



STONE CREEK SAFARIS

South Africa boasts a wide variety of wildlife and animal species. Due to the country's range of biomes, it can play host to a large and diverse range of animals, of which roughly 30 species are accessible for lawful, controlled hunting. The most frequent species of Plains Game, Small Predators, Rodents, and certain Dangerous Game species that you may run across or get up close and personal with while on a South African safari are listed here.



BLUE WILDEBEEST: (Rowland Ward – 28 4/8") SCI -70"

The blue wildebeest (*Connochaetes taurinus*), also called the common wildebeest, white-bearded gnu or brindled gnu. The blue wildebeest is an herbivore, feeding primarily on short grasses. It forms herds which move about in loose aggregations, the animals being fast runners and extremely wary.

The blue wildebeest exhibits sexual dimorphism, with males being larger and darker than females. The blue wildebeest is typically 170–250 cm (67–98 in) in head-and-body length. The average height of the species is 115–151 cm (45–59 in). Males typically weigh 170 to 410 kg (370 to 900 lb) and females weigh 140 to 260 kg (310 to 570 lb). Both sexes possess a pair of large, curved horns.



BLACK WILDEBEEST: (Roland Ward – 23") SCI – 72"

The black wildebeest or white-tailed gnu (*Connochaetes gnou*) is one of the two closely related wildebeest species. It is characterised by its white, long, horse-like tail. It also has a dark brown to black coat and long, dark-coloured hair between its forelegs and under its belly.

The black wildebeest is typically 170–220 cm (67–87 in) in head-and-body length, and the typical weight is 110–180 kg (240–400 lb). Males stand about 111–121 cm (44–48 in) at the shoulder, while the height of the females is 106–116 cm (42–46 in). Both sexes have strong horns that curve forward, resembling hooks.



CAPE BUSHBUCK (Roland Ward – 15") SCI – 31"

The Cape bushbuck (*Tragelaphus sylvaticus*), also known as imbabala is a common, medium-sized antelope and is widespread in sub-Saharan Africa. It is found in a wide range of habitats, such as rain forests, montane forests, forest-savanna mosaic, savanna, bushveld, and woodland.

They have a light brown coat, to dark brown with some males and white stripes and white splotches on the sides. Cape bushbucks stand around 90 cm (35 in) at the shoulder and weigh from 60 to 80 kg (130 to 180 lb) in males and 25 to 60 kg (55 to 132 lb) in females. Only males have spiral type horns.



CAPE BUFFALO: (Roland Ward - 64") SCI – 101"

The African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) also known as "The Black Death" is a large sub-Saharan African bovine. There are five subspecies that are recognized as being valid. *Syncerus caffer caffer*, the Cape buffalo, is the nominotypical subspecies, and the largest one, found in Southern Africa and East Africa.

The adult African buffalo's horns are its characteristic feature: they have fused bases, forming a continuous bone shield across the top of the head, referred to as a "boss". Cape buffaloes weigh 425 to 870 kg (937 to 1,918 lb) males weigh about 100 kg (220 lb) more than females. In comparison.

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BLESBUCK: (Roland Ward – 16 4/8") SCI – 40"

The blesbok or blesbuck (*Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi*) is a subspecies of the bontebok antelope endemic to South Africa, Eswatini and Namibia. It has a distinctive white face and forehead, which inspired the name because bles is the Afrikaans (and Dutch language) word for a blaze such as one might see on the forehead of a horse.

The length of their horns averages at around 38 cm. Male adult blesbok average around 70 kg; females average lower, at around 61 kg. Body length: 140–160 cm (4.6–5.2 ft), Shoulder height: 85–100 cm (2.79–3.28 ft). Different colour variants occur such as: White Blesbuck and Golden Blesbuck.



COMMON DUIKER: (Roland Ward – 4 4/8") SCI – 11"

The common duiker (*Sylvicapra grimmia*), also known as the gray duiker or bush duiker, is a small antelope and the only member of the genus *Sylvicapra*. This species is found everywhere in Africa south of the Sahara,

It grows to about 50 cm (20 in) in height and generally weighs 12 to 25 kg (26 to 55 lb); females are generally larger and heavier than the males. Only the male has horns and these can grow to 11 cm (4.3 in) long.



