

Dear wildlife watcher,

As we move on from 2024 welcome the potential mammalwatching rewards of 2025, Royle Safaris is once again at the forefront of pioneering mammalwatching tours around the world. 2024 was another incredible year for Royle Safaris with 54 trips completed visiting 30 different countries. Below is a summary of the trips we ran and the amazing wildlife we showcases to our clients:

AFRICA

- Two trips to Western Sahara (the autonomous part of Morocco to the south) resulted in **sand cat, fennec fox, Ruppel's fox, African wild cat, honey badger**, several **Libyan striped polecats** and a range of rodents. These week long trips are always popular with our clients.
- Namibia was once again a stunning destination, travelling through the Sossusvlei dunes and along the Skeleton Coast as well as visiting Etosha National Park and private conservancies such as Okonjima we had amazing views of **brown hyena, ground pangolin, honey badgers, leopards** as well the whole range of African Big Game common to the region.
- We ran a private rainy season trip to Gabon in January which was too early in the year for mandrills but did have great sightings of **western lowland gorillas, African forest elephants** and nesting **green turtles**. Then with our summer group tour we had **black colobus, mandrills, red river hogs, northern talapoin**, three species of duiker and altogether over 30 species of mammals.
- Cote d'Ivoire continued to live up to its reputation as the hosting the best intact West African rainforest left in the world. Multiple primates including **chimps, western red colobus** and **Diana monkeys** were seen among the 30 species of mammals on our specialist Pygmy Hippo Expedition. We are also pleased to announce that this is the second consecutive success trip to see **pygmy hippos** here, something we hope to continue into 2025.
- One of the most popular groups of mammals for Royle Safaris client's are primates and our Uganda primate focused trip was very well received this year with over 40 species of mammals and 10 species of primates including of course **mountain gorillas** and **chimpanzees** seen at close quarters.
- It is not just Uganda which is popular with primate lovers, but Rwanda as well. We had a nice trip here with clients tracking **chimps, mountain gorillas, golden monkeys, Angolan colobus** and **blue monkeys** across both Volcanoes and Nyungwe National Parks.
- Three of our clients over 2 sperate private tours booked multi-country trips to Central Africa, visiting Cameroon, Central African Republic and People's Republic of Congo. These were more cultural tours than specific wildlife watching but they still resulted in sightings of **chimpanzees, African forest elephants** and **lowland gorillas**.
- A new destination for Royle Safaris in 2024 was Zambia and on this private tour we visited both North and South Luwanga National Parks where we saw **African wild dogs, Chobe bushbuck, miombo genet, Sharpe's grysbok** and a huge number of **leopards** including a couple of very young cubs.
- We visited Tanzania and Zanzibar as part of a private tailored safari for a young family, they thoroughly enjoyed their safari as once again East Africa showed why it is perhaps the greatest location in the world for safaris. All of the big game species were seen and seen well with minimal effort and some nice species such as **Zanzibar red colobus** and **servals** were also seen.

ASIA

- In the spring panda breeding season in China we continued our great recent success and had 100% of our groups in 2024 see wild **giant pandas** (including 5 individuals seen) alongside many **Chinese red panda, Chinese goral, steppe polecat, Sichuan takin** and **golden snub-nosed monkeys** among many other species. And in the summer season we went into the Tibtean plateau of Qinghai and had **snow leopard, Pallas's cats, white-lipped deer, Tibetan antelope, Glover's pika** and other plateau species.
- Indonesia is one of Royle Safaris' favourite locations to run trips to. We love exploring the various islands and showcasing the amazing endemic mammals (and birds) found throughout this huge archipelago. We ran three different trips to Indonesia in 2024, visiting Sumatra, Sulawesi and West Papua. With sightings of **Sumatran orangutans, siamangs, Heck's, crested & moor macaques** in Sumatra and Sulawesi and on the first ever group tour to West Papua dedicated to mammalwatching we observed over 50 species including many endemics and mega species such as **grizzled & ursine tree kangaroos, western long-beaked echidna** and **long-fingered trioks**. Exploring the Arfaks and the lowlands near Sorong we also had some great endemic snake species as well as a range of wonderful

birds including several birds of paradise.

- We have run four primate focused trips to Vietnam and have recorded 16 species of primates including **northern** and **southern pygmy slow loris**, **Delacour's langur**, **Hatinth langur**, **Cat Ba Langur** and all three species of **dooc langur**. We have also found a reliable place for the wonderful and seldom seen **Annamite muntjac** to add to the wonderful species seen in Vietnam.
- In Nepal we ran three trips, all of which featured Bardia National Park and all resulted in numerous **tiger** sightings whilst our clients were tracking them with the expert help of our team of local guides. We also combined two of these trips with the Himalayan foothills of the Kanchenjunga massif which is the home of the **Himalayan red panda** (however unseasonally hot weather hindered red panda watching in 2024), with one of the groups also adding on a short stay to see the Taj Mahal and a further trip just explored Bardia which resulted in some incredible **tiger** and **rhino** sightings!
- Four tours to Sri Lanka where successful in a range of wildlife, including **Sperm whales**, **spinner dolphins**, **leopards**, **Asiatic elephants**, **fishing cats**, **red & grey slender loris**, **sloth bear** and many endemic birds including the wonderful **Sri Lanka blue magpie**.
- Back to Japan in winter was refreshing to see the dancing **red-crowned cranes**, the beautiful **Steller's sea eagles** out on the sea ice, the powerful **Blakiston's fish eagle** and the cheeky **Japanese macaques** enjoying their private hotspots. This is a great wildlife photography trip and alongside our wolverine photography trips to Finland the most popular photography trip we run.
- In Borneo our annual group tour was our most successful yet, with four prolonged views of **sun bears** (including day time sightings and two feeding together in a fig tree), two **Sunda pangolin** sightings, **marbled cats**, **Sunda leopard cats** and the prince of Borneo, **Sunda clouded leopard**!
- India is always a favourite destination among Royle Safaris's client base and we ran trips to the north-east forests including the Sundarbans where both **tigers** and **fishing cat** showed themselves among **western hoolock gibbon**, **Asiatic elephant**, **Indian one-horned rhinos**, two species of **otter** and many other animals were all seen. We also ran a multi-stop trip to Gujarat, Satpura and Tadoba where the larger predators of India were targets and we had success with **tigers**, **leopards**, **Asiatic lion**, **dhole**, **sloth bear**, **Indian wolves** and **striped hyena** all photographed. Of course we also ran a dedicated **tiger** safari and had over 40 sightings of tigers over a 3 week tour.
- Bhutan was back on our agenda after a change in the government's tourism tax prices (lowering them) and we were once again able to send clients to see the stunning Taksang (Tiger's Nest) Monastery as well as **golden langurs**.

