

Tour Report Kalahari Conservation Experience

22 September - 1 October 2023

Lion



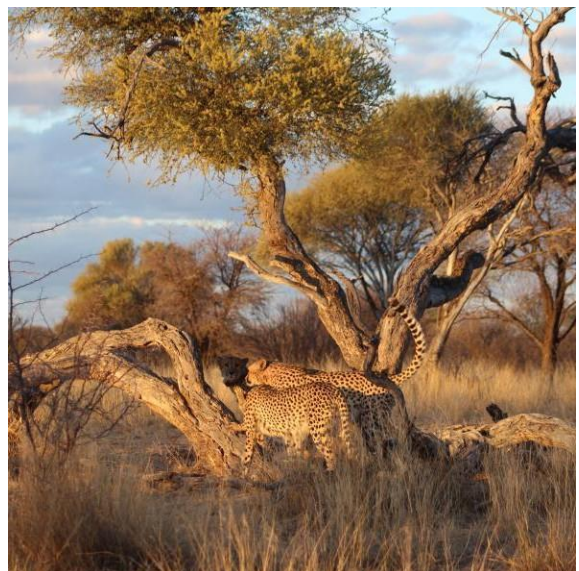
Oryx



Black-backed jackal



Cheetah



Compiled by Helen Bryon

Summary

If you've ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes when operating a Big Five reserve, this is the trip for you. How do you go about capturing and transferring a pack of wild dogs from one reserve to another? How and when do you transfer animals to preserve the integrity of the gene pool? How do you know what your predators are eating and the frequency of their kills? Can anything be done about poaching? All of these questions and more will be covered during our week-long stay in a comfortable tented camp (currently the only accommodation offered on a vast tract of land being rewilded in the Kalahari). Working with the reserve ecologist, we will survey vegetation, and monitor predators and prey according to his needs. Time in the field is extensive with morning drives averaging 5-7 hours and afternoons around 4, but this timeless land will captivate and enchant as we begin to uncover its secrets.

Day 1: London Heathrow to Johannesburg

Friday 22 September 2023

The group's non-stop British Airways flight was unfortunately delayed so the airline made steps to accommodate them overnight near Heathrow.

Day 2: Johannesburg to the Kalahari

Saturday 23 September 2023

Weather: warm and overcast with a little rain, 31 degrees

The group who were delayed flew out to Johannesburg this morning and we arranged accommodation for them near the airport for the night, but one client had already arrived from Australia so they were transferred to the reserve. Arriving around 18:30, introductions were made to Gary and Edyta, the camp owners and managers, as well as to their pack of rescue dogs, Sweeney, Betty and Pluto, who are an integral part of camp life. We watched as a large group of wildebeest gathered in the open area opposite camp after intermittent and unseasonal light rain had fallen throughout the day. After having time to unpack and relax, we enjoyed veggie burgers with fries, onion rings and salad before retiring for an early night. Zebras were vocalising loudly and persistently close by (presumably picking up on the presence of a predator) and we were 'serenaded' to sleep by spotted thick-knees and a screeching Western barn owl!

Day 3: Camera trap analysis and searching for wild dog

Sunday 24 September 2023

Weather: cloudy and warm, 33 degrees

On the reserve, we were awake early enough to hear the distant sound of lions roaring at 06:00 and then again, around 10 minutes later. A Kalahari scrub-robin sang beautifully right outside our tents and breakfast muffins were served at 07:00. Shortly thereafter, we set off to explore the reserve and await the arrival of the 'Joburg Four' who were expected mid-afternoon.

It was a cool morning, and our aim was to check footage from two camera traps and also to try and find a breakaway pack of wild dogs, one of whom was collared. Although the satellite collar was not working, the VHF signal was, meaning that should the pack pass within 500 metres of our vehicle, we may just pick them up. It was a long shot in just under 100,000 hectares, but you've got to be in it to win it, so we drove along holding the telemetry receiver just in case. As we passed our closest waterhole, we came across zebra, blue wildebeest, oryx and black-backed jackal. Birdwise, a lone blacksmith lapwing walked the water's edge as helmeted guineafowl and Cape turtle doves (now known as ring-necked doves) busied themselves in the vicinity. Approaching our first calcrete pan (old lakes that fill with water in the rainy season), we viewed springbok and plenty of steenbok.