CAPE ELAND: (Roland Ward – 35") SCI – 77"

The common eland (*Taurotragus oryx*), also known as the southern eland or eland antelope, is a large-sized savannah and plains antelope found in East and Southern Africa. It is the second-largest antelope in the world, being slightly smaller on average than the giant eland.

An adult male is around 1.6 m (5.2 ft) tall at the shoulder (females are 20 cm (7.9 in) shorter) and can weigh up to 942 kg (2,077 lb) with a typical range of 500–600 kg (1,100–1,300 lb), 340–445 kg (750–981 lb) for females). Both sexes have spiral type horns.



GEMSBOK: (Roland Ward – 40") SCI – 81"

The gemsbok (*Oryx gazella*), or South African oryx, is a large antelope in the genus *Oryx*. It is endemic to the dry and barren regions of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and (parts of) Zimbabwe, mainly inhabiting the Kalahari and Namib Deserts. Gemsbok are widely hunted for their spectacular horns that average 85 cm (33 in) in length. From a distance, the only outward difference between males and females is their horns, and many hunters mistake females for males each year. In males horns tend to be thicker with larger bases. Females have slightly longer, thinner horns.

Gemsbok are the largest species in the genus *Oryx*. They stand about 1.2 m (4 ft) at the shoulder. The body length can vary from 190 to 240 cm (75 to 94 in) and the tail measures 45 to 90 cm (18 to 35 in). Male gemsbok can weigh between 180 and 240 kg (400 and 530 lb), while females weigh 100–210 kg (220–460 lb).

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CAPE GRYSBOK: (Roland Ward – 3“) SCI – 5”

The Cape or southern grysbok (*Raphicerus melanotis*) is a small antelope that is endemic to the Western Cape region of South Africa between Albany and the Cederberg mountains. The Cape grysbok's native habitat is the "Fynbos biome" (Cape Floristic Region), and it inhabits thick shrubland.

It has a rough, reddish sandy coat flecked in white. The head, neck and legs are less flecked and somewhat yellowish. It stands only 45–55 cm (17 - 21”) at the shoulder and weighs about 8–12 kg (17-26 lb). Males have short, sharp and straight horns about 8 cm (3”) long, which are smooth.



GREY RHEBOK: (Roland Ward – 7 7/8“) SCI – 16“

The grey rhebok or gray rhebuck (*Pelea capreolus*), locally known as the vaalribbok in Afrikaans, is a species of antelope native to South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini (Swaziland). The specific name *capreolus* is Latin for 'little goat'.

The grey rhebok is a medium-sized antelope weighing 19–30 kilograms (42–66 lb) with a long neck and narrow ears. The coat is short and dense and coloured in various shades of grey. Only the males carry horns, which are straight, sharp, ringed at the base, and around 15–25 centimetres (5.9–9.8 in) long.



IMPALA: (Roland Ward – 23 6/8“) SCI – 52”

The impala or rooibok (*Aepyceros melampus*) is a medium-sized antelope found in eastern and southern Africa. The impala is found in woodlands and sometimes on the interface (ecotone) between woodlands and savannahs;

The impala is a medium-sized, slender-bodied antelope, comparable to the kob, puku and Grant's gazelle in size and build. The head-and-body length is around 130 cm (51 in). Males reach approximately 75–92 cm (30–36 in) at the shoulder, while females are 70–85 cm (28–33 in) tall. Males typically weigh 53–76 kilograms (117–168 lb) and females 40–53 kg (88–117 lb). Sexually dimorphic, females are hornless and smaller than males. Males grow slender, lyre-shaped horns 45–92 cm (18–36 in) long. Different colour variants occur such as: White Impala and Black Impala.



KLIPSPRINGER: (Roland Ward – 4 1/8“) SCI – 10”

The klipspringer (*Oreotragus oreotragus*) is a small antelope found in eastern and southern Africa. It inhabits places characterised by rocky terrain and sparse vegetation. It migrates to lowlands at times of food scarcity.