NORTH AMERICA

- Costa Rica is widely known as a top draw wildlife watching destination and Royle Safaris usually runs private, tailored tours here, in November 2024 we had a private tour visit several of the best wild locations including Corcovado and Manuel Antonio National Parks where **Central American silky anteater** and **Baird's tapirs** were seen.
- In addition to our annual small group tour to Dominican Republic we also ran a private tour to see the endemic mammals and birds and both trips were successful in all but 2 endemic birds and of course great success with the **Hispaniolian solenodon** and **Hispaniolan hutia** and some great reptiles like the critically endangered **Ricord's iguana**.
- Yellowstone National Park in USA was host to our first trip of the year as we had a couple visit to combine **wolf** watching with visiting Old Faithful and enjoying possibly the best winter wildlife wonderland in the world.

EUROPE

- Finland has been a staple for Royle Safaris clients since 2011 and in 2024 we once again showed off the countries eastern forests as our clients had great photography opportunities with **wolverines** and **brown bears** among other boreal forest species.
- Spain always a popular destination and possibly the best place in Europe to see a wide range of mammals. In 2024 we ran several trips to our **Iberian lynx** watching locations – all with success and therefore maintaining our 100% success rate in seeing this endangered species in the wild. However it was not just mammalwatching however as we also ran a very successful birding trip to Andalucia and can repeat such birding trips for anyone interested in feathers as much as fur.

SOUTH AMERICA

- Whilst not one of the established wildlife watching counties in South America, Bolivia has rose to the top of the pile in recent years. Locations such as Jaguarland Reserve, Kaa Iya National Park and wilderness areas of Beni province have all made Bolivia a must go for all wildlife enthusiasts. We ran three trips in fall 2024 and with these trips focused on cats we had sightings of **jaguars**, **pumas**, **ocelots** and **jaguarundis** as well as a wealth of primates and endemic **Bolivian river dolphins**.
- In the highlands of Ecuador we once again had great views of **Andean bears** and **mountain tapirs** as well as **pygmy marmosets**, **giant otters**, **mantled howlers** and **Spix's night monkeys** and many other primate species.
- Along with the jaguars of Bolivia we also visited the Brazilian Pantanal to show some of our clients the largest cat in

the Americas. With over 20 **jaguar** sightings over two separate trips as well as sightings of **Brazilian tapir, giant otters, giant anteaters, ocelots, pampas deer** and many other species both of our trips the Pantanal were very successful and the location remains very popular with Royle Safaris and our clients.

- Peru was back on our agenda for 2024 as we took a client on a private tour deep into the Amazon rainforest in the stunning and incredibly diverse Manu National Park. Here our client had views of several rare species including **Rio Tapajos Saki, Topspin's titi monkeys** and **grey woolly monkey**.
- Along with Peru we also went back to Venezuela for the first time in a short while and took a couple of clients to Angel Falls and Los Llanos (as well as other areas of the country), mammals can be tricky to find here but they do have nice **Orinoco river dolphin** views as well as several primate species and a huge abundance and diversity of birds, showing once again that Los Llanos wetlands may be just the best bird watching destination in the world.

As you can see we have had some amazing success and have seen some of the world's most endangered and sought after wildlife. We are proud to continually add new destinations to our roster of mammalwatching tours and will once again be starting new trips in 2025 which we aim to replicate in 2026 and onwards.

Continuing our success into 2025 and beyond will rely on the continued hard work of our director and local guides all over the world. We hire some exceptional local guides (many of which have become world famous for their knowledge, tireless efforts in finding wildlife and jovial approaches to cutting edge ecotourism. We will once again be hiring and working with great local guides such as Mike Gordon in Borneo, Nick McPhee of Bolivia, Sid Francis in China, Luc Ngyen in Vietnam, Steve Braun in Yellowstone, Jose Sanchez in Andalucia, Marcelo Gurtsey in Argentina among others.

In addition to these local guides we also often (but not where unnecessary – as we prefer to keep as much money from our trips in the local economies of the trips) send a tour leader along with our groups. Tour leaders of note for some of our 2025 and 2026 trips include Martin Royle, Dr. Charles Foley, Ewan Davies, Alex Meyer and Karl Diakhite. All this does is help increase the training process of our local guides so that one day we don't have to send a tour leader and that not only helps our trips run in the future with local guides only, but also massively helps the local guides in establishing their own reputations and prospects moving forward.

As the world's only specialist mammalwatching international tour operator, Royle Safaris is very proud to offer a mix of mammalwatching tours and safaris all over the world which are specially focused on the world's rarest mammals – nearly always with incredible and high success rates from past trips.

In 2025 we will be once again be running our popular group tours to Namibia, Bolivia, Borneo, China, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Gabon, Indonesia, India, Madagascar, Bhutan, Panama, Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Western Sahara and USA; as well as starting running some new itineraries, such as Uganda (on a specific **African golden cat** expedition), Ghana (where we focus on two species of **pangolins** and other West African endemics), Chile and Argentina (looking for **puma, franciscana, Montio del Monte, Kodkod** and other rare mammals) and Laos (for the awesome and very range restricted Lao langur).

Some of these trips still have spaces available and can be found below along with many others which are ready to run and still have some limited availability. All of the trips listed below are guaranteed to run as planned.

There are links to more information online and of course we remain available to answer any questions you may have or help in how to secure a place on one of these tours.

If your 2025 travel plans are already finalised then do not worry as we plan to run all of these trips listed below in 2026 also. Many of the below trips have dates already set for 2026, but some are still to be finalised, so if you don't see 2026 dates but would be interested just get in touch and we can discuss further.

We very much look forward to hearing back from you and hopefully showcasing some of these wonderful animals to you in 2025 and beyond.

Sincerely

Martin Royle – Director



Kingdom of the Snow Leopard

Dates: 28th Feb –
16th Mar 2025

Price: £3,895
Single Sup: £495

Dates: 28th Feb –
16th Mar 2025

Price: £3,995
Single Sup: £535



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Snow Leopard / Bharal / Ladakhi Urail / Mountain Weasel / Large-eared Pika / Eurasian Lynx / Himalayan Wolf / Asiatic Ibex / Royle's Pika / Woolly Hare

Summary: Explore the remote and rugged Hemis National Park in Ladakh, north-west India with expert guides and **snow leopard** spotters. We travel in the peak of the **snow leopard** breeding season when they are most active and since 2011 we have a 90% success rate in not just seeing a **snow leopard** but having multiple sightings over the course of the trip. Over 18 species of mammals have been recorded on our Kingdom of the Snow Leopard tours over the years, with special species including **mountain weasel**, **Eurasian lynx**, **Himalayan wolf**, **Argali** and of course **Snow Leopards**.

