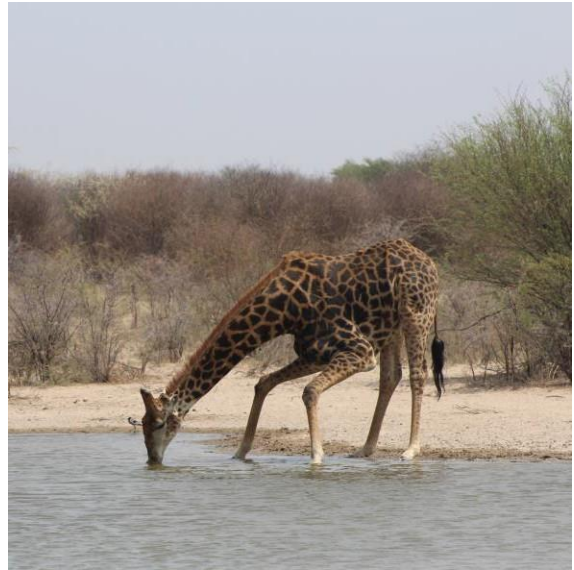


Tour Report Kalahari Conservation Experience 15 - 24 September 2023

Wild dog



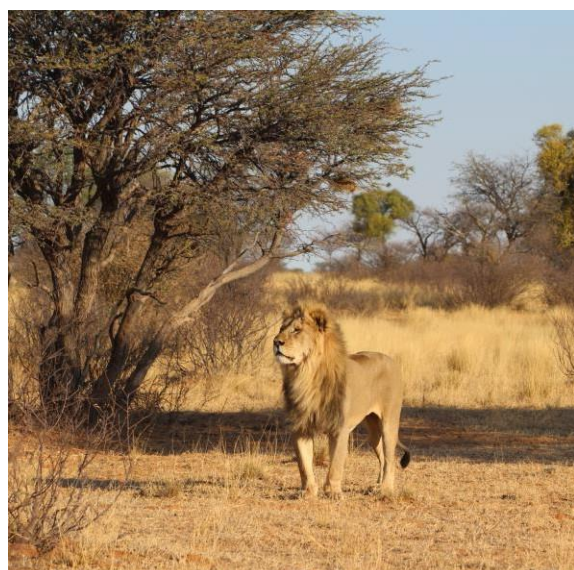
Giraffe



Elephant



Lion



Compiled by Helen Bryon

Tour Leader: Helen Bryon

Summary

Our Kalahari Conservation Experience offers the potential for superb wildlife viewing whilst giving something back. Providing a behind-the-scenes look into the challenges facing wildlife management in today's world, every excursion to South Africa's largest 'Big Five' reserve has an aim. We feed back the information we've gathered and recorded to the reserve's ecologist daily, and whilst activities in 2022 were largely physical, the focus for 2023 thus far has been on predator and pangolin monitoring. We will ultimately get involved wherever we are needed at the time of our visit, whether that be following predators as they hunt, or undertaking tree surveys. With just one camp on the reserve (although plans are afoot for one small lodge to be built in 2024), the impact on our experience is likely to be minimal and having this vast, untamed land to ourselves is a true privilege.

Day 1: London Heathrow to Johannesburg

Friday 15 September 2023

The group's non-stop British Airways flight from London Heathrow to Johannesburg was delayed by two hours, but they got underway shortly after 9:00pm.

Day 2: Johannesburg to the Kalahari

Saturday 16 September 2023

Weather: sunny and clear, 26 degrees

Lost baggage issues in Johannesburg meant that the group's transfer to the Kalahari was further delayed and they didn't hit the road until early in the afternoon. Arriving at camp at 10:30pm, in surprisingly high spirits after such a long journey, introductions were made to camp owners and managers, Gary and Edyta. They come complete with three rescue dogs who are a huge part of daily life in the camp: Betty, Sweeney and a Great Dane puppy called Pluto.

The guests were shown to their tents, where they switched on their electric blankets before reconvening in the communal area for a welcome meal of savoury mince pancakes washed down with cold beer, cider or wine. Beds were welcome soon after and sleep was sound!

