

# Chobe Hideaway's Complete Guide To Mammals In Botswana

*This is an exhaustive list of all the mammals you can see in Botswana . Our guide includes high resolution images of each species to assist you with identification. There's also a checklist included to help you keep track of each species you see on your trip to Botswana.*

**John-Patrick Van Rensburg**

Co-Founder, Chobe Hideaway



# ***Table of Contents***

Introduction

A Brief History of Chobe **4 -5**

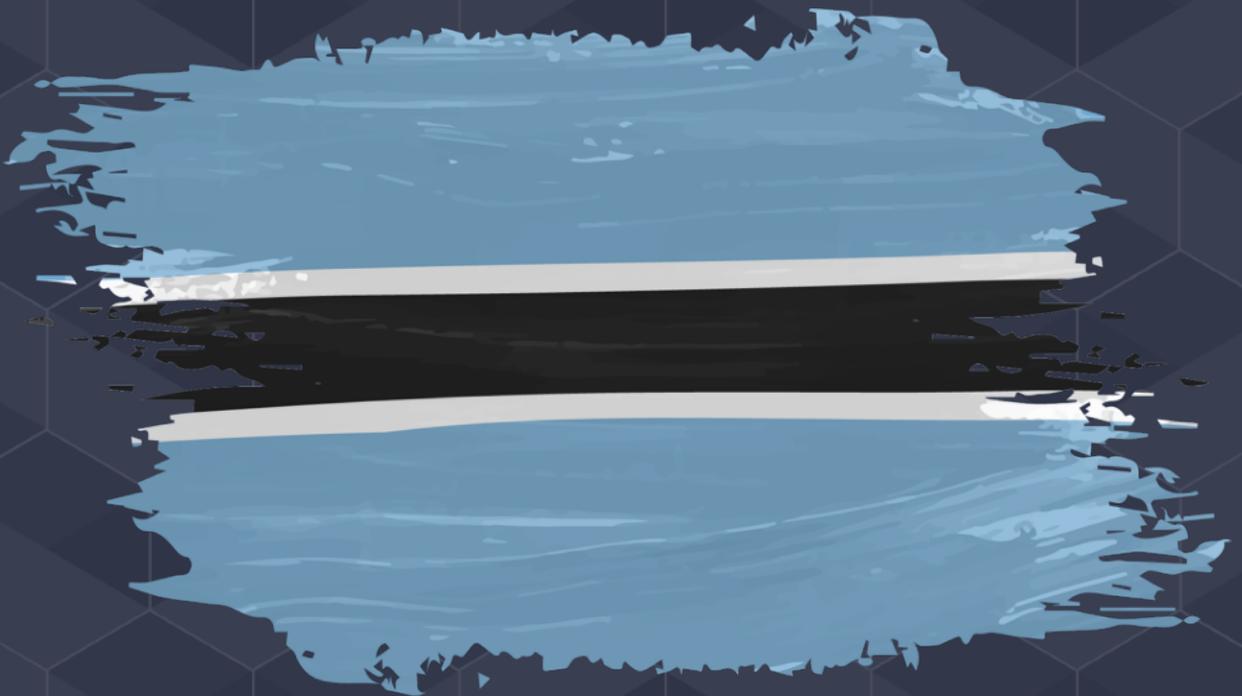
A complete list of Mammals **6 - 41**

Checklist **42 - 45**

Conclusion



# Chobe Hideaway's Complete Guide To Mammals In Botswana



# A Brief History of The Chobe Wildlife Corridor in Botswana

The Chobe Wildlife Corridor in Botswana is a unique and vital part of the country's natural heritage, connecting the Chobe National Park to the Kwando-Linyanti-Selinda ecosystem in the north. This corridor plays an important role in conserving wildlife populations and their habitats. Its history is a testament to the ongoing efforts to protect and preserve this area for future generations.

The Kwando-Linyanti-Selinda ecosystem in Botswana is a vast area of wilderness that includes the Kwando, Linyanti, and Selinda floodplains and the surrounding woodland and savannah habitats. It is home to a diverse array of wildlife, including elephants, lions, leopards, buffalo, hippos, crocodiles, and a wide variety of antelopes and other mammals. The ecosystem also supports a rich birdlife, with over 400 species recorded. The Selinda Spillway, which connects the Okavango Delta to the Linyanti swamps, plays a crucial role in the ecosystem by providing a vital water source for animals during the dry season. The Kwando-Linyanti-Selinda ecosystem is a popular destination for safari-goers, as it offers excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography.

