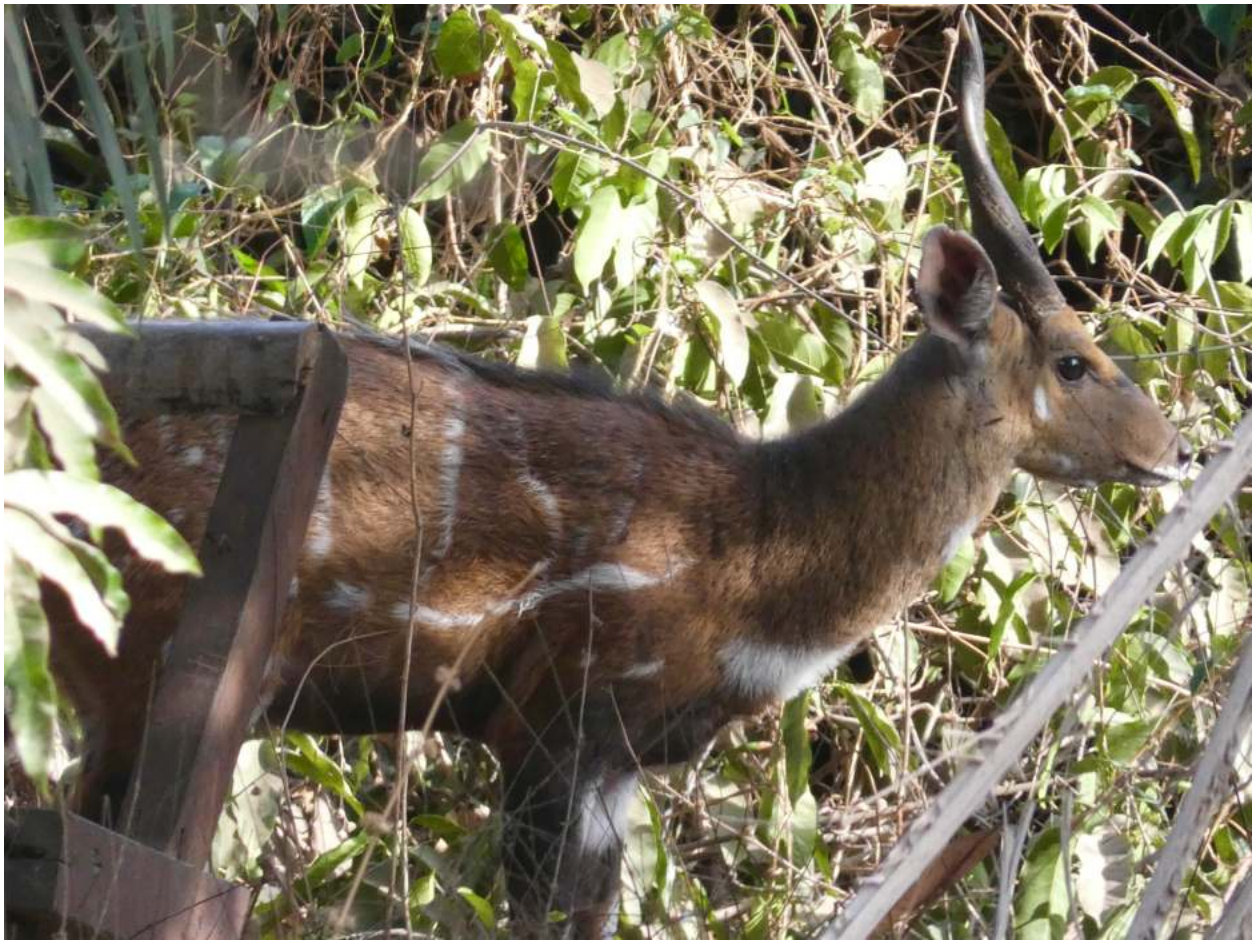
After the forest walk, I was taken back to Ngala to rest until Deb arrived.