Day 3: Pangolin and wild dog monitoring

Sunday 17 September 2023

Weather: sunny and clear, 28 degrees

Waking to a glorious but chilly morning, everyone wrapped up well for breakfast at 7:00am, followed by an introduction to the camp and the signing of indemnity forms. We then boarded our nine-seater open-sided vehicle and set off in search of a recently released male pangolin. The pangolin was rescued from poachers, and the wildlife hospital which had previously cared for him required continual checks on his location, feeding activity and general condition. We were advised that we would be trying to find him regularly during our stay.

We headed towards a series of burrows that he had been utilising and Gary used telemetry to locate him. After picking up a strong signal, we approached the area on foot, discovering the entrance of a burrow, with the pangolin apparently sound asleep inside it. Not wishing to disturb him, we went back to the vehicle with the intention of trying again in the afternoon.

As we climbed aboard, Gary went to check images on a camera trap set up by another burrow entrance. Inserting the SD card into his camera, we were surprised to view footage of a honey badger disappearing into the burrow, at the same time as when we had first pulled up! Having viewed all the images, Gary very carefully replaced the SD card into the camera trap (the honey badger's formidable reputation on his mind)

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and we returned to camp to pick up morning tea and coffee supplies before heading out into the reserve for our first drive.

Approaching the closest waterhole to camp a short while later, we stopped to view oryx, blue wildebeest, eland, zebra and springbok - all Kalahari specialists that have adapted to the extreme conditions and temperatures. A secretary bird flew low next to us and stalwart bird species of the area: scaly feathered finch, Kalahari scrub-robin, crimson breasted-shrike and Southern pied babblers were pointed out. A steenbok rested in the shade of a blackthorn, ground squirrels busied themselves close to their burrows, and a black-backed jackal loitered nearby. As we drove on, tracks were seen and identified as those of white rhino, lion and spotted hyena.

We continued to our first calcrete pan, where Gary explained a little about the geography and ecology of the area before we drove west to check on a camera trap which had moved (though grasses moving in-shot can trigger the camera to capture movement-based photos unnecessarily). All was well, so we continued, coming across a nursery herd of oryx and an incredibly well-camouflaged spotted thick-knee. We enjoyed some drinks overlooking a vast pan and as we left, we found fresh cheetah tracks on the road. There was no sign of the owner, so we leisurely made our way back to camp, arriving around 2:15pm. Times flies when you're having fun!

After a lunch of pasta salad with cheese and biscuits, we set off at 4:00pm hoping to come across a small group of four female African wild dogs who had recently broken away from their natal pack. We stumbled across two large white rhino bulls who disappeared away from us and then off-roaded to the last known location of the dogs (one of them is collared enabling us to follow their movements).

Suddenly they appeared and immediately started fanning out in a hunting formation and trotting through the bush. We had arrived just in time! We were in a thickly vegetated area but managed to stay with them as they sniffed and trotted ahead of us. Suddenly, a steenbok exploded out of the bush directly in front of us and three of the dogs changed direction and followed it in hot pursuit. They disappeared into the thickets, so we turned the engine off to see if we could hear the excited chatter of dogs on a kill.

All was quiet, so we drove carefully in the direction they'd taken, eventually catching up with them lying in the middle of a road. There was no sign of blood on them, so we assumed the steenbok had escaped. We watched the dogs lying in late afternoon shade and then continued to follow them when they trotted south towards and along the reserve fence line. As they weaved here and there, looking for prey, we stayed with them, only giving up 90 minutes later when darkness fell. What an afternoon!

We returned to camp in the dark and our first night drive produced sightings of a crash of four white rhino, rufous-cheeked nightjar, scrub hare and springhare. Passing our closest waterhole shortly before getting home, we saw another male white rhino and, as we circumnavigated the water's edge, we watched a Verreaux's eagle-owl drinking by moonlight. Utterly captivating. Dinner was served around the campfire (curry and rice, followed by chocolate mousse with fresh strawberries) and we toasted a wonderful first day in the Kalahari.