Analysis of the first camera trap SD card showed that a number of species had passed by recently including brown hyena, caracal, small spotted genet and comically, giraffe (we could only see their legs)! Importantly though, several wild dogs had passed last night and Gary did not recognise them. There are known packs on the reserve

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(the highest number in the country outside Kruger National Park) so coming across new individuals kicks off the production of identity kits to try and identify them, monitor them and record their movements. Images were immediately passed on to the reserve ecologist and we continued on our way adding slender mongoose, kudu, eland and ground squirrel to our species list.

We were about to stop for morning tea and coffee at a waterhole (in fact Gary was already out of the vehicle), when we saw a huge male lion, and a female next to him, almost hidden at the base of a blackthorn perhaps 50 metres away. His mane was almost black and he was hugely impressive, even from a distance. As we carefully approached, he bared his teeth and lunged forward slightly. We stopped and turned off the engine, heeding his warning until the pair appeared more comfortable with our presence. We pulled slightly forward to get a little closer and the magnificence of the female became clear. She was huge (Gary aptly described her as a 'tank') and in immaculate condition. They really were most striking. Judging by the size of their bellies, they must have killed recently and were fighting off sleep after their meal. We watched them for some time, slightly in awe, before choosing another refreshment stop overlooking a vast pan.

As we continued our drive, we saw the head of a rock monitor disappear into a crevasse in a tree trunk. We reversed to try and get a look, but the reptile stayed hidden; however, we were then distracted by the presence of wild dog spoor in the road. Lions routinely walk along roads (taking the path of least resistance), but this is unusual for dogs. With all senses on full alert, we drove to the second camera trap full of anticipation. The SD card showed numerous spotted hyenas passing along, with baboons coming in for a very close look at the contraption! It also showed porcupines, more brown hyenas, and lions, but no wild dogs. An oryx with no horns watched us go through the footage, and once we continued, we came across a one-horned animal too. Passing 'our' waterhole on the way home, we watched a tower of eight male giraffes feed and drink close to a large gathering of general plains game. Getting home at 12:30, lunch was vegetable wraps followed by a little downtime and the welcome news that the Joburg Four were approximately three hours away.

A little after 15:30, the group was finally complete. We wanted to get out on a drive as soon as we could to make up for lost time, so after a cold beer and a little time to settle into their tents, we boarded our game drive vehicle (an open-sided nine-seater with a roof) as one of the camp's resident Western barn owls provided us with a great sighting on a very close fly by. We then set off for the burrows of a recently released pangolin, passing Plain's zebra en route, and located the pangolin on foot. Rescued from poachers a few months ago, he was released in mid-June and has been closely monitored ever since to ensure he is eating well, digging well and setting up a territory (he has satellite and telemetry tracers attached to his scales). He was busy feeding when we found him and we weighed him too, noting that he'd put on some weight over the last few days. We walked with him for perhaps thirty minutes or so, delighting in his proximity and presence.

Afterwards, we set off for the closest waterhole, stopping to view a tower of giraffes along the way. We stepped down from the vehicle to enjoy sundowners on foot, the setting sun a glowing, bright red orb descending through the trees towards the horizon. As the light began to fade, Helen noticed the presence of a white rhino bull standing not far away, slowly moving around us to reach the water. There was nothing aggressive in his body language, if anything, he looked as though he was trying to work out if we were friend or foe. He continued slowly coming towards us, ears forward, smelling the air, utilising his strongest senses. We silently watched him until with a sudden gust of wind, he lost his nerve and bolted. We headed home, in case he remained close by, as he needed to drink, and we didn't want to influence his ability to do so. The wind continued during dinner back at camp (eland steak, boerewors - farmer's sausage - and broccoli salad) and indeed blew all night as we slept.

Day 4: Predator call ups

Monday 25 September 2023

Weather: sunny and very windy, 21 degrees

Breakfast was available from 06:30 and half an hour later or so, the group boarded the game viewer and set off for their morning safari. The aim was to try and locate the unidentified wild dogs from the camera trap footage

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seen yesterday. This we would do by stopping intermittently in different parts of the reserve to play contact calls and/or feeding calls from a speaker. If any dogs were attracted by the sound and came towards the vehicle, we would then provide them with a piece of meat, enabling us to photograph individuals and set up identity kits for them. This facilitates recognition of animals and packs to monitor movement, behaviour, prey preferences and the potential movement to other reserves or national parks in the future.