Deb was finally able to reach Banjul after multiple “debates” with Brussel Airlines to let her on an Air France flight. She was originally told by Brussel Airlines that all of their flights were sold out and it would be five days before they could get her to Banjul.

After arriving at Ngala after 23:00 with no real sleep for 2 days, I felt that nothing would be more relaxing for Deb than to join me on a rat safari. We walked down to the guard station and found a guard had already been warned about us, I mean told about the guest that wanted to see a pouched rat. He actually seemed excited to do so and walked us along some of the back, no guest allowed, areas of the lodge. Oddly we only saw one that was grazing on the grass in front of our room. Deb was able to get this beautiful photo of one during all the excitement.



Day 3 - We decided to next visit the Abuko Nature Reserve which was about 14 km from where we were staying. Established in 1968, it was the first protected area in The Gambia. There are about 5 km of trails in the 105 hectare park. While waiting to enter the parking lot we saw our first Gambian Sun Squirrel and some Green Monkeys. We first walked to an area that had a small natural pool with Nile Crocodiles. There was a small education center that was closed, and a raised platform to get a better angle of the pool. While Deb was watching birds, I heard Barry call out "Mammal!" I walked over the the end of the platform and a female Western Blackbuck was at the end of the pool along the forest edge. She was followed in succession by a male, then a second female.



After the pool we walked one of the forest trails and found our first troop of Temminck's Red Colobus. This family group was slightly shy, but we got nice views of some of the younger individuals.



We had nice views of three Gambian Sun Squirrels licking sap from a large tree.





After that we walked to an open area that contained a small zoo with cages of young Patas Monkeys and Guinea Baboons, as well as more open enclosures with adult Spotted hyenas. We were told the monkeys would be released in the future and were there because of either parental neglect or death. Hopefully this was true... Hanging around the zoo was also a large very relaxed troop of Green Monkeys, as well as an also relaxed family of Temminck's Red Colobus that positioned themselves in a tree above the Patas Monkey enclosure to stare at us. We ended up seeing a third troop of Colobus on the way out of the reserve, as well as a decaying body of a Brush-Tailed Porcupine.

After the reserve we had lunch at the Lemon Lodge which was over a mangrove area. There were very cheeky Green Monkeys who made it their goal to steal whatever they could from humans, including a Sprite I was drinking (damnit!). In the afternoon we drove to the Kingfisher Lodge in Marakissa. We walked along the lodge grounds and saw two Gambian Sun Squirrels. A river canoe ride yielded no additional mammals. After dinner we did another walk around the lodge grounds looking for mammals. Deb had a view of another Pouched Rat, but nothing else.

Day 4 - We checked out of Ngala Lodge then we traveled back to the Makasutu Forest for Deb to have her baboon encounter. We saw more sun squirrels on the way to the river edge. Not seeing the baboons initially, we did the small river boat ride for about 30 minutes. It was then that the troop showed up by the pool. We ended up watching small fragments of the super troop, some playing on mosquito mounds, some drinking out of the pool, and a larger fragment wading and swimming towards a sandy beach on the river. The female with the twins also showed up and again gave great views.



We had lunch at the Baobab Island lodge and saw Green Monkeys and a pair of Senegal Parrots that had a non visible chick in a tree hole. Insert bird photo here.



In the afternoon we went back to Barry's property and saw some Green monkeys, Sun squirrels and Colobus. On the way out of the village we drove through a large forest fragment and came across a large troop of Western Patas Monkey. They were very shy and ran as soon as they saw us. We then drove to the Pirang-Bonto Community Forest Park. We walked until sunset and saw a single Colobus on the forest edge. The ranger there told us he often seen Common Genet and African Civet at night. As we were driving back to that night we saw a large group of Straw Colored Fruit bats leaving a day roost. The next two nights we stayed at the Senegambia hotel. The hotel was geared towards tourists looking for a generalist beach experience and probably had its heyday 20 years ago. The hotel was also one of the haunts for Gambian bumsters (you can google the full meaning and behavioral habits of that form of mammal) and we saw several older European women with said bumsters by their side. The main reason for staying here was to watch one of the hotel staff do a vulture feeding during one of the mornings we were there.