The klipspringer is a small, sturdy antelope reaching 43–60 cm (17–23 1/2 in) at the shoulder. The head-and-body length is typically between 75 and 115 cm (30 and 45 in). It weighs from 8 to 18 kg (18 to 40 lb). The klipspringer is sexually dimorphic; females are slightly larger and heavier than the males. The horns, short and spiky, present only on males, typically measure 7.5–11.5 cm (3–4 1/2 in).

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KUDU: (Roland Ward – 54”) SCI – 121”

The greater kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*) also called “The Grey Ghost” is a large woodland antelope, found throughout eastern and southern Africa. The bulls (males) have beards running along their throats, and large horns with two and a half twists, which, were they to be straightened, would reach an average length of 120 cm (47 in), with the record being 187.64 cm (73.87 in).

The greater kudu is one of the largest species of antelope, being slightly smaller than the bongo. Bulls weigh 190–270 kg (420–600 lb), with a maximum of 315 kg (694 lb), and stand up to 160 cm (63 in) tall at the shoulder. The ears of the greater kudu are large and round. Cows weigh 120–210 kg (260–460 lb) and stand as little as 100 cm (39 in) tall at the shoulder; they are hornless, without a beard or nose markings.



MOUNTAIN REEDBUCK: (Roland Ward – 6”) SCI – 11”

The mountain reed buck (*Redunca fulvorufula*) is an antelope found in mountainous areas of much of sub-Saharan Africa.

The mountain reed buck averages 75 cm (30 in) at the shoulder and weighs around 30 kg (66 lb). It has a grey coat with a white underbelly and reddish-brown head and shoulders. The male has ridged horns of around 15.2 cm (6.0 in), which curve forwards. Both sexes have a dark scent patch beneath the ears.



NYALA: (Roland Ward – 27”) SCI – 63”

The lowland nyala or simply nyala (*Tragelaphus angasii*) is a spiral-horned artiodactyl antelope native to Southern Africa. As a herbivore, the nyala feeds upon foliage, fruits and grasses, and requires sufficient fresh water. A shy animal, it prefers water holes rather than open spaces.

The nyala is typically between 135–195 cm (53–77 in) in head-and-body length. The male stands up to 110 cm (43 in), the female is up to 90 cm (3.0 ft) tall. Males weigh 98–125 kg (216–276 lb), while females weigh 55–68 kg (121–150 lb). Only the males have spiral type horns 60–83 cm (24–33 in) long and yellow-tipped.



SABLE ANTELOPE: (Roland Ward – 42”) SCI – 96”

The sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger*) also called the “Prins of Africa” is a large antelope which inhabits wooded savanna in East and Southern Africa, from the south of Kenya to South Africa,

The sable antelope is sexually dimorphic, with the male heavier and about one-fifth taller than the female. The head-and-body length is typically between 190 and 255 cm (75 and 100 in). Males reach about 117–140 cm (46–55 in) at the shoulder, while females are slightly shorter. Males typically weigh 235 kg (518 lb) and females 220 kg (490 lb). The tail is 40–75 cm (16–30 in) long, with a tuft at the end. Both sexes have ridged horns which arch backwards. In females, these can reach 61–102 cm (24–40 in), while in males they are 81–165 cm (32–65 in) long.

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SPRINGBUCK: (Roland Ward – 14") SCI – 30"

The springbok or springbuck (*Antidorcas marsupialis*) is an antelope found mainly in south and southwest Africa. The springbok is characterised by a white face, a dark stripe running from the eyes to the mouth, a light-brown coat marked by a reddish-brown stripe that runs from the upper fore leg to the buttocks across the flanks like the Thomson's gazelle, and a white rump flap.

A slender, long-legged antelope, the springbok reaches 71 to 86 cm (28 to 34 in) at the shoulder and weighs between 27 and 42 kg (60 and 93 lb). Both sexes have a pair of black, 35-to-50 cm (14-to-20 in) long horns that curve backwards. Different colour variants occur such as: White Springbuck, Black Springbuck and Copper Springbuck.