The story of the Chobe Wildlife Corridor begins in the 1960s when the Chobe National Park was established as a protected area. This marked the first step in the government of Botswana's efforts to conserve the country's natural resources and wildlife. However, it soon became clear that protecting individual areas, such as national parks, was not enough to ensure the survival of wildlife populations.

In the 1980s, the government of Botswana recognized the importance of connecting protected areas in order to conserve wildlife populations and their habitats. This led to the establishment of the Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust, a non-profit organization established to manage and protect the Chobe Wildlife Corridor.

The Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust was a pioneer in community-based natural resource management, working with local communities to promote sustainable development and conservation efforts. This approach was groundbreaking, as it recognized the importance of involving local communities in conservation efforts and addressing their needs and concerns.

As the years went by, conservation efforts in the Chobe Wildlife Corridor were strengthened through partnerships with private organizations and community-based natural resource management initiatives. These partnerships helped to provide the resources and expertise needed to protect the area and its wildlife and also helped to raise awareness about the importance of conservation among local communities.

Today, the Chobe Wildlife Corridor is considered a vital part of the larger ecosystem in northern Botswana and continues to be managed and protected for the benefit of both wildlife and local communities. The corridor is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including elephants, lions, leopards, and many other species. It is also an important area for birdwatching and ecotourism, providing a valuable source of income for local communities.

The Chobe Wildlife Corridor is a prime example of how conservation and sustainable development can go hand in hand. The corridor plays an important role in the conservation of wildlife populations and their habitats while also providing benefits to local communities. It is a testament to the ongoing efforts to protect and preserve this area for future generations and serves as a model for other conservation efforts around the world.

In conclusion, The Chobe Wildlife Corridor in Botswana is a unique and vital area that connects Chobe National Park to the Kwando-Linyanti-Selinda ecosystem in the north of the country. The history of the corridor is a testimony of the continuous effort to protect and preserve this area for future generations. It was established in the 1960s as a protected area, and in the 1980s, the government of Botswana recognized the importance of connecting protected areas to ensure the survival of wildlife populations. The Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust was established in the 1990s to manage and protect the Chobe Wildlife Corridor. Today, the Chobe Wildlife

# A complete list of Mammals In the Chobe Region in Botswana

The Chobe Region and surrounding areas in Botswana are home to a wide variety of mammal species. Here is an exhaustive list of mammals found in the region, including pictures of each animal, organised alphabetically by species.

It is important to remember that not all these animals are always visible or easy to spot, as they are wild animals and their sightings depend on many factors such as season, time of day, weather, etc. You can speak with us at Chobe Hideaway about any particular animals you are interested in seeing, and we can advise you on where to look and at what time of day.

## **Aardvark - *Orycteropus afer***

1. Aardvarks are known for their long, tube-like snouts, which they use to dig for food, mainly ants and termites.
2. Aardvarks have the ability to close their ears and nostrils to keep out dirt while they dig.



## **Aardwolf - *Proteles cristatus***

1. Aardwolves are not closely related to true wolves and are instead more closely related to hyenas.
2. Aardwolves primarily feed on termites, consuming up to 300,000 in a single night.



## **African Elephant *Loxodonta africana***

1. African elephants are the largest land animal on earth and can weigh up to 6,000 kg (13,227 lb).
2. African elephants have a very high level of intelligence and are capable of using tools and showing empathy.



## **African Wild Cat - *Felis lybica lybica***

1. The African wild cat is the ancestor of all domestic cats.
2. African wild cats are solitary hunters and are active at night.



## **Banded Mongoose - *Mungos mungo***

1. Banded Mongooses live in large groups and work together to defend themselves from predators.
2. Banded Mongooses have a symbiotic relationship with Egyptian plovers, which pick parasites off the mongooses' fur.



## **Bat-eared Fox - *Otocyon megalotis***

1. Bat-eared foxes have extremely large ears for their size, which helps them to locate insects to eat.
2. The majority of their diet is made up of insects, specifically termites and beetles.



## **Black-backed Jackal - *Canis mesomelas***

1. Black-backed jackals are opportunistic predators and scavengers, eating a wide variety of food, including small mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, fruits, and carrion.
2. Black-backed jackals are known to form monogamous pairs and have complex vocal communication.