Day 5 - We decided to skip the vulture feeding this morning and head to the Bijilo Forest park on the south end of the Senegambia Beach. As Barry use to be a guide here, he was very familiar with the park. The park is about 51 hectares and consists of scrubland, a small amount of forest and scrubland. A large quantity of Borassus aethiopum palm trees are also there. The park is fenced, mainly to keep livestock out and people looking to dump trash. The park has a large population of Green Monkeys





and Temminck's Red Colobus. We had fantastic views of both species and even got to watch some Vervet Monkeys actually more interested in the palm fruits on the forest floor, than in us. The park has been in danger of being torn down twice. Lastly for a conference center and currently to build houses for American Embassy workers.



We next went to the Katchically Crocodile Farm in Bakou village. They have a small museum about some of the cultural things in The Gambia, including an exhibit about male and female circumcism. They have a pool with Nile Crocodiles at the end where they allow tourists to take pictures with individuals that are not in the water. A large tree close to where the local guides sit was filled with roosting Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bats. We next drove to the Gambian Reptile Farm that served as a rescue and rehabilitation center. We were lead around by the owner's young teenage badass daughter, who proceeded to show us some of the ambassador reptiles and show us

some of the features that made then special. Before dusk we did a walk in the Tanje Reserve and saw multiple small rodent holes, but no rodents. On the way out of the reserve in front of the Tanje Bird Lodge, a family of Temminck's Red Colobus were sleeping in a tree.

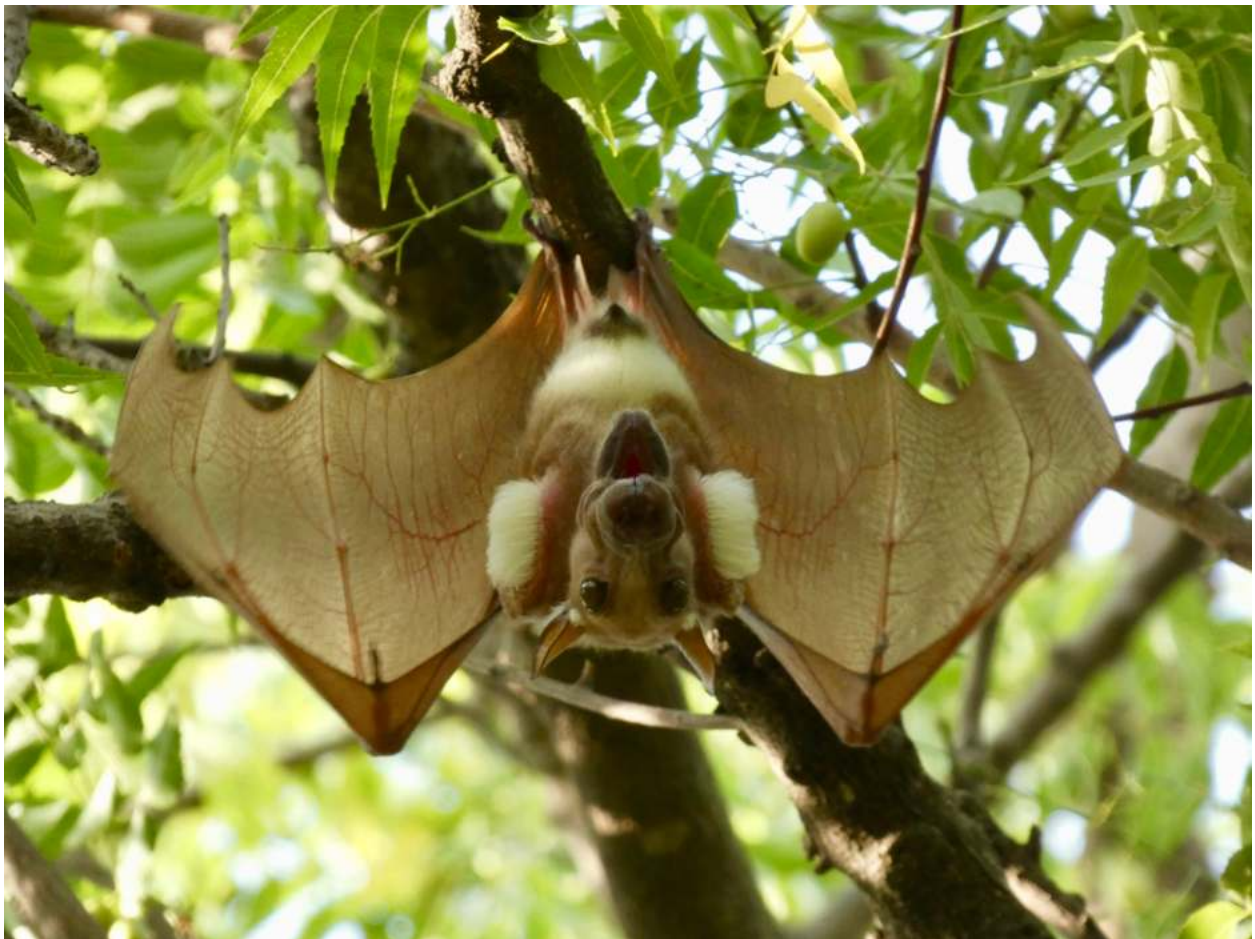
Day 6 - The vulture feeding at the hotel ended up being at 11 am, so we had a leisure filled morning swimming in the pool and walking around a small portion of the hotel grounds. We saw a single Gambian Sun Squirrel. After the vulture feeding (insert second bird photo) we were picked up by Barry and Mustapha with a driver with a four wheel drive.