STEENBOK: (Roland Ward – 4 4/8") SCI – 8"

The steenbok (*Raphicerus campestris*) is a common small antelope of southern and eastern Africa. It is sometimes known as the steinbuck or steinbok.

Steenbok resemble small oribi, standing 45–60 cm (16"–24") at the shoulder, and weigh 7-16 kg. Their coat is any shade from fawn to rufous, typically rather orange. The underside, including chin and throat, is white, as is the ring around the eye. Ears are large with "finger-marks" on the inside. Males have straight, smooth,

parallel horns 7–19 cm long



WATERBUCK: (Roland Ward – 28") SCI – 67"

The waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*) is a large antelope found widely in sub-Saharan Africa. The waterbuck cannot tolerate dehydration in hot weather, and thus inhabits areas close to sources of water. Predominantly a grazer, the waterbuck is mostly found on grassland.

The head-and-body length is typically between 177 and 235 cm (70 and 93 in) and the typical height is between 120 and 136 cm (47 and 54 in). In this sexually dimorphic antelope, males are taller and heavier than females. Males reach roughly 127 cm (50 in) at the shoulder, while females reach 119 cm (47 in). Males typically weigh 198–262 kg (437–578 lb) and females 161–214 kg (355–472 lb). The long, spiral horns, present only on males, curve backward, then forward, and are 55–99 cm (22–39 in) long.



COMMON REEDBUCK (Roland Ward – 13" SCI – 21"

The common reedbuck, or southern reedbuck (*Redunca arundinum*) is a diurnal antelope typically found in southern Africa. They have a wide distribution, stretching from Gabon and Tanzania to South Africa. They inhabit moist grasslands with tall grass, reeds, sufficient cover, and water nearby, such as floodplains, pastures, woodlands, and vleis.

The coat is silky and almost woolly. The colour of its coat ranges between light- and greyish-brown, and may be lighter on the neck and chest. It stands 80–90 cm (31–35 in) at the shoulder. Females weigh 50-85 kg (106 lb), while the males weigh 60-95 kg (150 lb). Males bear forward-curving horns, about 35–45 cm (14–18 in) long, with the base having a distinct band of pale, rubbery tissue.[5]

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RED LECHWE (Roland Ward – 26“) SCI – 58“

The red lechwe, or southern lechwe (*Kobus leche*) is an antelope found in wetlands of south-central Africa. Lechwe are found in marshy areas where they are an important herbivore of aquatic plants, as well as grasses that are found in flooded meadows.

They are golden brown with white bellies. Males are darker in colour, but exact hue and amount of blackish on the front legs. Adult lechwe typically stand 90 to 100 cm (35 to 39 in) at the shoulder and generally weigh from 50 to 120 kg (110 to 260 lb), with males being larger than females. The long, spiral horns are vaguely lyre-shaped and borne only by males.



GIRAFFE:

The South African giraffe (*G. c. giraffa*) also known as Cape giraffe is found in northern South Africa, southern Botswana, northern Botswana and southwestern Mozambique. It is the tallest living terrestrial animal and the largest ruminant on Earth.

Fully grown giraffes stand 4.3–5.7 m (14–19 ft) tall, with males taller than females. The average weight is 1,192 kg (2,628 lb) for an adult male and 828 kg (1,825 lb) for an adult female.



PLAINS ZEBRA:

Zebras (subgenus *Hippotigris*) are African equines with distinctive black-and-white striped coats. There are three living species: Grévy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*), the plains zebra (*E. quagga*), and the mountain zebra (*E. zebra*). Zebra stripes come in different patterns, unique to each individual.

Body length of 217–246 cm (85–97 in) with 47–56 cm (19–22 in) tail, 110–145 cm (43–57 in) shoulder height and weighs 175–385 kg (386–849 lb)



OSTRICH:

Ostriches are large flightless birds. Two living species are recognised, the common ostrich, native to large areas of sub-Saharan Africa, and the Somali ostrich, native to the Horn of Africa.