Day 4: Pangolin and wild dog monitoring

Monday 18 September 2023

Weather: sunny and very windy, 31 degrees

Lions had been roaring during the night and in the middle of our 6:30am breakfast, we heard one very, very close to camp. Finishing up quickly, we set off to find him and within a few minutes, had him lying by the side of the road. He was blond, in his prime, and absolutely magnificent! We watched him watching us for a while and then he got up and started walking in the direction of the waterhole. The sun was behind us, the wind was blowing in his mane and we drove with him as he walked, stopping now and again to sniff the air. He was oozing regality out of every pore. We were captivated.

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Another lion to our west vocalised and we hoped he may reply but he didn't react at all, leading us to believe that he was quite comfortable with its presence. He lay down, holding his mighty head up to the sun and the wind, almost drinking in the elements. A secretary bird walked close by and we continued to watch the lion, but as it got warmer, we reflected that he probably wouldn't be moving too far away. As such, we logged his location and decided to return later. We had a pangolin to find after all!

As we left him and drove towards the pangolin burrows, we bumped into another large male lion, this one with a slightly darker mane. Gary recognised him and identified him as the blond male's brother. We tried to follow him off-road to gauge his direction. Besides, the pangolin burrows were not too far away as the crow flies. However, the lion disappeared into the thick bush, so we carried on to the burrows, keeping a vigilant eye out as we set about earnestly looking for the pangolin.

A right furore at the base of a raisin bush (*Grewia flava*) alerted us to the pangolin's presence. He scrambled through the multi-stemmed plant base before appearing just a metre or two away. For a small mammal, his bustling through the bush can be noisy! It was still just 9:10am. This was a new creature for everyone in the group and smiles were wide as we watched him feed. Helen and Gary weighed him and were pleased to see he had gained 100 grams in a week. We walked with him for a while as he followed a scent trail, looking for his next feed.

We returned to camp briefly for refreshments and then headed out hoping to catch up with a larger pack of wild dogs not too far away. Despite the heat, tracks showed the movements of various large mammals, including lion, rhino and hyena, and we came across the unusual sight of a single wet ostrich egg just off the side of the road. Driving on, the pack of dogs were found lying in the shade of a tree, their full bellies suggesting they were sleeping off a recent kill. As with all sightings, we counted them and tried to sex them, reporting back to the reserve ecologist. After sitting with them for a while, we returned to camp shortly after 1:00pm for a lunch comprising salad, fresh bread, halloumi and olives. We then had an hour or two to relax before hitting the road again at 4:30pm, with the aim of finding the lion brothers we'd seen in the morning.

It was still hot, so we returned to the spot we'd left the blond male earlier that morning and followed his tracks towards the waterhole. Along the way, we saw our first giraffe and counted and sexed a small group of springbok. We reached the waterhole, and there he was, blatantly out in the open, snoozing as he lay across the road. This time he was beautifully illuminated in the evening sunlight, so we watched him for some time before crossing to the other side of the water to pour sundowners. After drinking them in the vehicle, we returned to the lion and watched as the sun set behind him and the stars began to appear above us.

Jackals hovered around him and we hoped that he would vocalise to call his brother. It was dark by the time he did this. We were head-on to him and the sound went right through us. Primeval, primitive and absolutely fantastic, we listened as his roar was answered. He got up and we followed him along the road until we saw his mirror image walking towards him. The brothers head-rubbed and grumbled when greeting each other, then lay down next to the road. One decided to change position and lay on top of his brother. Seemingly the gesture wasn't appreciated, as the second lion got up and preceded to lie on him. They rolled over each other and then separated to settle a few metres apart. We sat in the dark, listening to the sounds of the bush until they got up again. We followed them as they walked right up to our camp. Here, they disappeared into thickets, so we returned home to sit around the fire and enjoy a delicious braai (BBQ) dinner.

Day 5: Anti-poaching presentation and wild dog monitoring

Tuesday 19 September 2023

Weather: sunny, cold and clear, 32 degrees

It was a relatively mild morning. We breakfasted at 7:00am and then settled down for a presentation on poaching and anti-poaching in South Africa. This thought-provoking subject took much of the morning and blew away many misconceptions and mis-held beliefs about the issue.