We made it about 3.5 hours from the the Senegambia region inland before our car broke down in front a two houses situated near a well. It took another 1.5 hours for Barry to secure another vehicle. I feel like no trip to Africa is complete without a broken down vehicle event. We had lunch at the Bintang Bolong lodge which was in a mangrove area and small waterway. Green Monkeys were hanging around the walkways and three Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bats were roosting in the ceiling of the restaurant.



After lunch we drove to Kiang West National Park and stayed at the Tendaba Camp. Along the highway we saw multiple Western Patas Monkeys along the side of the road. As soon as we would try to slow down to get a better look at them they would run off. Barry told us that monkeys are not eaten in the Gambia usually, but the Patas Monkeys are large crop raiders and are run off when people see them, thus making them fearful of any humans and cars slowing down. The Camp consisted of varying rooms of different quality. In the center of the camp is a run down pool with water that was a green color that I had never seen before except for maybe in a magic marker and a sitting area where a small group of human males had congregated. There was an open air restaurant and a dock leading to the river Gambia. Deb and I opted to stay in one of the “VIP” rooms which basically was a small bungalow with a dining room, bedroom and on suite bathroom. As you first enter the camp walk, there is a small paved walkway with trees on your right. The trees were filled with Gambian Epauletted Fruit



bats. Each of the trees had 2-3 males in them with unimpressed females either looking

at or ignoring them. The males had created a small lek, each trying to sound louder than the other.

Watching them vocalize while flapping their wings and having their epaulettes puffed out was spectacular. Before dinner we did a walk in a very dry forest fragment behind the village by the camp and saw one Gambian Sun squirrel.

That night we met up with our National Park guide O.J. who would be with us for all the park activities. This is compulsory. We opted to a night safari looking for Senegal Galagos. The safari consisted of both driving around and walking in the national park. We ended up seeing 12 galagos in almost rapid succession, including one that jumped like a sifaka along the road in front of our vehicle going between trees. We saw a single Common Genet by the road. We also saw a lot of reptiles on our night drive. At one point Barry saw an African Fat Tailed gecko on the side of the road. Terrified, OJ told us the local name of the gecko was a Prince Snake Lizard and that it was venomous. He told us the gecko would also go into small villages and terrorize people. Barry confirmed this was the local thoughts on this species . O.J. refused to get out of the car to look closer. I tried in vain to tell OJ that I doubted the little guy was venomous and any time Deb and I got “too close” he let out a gasping sound.