## **Black Rhinoceros - *Diceros bicornis***

1. Black Rhinos are known to be aggressive and have a reputation for charging at vehicles.
2. Black Rhinos have two horns on the skull, the larger of which can grow up to 61 cm (24 in) in length.



## **Blue Wildebeest - *Connochaetes taurinus***

1. Blue wildebeest are known for their annual migration, covering over 1,000 miles (1,600 km) in search of fresh grazing.
2. Blue wildebeest have a hump on their shoulders, which is actually a mass of muscle used for fighting and displaying to potential mates.



## **Bontebok - *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus***

1. Bontebok are known for their distinctive white facial markings and white band around their hindquarters.
2. They are known to be good swimmers and are often found near water sources.



## **Buffalo - *Syncerus caffer***

1. Buffaloes are highly social animals and form herds of up to several hundred individuals.
2. Buffaloes are known to be aggressive and unpredictable and can pose a danger to humans.



## **Burchell's Zebra - *Equus quagga burchellii***

1. Burchell's zebras are known for their distinctive black-and-white striped coats, which are unique to each individual.
2. Burchell's zebras are able to see in colour, unlike most mammals which see in black and white.



## **Bushbuck - *Tragelaphus scriptus***

1. Bushbuck are known for their spiral horns, which are present in both males and females.
2. Bushbuck are active during the day, and are known to be fast runners.



## **Bushpig - *Potamochoerus larvatus***

1. Bushpigs are known for their aggressive behaviour and sharp tusks.
2. Bushpigs have a good sense of smell, which they use to locate food, and are active at night.



## **Cape Hare - *Lepus capensis***

1. The Cape hare is a species of hare native to southern Africa.
2. They are known to be fast runners, capable of reaching speeds of up to 45 miles per hour.



## **Caracal - Caracal caracal**

1. The caracal is a medium-sized wild cat found in Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, and India.
2. Caracals are known for their distinctive long ears which have black tufts of hair on the tips, giving them the nickname "desert lynx".



## **Chacma Baboon - Papio ursinus**

1. The Chacma baboon is a large primate found in southern Africa.
2. They are known for their highly complex social behaviour, with individuals forming hierarchies based on age and gender.



## **Cheetah - *Acinonyx jubatus***

1. The cheetah is a large feline native to Africa and central Iran.
2. They are the fastest land animal, capable of reaching speeds of up to 75 miles per hour.



## **Civet - *Civettictis civetta***

1. Civets are small, nocturnal mammals found in Africa and Asia.
2. The civet is known for the strong musky odour it produces from a gland near the anus, which is used to mark its territory.



## **Common Duiker - *Sylvicapra grimmia***

1. The common duiker is a small antelope found in sub-Saharan Africa.
2. They are known for their secretive nature, spending most of their time in dense vegetation



## **Common Reedbuck - *Redunca arundinum***

1. The common reedbuck is a medium-sized antelope found in sub-Saharan Africa.
2. They are known for their distinctive whistling call, made by males during the mating season



## **Dwarf Mongoose - Helogale parvula**

1. The dwarf mongoose is a small mongoose found in sub-Saharan Africa.
2. They are known for their highly social nature, living in large groups of up to 40 individuals



## **Eland - Taurotragus oryx**

1. The eland is the largest species of antelope and can weigh up to 1000 kg.
2. Their diet consists mainly of grass, but they will also eat leaves, fruit and seeds.



## **Giraffe - *Giraffa camelopardalis***

1. The giraffe is the tallest mammal in the world, with males reaching heights of up to 18 feet.
2. They have a unique cardiovascular system, which allows them to maintain blood flow to the brain while they bend down to drink.



## **Greater Cane-Rat - *Thryonomys swinderianus***

1. The greater cane-rat is a large rodent found in sub-Saharan Africa.
2. They are known for their large size, measuring up to 3 feet in length, and their diet mainly consists of grasses and other vegetation.



## **Grey Rhebok - *Pelea capreolus***

1. The grey rhebok is a small antelope found in southern Africa.
2. They are known for their grey-brown coat with a white chevron on the face, and their distinctive long legs, which allow them to move quickly through rocky terrain.



## **Grysbok - *Raphicerus melanotis***

1. Grysbok are known for their small size and elusive nature, making them difficult to observe in the wild.
2. They are known to be active during the day and have a preference for rocky outcroppings and other rocky habitats.