Passing pale chanting goshawks (probably the most prominent raptor found here) as we drove along, we saw our first nursery herd of oryx, the reddish brown coat on the youngsters enabling them to blend in with the earth when lying up during the threat of passing predators. At the reserve office, we picked up a zebra leg, which would be the meat provided to any dogs responding to us. We then headed towards the vicinity in which the dogs were thought to be. After playing contact calls to start with, we waited. While we did so, Gary discussed the difficulties of managing wild dog populations. After trying a few locations, and playing recordings of dogs feeding with no response, we headed back to camp. It had been a quiet morning plains game-wise (it was very cold), but prey species began to come out of the woodwork as it warmed up. Springbok proned (always a wonderful sight) and we sat with a large gathering of ground squirrels for a while. Getting home early afternoon, lunch was served (chicken schnitzel with cous cous salad) and then the group relaxed before their afternoon activity.

We set off again at 16:15, with the afternoon sun beautifully illuminating the Kalahari grasses like shards of gold. We were armed with the speaker and still had the zebra leg on the back of the vehicle. We noticed fresh elephant tracks in the road on top of our tyre tracks from this morning, so our eyes were on stalks trying to catch sight of the owner. Numerous steenbok, oryx and wildebeest later, we stopped and began playing the wild dog contact call. With no sign of movement, we moved on and searched the area around a waterhole. We saw fresh lion tracks but again, with no sign of the real thing, so continued to an open area close to the last known location of a breakaway pack of four female dogs. We played a feeding call over the speaker and waited for a response. Ground squirrels ran for their burrows but otherwise, all was quiet. Using telemetry, Gary picked them up and advised that they were very, very close so we all kept a vigil, searching the edge of the area for signs of movement. We then played the contact call and waited again. With all senses of full alert, they suddenly came running towards us. They picked up on the scent of the meat on our vehicle and began chattering excitedly and springing up and down. Gary pushed the meat onto the ground and they fell on it, tearing meat off and gorging themselves. We watched as the shape of the bellies changed, swelling with all the meat. This was a big meal for four dogs. We watched them until dusk, noticing a black-backed jackal loitering, their endless patience for meals surely to be rewarded once the dogs moved off. As dusk fell, the dogs moved away from the area so we moved a little further back from the carcass and had sundowners, watching the colours in the sky change, hoping perhaps for brown or spotted hyenas to appear for their share.

With darkness approaching, we commenced our night drive, spotlights in hand, and around half an hour later noticed a huge bull elephant essentially filling the road ahead of us. He was walking slowly towards us and as the road was a single track, we backed up, turning our lights off, allowing him right of way to continue his travels. At a safe distance, we pulled off the road in a wide ark and watched as his great bulk passed silently past us, bathed in moonlight. His movements were slow, he walked directly underneath the Southern Cross and the Milky Way glittered far above him. It was a beautiful sight to witness.

We continued back to camp, passing a herd of eland. We switched off our engine to try and listen (successfully) for their distinctive 'clicking' when they walk. Dinner was chicken with vegetable rice and around 21:00, we said our good nights and retired to bed.

Day 5: Anti-poaching presentation and cheetah monitoring

Tuesday 26 September 2023

Weather: sunny, cold and clear, 20 degrees

It was a clear but chilly morning with a fair amount of wind when we gathered for breakfast at 06:30. Watching giraffe as we ate, wildebeest and a herd of springbok settled in front of camp (and remained there for most of

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the day). Just after 07:00, Gary began a presentation on Poaching and Anti-Poaching within Southern Africa. Concentrating on the plight of white and black rhino primarily, he also covered pangolin and abalone. With no holds barred, the presentation was hard-hitting but uncovered a lot of myths and misconceptions about the issue.