Day 7 - Prior to breakfast Deb and I watched the bat lek again. The morning activity consisted of a boat ride on the River Gambia. While birds were mainly seen, we did see more Green Monkeys and a small troop of Guinea Baboons in a field. Barry had remembered a tree where he had seen bats previously and amazingly he was able to re-find the tree along a small river curve. The bat species turned out to be five Peter's Dwarf Epauletted Fruit Bats.



OJ and Barry both told us that African Clawless Otters are often seen on this boat trip. In the afternoon we did a drive into the National park. We saw more Patas Monkeys on the drive in. We were taken to a mostly dried up lagoon for a walk. We did see several Warthogs along the opposite side of the lagoon before getting pummeled with rain. On the drive back to the camp we saw two Marsh Mongoose and a single Striped Ground Squirrel. Deb and I had the full intention to do a night drive that evening as there was pretty much nothing to do at the camp at night and we were not tired. During dinner it started pouring rain again. Barry did try the slick divide and conquer guide move where you are separated from your companion to see if you can be influenced to do something else that the guide wants. He started talking to me about the rain and how visibility for mammals would be minimal. Unfazed, I stayed strong in my conviction and told him it would be fun. Luckily Deb felt the same way when it was her turn to be talked to. While being in the back of an open air vehicle was not exactly pleasurable in the rain, we did end up seeing multiple Common Genets under trees and Senegal Galagos in trees. We also kept seeing mouse and rat species scurrying along the forest floor over and over again. Along with this came even more snakes, and I saw my first ever Puff Adder drinking from a small water body on the road created by the rain. OJ did seem horrified again when Barry, Deb, Mustapha and I all jumped out of the vehicle to get a closer look at the Adder.

Day 8 - We left Tendaba early to start a five hour drive towards the River Gambia National Park. Along the highway we saw more Vervets, Patas, and Colobus Monkeys.



The next leg of our trip was to visit what was called the Baboon Islands which is the home of the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project. It was established in 1979 for the care and introduction of orphaned chimpanzees from the pet trade. Wild Chimpanzees disappeared from the Gambia in the early 1900's. In 1979, 8 chimpanzees were brought to the islands under the guidance of the Foundation for the Protection of West African Chimpanzees. Slowly other chimpanzees were introduced to the project and now there are 137 individuals living in four social groups on three islands. The groups are named after previous dominant males Dash, Pooh, Jesus and Jumbo. The Project set up four large African Safari style tents on a cliff edge overlooking the river. Each tent had a sink and outdoor showers and there was a clean pit toilet shared between the tents. At the base of the river was a building that served as a bar and restaurant . A flushing toilet was in a stand alone building by this. The project requires you stay a minimum of 2 days. This includes all room and board, and one visit each day around 16:00 via boat to see the chimps on islands. No one, including the current research staff ,sets foot on the actual islands. Going in the opposite of the tourist boats another boat brings small snacks to the chimps to deliver birth control (which based on the number of infants we saw was not working) and to evaluate the general appearance of the chimps.

You get to the project via boat, and prior to doing this we stopped at the Cairo Lodge for a drink and to rest. While sitting in the restaurant I noticed a Colobus in a tree overlooking the river. I walked over and she proceeded to sit right in front of me. We found out she was a lone female that had just shown up to the lodge one day and would not leave. They named her Onion and told us she never tried to steal food or take handouts from humans.



One of the lodge workers then showed us this was true and he offered her a banana and she had zero interest in it. After a long photo session with Onion, we boarded a small pontoon type transfer boat to head to the Chimp project. The project currently does not allow people to take guides with them, so we left Barry and Mustapha at the Cairo Lodge. Proof of Yellow Fever and Covid Vaccines are required to stay at the project as well.. On the way to the project we saw multiple Guinea Baboons and Colobus as well as two Chimpanzees sitting on the edge of one of the islands. There is also a large population of Common Hippopotamus around the islands and we saw multiple individuals on the way in.



