



Pictus Safaris Trip Report – Uganda & Burundi, July 2022

Abstract

In July of this year, Pictus Safaris were delighted to welcome a client to Uganda and Burundi. The client in question is currently at the tail-end of their mission to visit all of the countries in the world, and Burundi was one of only seven countries remaining to be visited – four of these (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad and Equatorial Guinea) will be visited with us next year. Whilst in the region, we connected the visit to Burundi with a safari in Uganda, visiting Ziwa, Murchison Falls NP, Queen Elizabeth NP and Mabamba.

This was not a safari devoted to serious mammal-watching, instead focussing primarily on larger mammals. As such, this report focusses only on those species recorded with certainty (bats and rodents were largely not recorded) but we hope this report is of some use to those planning visits to either Uganda or Burundi. The Uganda leg of the tour was successful in recording some excellent mammals, including Bunyoro rabbit, marsh mongoose and all of the 'Big Five'. Murchison Falls was in excellent form, delivering some of the best sightings of the tour, including superb views of leopard and lion. Queen Elizabeth NP was disappointing, with sub-par game-viewing in most areas due to uncontrolled burning, but the Kazinga Channel was, as always, excellent. The chimpanzees of Kyambura Gorge were seen in good numbers, with youngsters providing adorable viewing. The highlight of the tour, though, was undoubtedly prolonged views of a shoebill chick in Mabamba, with an adult in close attendance.

Burundi is arguably the least prolific game-viewing destination in Africa, owing to historic bouts of insecurity and a completely ineffective system of park management. There are still small areas that hold populations of wildlife, such as Ruvubu NP, where buffalo and mesopredators are occasionally seen. This visit focussed on the main sights of the country, such as the Gishora Drum Sanctuary, the German Fault and the Kagera (or Karera) Falls. The only mammals recorded were the hippos resident around Lake Tanganyika and the occasional vervet monkey. Burundi remains an interesting birding destination for several Albertine Rift endemics, but for mammal-watching alone it holds limited interest.

At a Glance

Dates	July 10 th – July 24 th , 2022
Number of Clients	1
Countries Visited	Uganda, Burundi
Key Target(s)	'Big Five', Shoebill, Chimpanzee
Total Mammal Species Recorded	38



Itinerary

Day	Destination	Accommodation
July 10 th , 2022	Entebbe, Uganda	Airport Link Guesthouse
July 11 th – July 13 th , 2022	Murchison Falls NP, Uganda	Pakuba Safari Lodge
July 14 th – July 17 th , 2022	Queen Elizabeth NP, Uganda	Bush Lodge
July 18 th , 2022	Mabamba, Uganda	Nkima Lodge
July 19 th – July 20 th , 2022	Entebbe, Uganda	2Friends Beach Hotel
July 21 st – July 23 rd , 2022	Bujumbura, Burundi	Club du Lac Tanganyika
July 24 th , 2022	Tour End	N/A

Mammal List – 38 species

Species	Scientific Name	Location(s)*
Carnivora – 11 species		
Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	MF
African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	MF
Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	MF
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	MF
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	QENP
White-Tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	MF
Side-Striped Jackal	<i>Lupelella adusta</i>	MF, QENP
Black-Backed Jackal	<i>Lupelella mesomelas</i>	MF
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	MF, QENP
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	MF, QENP
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	MF
Cetartiodactyla – 11 species		
Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	MF
Topi	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>	QENP
Northern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	MF, QENP
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	MF, QENP, B
Forest Hog	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	QENP
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	MF, QENP
Kob	<i>Kobus kob</i>	MF, QENP
Oribi	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>	MF, QENP
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	Z, MF, QENP
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	MF, QENP
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Z, MF, QENP
Lagomorpha – 2 species		
African Savanna Hare	<i>Lepus victoriae</i>	MF
Bunyoro Rabbit	<i>Poelagus marjorita</i>	MF
Perissodactyla – 1 species		
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Withheld
Primates – 9 species		
Red-Tailed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>	QENP
Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>	QENP



Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	B
Tantalus Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus tantalus</i>	MF, QENP
Guereza	<i>Colobus guereza</i>	QENP
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>	MF
Northern Lesser Galago	<i>Galago senegalensis</i>	MF
Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	QENP
Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	MF, QENP
<i>Proboscidea – 1 species</i>		
African Bush Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	MF, QENP
<i>Rodentia – 3 species</i>		
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>	MF
Boehm's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus boehmi</i>	QENP
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	MF, QENP

*Z – Ziwa, MF – Murchison Falls, QENP – Queen Elizabeth NP, B - Burundi

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.