6 places available

At first glance the vastness of the landscape and seeming inaccessibility of the Himalayas will combine to frustrate anyone hoping to see a **snow leopard**, but you have to remember that this is far from a lifeless environment, despite what it may appear like at first glance. The **Snow Leopard** is the ultimate predator here and they take their place at the top a diverse food web with many species inhabiting in this inhospitable habitat.

This trip will also introduce you to the local culture and customs of this Buddhist area and along with the hardy wildlife, and you will have the privilege of meeting many Ladakhi people as they go about their business in this harsh environment. It is with the help of the local shepherds and pony men here that we will find **snow leopards** and it is cooperation like this which is vital for the continued conservation of **snow leopards**.

But by far the most important resource we have is the information we collect from local people who live in the presence of snow leopards year around. It is by staying with the villagers in home-stays and working closely with the shepherds that we will gain a picture of the **snow leopard** activity. Below we have outlined a detailed itinerary for the entire trip. However due to weather conditions the route and activities may vary once we get there, although we will endeavour to stick to the stated itinerary as much as possible.

Photo Credits: snow leopards, mountain weasel– John Oates / bharal – Ulrich Heinz

Vietnam's Rare Primates Tour

Dates: 1st Apr –
15th Apr 2025

Price: £3,995
Single Sup: £580



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Red-shanked Douc / Black-shanked Douc / Grey-shanked Douc / Pygmy Slow Loris / Buff-cheeked Gibbon / Hatinth Langur / Delacour's Langur / Annamese Silver Langur / Rhesus Macaque / Northern Pig-tailed Macaque / Assamese Macaque / Long-tailed Macaque

Summary: Vietnam is home to 25 species of wild primate, for such a small country with a huge human (not one of the primates included) population this is incredible. This tour aims to showcase as many of these primate species as possible, we will not see all 25, but we do hope to be able to see around half (with some good luck). This tour travels from the south to the north and visits various locations which are among some of the only places where certain species still cling to existence.

Whilst on this particular trip the primates are major focus of this trip; with some of the rarest species in the world inhabiting these forests. Some of the **langurs, gibbons** and **douc-langurs** are so endangered that there are only 50-100 left in the world. Some of these species are intensively studying and we have a very good chance of seeing them, some are not protected very well at all and so they will be harder to find, but we will endeavour to do our best at all locations or course. Once again (as with all Royle Safaris trips) we will employ the best local guides at each national park to try and find as many species and interpret the amazing behaviour we see.

Alongside the primates we will also be watching out for the larger species that inhabit these forests such as **sambar deer, muntjacs** (we now have a reliable spot for the **Annamite muntjac**) and of course a whole host of rarer species which are near mythical, such as the **Annamese striped rabbit** and **Saola** (if the latter is even still in existence).

We can also arrange extensions to see two other very critically endangered and range restricted primates if you wish; these being the **Tokin Snub-nosed Monkey** and the **Cat Ba Langur**.

5 places available

Photo Credits: red-shanked douc / Marie King

Pygmy Hippo Expedition

*not online – PDF brochure available on request

Dates: 3rd April –
13th April 2025

Price: £4,795
Single Sup: £550



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Pygmy Hippo / West African Chimpanzee / Water Chevrotain / King Colobus / West African Potto / Olive Colobus / Diana Monkey / Zebra Duiker / Jentkin's Duiker / Sooty Mangabey / Johnston's Genet / Common Cusimanse / Slender Squirrel / Red River Hog

Summary: Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) is home to the largest remaining tract of primary rainforest in the whole of West Africa. One of the best examples of this forest is the untouched paradise of Taï National Park. Taï is a vast ecosystem that, whilst under pressure, has managed to remain a haven for wildlife and a wildlife watching trip here will almost certainly have more success than similar trips in other parks in West Africa. The most famous residents of the park are the many tool-using chimpanzees and the wonderful and iconic **Pygmy hippos**.

5 places available

Other than the **pygmy hippos** and **chimps** there are eleven species of primate recorded here as well as **Leopard, forest elephant, bongo, Jentink's duiker, zebra duiker, water chevrotain, olive colobus, Johnston's genet, pardine genet, Liberian mongoose and giant pangolin**.

This tour is focused on trying to find and observe this amazing, elusive, little-known and rare mammal. Taï is by far the best place in the world for this species and the local guides and rangers in the region report more frequent sightings of them here than anywhere else. Indeed the park has the largest population of them in the world, perhaps as many as half of the global population. Throughout this trip you will spend many hours in the forest, we have various techniques to try and find the **hippos**, including exploring the rivers in boats and or kayaks, walking the forest trails and checking out the pools of water that hippos use to rest and stay cool in and also staking out feeding areas deep in the forest. A combination of these techniques as well as making the most of the most recent information from the locals means we are ideally situated to have the best possible chances of seeing this rare animal. However we have to say that they are rare and elusive and no sightings are guaranteed.

Our most recent trips in both 2023 and 2024 resulted in numerous **Pygmy Hippo** sightings!

Photo Credits: pygmy hippo (top left) – paVan / pygmy hippo (top right) – SuperJew / Diana monkey & king colobus – Chris Scharf

Wild Nepal (Chitwan Safari)

Dates: 1st May –
11th May 2025

Price: £2,495
Single Sup: £250



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Tiger / Indian One-horned Rhino / Sloth Bear / Leopard / Chital / Sambar / Terai Langur / Jungle Cat / Gaur / Indian Hog Deer

Summary: Chitwan National Park is one of the most famous wildlife watching destinations in Asia, lying south-west of Kathmandu and along the border between Nepal and India this vast park contains large populations of **Tigers**, **Sloth Bears** (perhaps the largest in the world), **Indian One-horned Rhinos** and **Asiatic Elephants** (among dozens of other species). The park is a wonderful mosaic of grasslands, sal forest, bamboo groves including lowlands which are flooded annually by the monsoon and melt water from the Himalayas and the hills to the north.

What makes Chitwan one of the most popular safari destinations in Asia is the fact that you can explore the park a variety of different ways. Unlike in India where you are largely confined to vehicles you can get out and track the various species on foot as well as take the typical open safari vehicle and also being paddled around some of the rivers that border the park.