## **Hartebeest - *Alcelaphus buselaphus***

1. Hartebeest are known for their long legs and slender build, which make them fast runners.
2. They are known to be social animals and live in herds of up to several hundred individuals.



## **Hippopotamus - *Hippopotamus amphibius***

1. Hippos are known to be very aggressive and territorial animals. They are responsible for more human deaths in Africa than any other wild animal.
2. Despite their large size, hippos are excellent swimmers and can hold their breath for up to five minutes underwater.



## **Honey Badger - *Mellivora capensis***

1. Honey badgers are known for their fierce and ferocious nature. They are able to take on much larger animals, such as lions and crocodiles, and have been known to steal food from other predators.
2. Honey badgers have thick skin and loose folds of skin around the neck that allow them to turn around and bite an attacker with minimal damage to themselves.



## **Impala - *Aepyceros melampus***

1. Impalas are known for their elegant and agile jumps; they can clear distances of up to 30 feet in a single bound.
2. Impalas are a common prey animal for many predators in Africa, but they have developed a unique social system to evade predators.



## **Klipspringer - *Oreotragus oreotragus***

1. Klipspringers are known for their rock-climbing abilities; they are able to climb steep and rocky terrain with ease.
2. Klipspringers are known for their unique hooves that are elongated and split in two, which allows them to grip rocks and steep surfaces.



## **Kudu - *Tragelaphus strepsiceros***

1. The Kudu is a large antelope with spiral horns that can reach up to 4 feet long.
2. Kudus are known to be skilled jumpers, able to clear obstacles up to 8 feet high.



## **Large Grey Mongoose - *Herpestes ichneumon***

1. The Large Grey Mongoose is a solitary animal that lives in a variety of habitats, including forests, savannas, and rocky areas.
2. Large Grey Mongoose are known to be skilled hunters, preying on a variety of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects.



## **Large-spotted Genet - *Genetta tigrina***

1. The Large-spotted Genet is a nocturnal animal that is native to sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Large-spotted Genet are arboreal and semi-arboreal animals; they are adapted to living in trees and are able to climb and jump with great agility.



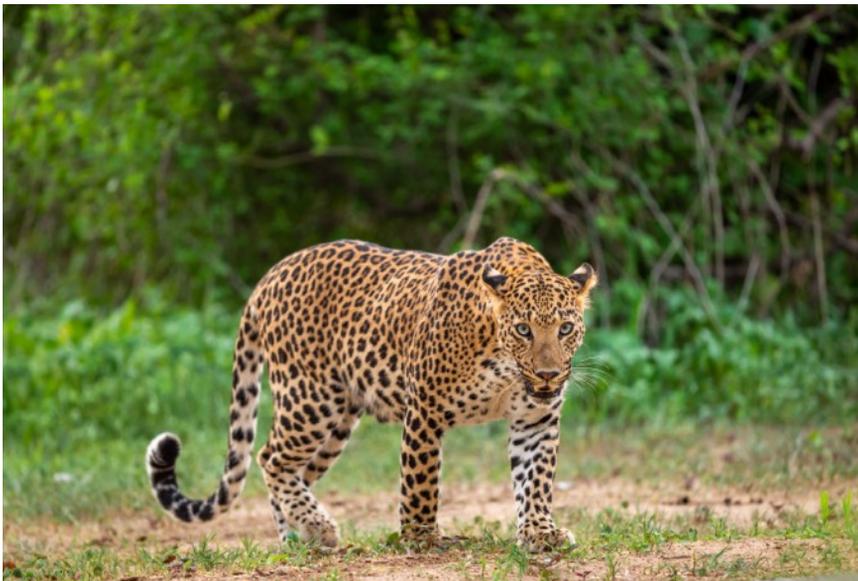
## **Lechwe - Kobus leche**

1. Lechwe are known for their specialised adaptations for living in wetland environments, including webbed hooves for better traction in mud.
2. They are known to be strong swimmers and are often found in large herds near water sources.



## **Leopard - Panthera pardus**

1. Leopards are apex predators and are known to be powerful and elusive animals.
2. Leopards are known to be solitary animals; they are active primarily at night and are known to be elusive and secretive.