They are the heaviest and largest living birds, with adult common ostriches weighing anywhere between 70 and 145 kilograms and laying the largest eggs of any living land animal. With the ability to run at 70 km/h (43.5 mph), they are the fastest birds on land. They are farmed worldwide. South Africa produces

about 70% of global ostrich products, with the industry largely centred around the town of Oudtshoorn. Ostrich leather is a lucrative commodity.

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ROAN ANTELOPE: (Roland Ward – 26 4/8") SCI – 67"

The roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*) is a large savanna-antelope found in western, central, and southern Africa. Roan antelopes can be found in woodland, grassland, and savannah.

Named for its roan colour (a reddish brown), it has lighter underbellies, white eyebrows and cheeks and black faces, lighter in females. It has short, erect manes, very light beards and prominent red nostrils. It is one of the largest antelope, measuring 190–240 cm (75–94 in) from head to the base of the tail, and a 37–48 cm (15–19 in) long tail. Males weigh 242–300 kg (534–661 lb) and females 223–280 kg (492–617 lb). Its shoulder height is around 130–140 cm (51–55 in). The horns are ringed and arched backwards, which can reach 100 cm (39 in) long in males, slightly shorter in females.



BONTEBOK: (Roland Ward – 14") SCI – 37"

The bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus*) is an antelope found in South Africa, Lesotho and Namibia. *D. pygargus* has two subspecies; the nominate subspecies (*D. p. pygargus*), occurring naturally in the Fynbos and Renosterveld areas of the Western Cape.

The bontebok is a chocolate brown colour, with a white belly and a white stripe from the forehead to the tip of the nose. They typically stand 80 to 100 cm (31 to 39 in) high at the shoulder and measure 120 to 210 cm (47 to 83 in) along the head and body. Body mass can vary from 50 to 155 kg (110 to 342 lb). The horns of the bontebok are lyre-shaped and clearly ringed. They are found in both sexes



WARTHOG: (Roland Ward – 13") SCI – 29"

Phacochoerus is a genus in the family Suidae, commonly known as warthogs (pronounced wart-hog). They are pigs who live in open and semi-open habitats, even in quite arid regions, in sub-Saharan Africa. The English name refers to their facial wattles, which are particularly distinct in males. They also have very distinct tusks, which reach a length of 25 to 40 centimetres (10 – 15") in the males but are always smaller in the females.

A head-and-body length ranging from 0.9 to 1.5 m (2 ft 11 in to 4 ft 11 in), and shoulder height from 63.5 to 85 cm (25.0 to 33.5 in). Females, at 45 to 75 kg (99 to 165 lb), are smaller and lighter than males, at 60 to 150 kg (130 to 330 lb).



BUSHPIG: (Roland Ward – 6") SCI – 12"

The bushpig (*Potamochoerus larvatus*) is a member of the pig family that inhabits forests, woodland, riverine vegetation and cultivated areas in East and Southern Africa.

Adult bushpigs stand from 66 to 100 cm (26 to 39 in) at the shoulder, and mature boars can reach a weight of 150 kg (330 lb), although 60 to 80 kg (130 to 180 lb) is more common. Sows are 45 to 70 kg (99 to 154 lb). They resemble the domestic pig and can be identified by their pointed, tufted ears and face mask.

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HONEY BADGER:

The honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*), also known as the ratel, is a mammal widely distributed in Africa, Southwest Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. The species first appeared during the middle Pliocene in Asia. A number of extinct relatives are known dating back at least 7 million years to the Late Miocene.

The honey badger is the largest terrestrial mustelid in Africa. Adults measure 23 to 28 cm (9 to 11.0 in) in shoulder height and 55–77 cm (22–30 in) in body length, with the tail adding another 12–30 cm (4.7–11.8 in). Females are smaller than males. In Africa, males weigh 9 to 16 kg (20 to 35 lb) while females weigh 5 to 10 kg (11 to 22 lb) on average.