Once there we were greeted by Lisa, a UK primatologist who was running the day to day aspects of the camp. There was one other couple stay there, a UK professor and his pretty wife from the Netherlands who was dressed like she just came out of a safari modeling magazine, complete with small stylish binoculars and flowing beige scarf. The wife told me that she had just seen an African Manatee right next to the dock minutes before we arrived. Lisa then confirmed that there were two manatees that had been hanging around the dock and that waiting patiently while sitting outside was the best way to see one. Having already seen the species well in Senegal I was not as concerned with this, but Deb decided to allot some of his down time lounging in one of the chairs by the dock to look for them. There was a small troop of Green Monkeys that liked to hang around the outside of the restaurant and the dock. I asked Lisa about other camp wildlife. She said the Colobus come into the camp as well as the Guinea Baboons. She told us that unlike the baboons at Makasutu, these individuals were aggressive and there were reports of one small group killing a local child. The baboons she told us were always chased out of the camp to not reap havoc. She also told us at dusk that a bat species was always flying in and out of the palm trees overhanging the river next to the dock. She however had no idea what the species was. At 16:00 we boarded the pontoon boat and did a trip around the islands where the chimpanzees lived. We saw multiple individuals of varying ages.



We also saw more Colobus as we as several hippos close to the island edges. Back at the dock Deb and I tried to see if we could see the bats that Lisa was talking about. Sure enough a small bat was going in and out of the palm leaves. With the poor light visibility Deb and I were unable to get an ID on the species. We ended up taking completely blurred out photos of one of the bats. Based on the number of palms hanging over the river edge by the camp we figured there had to be a location where they roost during the day. Deb and I decided to try to look for them the next day. After dinner Deb, the wife and myself opted to do a night walk in the forest behind the tents with one of the project guides. When we were near the pit toilet, the UK professor was running from the toilet saying there was a large snake by it. This cued me and his wife to start running towards the toilet. Relaxing near the entry path was another beautiful Puff Adder. The husband proceeded to stand behind a tree and ask his wife to join him. Not only was the wife stylish, but she ignored his pleas to join him and she hung out with Deb and myself while took photographs and videos of the snake.



On the night walk we saw several small mice and saw the eyeshine of four Senegal Galagos.

Day 9 - The morning activity was scheduled to a pontoon boat ride along the river edge and along some of the small waterways. When we got into the boat Deb and I were in the back and the couple, complete with clean looking attire, were in front of us. Since we were going by some of the palm trees I decided to ask the boat driver if he knew were any of the bats roosted. In my head I started out asking very calmly. The driver looked at me like he had never seen a bat in his life and had no idea of what I was talking about. I then showed him by blurred out photo and looked up at him again. He replied, "Oh yeah, they are around". My brain decided I did not like this answer and I broke out into a rapid chatter of how much I love bats, how I wanted to see the bat, where was the bat and could he show me the bat. I flashed back briefly to the pouched rat conversation I had at Ngala. It all seemed very logical to me, but after I repeated the statement for maybe the fourth time, I heard Deb start laughing at me and looked forward to see the husband and wife staring at me like a spectacle at a circus. My non attractive safari hat, shirt, baggy pants, and fanny pack I was wearing, while holding my camera and a video camera at the same time , with my mouth slightly ajar, probably only added to the spectacle. However, the mammal gods were listening and almost on cue, the pontoon boat broke down and we glided into one of the palm trees right in front of two roosting Yellow-Wing Bats.



After photographing and filming the bats, complete with Deb mocking and repeating “I love bats, I like to look at bats” over and over only to the husbands and wives continued “curiosity” about us, we waited onshore for another boat to retrieve us. We saw more Colobus along the shoreline. We went back to the restaurant and boarded a second boat to do our river cruise. At this late in the day we only saw some Guinea Baboons along the shoreline. After lunch we relaxed, then at 16:00 did our second chimp excursion. One of the things the previous night we had heard was loud explosions every 30 minutes or so. Asking what they were, we walked to a rice field and were shown show explosive devices that were placed to try to deter hippos from crop raiding. I am not sure how deterrent they were, but they defiantly were deterrent to my getting a peaceful sleep.