This tour combines these methods into a full exploration of the park and its varying habitats. It is this mixture of techniques to find animals and the fact that we have a special arrangement with the park to do more private full day jeep safaris than normal that mean we have a better than most chance of seeing **Tigers**, **Sloth Bears** and **Leopards** and in fact our two trips in 2022 were successful in this regard and we backed that up with more sightings in 2023, we didn't visit Chitwan on our group tour in 2024, and we hope for continued success in the future.

Photo Credits: leopard, tiger, Indian one-horned rhino & sloth bear – Justin Cote

8 places available

Just Wolverines Photography Tour

Dates: 11th May –
15th May 2025

Price: £1,895
Single Sup: £390



Top 10 Mammal Targets:

Wolverine / Brown Bear / Eurasian Red Squirrel / Mountain Hare / Siberian Roe Deer / Wolf / Canadian Beaver / Musk Rat / Siberian Flying Squirrel / Yellow-necked Mouse

Summary: One of the most elusive carnivores in the world, the charismatic **Wolverine** is probably most well known these days for being the name of a popular superhero, but the animal is far more impressive than any comic book hero. The world's largest mustelid (weasel, badger, otter family) they have been recording taking down reindeer and holding their own against **Brown Bears!** The **Wolverine** truly is a tough animal and in Europe's frozen north they can be found with surprising ease.

That is if you come to one of the very few locations where they are well known from, Royle Safaris knows one such place on the Finnish side of the Finnish/Russian border. In a wonderful forest full of wildlife there are a few specialist photography hides where you can spend the night and observe these amazing animals as they come to you. A short wildlife break that will showcase one of the best looking and little understood of all of the northern hemispheres mammals.

6 places available

Photo Credits: wolverines (top left & bottom right) – Esa Muikku / wolverine (top right) Chris Scharf / wolverine (bottom left) Manda Simmons

Panama Mammal Tour

*not online – PDF brochure available on request

Dates: 22nd May –
31st May 2025

Price: £3,495
Single Sup: not
always available



Top 10 Mammal Targets:

Western Night Monkey / Kinkajou / Central American Woolly Opossum / Western Lowland Olingo / Mantled Howler Monkey / Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth / Geoffroy's Tamarin / Silky Anteater / Lesser Capybara / Rothschild's Porcupine

Summary: This specialist mammalwatching trip is to be led by expert local guides throughout. With this expertise you will be well equipped with excellent local knowledge as you go in search of mammals in one of the world's most underrated mammal watching countries.

Being the southernmost country of Central America, Panama has a lot of species found in northern South America as well as many species found only in Central America. All this makes Panama a wonderful place to either visit as a first time mammal watching trip to the region or as a trip to try and fill in missing species from previous trips to countries such as Costa Rica or Colombia.

The trip spends most of the time around the historic and world-famous Canopy Tower (which is located inside the wonderful Soberania National Park). Whilst based in the Canopy Tower your specialist guides will take you to iconic and great mammal watching locations such as around the Canopy Tower itself and Semaphore Hill, Pipeline Road, Barro Colorado Island, Gatun Lake (via boat), Panama Rainforest Discovery Center, Metropolitan Nature Park and Fort San Lorenzo located on the Caribbean coast.

Neotropical mammals are a fascinating group of animals which include many unique and iconic members, such as **sloths, marmosets, anteaters, armadillos** and more. All of which are unique to the Americas.

Unlike other parts of the world such as Africa or the Pantanal of Brazil, the majority of the mammals found in Panama here are small to medium-sized, and many are predominantly nocturnal. So we have tailored the activities to maximise the chances of seeing as many species as possible.

4 places available

Photo Credits: night monkeys – WolfmanSF / silky anteater – Quentin Questel / Geoffroy's tamarin – Ben Keen / Rothschild's porcupine – Bertis Y. Franco Perez

Javan Rhino Expedition

Dates: 1-10 June
2025

Price: £3,850
Single Sup: £90



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Javan Rhino / Banteng / Javan Mousedeer / West Javan Ebony Langur / Javan Small-toothed Palm Civet / Javan Slow Loris / Sunda Colugo / Sunda Leopard Cat / Javan Rusa / Sunda Palm Civet

Summary: One of the world's rarest mammals, with around 35 remaining in the wild, none in captivity, the **Javan Rhino** is on the edge. But in recent years the species has been increasing in number and the species is beginning (slowly) to reveal its secrets. Over the past decade Royle Safaris has been working hard with local guides, wildlife photographers and the Indonesian parks authorities to work out a way of seeing this magnificent species whilst minimising impact in the only forest they call home (Ujung Kulon National Park). We have had success and now we offer the world's only dedicated expeditions into the heart of this forest and to a particular hotspot for rhino activity.

2 places remaining

By boating silently up and down a couple of favoured rivers deep in the core area of the park we have gained an impressive success rate in seeing these animals along with a wealth of other life. With expert local guides, trackers and our tour leader we stand a favourable chance of seeing one of the last **Javan rhinos**.

For anyone interesting in exploring more wild places in Java we have an optional post tour extension for mammals such as **Javan Gibbon, Javan Ferret-badger, Javan Slow Loris, Sunda Porcupine** and others. Contact us for more on this itinerary.

Photo Credits: Javan rhino (top left) & banteng – Chris Scharf / langur – Alex Meyer / Javan rhino (bottom right) – Toby Nowlan

Gabon Wildlife Adventure

Dates: 2nd July –
13th July 2025

Price: £8,150
Single Sup: £895

14th July – 23rd
July 2025

Price: £8,150
Single Sup. £895

9th July – 18th July
2026

Price: £8,195
Single Sup: £895



Top Mammal Targets: Mandrill / African Forest Elephant / Black Colobus / Red River Hog / Western Gorilla / Common Chimpanzee / Giant Pangolin / African Palm Civet / Hammer-head Bat / Servaline Genet

Summary: Gabon is 80% forest, let that statistic settle in a second. 80% of the entire country is covered in pristine forest. There are not many countries in the world that can boast such a record. Not only is there such vast tracts of forest left in Gabon the country has a small population which is nearly all centred around the few cities and towns. This means that the forests are full of wildlife, the downside is that getting from A to B can be challenging. We take a combination of overnight trains, private vehicles and boats to get from the two main protected areas in the country (three protected areas if you wish to also book our optional pre-tour extension to Ivindo) which is Lope and Loango National Parks.