Shortly after 11:15, we headed out to the pangolin burrows to see if we could locate the rescued male. The wind was still strong and cold, so he was sensibly underground. We continued to the waterhole where large herds of wildebeest, zebra and springbok were gathered along with the odd oryx, steenbok and many confusions of helmeted guineafowl. We pulled up at the water, and with binoculars in hand enjoyed a little birding, adding new species to our list. We also watched a small herd of red hartebeest come down to drink. They are such graceful and striking animals and we loved it when they trotted away, some springing as they left the water. A solo male warthog joined the masses and on the way home, eland ran alongside us, eventually crossing the road ahead.

Lunch was quiche and salad and at 16:15, we reconvened for our afternoon activity which would centre around searching for cheetah and monitoring their behaviour. As we passed the closest waterhole, we noticed a small creature settle down at the base of a blackthorn thicket. Around the size of a jackal, the patterning on its back was just not right and it wasn't until it moved that we realised it was a kori bustard of all things. Another very well camouflaged sand-coloured animal in thick grass had Helen's adrenaline racing, but it turned out to be a steenbok rather than a long-wished-for caracal!

Our quest for a coalition of cheetah brothers was successful when we noted four heads appear above the grass line in the shade of two camelthorn trees. They were lying together, a tangle of legs on other bodies, as we pulled up relatively close by. We watched them for a while as they groomed each other and snoozed. They had clearly eaten recently as they had a little blood on their faces and necks. Their bellies were not full, however, so we assumed it had been a small meal and we hoped that they may perhaps move off through the bush to hunt a little later as the afternoon gave way to night.

One by one, they stretched and slowly moved to another open area not far away. We followed them, giving them plenty of space. One started contact calling, which appeared strange as they were all lying in the late afternoon sun together. We searched all around us, in case a female was passing through the area, but we couldn't see any other signs of life, although baboons were calling far away. As the late afternoon sun glowed, all four got up once again and made their way to a nearby shepherd's tree where they lifted their tails high and scent-marked with urine. We pulled back, poured sundowners, and drank them in the vehicle as we watched the beautifully illuminated dogs lie down to rest once more. We turned our heads towards the piercing call of a red-crested korhaan and were rewarded with a flight display, the first we'd seen on our trips this year.

With the light fading, we decided to leave the brothers to it under a dusky lemon sky. We got our spotlights out as the colours deepened to tangerine and then orange as our night drive got underway. The first pair of eyes caught in our lights belonged to a majestic male kudu. Turning the lights off, we watched him by moonlight as he stood stock still in a thicket. As we passed a pan, we suddenly realised we had a striped polecat frozen in our headlights. Amazingly time stood still for a few seconds and we all saw it clearly before it vanished down a ground squirrel burrow. A flash of movement is usually all that is seen of these elusive animals so we'd had a cracker of a sighting! We got caught in a short, sharp shower before reaching home, but then sat around the fire and tucked into pasta bake with garlic bread.

Day 6: Predator call ups

Wednesday 27 September 2023

Weather: Sunny and clear, 22 degrees

First thing this morning (after breakfast), we headed to the pangolin burrows to ascertain the whereabouts of the rescued male. He was firmly in his burrow so we continued to the office; our journey waylaid by hoopoes and crimson-breasted shrikes showing themselves beautifully in the morning sun. We stopped to discuss

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milkweed, a climber producing a toxic cotton-like material that African monarch butterflies dine on. Then, having collected two pieces of zebra meat this time, we stopped at various locations to play calls in an effort to attract wild dogs and lions. The reserve has recently been contacted by another in the hope of being able to transfer two adult lionesses. By playing recordings of animals in distress, we hoped to entice lions to come and investigate, and at the same time, to familiarise them with the vehicle, photograph them, and send the images to the other reserve for approval (the transfer of animals is closely monitored by various governing bodies and NGOs, and is required to protect the integrity of gene pools in fenced reserves). Although unsuccessful, we watched an old buffalo bull walk to a waterhole, a huge pan filled with plains game. It was warming up beautifully when we arrived home for a lunch of spring rolls, samosas and stuffed gem squash.