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We headed out at around 11:30am, as a reading for the large pack of wild dogs we had seen yesterday showed that their current location was only five minutes or so away from camp. Three of the dogs are collared and two collars were not transmitting properly, so we needed to identify which collars were causing issues. En route, we came across a juvenile Wahlberg's eagle sitting obligingly on the top of a tree (it took much pouring over the SASOL and Robert's Bird Guide to confirm its identity!) We came across the dogs shortly afterwards, spread out under the shade of multiple trees. They moved to new shaded areas, and as they crossed the road, we were able to identify the individuals with the affected collars. It was hot, so we left them to it, intending to follow them in the afternoon because it looked like they hadn't eaten yet. Returning home via the waterhole, we watched a tawny eagle land in a tree ahead of us and then a stunning large male giraffe came down to drink. Walking right into the water, he seemed to defy gravity. We watched as he quenched his thirst - always something of great beauty to behold.

We were off again at 4:30pm, via the waterhole, arriving with the dogs around 5:00pm. Inquisitive at our approach, a sea of ears popped up in a semi-circle ahead of us before they lay down again and napped. They moved around intermittently, changing position with the odd sneeze and stretch but it was 5:45pm before they showed serious signs of setting off to hunt. Off they ran, trotting down the road directly towards camp, with us following at a discreet distance so as not to influence their behaviour. Their lithe, agile bodies moved effortlessly and they turned off-road, cutting through the long grass towards the setting sun. It was a beautiful scene.

We continued to follow, keeping an eye out for obstacles, and weaving here and there to track their irregular progress. Keeping their distance from each other, the dogs fanned out, but they stopped regularly as if to assess where the others were. We likened it to an army patrol. We were losing light fast but continued to follow. We had just turned our headlights on when we spotted a herd of wildebeest far ahead. We killed the engine and the lights so as not to put them at a disadvantage. The dogs all stopped; their huge satellite ears turned towards their prey. They froze. We froze. We wondered what would happen next and waited with bated breath.

It was almost dark, with just a sliver of moonlight, when we heard the sudden whoosh of their movement. Then, as one, they surged forward at a silent command. The adrenaline rush was huge! We listened keenly into the night and were able to hear the movement of the dogs intermittently. We knew that if they made a kill, we would be able to hear their excited chatter, a sound which can be heard from one and a half kilometres away. Nothing...but our senses were on full alert. It would be foolish to try to locate them off-road in the dark, so we turned for home, which was only 700 metres or so away.

We caught a flying spotted eagle owl in our spotlights and watched it settle in a dead tree, then passed spring and scrub hares before arriving back at camp. We were super excited by what we had witnessed. To be able to follow a pack of painted wolves hunting, completely undisturbed, is a rare treat indeed.

Dinner was in the dining room and we enjoyed quinoa chilli with sweet potatoes (a hit!), followed by crème caramel. Another marvellous day had been had in the bush.

Day 6: Predator monitoring

Wednesday 20 September 2023

Weather: Sunny and clear, 32 degrees

Whilst breakfasting at 6.30am, Gary rushed in, telemetry set in hand and exclaimed, "Who is up for a change of plan? I've got the dogs and they are within 500 metres of camp!" Breakfast forgotten, we jumped into the Toyota and set off. Satellite readings from the previous night showed that the dogs had been all around our camp, at the waterhole, and were now in the same spot where we'd come across them on the previous afternoon. It was a cool, crisp morning and as we approached them, we noticed they had full bellies and blood all around their faces and necks. They'd made a kill! Some of the dogs were sleeping, while others were

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playing, and the rest were running backwards and forwards behind a thicket. As we rounded the thicket, we saw why.

We were absolutely flabbergasted to see a small herd of wildebeest in their midst, standing in a circle with their backsides together and protected, horns facing outwards. Some of the dogs were taunting them. Standing as a pack, the dogs had little chance of a kill, but it was fascinating to watch the interaction between the species for the next hour. The wildebeest charged and the dogs ran, but it would only take one stride too far from the herd for the power to switch. Eventually, the dogs moved off towards the shade and we returned to camp for a belated breakfast.

Forty minutes later, we set off once again, hoping to find the dog kill, as a record of what the dogs are eating is useful data for the reserve ecologist. They'd been in one place between 4:00 and 5:00am, so that seemed a sensible place to start. Less than a kilometre from camp, we found the remains of a red hartebeest. The carcass had been stripped efficiently so, after having a good look at it, we continued to the pangolin burrows.