This tour is a specialist mammalwatching tour but it may be further defined as a primate watching tour. The two major targets are the **Mandrills** and **Western Gorillas**. The **Mandrills** of Lope National Park have been studied for years and the researcher allows tourists to come into the park and experience the vast troops of loud and colourful **Mandrills** with him. The same experience is offered in Loango with the **Gorillas** and in between these primate tracking experiences you can see over 10 species of **primates**, forest **Duikers**, many **Forest Elephants** and other rare species such as **Manatees**, **Genets** and if you are very lucky you could see a **Giant Pangolin** as they have been seen here before but are very hard to find.

Many people who book this this also book our pre-tour extension to Ivindo National Park, this is a very wild park and the only way in and out is via hiking and the wildlife watching is done from a raise platform overlooking a bai (a clearing in the forest) where **Gorillas**, **Red River Hogs**, **Forest Elephants** and **Sitatunga** are near daily visitors. If you wish to know more about the Ivindo tour then you can contact us and we will send over the PDF brochure.

6 places available –
First 2025
departure

1 place available –
Second 2025
departure
(discounted place
available)

8 places available –
2026 departure

[Snow Leopards & Tibetan Mammals Tour \(Qinghai\)](#)

Dates: 26th July –
9th August 2025

Price: £3,995
Single Sup: £495



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Wild Yak / Snow Leopard / Tibetan Fox / Pallas's Cat / Tibetan Antelope / White-lipped Deer / Chinese Red Pika / Midday Gerbil / Himalayan Wolf / Tibetan Gazelle / Eurasian Lynx

Summary: China is not necessarily a country that makes you think of pristine ecosystems and safari holidays, however this is incorrect. There are many places in China that are full of wildlife incredible ecosystems that can be explored; this tour explores one of the least visited in the world, not just China. This itinerary will visit the Tibetan Plateau and associated mountainous ecosystems of the Chinese province, Qinghai. This rugged and sparsely populated area is home to large numbers of iconic and endangered species such as **snow leopards, wild yak, Tibetan antelope, Himalayan brown bear, Tibetan wolves** among many others.

For the last 2-3 years the sightings of **snow leopards** here have steadily increased and an average of numerous sightings per trip has resulted in us organising this specific high altitude mammal watching tour. We are very confident that the **snow leopard** sightings and regularity of the sightings here is at least what it is in Ladakh. But in addition to the **snow leopards** this itinerary visits areas which are very good for **Tibetan antelope, wild yak, Alpine musk deer, white-lipped deer, Tibetan wolves, Tibetan foxes, kiang** and other mammal species of the Tibetan Plateau. But we also have found quite reliable locations for **Himalayan brown bear** and even **Eurasian lynx** in recent months.

You will be experiencing rural China and technically Tibetan culture and everything from the food, culture, architecture you will encounter will differ from the typical Chinese imagery that most people have when they think of the superpower that China is nowadays and the ultra-modern cities. This is a unique tour that explores part of China that are rarely visited, to get a good idea of what to expect we recommend you read through the below information. We have outlined a detailed itinerary for the entire trip. However due to weather conditions the route and activities may vary once we get there, although we will endeavour to stick to the stated itinerary as much as possible.

3 places available

Photo Credits: Tibetan antelope – Khondort / snow leopard – John Oates / Tibetan gazelle & Tibetan fox – Samuel Marlin

Borneo's Rare Mammals Tour

Dates: 9th August
– 23rd August
2025

Price: £4,995
Single Sup: £895



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Sunda Clouded Leopard / Proboscis Monkey / Marbled Cat / Binturong / Otter Civet / Sun Bear / Sunda Stink Badger / Borneo Orangutan / Asiatic Elephant / Banded Civet

Summary: Borneo has long been known as a wonderful rainforest and wildlife watching destination, enjoyed by hardcore enthusiasts and casual wildlife lovers alike. But in the last decade there are various sites which have turned Borneo is one of *the* destinations for mammalwatching globally. Deramakot is one of these locations and this tour spends a week here, as well as visiting Tabin Wildlife Resort and a stay along the amazing Kinabatangan River.

This tour focuses on some of the rarer mammals which live in Borneo's rainforests. This means many of the activities to look for wildlife will be done at night. Guided by the famous and tireless Mike Gordon throughout the itinerary we have a great track record in seeing several of the rarest mammals in Borneo, animals such as **Sunda clouded leopard, sun bear, Sunda pangolin, marbled cat, otter civets** (all of which were seen in 2024) are now seen with more frequency than ever before. We don't pretend that the trip will be successful in seeing all of the targeted species (such a trip would probably be the single greatest trip in mammalwatching history) but we have a good success rate in seeing several rare species.

We also like to visit a couple of different forest reserves (in this case Tabin and Deramakot) to give you the best overview of different habitats and also increase our chances of seeing as many species as possible. It is not just nocturnal life that we spend time looking for however, we also have time dedicated to see the **Orangutans, Elephants and Proboscis Monkeys** (as well as various primates species).

We also have an optional post tour extension which explores the amazing and seldom visited Tawau Hills National Park and Maliau Basin, for more information on this trip please contact us and we can provide more information.

1 place available

Photo Credits: clouded leopard & sun bear – Chris Scharf / otter civet & marbled cat – Mark Langston

Best of Sumatra Wildlife Tour

Dates: 21st August
– 2nd September
2025

Price: £3,250
Single Sup: £435



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Sumatran Orangutan / Pen-tailed Treeshrew / Sunda Leopard Cat / Binturong / Sunda Slow Loris / Thomas's Langur / Siamang / Banded Langur / Agile Gibbon / Sunda Clouded Leopard

Summary: As Borneo takes the limelight for mammalwatching in South East Asia it is easy to forget that Sumatra (one of the world's largest islands) is also home to a huge diversity of mammal life and has some great areas of well protected forest you can explore on foot and by vehicle and boat both day and night.

6 places available

This tour explores two of these locations, one in the north (Gunung Leuser National Park) and one in the far south (Way Kambas National Park); these two parks couldn't be more different, Gunung Leuser being very mountainous and rugged and Way Kambas a lowland swampy forest interspersed by rivers and grasslands. But by visiting both of these parks you have the chance to see species which are difficult in the other or just absent completely; giving a great overview of the wildlife of Sumatra.

The tour starts by hiking the forested hills of Gunung Lesuer looking for the enigmatic Sumatran Orangutan, Agile Gibbons and Thomas's Langurs and then ends with night drives around Way Kambas looking for relatively common nocturnal species such as Sunda Slow Loris, Banded Civets, Sunda Leopard Cats and some rare one such as Sunda Clouded Leopard, Malay Tapir, Marbled Cat and Pen-tailed Treeshrews. You will have great guidance throughout and excellent local guides at each location who have decades of experience in showing and understanding the mammal life of this incredible island.