Just after 16:00, we set off for the pangolin burrows, passing our first bat-eared foxes en route. The pangolin was out feeding so we weighed him and walked with him for twenty minutes or so. Giraffes were seemingly everywhere and we watched red-billed oxpeckers busying themselves, trying to rid their hosts of ticks and other parasites. We came across lion and wild dog tracks, which led to a pan. Here, we played contact and feeding calls once again and waited. The sun was setting so we moved to two open areas not far away and once again played the calls. We were just about to give up hope when suddenly we spotted a large male lion walking along the road directly towards us. One became two, became three. They were hugely impressive and were coming right for us! When predators respond to calls of a dying animal, they must be fed, so we quickly turned around, threw the meat out into the road and backed up. They continued walking and then broke into a trot. The first male grabbed the leg and the second, the ribs. The third simply sat down in the road, not fighting the others, and watched us as we watched him. We sat with them, listening to the sounds of bones crunching, until they'd had their fill and it was dark. They walked towards each other and re-grouping, lay their great bulks down. We could no longer see them in the long grass so we left them to their slumber and got ourselves ready for a night drive.

Approaching the nearest pan, we caught a brown hyena in our spotlights, standing in the open looking at us. Quite unconcerned by our presence, he walked away at the exact moment that Gary heard a leopard calling in the distance. Although they are here, brown hyenas are seldom seen (apart from on camera traps), so we made the immediate and executive decision to drive towards it. It sounded like he was close to the fence line and we hoped that by getting there fast, we may be able to follow tracks or stop the engine and listen for further vocalisations. Adrenaline soaring, we drove in haste, seeing spotted eagle-owl and rufous-cheeked nightjar along the way. We stopped and sat in the darkness for some time before Gary heard the leopard call again. Once more we moved towards the sound and waited. Nothing. Still nothing...but my word, it had been an exciting night!

Finally, we called it quits and drove back to camp after a wonderful afternoon/evening activity. There, we sat around the fire enjoying cottage pie with green salad and then individual banoffee pies.

Day 7: Tree survey and predator monitoring

Thursday 28 September 2023

Weather: Sunny and clear, 28 degrees

We quickly whizzed past the pangolin burrows this morning to reassure ourselves that he was in his burrow. He was, so we drove on towards the site of the tree survey that we had started last week and intended to complete today. Ideally, we do this early in the morning before the heat increases but nature had other plans for us today!

Passing the waterhole we came across a fresh lion spoor. We followed it as it was going in our general direction and continued to do so for over 5 kilometres would you believe?! It disappeared off the road and towards a pan. We drove around the pan, binoculars glued to our faces and then decided to continue to an east-west road not far ahead. Here we found cheetah tracks, but no lion, so we doubled back on ourselves, but unfortunately lost the trail. Driving to an open area that we know meerkats frequent, we spotted them on the edge of the clearing and watched them, not wanting to approach too closely in case we scared them off (the usual group found there were pretty habituated, but just before our first group arrived this year, there appeared to have been a takeover as they have been little-seen since). As it happened, the meerkats came towards us, so we dismounted the

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vehicle and followed them on foot. Sentries paid little attention to us as we walked (a good sign), so we stayed with them for around half an hour before continuing on towards the tree survey site.

As we drove, we stumbled across three large male lions lying right next to the road. At our arrival, two of them moved slightly further away and settled themselves behind some thickets, one however, simply sat and watched us from no more than a few metres away. We held our breath and slowly got cameras out, ready to take pictures. He was quite relaxed, but eventually he moved to be with the others. We realised they were the same trio that we'd seen last night and we carefully pulled off the road to stay with them. The view of them was obscured but we sat with them and Gary discussed issues facing lion management.

Eventually, we continued on our way and reached the site to be surveyed. Helen talked through what we would do before Gary explained why we do it. 60 sites exist across the reserve and they are surveyed annually, with the information sent directly to the reserve ecologist for analysis. By having an idea of what vegetation species are growing or diminishing, we know what is supporting prey species, which in turn, of course, supports the predators. We had tea and coffee, thus ensuring we stayed hydrated in the warm sun and then set to work, finishing around 13:15. By the time we got back to camp it was after 14:00, as we had stopped to take in an African spoonbill (only the second sighting ever recorded on the reserve) and a bataleur drinking at a waterhole while a secretary bird looked on. We had a late lunch of pasta salad with cheese and biscuits (or tuna) and then freshened up before setting off again at 16:15.