AFRICAN CIVET:

The African civet (*Civettictis civetta*) is a large viverrid native to sub-Saharan Africa, where it is considered common and widely distributed in woodlands and secondary forests. The African civet is primarily nocturnal and spends the day sleeping in dense vegetation, but wakes up at sunset. It is an omnivorous generalist, preying on small vertebrates, invertebrates, eggs, carrion, and vegetable matter.

Its head-and-body length is 67–84 cm (26–33 in), with a 34–47 cm (13–19 in) long tail. The average weight is 11 to 15 kg (24 to 33 lb) within a range of 7 to 20 kg (15 to 44 lb). It is the largest viverrid in Africa.



CAPE PORCUPINE:

The Cape porcupine (*Hystrix africaeaustralis*), Cape crested porcupine or South African porcupine, is a species native to central and southern Africa. Cape porcupines are the largest rodents in Africa and also the world's largest porcupines. Cape porcupines eat mostly plant material: fruits, roots, tubers, bulbs, and bark.

The body is covered in long spines up to 50 centimetres (20 in) in length, interspersed with thicker, sharply pointed, defence quills up to 30 centimetres (12 in) long, and with bristly, blackish or brownish fur. Cape porcupines measure 63 to 81 centimetres (25 to 32 inches) long from the head to the base of the tail, with the tail adding a further 11–20 centimetres (4.3–7.9 inches). They weigh from 10 to 24 kilograms (22 to 53 pounds), males and females are not significantly different in size.



CHACMA BABOON:

The chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*), also known as the Cape baboon, is, like all other baboons, from the Old World monkey family. It is one of the largest of all monkeys. Located primarily in southern Africa.

The male weighs from 21 to 45 kg (46 to 99 lb) with an average of 31.8 kg (70 lb). Baboons are sexually dimorphic, and females are considerably smaller than males. The adult female chacma weighs from 12 to 25 kg (26 to 55 lb), with an average of 15.4 kg (34 lb).

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VERVET MONKEY:

The vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*), or simply vervet, is an Old World monkey of the family Cercopithecidae native to Africa. The vervet monkey inhabits savanna, riverine woodland, coastal forest, and mountains.

These mostly herbivorous monkeys have black faces and grey body hair colour. Adult males weigh between 3.9 and 8.0 kg (8.6 and 17.6 lb), averaging 5.5 kg (12 lb), and have a body length between 420 and 600 mm (17 and 24 in), averaging 490 mm (19 in) from the top of the head to the base of the tail. Adult females weigh between 3.4 and 5.3 kg (7.5 and 11.7 lb) and average 4.1 kg (9.0 lb), and measure between 300 and 495 mm (11.8 and 19.5 in), averaging 426 mm (16.8 in).



CARACAL:

The caracal (*Caracal caracal*) is a medium-sized wild cat native to Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia. It is characterised by a robust build, long legs, a short face, long tufted ears, relatively short tail, and long canine teeth.

Typically nocturnal, the caracal is highly secretive and difficult to observe. It is territorial, and lives mainly alone or in pairs. The caracal is a carnivore that typically preys upon birds, rodents, and other small mammals. It can leap higher than 3.0 m (10 ft) and catch birds in midair. It reaches 40–50 cm (16–20 in) at the shoulder and weighs 8–19 kg (18–42 lb).



BLACK-BACKED JACKAL:

The black-backed jackal (*Lupulella mesomelas*), also called the silver-backed jackal, is a medium-sized canine native to eastern and southern Africa. The black-backed jackal has a wide array of food sources, feeding on small to medium-sized animals, as well as plant matter and human refuse.

The black-backed jackal is a fox-like canid with a slender body, long legs, and large ears. It weighs 6–13 kg (13–29 lb), stands 38–48 cm (15–19 in) at the shoulder, and measures 67.3–81.2 cm (26.5–32.0 in) in body length.



SERVAL:

The serval (*Leptailurus serval*) is a wild cat native to Africa. It is widespread in sub-Saharan countries, except rainforest regions. The serval is a carnivore that preys on rodents, particularly vlei rats, shrews, small birds, hares, frogs, insects, and reptiles.