Photo Credits: leopard cat & slow loris – Chris Daniels / banded civet – Mark Langston

Bolivian Cat Specialist Tour

Dates: 4th Oct –
16th Oct 2025

Price: £4,895
Single Sup: £525

Dates: 17th Oct –
29th Oct 2025



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Jaguar / Pauma / Ocelot / Jaguarundi / Geoffroy's Cat / Chaco Peccary / Tayra / Pale Titi Monkey / Bolivian Red Howler Monkey / Bolivian River Dolphin

Summary: When people think of a tour to see **Jaguars** they immediately think of the northern Pantanal region in Brazil and the location around Porto Jofre has become an incredible place to see this species, but as a result the crowds and numbers of boats around the **Jaguars** has also increases, as have the prices. So we at Royle Safaris have been working hard to find alternative places to the Pantanal (with a means of setting up small-scale sustainable ecotourism centred around Jaguars that will not get out of hand like it has in Brazil (to some extent) and this search has led us to Bolivia. The lowlands of Santa Cruz province are full of wildlife and forest tracts and farmland is home to a surprising diversity and density of cats.

We have teamed up with local guides to discover and open up some of these areas and as of 2022 when we first ran these trips we have a 100% record of number **Jaguar** sightings (including at least 3 different Jaguars seen on each trip) and two of these four trips have netted all 5 of the targeted species of cat including more than one sighting of each (excluding **Geoffroy's cats** – where one was seen on each trip), we also have a 100% success rate in seeing the very endangered and amazing looking **Chaco Peccary**.

We visit 3 distinct areas on this itinerary, firstly a private reserve with a large **Jaguar**, **Jaguarundi** and **Ocelot** density and then the amazing dry Chaco forest of Kaa Iya National Park where **Jaguars**, **Pumas** and **Tapirs** live alongside Chaco endemics such as the **Chaco Peccary**, **Southern Three-banded Armadillo** and **Pale Titi Monkeys**. We then finish the trip with a visit to Trinidad and nearer the true Amazon, here we have a great chance to see the endemic **Bolivian River Dolphin** and (whilst not a mammal) one of the world's rarest birds, the endemic **Blue-throated Macaw**.

4 places available
on 4-16 Oct 2025
departure

6 places available
on 17-29 Oct 2025
departure

Endemic Mammals of the Dominican Republic

Dates: 30th Jan –
3rd Feb 2026

Price: £1,995
Single Sup: £250



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Hispainolan Solenodon / Hispainolan Hutia / Eastern Red Bat / Jamaican Fruit-eating Bat / Brown Flower Bat / Cuban Funnel-eared Bat / Waterhouse's Leaf-nosed Bat / Mexican Funnel-eared Bat / Cuban Fig-eating Bat

Summary: The Caribbean is not a massive hotspot for mammal life but there are some endemic species of terrestrial mammals on the larger islands. This specialist tour targets two of these rarities, the Hispainolan Hutia (a large beaver like tree dwelling species of rodent) and the very unusual Hispainolan solenodon. This large shrew-like venomous species has a ball and socket joint on its nose and is one of the strangest mammals on the planet.

We search for these species (as well as visiting various bat roosts) with the expert help of the Dominican Republic's leading biologist and conservationist Dr. Jorge Brocca and his team. We have a 100% success rate in seeing both of these species and also a variety of endemic reptiles (including the critically endangered Ricord's Iguana and bird species for those also interested).

We also run an optional pre tour extension to see many of the endemic bird species of the island, and with some luck we can see all of the endemics as part of this trip. For anyone interested in this extension, please contact us and we can provide more information.

3 places available

Photo Credits: hutia (top right) Dr. Brocca / hutia (bottom left) Chris Scharf / solenodon (bottom right) Deborah Bradley

Pangolins and Other Mammals of Ghana

*not online – PDF brochure available on request

Dates: 3rd March – 15th March 2026 Price: £3,995
Single Sup: £150



Top 10 Mammal Targets: White-bellied Pangolin / Black-bellied Pangolin / Gambian Mongoose / Western Tree Hyrax / White-thighed Colobus / Red-flanked Duiker / Lowe's Monkey / Pel's Anomalure / Common Cusimanse

Summary: Ghana is home to some of the last remaining tracts of rainforest and savanna in West Africa. National Parks such as Kakum and Mole are home to populations of lions, forest & savanna elephant, bongo and other large mammals which have been extirpated from many neighbouring countries.

6 places available

Whilst seeing some of the large mammals is very tough in Ghana there are some smaller species which have started to make this wonderful country quite famous.

Home to three species of **pangolins**, two species of **tree hyrax**, four species of **anomalure** (African flying squirrel) as well as a wealth of **primates**, diurnal **squirrels** and small carnivores the country offers a bounty for any mammalwatching enthusiast.

This trip is designed for the best mammalwatching the country has to offer and we have secured the services of the pangolin finding expert Robert Nkator and his team who are regarded as near pangolin whisperers with a great reputation among the mammalwatching community, we are confident of finding as many of these wonderful species as possible as we explore Ghana.

The trip visits a combination of primary and secondary rainforest and savanna as we target both of the smaller species of pangolin (we have a 75% success rate in seeing both of these species and around 90% in seeing one of the two species), which are the **white-bellied (or tree) pangolin** and the **black-bellied (or long-tailed) pangolin**. We also visit various forest which are perhaps the only (or certainly the most reliable) locations for species such as **Pel's anomalure**, **white-thighed colobus**, **Gambian mongoose** among other species.

And for anyone interested in extending their trip by a couple of extra nights we have an exciting and unique extension which will take you east of the Volta River (a major barrier in species movements in West Africa) where we will try to find the recently described **Benin Tree Hyrax**.

Photo Credits: black-bellied pangolin - Rod Cassidy

Just European Minks – Specialist Tour

*not online – PDF brochure available on request

Dates: 11th March – 16th March 2026
Price: £1,750
Single Sup: £200



Top 10 Mammal Targets: European Mink / Eurasian Wild Cat / Raccoon Dog / Golden Jackal / European Pine Marten / Brown Rat / Daubenton's Bat / Noctule / Kuhl's Pipistrelle / Soprano Pipistrelle

Summary: This is a specialized short mammal-watching tour to look for the critically endangered **European Mink**.

6 places available

Working with expert local guides in Romania who have been pioneering mammalwatching here to point where Romania is now perhaps the greatest mammalwatching destination in Europe, we are proud to bring this specialist trip to see one of Europe's and the world's rarest mammals.