## **Lesser Bushbaby - Galago moholi**

1. Lesser bushbaby is a primate species found in Africa.
2. Lesser bushbabies are known for their big eyes, which allow them to see well in low light conditions, and for their ability to leap great distances.



## **Lichtenstein's Hartebeest - Alcelaphus lichtensteini**

1. Lichtenstein's Hartebeest is a large African antelope species, which is also known as the white-tailed hartebeest.
2. The Lichtenstein's Hartebeest is a social animal and lives in large herds. They are also known to be fast runners and can run at speeds of up to 50 km/h.



## Lion - *Panthera leo*

1. Lions are apex predators and are known to be powerful and majestic animals.
2. Lions are social animals and live in groups called prides, which consist of several females and their offspring, as well as a few males.



## Meerkat - *Suricata suricatta*

1. Meerkats are known for their social behaviour and the highly organised groups, or "mobs," they live in.
2. Meerkats are easily recognised by their upright posture and cute, expressive faces and are popular attractions at zoos and wildlife parks.



## **Natal Multimammate Mouse - *Mastomys natalensis***

1. Natal Multimammate Mouse is a small rodent species that are found in Africa.
2. Natal Multimammate Mouse are known to be opportunistic feeders and will eat a variety of plant and animal matter.



## **Nyala - *Tragelaphus angasii***

1. Nyala is a spiral-horned antelope species that is found in southern Africa.
2. Nyala are known to be shy and elusive animals, they are active mainly during the early morning and late afternoon.



## Oribi - *Ourebia ourebi*

1. Oribi have a unique behaviour of jumping up to 2 meters in the air when threatened, allowing them to spot predators from a distance.
2. Oribi are known to be fast runners; they can run at a speed of up to 50 km/h.



## Pangolin - *Manis spp*

1. Pangolins are mammals that are covered in scales, which they use as a defence mechanism against predators.
2. Pangolins have poor eyesight and rely heavily on their sense of smell and hearing to locate food and avoid danger.



## **Peter's Epauletted Bat - *Epomophorus labiatus***

1. Peter's Epauletted Bat is a species of bat known for their large ears and epaulettes on their shoulders.
2. They are known to roost in large colonies, and are known to be one of the most social bats species.



## **Porcupine - *Hystrix spp***

1. Porcupines are herbivores, and they consume a wide variety of plant material.
2. Porcupines are good swimmers and can stay submerged for up to five minutes.



## **Puku - Kobus vardonii**

1. Puku are known for their distinctive reddish-brown colour and their medium size, which makes them a unique species within the antelope family.
2. They are known to be gregarious animals, living in herds of several hundred individuals, and are found primarily in grasslands and wetlands



## **Red Lechwe - Kobus leche**

1. The Red Lechwe have webbed hooves, which help them move around in wetland areas with ease.
2. They have a reddish hue and can be found in wetlands and grasslands in Southern Africa.



## **Roan Antelope - *Hippotragus equinus***

1. The roan antelope is a large antelope found in savannas of West, Central, and Southern Africa
2. They are known for their striking appearance, with long, spiral horns and elegant, slender legs.



## **Rock Dassie - *Procavia capensis***

1. Rock Dassies are excellent climbers and can scale vertical rock faces with ease.
2. Rock Dassies are known to be active during the day and are often seen sunbathing on rocks. They are also the closest living relative, in genes, to the Elephant.



## **Sable Antelope - Hippotragus niger**

1. Sable Antelopes are known for their beautiful, dark brown coats and long, spiral horns.
2. Male Sable Antelopes are known to be aggressive and territorial, often engaging in fights with other males for control of a harem.



## **Serval - Leptailurus serval**

1. Servals are known for their long legs and large ears, which they use to locate small prey such as rodents and birds.
2. Servals are solitary animals and are only seen together during the mating season.



## **Sharpe's Grysbok - *Raphicerus sharpei***

1. Sharpe's Grysbok are known for their ability to remain motionless for long periods of time, making them difficult to spot in the wild.
2. They are known to be active during the night.



## **Side-striped Jackal - *Canis adustus***

1. The Side-striped Jackal are known for their distinctive black and white striped fur, which helps them blend in with the tall grasses of their habitat.
2. They are opportunistic feeders and will eat a wide variety of food.



## **Slender Mongoose - *Herpestes sanguineus***

1. The Slender Mongoose is known for their slender build and long pointed snout, which they use to catch small prey such as rodents and birds.
2. They are known to be active during the day and are also known to be good climbers.