Near the rice field we saw multiple trees filled with Colobus getting ready to sleep for the night.



We also saw more Yellow-wing bats in a palm tree on the way to the rice field. In the evening Deb and I did another night walk. We saw more Senegal Galago eyeshine, Deb saw a Marsh mongoose and again we saw many more small rodents. The one in the picture that Deb was able to get below, moved like a kangaroo rat.



At one point we came across another gecko, but this one obviously did not terrorize our guide's village as he only gave it a casual glance and moved on.

Day 10 - our last day. Deb figured we should go sit by the dock before and during breakfast to see if we could see the Manatee. While waiting the Green Monkeys decided to join us on the dock. Once Breakfast was ready, I decided to eat inside as it was cooler. I sat inside and positioned myself facing the river. I asked Deb if she wanted me to bring her something to drink. Saying no, she turned around and started to walk into the building. At that exact moment a manatee surfaced and made a large splash with its tail almost directly across the river. I jumped out of my seat and called out manatee, but unfortunately all Deb saw was the splash. I was told I was not aloud to talk to her about it ever again....

We did the pontoon trip back to the Cairo lodge, picked up Barry and Mustapha, and spent some quality time with Onion. We drove back to Banjul and along the way saw more Patas Monkeys. We had a farewell meal at the Bintang Bolong lodge, then were driven back to the Banjul Airport to catch our flight home.

I can not say enough good things about Barry and Mustapha. The Gambia does not have the mammal species that some of the other West African countries do like the Ivory Coast, but for the most part we had wonderful encounters with what we did see. Barry told me he had never seen a tourist so captivated by the baboons or want to spend so much time with them. After seeing the Galago at close range jumping in front of the vehicle, Barry pretty much fell in love with the species and made them his mammal logo for the company. He is keen to do more mammal focused trips at any time as this would be something new for him. That being said we saw a lot of reptiles and of course bird species. The country had a lot of poverty. Instead of locals asking for money, most just asked for food. However, The Gambia is known as the smiling coast of Africa, and the majority of the population were extremely friendly and welcoming.

I think if I had to do the trip again, I would start with the Chimp project, then do Tendaba and end the trip in luxury at Ngala. It was very hot, at times at the chimp project it was 40 degrees. Being inside a tent on a cliffside that had been in the sun all day was not super comfortable at night. This was not as noticeable at Ngala being right on the beach.