There has been repeated success with sightings over several years.

But it is still an elusive species and we don't offer a 100% guarantee. March which is the mating time for the **European Mink** and the Danube Delta is definitely the 'only' accessible and somewhat reliable place in the World to see this rare mammal!

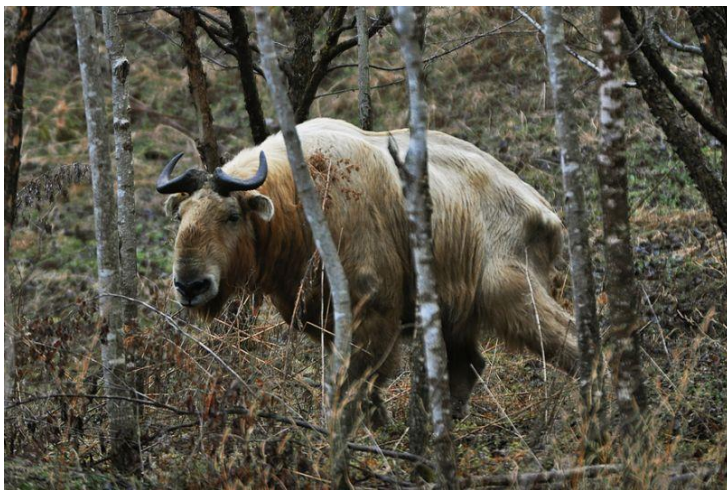
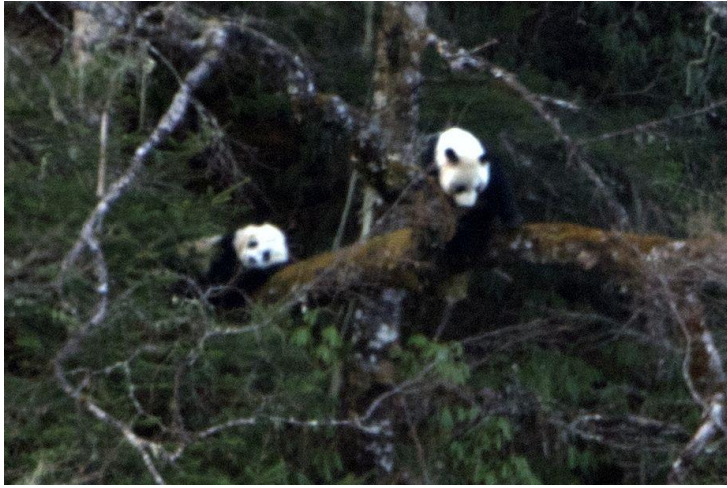
As the name of the tour would suggest the mink is our prime target but we will try to see many other mammals as well. There are not many places in Europe where we can hope to see one of the rarest mammals, but the Danube Delta in Romania still offers this chance for mammal watchers! The **European Mink** was once widespread from Northern Spain and Western France throughout Central Europe towards the Ural Mountains but it has severely declined due to many factors. One of the strongholds now is in the Danube Delta and we have a good chance to connect with it on our four nights stay inside the delta.

Photo Credits: European mink (top and bottom left) Janos Olah / European mink (top and bottom right) Zoltan Gergey

Sichuan Mammals Tour

Dates: 1st Mar –
14th Mar 2026

Price: £3,995
Single Sup: £450



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Giant Panda / Pallas's Cat / Red Panda / Sichuan Takin / Chinese Mountain Cat / Tibetan Gazelle / Golden Snub-nosed Monkey / Asiatic Black Bear / Tufted Deer / Chinese Ferret Badger

Summary: When people think of China they rarely think of wildlife and if they do think of Chinese animals that inevitably think of giant pandas. This one species is so iconic and so famous around the world that it is hard to imagine them as wild animals that live a life completely removed from people, but in recent years more and more giant pandas are living wild lives away from the disturbance of people. This is testament to fantastic conservation work and we will be hopefully benefiting from this conservation work as we enter a huge bamboo ecosystem in the mountains of one of the last remaining wild **giant panda** habitats. By hiking in this forest we will be in prime **panda** habitat and will hopefully be rewarded with one of the rarest sights in nature.

However this is only the first of three very different habitats we will be exploring, from the bamboo zone we will travel to the edge of the Tibetan plateau and to the rocky and rugged wilderness of Ruergai where typical high altitude species such as **Pallas's cat** and **Chinese mountain cat** live and then down into the forested mountains of Tangjiahe where **musk deer**, **serow**, **gorals**, **badgers** and **bears** live. We will spend a considerable amount of time exploring these habitats for wildlife and trying to see as many of these species as possible and hopefully get some rare species too.

Our two tours in 2019 (the last trips run before China locked down in the covid-19 pandemic) resulted in a total of 4 Giant Pandas being seen. Including watching a mother and cub in a tree for over 1 hour and a sighting of a male at 5m range! And our 2 groups in 2024 (the first time we could return after the pandemic) resulted in 5 pandas being seen across the trips, our local guides had a further 5 sightings across their other trips. Giving the region we visit an incredible 100% success rate in seeing **giant pandas** when people have visited specifically for that purpose.

4 places available

Photo Credits: giant panda & Pallas's cat – Samuel Marlin / Sichuan takin – Chris Scharf

Western Sahara's Rare Mammals

Dates: late 2025 / early 2026
dates TBC

Price: £2,195
Single Sup: £110



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Sand Cat / Fennec Fox / Ruppel's Fox / African Golden Wolf / Egyptian Mouse-tailed Bat / Lesser Egyptian Jerboa / Lesser Egyptian Gerbil / Pygmy Gerbil / Maghreb Hare / Honey Badger

Summary: Deep into the orange sands and gravel pans of the Sahara live some wonderful mammals. Once thought impossible to find and reliably see well, the likes of the **Sand Cat** and **Fennec Fox** remained elusive for a long time. However the autonomous region of the Western Sahara lying to the south of Morocco has become the place see these (and other species) of desert adapted mammals. The trip is a week long exploration of the desert where we will use local guides and drivers with years of experience in reading the desert and predicting the likely den sites of **Sand Cats** and **Foxes**.

There is also the added bonus for 2025, is that there was good levels of rain fall in the summer months and traditionally when this happens the next spring sees a surge in mammal life in the coming years. On our most recent trips in 2024 we had many **African wild cat** sightings as long with **fennec & Ruppell's foxes** as well as **sand cat**, many **Libyan striped weasels** (7 sightings), **honey badger**, **African golden wolves** and a wealth of rodents.

