

ZANZIBAR January 2022

ZANZIBAR RED COLOBUS



As part of a rare vacation where mammal watching was not the primary objective, I managed to squeeze in a few short trips to the wild that were surprisingly productive. I saw four of my five targets (Zanzibar galago, Zanzibar red colobus, black and rufous elephant shrew and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin)....but decided not to put the extra effort in to see the last target, the Ader's duiker, based on hunting in the area (see below).

All the mammal action centers around the Jozani Forest Reserve. It seems to be reasonably well-protected, although the concentration of mammals around the visitor center could also be a sign of hunting pressure beyond the halo of ranger/visitor line of sight. I arrived at 4pm and almost immediately spotted a troop of **Zanzibar red colobus**. These stunning animals were completely unfazed by the presence of admiring (and mostly noisy) observers. In an adjacent tree a troop of **Sykes' monkeys** were also equally unperturbed. I did a short loop trail that starts at the car park and saw one of my main targets, the extraordinary **black and rufous elephant shrew**. It stayed partially hidden for most of the 15 minutes I was able to watch it but finally shot across the path

in front of me. What a beast ! A few minutes later a **Zanj sun squirrel** popped out of its hole in a large tree.

BLACK AND RUFOUS ELEPHANT SHREW



I had previously connected with Bakari, one of the ranger/guides working in the park. He also has permission to conduct the all important night walks. At around 6.30 pm we set off and saw another black and rufous elephant shrew and then what I think is a **Woodland thicket rat** (see photo at the end of the report). Although we could hear the Zanzibar galagos, they kept well hidden for about an hour. Then all of a sudden it was showtime. The first nocturnal primate was a **small-eared greater galago** that ran across the roof of the kitchen. Within a couple of minutes a **Zanzibar galago** was spotted by Bakari making its way through the bushes along the main access road.

ZANZIBAR GALAGO



But the surprise of the night was a few minutes later when a **palm civet** ran across a telephone wire, climbed on a nearby tree and then rapidly disappeared back into the forest.

PALM CIVET



There are various snorkeling/dolphin watching tours around the island. **Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin** are guaranteed and I saw a number of different pods during a morning trip. I did a second “island” trip with *Safari Blue* and they have a 60% rate of seeing the shy **Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins** and they were the only boat (out of many) that bothered to spot and then haul anchor during snorkeling to follow up on a sighting. We saw a pair, keeping their distance , but clearly visible at about 30 meters.

STUFF I MISSED : I arranged a second night walk with Bakari to look for the Southern tree hyrax. He arranged a local guide and we entered the forest via a village on the south side of the park. It took an hour to walk to the forest and although we could hear the hyrax calling, they remained frustratingly well hidden.

I visited the Mtende Community Forest one afternoon with the intention of arranging an early morning walk in search of the Ader’s duiker. I was introduced to Karagi at the entrance to the Mtende Community Forest. I spent a couple of hours walking with him in a patch of coastal scrub forest. He wasn’t particularly observant but knew his way around and claimed to know where to find the Ader’s duiker. We did see a black and rufous elephant shrew but he also showed me a recently dismantled hunters hide. Apparently 15 permits are given every year to hunt the duiker with hunters coming from Europe. I don’t know how the quota is derived but it didn’t sound like it was based on robust scientific data. Combined with a lack of duiker spoor I decided that my chances were slim. Had it been a dedicated mammal trip I would have probably persisted but I had to balance my time with other “duties”.

CONTACT DETAILS

Bakari who has worked as a ranger in Jozani Forest for over 10 years is very observant and hard working.

Contact either via the park reception area or call on +255 777 845075

Karagi : Mtende - Tel: +255 722244312

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Boat ride and snorkeling in the south of the island. Short drive to Mtende community forest nearby. Dusk walk with local guide, Karagi.

Day 2 - Late afternoon walk in Jozani Forest and night walk until 8 pm with park ranger, Bakari.

Day 3 - Night walk on the edge of Jozani with Bakari.

Day 4 - A day on the sea with the snorkeling outfitters Safari Blue.

Day 5 - Departure.

MAMMAL LIST

1	Zanzibar galago Galago zanzibaricus	One animal seen during the night walk in the bushes near the visitor center in Jozani.
2	Small-eared greater galago Otolemur garnettii	One animal seen at night around the visitor center
3	Syke's monkey Cercopithecus albogularis	Commonly see in the Jozani forest
4	Zanzibar red colobus	One large troop of 20+ animals near the Jozani visitor center
5	Palm civet Nandinia binotata	One animal seen during the night walk
6	Egyptian slit-faced bat Nycteris thebaica	One animal seen inside the water tower near the ranger accommodation at Jozani.
7	Black and rufous elephant shrew	Three animals seen just before dusk in Jozani.

	Rhynchocyon petersi	
8	Woodland thicket rat Grammomys dochurus	One seen on the night walk in Jozani.
9	Zanj sun squirrel Heliosciurus undulatus	Seen during the trail walk in Jozani.
10	Indo Pacific bottlenose dolphin Tursiops aduncus	A pod of 8 animals seen during a snorkeling trip at the south of the island
11	Indian humpback dolphin Sousa plumbea	Two animals seen during a snorkeling trip with <i>Safari Blue</i> .

SMALL-EARED GREATER GALAGO



WOODLAND THICKET RAT



SYKES MONKEY