## **Small-spotted Genet - *Genetta genetta***

1. The Small-spotted Genet is a nocturnal mammal and known to be active at night.
2. They are known to be arboreal and are often seen in trees.



## **Spotted Hyaena - *Crocuta crocuta***

1. The Spotted Hyaena are known for their powerful jaws and teeth, which they use to crush the bones of their prey.
2. They are known to be efficient scavengers and will opportunistically feed on carrion.



## **Springbok - *Antidorcas marsupialis***

1. Springbok are known for their incredible jumping ability, known as pronking, which they use to startle predators and evade capture.
2. They have a distinctive dark stripe running down their back and are a common sight on the plains of southern Africa.



## **Springhare - *Pedetes capensis***

1. The Springhare is known for their large hind legs and long tail, which they use to hop and leap through the grasslands.
2. Springhare are known to be active during the night.



## **Steenbok - *Raphicerus campestris***

1. Steenbok are known for their small size and short horns, making them a common target for predators.
2. They are known to be fast runners, reaching speeds of up to 50 km/h.



## **Suni - *Neotragus moschatus***

1. Suni are known for their small size and delicate build.
2. They are known to be active during the day and are known to be good climbers.



## **Thick-tailed Bushbaby - *Otolemur crassicaudatus***

1. The Thick-tailed Bushbaby is known for its thick tail and large eyes, which it uses to navigate in the dark.
2. They are known to be nocturnal and are known to be good leapers, able to jump up to 9 meters in one leap.



## **Tree Squirrel - Paraxerus spp**

1. Tree Squirrels are known for their agility and ability to climb trees and other vertical structures.
2. They have a diverse diet and are known to eat both plant and animal material.



## **Tsessebe - Damaliscus lunatus**

1. Tsessebe are known for their large size and impressive horns, which can reach up to 1 meter in length.
2. They are known to be fast runners, reaching speeds of up to 65 km/h.



## **Vervet Monkey - *Chlorocebus pygerythrus***

1. Vervet Monkeys are known for their distinctive blue scrotums, which are only found in adult males.
2. They are known to be social animals and live in large groups.



## **Warthog - *Phacochoerus***

1. Warthogs are known for their distinctive tusks, which they use for self-defence and foraging.
2. Warthogs are known to be excellent diggers and use their burrows for shelter and raising their young.



## **Water Mongoose - *Atilax paludinosus***

1. The Water Mongoose is known for its webbed feet and dense, waterproof fur, which allows it to swim in rivers and lakes.
2. They are known to be active during the day and are known to be good swimmers.



## **Waterbuck - *Kobus ellipsiprymnus***

1. Waterbuck are known for their large size and impressive horns, which can reach up to 1 meter in length.
2. They are known to be excellent swimmers and are often found near water.



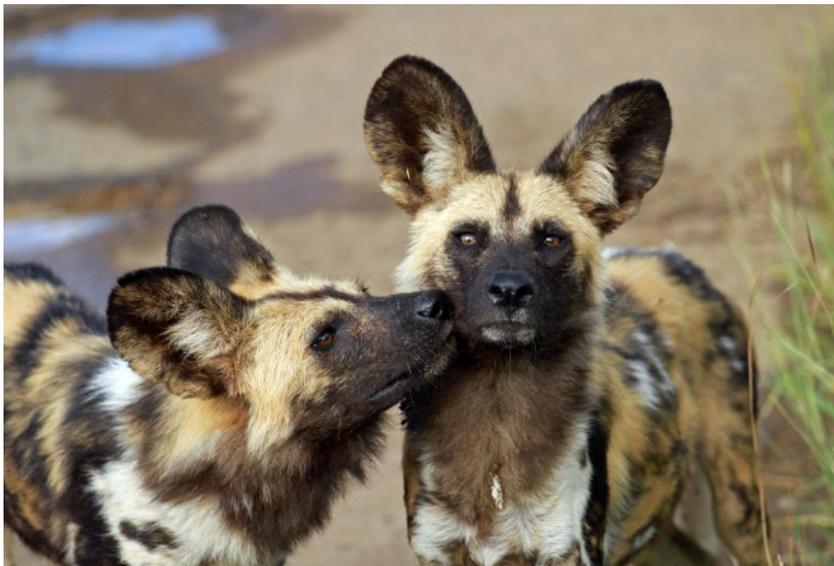
## **White Rhinoceros - *Ceratotherium simum***

1. White Rhinoceroses are known for their large size and impressive horns, which can reach up to 1.5 meters in length.
2. They are known to be social animals and live in groups called "crashes".