Please note the single supplement is only available for the first and last night in the city of Dakhla, the desert accommodation (both camp and homestay) require everyone to share with another client.

**5 places available
on each trip**

Photo Credits: sand cat, fennec fox, lesser Egyptian jerboa, honey badger – Javi Elongiarra

African Golden Cat Quest

*not online – PDF brochure available on request

Dates: 22nd May
– 1st June 2026

Price: £5,695
Single Sup: £280



Top 10 Mammal Targets: African Golden Cat / African Forest Elephant / African Palm Civet / White-bellied Pangolin / Marsh Mongoose / Demidoff's Galago / Giant Forest Hog / L'Hoest's Monkey / Lion / Leopard

Summary: Guided by Uganda's foremost mammalwaching guide (Harriet Kemigisha and her well established team) and traveling to locations which have had recent repeated success in seeing **African Golden Cats**, this is the first expedition style trip of its kind in the world. A small group tour dedicated to spending time on a developed strategy to find Africa's most elusive cat and one of the world's most beautiful mammals.

4 places available

Over the last few years people have been visiting looking specifically for this species and this has lead to local guides exploring every possibility for a way to find them. This hard work has paid off and there now appears to be a couple of locations which are offering repeated sightings. It is still a very hard animal to see, but we are proud to add the **African Golden Cat** to the growing list of rare and elusive mammals which Royle Safaris offers specific expedition style tours to see.

The tour will visit 2 of the most iconic locations for wildlife watching in Uganda. All of which are different habitats (showing the versatility of this cat); from rainforest in Kibale to the savanna and the Afro Montane forests of Bwindi. All of these locations harbour good chances to see the **Golden Cat** as well as a wealth of other wildlife, Uganda is perhaps the only place in the world that can combine typical African 'big game' viewing, with world class primate watching and the chance for incredibly rare mammals such as **African Golden Cat** and **Giant Pangolin**.

All in all we think any mammalwatcher or general wildlife enthusiast would thoroughly enjoy this trip.

It is also popular with our clients booking this trip to add in an extra day at the start and one at the end of the trip so they can do **chimpanzee** and **mountain gorilla** trekking as well, which we can arrange an add on easily.

Photo Credits: golden cat (top left) – felidaefund.org / L'hoest's monkey & lions – Samuel Marlin / golden cat (bottom right) – Laila Bahaa-el-din

South Africa's Rare Mammals Tour

*not online – PDF brochure available on request

Dates: 20th May
– 2nd Jun 2026

Price: £4,895
Single Sup:
£1,300



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Ground Pangolin / Caracal / Southern Aardwolf / Aardvark / Honey Badger / Black-footed Cat / Zorilla / Cape Fox / African Wild Dog / Serval / Black Rhino / Meerkat / Brown Hyena

Summary: South Africa is one of the world's premier wildlife watching destinations, but there is a lot more to this wonderful country than the traditional Big Five, great white sharks and whale watching. This specialist mammalwatching tour aims to showcase many of the species which often go under the radar.

The field guides are full of species of mammals which are seldom ever seen, but that is all about to change if you book onto this trip. Animals which have long been enigmas such as **aardvarks**, **ground pangolins**, **black-footed cats**, **honey badgers** and **brown hyenas** are all seen with regularity in the sites we visit as part of this trip.

Travelling the breadth of South Africa in the safe hands of some of Africa's top mammalwatching local guides we visit a combination of private properties and national parks as we go in search of rare mammals of all sizes. From the huge endangered **black rhino** and the colourful **African wild dog** to the tiny **four-toed elephant shrew** and the very elusive **riverine rabbit**; all these species and many more are targeted on this trip.

Of course whilst traveling through South Africa you will also see many of the common species which help to make South Africa a famous wildlife watching destination. So you will get to see **lions**, **white rhinos**, **leopards**, **African elephants**, **Cape buffalo** (the traditional Big Five) as well as up to 60 species of mammals.

With some luck there is a chance of seeing a very impressive 6 species of cat including **lion**, **leopard**, **cheetah**, **caracal**, **African wild cat**, **black-footed cat** and **serval**.

We also offer optional extensions to Kruger and Madikwe National Parks for anyone wishing to further explore South Africa.

7 places available

Photo Credits: aardvark & aardwolf – Chris Daniels / Ground Pangolin & Rock shrew – Chris Scharf

Endemic Mammals of West Papua

*not online – PDF brochure available on request

Dates: TBC –
likely to be
May/June 2026

Price: TBC –
likely to be
around £9,950
Single Sup: £400



Top 10 Mammal Targets: Western Long-beaked Echidna / Ursine Tree Kangaroo / Ground Cuscus / Grizzled Tree Kangaroo / Waigeo Spotted Cuscus / Long-fingered Triok / Stien's Cuscus / Arfak Ring

Summary: Join the legendary Carlos Bocos and a host of wonderful local trackers as you head to the new frontier of mammalwatching and explore the rugged mountains and forests of West Papua on the island of New Guinea.

5 places available

For as long as most can remember New Guinea has been a place where mammals were never seen, many birders would visit and see a treasure trove of stunning birds-of-paradise and other species, but their reports would be stark in their lack of mammals seen. But all that has changed thanks in large part (if not solely) because of the tireless work of Carlos Bocos. A guide many will be familiar with he is opening up more and more places in the west of New Guinea (the Indonesian side) and as a result many species of mammals are starting to be seen. His two trips (one exploratory and one our (and the world's) first dedicated mammalwatching trip to the region, have resulted in over 60 different species of mammals being seen including all of the top targets which include two species of **tree kangaroo** and the near mythical **western long-beaked echidna**.

There is a range of marsupials to be seen on the trip including several species of **cuscus** including the beautiful **Waigeo spotted cuscus** as well as endemic **ringtails**, **possums**, **dorcopsis** (a forest wallaby), **spiny bandicoots**, **dasyures** and the **long-fingered triok**. But it is not just the marsupials unique to the island which are our focus, there is a wealth of **rodent** and **bat** species to see also, these include a newly discovered species of **horseshoe bat**, which our last group was the first to capture and it is currently being described. From large **fruit bats** to tiny **myotis** there is the possibility for around 15 species of bat and 10 species of rodent with the major target being the poorly understood and unique **New Guinea jumping mouse**.

We do have to put a small warning on this tour however, the hiking involved in getting into the Arfak mountains is extremely tough, it can take 8-10 hours to hike up the mountain, on often wet and slippery trails which can be very steep at times (and require the use of handrails). Only people with a good level of physical fitness can come along on this trip as a result.