Gary found the pangolin using telemetry, but it was underground once again. We moved one of the camera traps to the burrow site he was currently favouring. Whilst doing so, we checked the images collated over the last few days and found that the honey badger was still in residence and that a lion had also been snooping around!

We drove to the office to refuel the vehicle and blow out the radiator (to get rid of grass seeds acquired during all the off-roading). Passing a large pan en route, we came across masses of plains game and then turned a corner to see three white rhinos drinking at the waterhole. Two adults and a calf stood tall against the flat background and one of the adults had a distinctive horn that grew out and down rather than up. They were very skittish and moved away at our presence, so we sat quietly until they'd put a comfortable distance between us. We carried on our way, coming across fresh elephant tracks as we went and then had refreshments at the office.

Heading home, we passed the pan again in time to see a large troop of baboons heading from the open to the safety of the surrounding blackthorn thickets. We were also delighted to come across a large bull elephant quenching his thirst. He was unperturbed by us, so we watched him drink from a distance. He then casually moved off, and as he reached the tree line, we noted he was considerably taller than the trees. We all marvelled at his bulk.

Getting back to camp around 2:00pm, we had lunch (spring rolls, samosas and gem squash) and some brief downtime before setting off again at 4:00pm. Our mission was to find cheetah and we knew we had some distance to travel to their last known location. We drove for around an hour and a half, stopping to check out tree stumps that looked ridiculously like our target animal (!) and to make way for eland and other plains game crossing the road in front of us.

At last, we found them. They were in a relatively open grassland area under the wide, low canopy of a camelthorn tree. It was a particularly picturesque scene and we drove around them as they rolled from one side to the other. Their bellies were full and it was a beautifully warm afternoon so we sat and watched them, not anticipating them moving anytime soon.

We hoped they would eventually move to mark their territory, so we waited while the heat dissipated and the sun set through the tree canopy. As dusk approached, they duly obliged, stretching and walking due west. Then they sat. Their perfect silhouettes were a sight to commit to memory and savour later. As darkness enveloped us, they settled down again, two of the coalition of four brothers were grooming each other in view of our headlights. After a while, we commenced the long drive home, with our spotlights producing sightings of delightful bat-eared foxes chasing moths through the grass, porcupine, and bronze-winged courser. It was a cold night and the fire awaiting us at camp was very welcome. We had a hearty dinner of cottage pie and green salad before retiring to bed.

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Day 7: Tree survey and pangolin monitoring

Thursday 21 September 2023

Weather: Sunny and clear, 33 degrees

Setting off at 7:00am after breakfast, we headed to the central part of the reserve to conduct a tree survey. We added a fiscal flycatcher to our species list and a fly-by of red-faced mousebirds absolutely delighted us. When we reached our destination, Gary explained the importance of what we were doing and we started to log the location of woody trees and shrubs, identifying species, and measuring their height, canopy width and the height of their first leaf growth. We worked together, steadily completing two of four quadrants divided by a central marker line. It was a very hot day, so we called it quits at that and made our way back towards camp, arriving home at midday. A secretary bird soared above us and white-backed and lappet-faced vultures rode the thermals around our closest waterhole. Couscous salad and fish cakes were demolished and then we had a few hours of well-deserved rest!

Reconvening at 4:00pm, we drove to the pangolin burrows and were pleased to find the young male out feeding. He was nose-deep in the base of a blackthorn thicket and when he moved on, we weighed him, noting that he'd put on 500 grams. We followed him through the bush on foot for a while and then tried to remove a stake in the ground that had previously supported a camera trap. It proved tricky, so we decided to try again tomorrow, making a plan to bring water with us to pour into the hole around it to make digging easier. As we left the burrows, one eagle-eyed client spotted a rhino in the distance and we drove towards it but it bolted. The curled tail against its back identified it as a stressed white rhino (black rhino tails are straight). We therefore left it well alone.

