



Pictus Safaris Trip Report – Mana Pools 2022

Abstract

Mana Pools is one of the most famous safari destinations anywhere in Africa, and with good reason. We were very pleased to welcome two clients to this beautiful area in early August, splitting their time between the well-known campsites at Chitake Springs and Mucheni (not too far from the park HQ at Nyamepi). Mana is not a high-volume destination when it comes to mammal species, and the clients' focus was on exploring this beautiful area rather than exhaustive mammal-watching, so smaller mammals incl. bats and rodents were generally not recorded.

Overall, the safari was successful, with superb views on foot of lions on a buffalo kill in Chitake, and the famed elephant Boswell feeding on his hind legs near Mucheni. African wild dogs, for which the park is well-known, were unfortunately primarily on private concessions during our clients' stay, and it is unfortunate that access to what was once all national park continues to suffocate as more and more parcels of land are sold off. This all having been said, Mana remains one of the most exciting wilderness areas in Southern Africa – perhaps not one for 'listers', but definitely one for those who appreciate the chance to view incredible big game on foot.

At a Glance

Dates	July 30 th – August 7 th , 2022
Number of Clients	2
Countries Visited	Zimbabwe
Key Target(s)	African Wild Dog, Lion, Bush Elephant, Leopard
Total Mammal Species Recorded	19



Itinerary

Day	Destination	Accommodation
July 30 th , 2022	Great Zimbabwe Ruins	Ancient City Lodge
July 31 st , 2022	Harare	Cresta Lodge
August 1 st – August 6 th , 2022	Mana Pools NP	Camping
August 7 th , 2022	Tour End	N/A

Mammal List – 19 species

Species	Scientific Name	Location(s)*
Carnivora – 5 species		
Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	N
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	N
White-Tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	N
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	N
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	CS, N
Cetartiodactyla – 8 species		
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	CS, N
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	N
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	N
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	N
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	CS, N
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>	N
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	N
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	CS, N
Lagomorpha – 1 species		
African Savanna Hare	<i>Lepus victoriae</i>	N
Perissodactyla – 1 species		
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	N
Primates – 2 species		
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	CS, N
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	CS, N
Proboscidea – 1 species		
African Bush Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	CS, N
Rodentia – 1 species		
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	N

*CS – Chitake Springs, N -Nyamepi

Contact Details

Pictus Safaris can be contacted by email at contact@pictus-safaris.com or via our website at www.pictus-safaris.com. We are a tour operator specialising in small-group and private departures across Africa, with a focus on rare and elusive wildlife.



Our destinations in the remainder of 2022, and 2023, include Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal and South Africa. Spaces remain on small group tours to several of these destinations, and we are able to offer private wildlife-focussed tours to over thirty African countries.