## **Wild Dog - *Lycaon pictus***

1. Wild Dogs are known for their distinctive coat patterns, which are unique to each individual.
2. They are known to be highly social animals and live in packs of up to 40 individuals.



# CHECKLIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

We would recommend you write down the location, date, and time next to each animal you spot.

- Aardvark - *Orycteropus afer*
- Aardwolf - *Proteles cristatus*
- African Wild Cat - *Felis lybica lybica*
- African Elephant - *Loxodonta africana*
- Banded Mongoose - *Mungos mungo*
- Bat-eared Fox - *Otocyon megalotis*
- Black Rhinoceros - *Diceros bicornis*
- Black-backed Jackal - *Canis mesomelas*
- Blue Wildebeest - *Connochaetes taurinus*
- Bontebok - *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*
- Buffalo - *Syncerus caffer*
- Burchell's Zebra - *Equus quagga burchellii*
- Bushbuck - *Tragelaphus scriptus*

- Bushpig - *Potamochoerus larvatus*
- Cape Clawless Otter - *Aonyx capensis*
- Cape Hare - *Lepus capensis*
- Caracal - *Caracal caracal*
- Chacma Baboon - *Papio ursinus*
- Cheetah - *Acinonyx jubatus*
- Civet - *Civettictis civetta*
- Common Duiker - *Sylvicapra grimmia*
- Common Reedbuck - *Redunca arundinum*
- Dwarf Mongoose - *Helogale parvula*
- Red Duiker - *Cephalophus natalensis*
- Roan Antelope - *Hippotragus equinus*
- Eland - *Taurotragus oryx*
- Giraffe - *Giraffa camelopardalis*
- Grey Rhebok - *Pelea capreolus*
- Greater Cane-Rat - *Thryonomys swinderianus*
- Hippopotamus - *Hippopotamus amphibius*
- Honey Badger - *Mellivora capensis*
- Impala - *Aepyceros melampus*
- Klipspringer - *Oreotragus oreotragus*

- Kudu - *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*
- Large Grey Mongoose - *Herpestes ichneumon*
- Large-spotted Genet - *Genetta tigrina*
- Leopard - *Panthera pardus*
- Lesser Bushbaby - *Galago moholi*
- Lichtenstein's Hartebeest - *Alcelaphus lichtensteini*
- Lion - *Panthera leo*
- Natal Multimammate Mouse - *Mastomys natalensis*
- Nyala - *Tragelaphus angasii*
- Oribi - *Ourebia ourebi*
- Pangolin - *Manis* spp.
- Peters Epauletted Bat - *Epomophorus labiatus*
- Porcupine - *Hystrix* spp.
- Rock Dassie - *Procavia capensis*
- Sable Antelope - *Hippotragus niger*
- Serval - *Leptailurus serval*
- Sharpes Grysbok - *Raphicerus sharpei*
- Side-striped Jackal - *Canis adustus*
- Slender Mongoose - *Herpestes sanguineus*
- Small-spotted Genet - *Genetta genetta*
- Spotted Hyaena - *Crocuta crocuta*

- Springhare - *Pedetes capensis*
- Steenbok - *Raphicerus campestris*
- Striped Polecat - *Ictonyx striatus*
- Suni - *Neotragus moschatus*
- Thick-tailed Bushbaby - *Otolemur crassicaudatus*
- Tree Squirrel - *Paraxerus* spp.
- Tsessebe - *Damaliscus lunatus*
- Vervet Monkey - *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*
- Warthog - *Phacochoerus*
- Water Mongoose - *Atilax paludinosus*
- Waterbuck - *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*
- White Rhinoceros - *Ceratotherium simum*
- Wild Dog - *Lycaon pictus*

# Get In Touch

[www.chobehideaway.com](http://www.chobehideaway.com)



“

*Now, being in Africa, I was hungry for more of it, the changes of the seasons, the rains with no need to travel, the discomforts that you paid to make it real, the names of the trees, of the small animals, and all the birds, to know the language and have time to be in it and to move slowly.*

”

**Ernest Hemingway**