Everyone was feeling the heat, and we'd spent long days out in the field, so we drove to the closest waterhole, poured sundowners and settled down for a few hours to see what would appear. The temperature was beautiful as the sun descended and pinky-blue hues appeared in the sky. A black-backed jackal was alarm calling repeatedly, so we strained our eyes, moving our binoculars to and fro to find the cause. A while later, as dusk gave way to darkness, we noticed a brown hyena approaching the waterhole. Appearing from behind our vehicle, we watched it crouch for a drink before silently skulking off into the night.

We had just arrived back at camp when Mark, our guide from last year (who now works in the northern part of the reserve), pulled up for a visit, and stated that he'd seen a lion right outside camp. We jumped back in the vehicle and sure enough, a lioness appeared in our headlights directly opposite the communal tent. She stood still, alternately watching us and camp. She seemed unsure what to do but eventually turned and walked away. We followed her at a respectful distance until she lay down at the base of a blackthorn thicket. We returned to camp for a delicious chilli chicken pasta bake after what had been another wonderful day!

Day 8: Pangolin and predator monitoring

Friday 22 September 2023

Weather: sunny and clear, 35 degrees

We departed camp shortly after 7:00am, armed with shovels, wire and plenty of water. Heading towards the pangolin burrows, we passed the closest waterhole, as always, to check for any activity. It was a good job we did, as two large male lions were there, the brothers we'd seen earlier in the week. One was lapping up the hot morning sun and one was sleeping in the shade. We doubted they'd move much for the rest of the day, so after admiring them for a while, we carried on to the pangolin burrows.

We successfully removed the embedded camera trap stake and went to put it by the new burrow, but according to the telemetry signal, the pangolin was ensconced within. Checking through the SD card camera trap footage, it appeared he had a house guest too, as a porcupine had entered shortly after he did! Not wishing to disturb their slumber, we pressed on, heading east in the reserve to search for the large pack of dogs we'd seen over the last few days. One of the satellite collars was still not working, so we needed to identify which collar had potentially moved. En route to the dogs' last known location, we stumbled across a

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lone male buffalo, a dagga boy. His pelvic bone was pitifully clear, (he appeared to be a very old bull indeed) and we left him to graze, finding the dogs shortly thereafter. They were spread out in the shade of a few trees and shrubs in a very densely thickened area. They were surprisingly skittish with us, moving off to new shaded areas at our approach. Not wishing to stress them out, we strained through our binoculars to identify the collared dogs before pulling away.

It was seriously hot so we stopped for tea and coffee overlooking a lovely pan full of zebra and then drove towards camp. Routing via an open area frequented by meerkats, we were unsuccessful in our quest to find them so we continued to our closest waterhole and the lions were still there. A brave male warthog came down to drink and a plethora of plains game kept our attention, as did two strutting secretary birds that we watched come in to land, their bandy legs outstretched as they did so. Red hartebeest trotted by and we thoroughly appreciated their gait, noting the long black tails held horizontally out behind them (almost akin to dressage horses)! Once home, we enjoyed carrot and apple salad with potato rosti and falafel before relaxing for a few hours.

At 4:30pm, we set off for our last drive, intending to finally embed the stake we had retrieved earlier in a new burrow. The pangolin was not in the burrow, so we bashed away and attached the new camera trap. We then set about finding the pangolin...and what a sighting it turned out to be. We found him face down at the base of a raisin bush. He was completely still, but we could see his head moving ever so slightly now and again. It appeared we'd caught him napping! We stood back and perhaps five to ten minutes later, he began to stir. He turned onto his back and we wondered if he was stuck, as he seemed to be trying to manoeuvre himself into another position. Then, the most wondrous, remarkable thing happened. He pushed back into his scales and settled himself, essentially using his armour like we would an armchair! It was surprising and delightful. We were completely charmed. He sat like that for some time as we watched and Gary advised us to look out for him yawning. When a pangolin does so, his extraordinarily long tongue is flipped out. We all exclaimed when it happened. What a way to end our time with him here.

The Kalahari wasn't quite done with us yet though, as we drove to 'our' waterhole for sundowners. The lion brothers were still there and we enjoyed G&Ts (of course!) and other drinks of choice in their company. Once home, we gathered around the fire for mushroom risotto with green beans. We checked in for onward flights and packed. With admin done, we hit the hay after a truly fantastic week.