Our mission this afternoon was predator monitoring. We knew the last locations of cheetah and the female wild dog breakaway pack and as the crow flies, they weren't too far apart. We decided to try the cheetah first to assess whether they were hungry and likely to hunt or not. Upon reaching them in a thickly vegetated part of the reserve, we observed that their stomachs were huge! They'd clearly made a kill recently so we decided to let them rest and check on the dogs.

15 minutes later, we found them as we drove along an old, rarely-used track. They appeared excitable, chattering away and chasing each other before settling down in front of us. We presumed that they'd made a small kill sometime earlier as there were traces of blood on their faces and necks but their stomachs were not particularly round. Every now and again they got up and stretched and as the shadows grew longer in the late afternoon sun, they set off slowly in an easterly direction. We followed them through the bush and noticed that they seemed preoccupied with a scent trail of some description. Whether other dogs had been through the area we didn't know (we couldn't see tracks), but their heads were down, noses to the ground, and they didn't appear to be searching for prey. At dusk, one dog ran right past a porcupine, not giving it a second glance. It was our first porcupine however, so we followed it with our spotlights until it disappeared from view. Back on the dogs, we followed them until it was almost dark and then headed back to the closest road, leaving them to their travels.

As we drove towards camp, we came across three more porcupines and stopped abruptly when a roadblock appeared ahead in the shape of a male white rhino. He stood across the road and we noticed two others to our left. We watched silently to see what they would do. They stood there, in full view, for what seemed like a long time before spooking themselves and crashing through the bush. Continuing on, we passed our first springhares and once home, tucked into quinoa chilli with sweet potatoes. Delicious!

After dinner, three of the group went out with Gary and Helen to check whether the pangolin was in his burrow. His last satellite reading showed him heading towards a fence but thankfully, when we reached his burrow, telemetry told us he was safely inside. Fresh lion tracks were seen on our way home and it was all we could do, not to stay out following them. Another great day in the Kalahari!

Day 8: Camera trap analysis and predator monitoring

Friday 29 September 2023

Weather: sunny and clear, 31 degrees

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Waking to a clear, beautiful and slightly warmer morning, we breakfasted at 06:30 and departed shortly after 07:00. We were heading north and west in the reserve to check some camera trap footage to see if the unidentified wild dogs had passed by in the last few days. We needed to cover quite a bit of ground and when the first camera trap showed no sign of dog activity, we carried on our way deciding to drive via the fence line to save a little time. It was a good job we did, as we came across the three large male lions seen over the last two days once again! Dozing by the side of the road, they were majestic in the morning light and we sat with them admiring their sheer bulk for some time.

A few kilometres further on, we noticed vultures circling and then came across a large pack of wild dogs, around 16 strong. Their bellies were full so we sat with them for a while before circling to try and find out what they'd eaten. With no sign of the carcass, we stayed with them a little longer and then continued to a nearby pan for tea and coffee. We then checked the second camera trap which showed footage of a lion and four cheetahs passing through last night. Coming across our first ostrich on the way back to camp, we had salad with falafel and potato rosti for lunch before resting and/or packing in preparation for departure tomorrow.

Shortly after 16:00 we set off for our last safari. Passing by the pangolin burrows, we saw he hadn't yet appeared to feed, so we turned east in search of the breakaway pack of female wild dogs once again. Keen to see whether they'd eaten or not. We found them some 45 minutes later and they didn't look hungry or full so we sat with them to see if they would head off to hunt. The sun descended and we watched the full moon rise in the east in their presence. Bright red initially, coloured by the Kalahari sands, it rose steadily, appearing extraordinarily large over the low tree line. Captivated, we watched its ascent through our binoculars, craters appearing as continents on its chalky surface. The dogs lay under a shepherd's tree, in no hurry to move. It was a warm evening so we left them once it was dark and drove north under the light of the moon. Turning our spotlights on, we came across springhares, nightjars and a bronze-winged courser. Passing the reserve office, Gary took the opportunity to check on the satellite location of the pangolin. He was worryingly heading towards a fence line. We therefore changed our proposed route home to drive along the fence and we found he was around 150-200 metres away. We returned to camp around 20:30 for mushroom risotto with green beans around the fire and then Gary drove out to check on his location one more time whilst Helen helped the others check-in online for flights tomorrow (the pangolin, thankfully, was stationary).