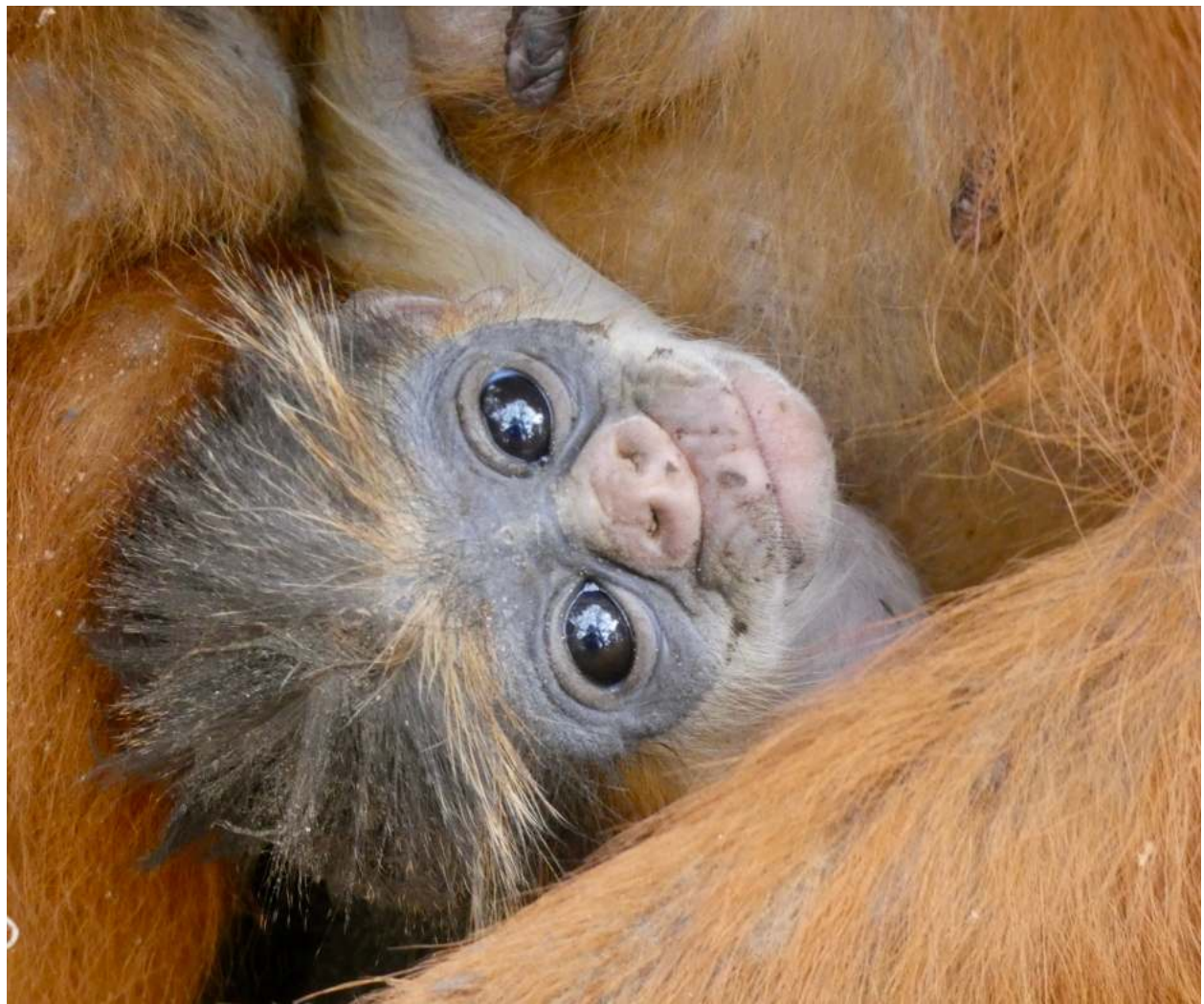


I did talk to Lisa about Onion to see if they could find her a family group or if anything non captivity based could be done for her.

I guess I really never noticed how much I love bats until this trip.

Except for the Galagos, all the primate species we saw had babies of varying ages.





Species seen with a positive ID

1. Striped Ground Squirrel - *Xerus erythropus*
2. Green Monkey - *Chlorocebus sabaeus*
3. Guinea Baboon - *Papio papio*
4. Gambian Pouched rat - *Cricetomys gambianus*
5. Gambian Sun Squirrel - *Heliosciurus gambianus*
6. Western Bushbuck Antelope - *Tragelaphus scriptus*
7. Temminck's Red Colobus - *Piliocolobus badius temminckii*
8. Western Patas Monkey - *Erythrocebus patas patas*
9. Straw Colored Fruit Bat - *Eidolon helvum*
10. Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat - *Epomophorus gambianus*
11. Senegal Galago - *Galago senegalensis*
12. Common Genet - *Genetta genetta*
13. Peter's Dwarf Epauletted Fruit Bat - *Micropteropus pusillus*
14. Warthog - *Phacochoerus africanus*
15. Marsh Mongoose - *Atilax paludinosus*
16. Common Hippopotamus - *Hippopotamus amphibius*
17. Common Chimpanzee - *Pans troglodytes*
18. Yellow-winged Bat - *Lava frons*
19. African Manatee - *Trichechus senegalensis*