Day 9: Return to Johannesburg

Saturday 23 September 2023

Weather: cloudy and warm, 27 degrees

Waking to an unusually cloudy day, we had a little spitting (and unseasonal) rain during breakfast. Shortly after 7:00am, we said our goodbyes and Gary drove the group to the waiting shuttle driver for their return transfer to Johannesburg.

On the way out of the reserve, they had a final appearance from a porcupine and were also lucky enough to see not one, but two, displays from red-crested korhaans. Alternatively known as suicide birds, males launch themselves into the air, tuck their wings in and plummet to the ground in an effort to impress females. The longer they can leave it before unfolding their wings to land, the more impressive the display. Nothing like leaving with a bang!

Once back at Johannesburg, some continued to Cape Town, while the rest flew overnight back to the UK.

Day 10: Arrive London

Sunday 24 September 2023

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Checklist for Kalahari Conservation Experience



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
	MAMMALS									
1	Ground squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Plain's zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Blue wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Oryx (gemsbok)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Black-backed jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>		✓			✓	✓		
10	Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>		✓			✓	✓		
11	Wild dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
12	Scrub hare	<i>Lepus saxtilis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
13	Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>			✓			✓	✓	

15	Red hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
16	Ground pangolin	<i>Manis temminckii</i>			✓			✓	✓	
17	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa Camelopardalis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
18	Slender mongoose	<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>					✓			
19	Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>					✓			
19	Chacma baboon	<i>Papio hamadryas ursinus</i>					✓			
20	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>					✓			
21	Bat-eared fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>					✓			
22	Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>					✓			
23	Brown hyena	<i>Hyaena brunnea</i>						✓		
24	Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>							✓	
25	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>							✓	
	BIRDS									
1	Crowned lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>		✓						
2	Cape glossy starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>		✓						
3	Cape turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>		✓						
4	Ground scraper thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa</i>		✓						
5	White-browed sparrow weaver	<i>Plocapasser mahali</i>		✓						

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6	Pale chanting goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>		✓						
7	Southern yellow-billed hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>		✓						
8	White-backed mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>		✓						
9	African hoopoe	<i>Upupa Africana</i>		✓						
10	Yellow canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>		✓						
11	Helmeted guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		✓						
12	Southern grey-headed sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>		✓						
13	Fork-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		✓						
14	Crimson-breasted shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>		✓						
15	Southern pied babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>		✓						
16	Blacksmith lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>		✓						
17	Red-crested korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>		✓						
18	Kalahari scrub robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>		✓						
19	Scaly-feathered finch	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>		✓						
20	Common scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopamastus cyanomelas</i>		✓						
21	Fawn-coloured lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>		✓						
22	Secretary bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>		✓						
23	Spotted thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>		✓						
24	Ant-eating shrike			✓						

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25	Burchell's sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>		✓						
26	Red-billed quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>		✓						
27	Swallow-tailed bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>		✓						
28	Kori bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>		✓						
29	Rufous-cheeked nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>		✓						
30	Verreaux's eagle-owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>		✓						
31	Namaqua sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>			✓					
32	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓					
33	African red-eyed bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>			✓					
34	Pearl-breasted swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>			✓					
35	Red-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>			✓					
36	Lilac-breasted roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>				✓				
37	Wahlberg's eagle	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>				✓				
38	Tawny eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>				✓				
39	Red-faced mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>				✓				
40	Spotted eagle-owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>				✓				
41	Violet-eared waxbill						✓			
42	Cape sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>					✓			
43	Black-shouldered kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>					✓			

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44	Chestnut-vented tit-babbler	<i>Sylvia subcaeruleum</i>					✓			
45	Bronze-winged courser	<i>Rhinoptilus chalconotus</i>					✓			
46	Fiscal flycatcher							✓		
47	Southern masked weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>						✓		
48	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>						✓		
49	Gabar goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>						✓		
50	White-backed vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>						✓		
51	Lappet-faced vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliatus</i>						✓		
52	Red-billed spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>						✓		
53	Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>								✓

*Please note for this Species List that mammals are marked every day they were seen but birds are recorded on only the first day we saw them, and may have been seen repeatedly during the trip.

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