Day 9: Return to Johannesburg

Saturday 30 September 2023

Weather: sunny and clear, 32 degrees

Breakfast was available from 06:15, after which we said our goodbyes to our wonderful hosts, Gary and Edyta (and to the camp dogs). We were escorted to the reserve gate, with wildebeest seeing us off and then passed kudu and steenbok as we began our seven to eight-hour journey from the bush back to Joburg. Reaching our destination mid-afternoon, those of us travelling back to London dropped our bags off whilst others began extensions to Kruger and the Western Cape.

Day 10: Arrive London

Sunday 1 October 2023

We arrived ahead of schedule after an uneventful flight.

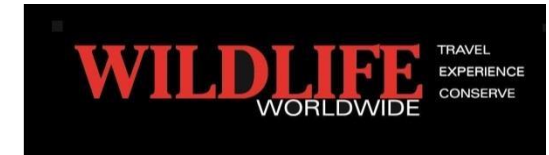
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Checklist for Kalahari Conservation Experience



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
	MAMMALS									
1	Blue wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Oryx (gemsbok)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Plain's zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Black-backed jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Slender mongoose	<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>		✓	✓					
8	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa Camelopardalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓
10	Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	



11	Ground squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
13	Ground pangolin	<i>Manis temminckii</i>		✓			✓			
14	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>		✓				✓		
15	Red hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Wild dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
17	Scrub hare				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	African elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>			✓					
19	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>				✓				
20	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>				✓		✓		
21	Striped polecat	<i>Ictonyx striatus</i>				✓				
22	Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>					✓			
23	Bat-eared fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>					✓			
24	Brown hyena	<i>Hyaena brunnea</i>					✓			

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25	Suricate (meerkat)	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>						✓		
26	Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africae australis</i>						✓		
27	Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>						✓	✓	
	BIRDS									
1	Kalahari scrub robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>		✓						
2	White-browed sparrow weaver	<i>Plocapasser mahali</i>		✓						
3	Crowned lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>		✓						
4	Cape turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>		✓						
5	Helmeted guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		✓						
6	Southern yellow-billed hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>		✓						
7	Fork-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		✓						
8	Blacksmith lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>		✓						
9	Cape glossy starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>		✓						

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10	Pale chanting goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>		✓						
11	Kori bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>		✓						
12	Swallow-tailed bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>		✓						
13	Southern pied babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>		✓						
14	African red-eyed bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>		✓						
15	White-backed mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>		✓						
16	White-backed vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		✓						
17	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓						
18	Red-breasted swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>		✓						
19	Southern grey-headed sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>		✓						
20	Bearded woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquas</i>		✓						
21	Common scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopamastus cyanomelas</i>		✓						
22	Red-crested korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>		✓						
23	African hoopoe	<i>Upupa Africana</i>		✓						

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24	Cape sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>		✓						
25	Fiscal flycatcher	<i>Sigelus silens</i>		✓						
26	Ground scraper thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa</i>		✓						
27	Western barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		✓						
28	Red-billed quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>			✓					
29	Burchell's sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>			✓					
30	Crimson-breasted shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>			✓					
31	Bronze-winged courser	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>			✓					
32	Yellow canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>				✓				
33	Violet-eared waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>				✓				
34	Ant-eating chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>				✓				
35	Scaly-feathered finch	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>				✓				
36	Pied crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>				✓				
37	Red-faced mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>				✓				

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38	Fawn-coloured lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>				✓				
39	Chestnut-vented tit-babbler	<i>Sylvia subcaeruleum</i>				✓				
40	Lesser grey shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>					✓			
41	Red-billed spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>					✓			
42	Red-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>					✓			
43	Rufous-cheeked nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>					✓			
44	Spotted eagle-owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>					✓			
45	African spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>						✓		
46	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>						✓		
47	Secretary bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>						✓		
48	Pearl-breasted swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>						✓		
49	African grey hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>							✓	
50	Purple roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>							✓	
51	Lappet-faced vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliatus</i>							✓	

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52	Chat flycatcher	<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>							✓	
53	Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>							✓	
54	Marico flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>							✓	
55	Black-shouldered kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>								✓
	REPTILES									
1	Rock monitor			✓						

*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.