Prominent characteristics include the small head, large ears, spotted and striped coat, long legs and a black-tipped tail. The serval is a slender, medium-sized cat; it stands 54 to 62 cm (21–24 in) at the shoulder and weighs 8 to 18 kg (18–40 lb), but females tend to be lighter. The head-and-body length is typically between 67 and 100 cm (26–39 in).

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ROCK HYRAX:

The rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis*), also called Cape hyrax or rock rabbit, is a medium-sized terrestrial mammal native to Africa and the Middle East. Commonly referred to in Afrikaans as the dassie or klipdassie. It is one of the five living species of the order Hyracoidea, and the only one in the genus *Procavia*. Rock hyraxes weigh 4–5 kg (8.8–11.0 lb) and have short ears.

Rock hyraxes are found at elevations up to 4,200 m (13,800 ft) above sea level in habitats with rock crevices, allowing them to escape from predators. They typically live in groups of 10–80 animals.



BANDED MONGOOSE:

The banded mongoose (*Mungos mungo*) is a mongoose species native from the Sahel to Southern Africa. It lives in savannas, open forests and grasslands and feeds primarily on beetles and millipedes. Mongooses use various types of dens for shelter including termite mounds. While most mongoose species live solitary lives, the banded mongoose live in colonies with a complex social structure.

An adult can reach a length of 30 to 45 cm (11 – 18”) and a weight of 1.5 to 2.25 kg (3.3 – 5 lb).



YELLOW MONGOOSE:

The yellow mongoose (*Cynictis penicillata*), sometimes referred to as the red meerkat, is a member of the mongoose family. It lives in open country, semi-desert scrubland and grasslands in Angola, Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. It is the only species in the genus *Cynictis*. It is a carnivore, feeding mostly on beetles, termites, grasshoppers and crickets. but also on rodents, small birds, reptiles and eggs.

Southern yellow mongooses have yellow or reddish fur, with long tail and a characteristic white tip. It averages about 0.45 kg (1 lb) in weight and about 510 mm (20 in) in length.



MEERKAT:

The meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*) or suricate is a small mongoose found in Southern Africa. It is characterised by a broad head, large eyes, a pointed snout and, thin tapering tail, and a brindled coat pattern. The head-and-body length is around 24–35 cm (9.4–13.8 in), and the weight is between 0.62 and 0.97 kg (1.4 and 2.1 lb). The coat is light grey to yellowish-brown with alternate, poorly-defined light and dark bands on the back.

Meerkats are highly social, and form packs of two to 30 individuals each that occupy home ranges around 5 km² (1.9 sq mi) in area.

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AFRICAN ELEPHANT: (Roland Ward – 70 lb) SCI – 90 lb

African elephants are members of the genus *Loxodonta* comprising two living elephant species, the African bush elephant (*L. africana*) and the smaller African forest elephant (*L. cyclotis*). Both are social herbivores with grey skin. However, they differ in the size and colour of their tusks as well as the shape and size of their ears and skulls. It is distributed across 37 African countries and inhabits forests, grasslands, woodlands and wetlands.

It is the largest living terrestrial animal, with bulls reaching an average shoulder height of 3.04–3.36 metres (10.0–11.0 ft) and a body mass of 5.2–6.9 tonnes (11,500–15,200 lb), with the largest recorded specimen having a shoulder height of 3.96 metres (13.0 ft) and an estimated body mass of 10.4 tonnes (22,900 lb). Its large ears cover the whole shoulder and can grow as large as 2 m × 1.5 m (6 ft 7 in × 4 ft 11 in).



LION: (Roland Ward – 24”) SCI – 23”

The lion (*Panthera leo*) is a large cat of the genus *Panthera*, native to Africa and India. African lions is a social species and live in scattered populations (called prides) across sub-Saharan Africa. The lion prefers grassy plains and savannahs, scrub bordering rivers, and open woodlands with bushes.

It has a muscular, broad-chested body; a short, rounded head; round ears; and a dark, hairy tuft at the tip of its tail. Adult male lions are larger than females and have a prominent mane and weigh 186.55–225 kg (411.3–496.0 lb) with females weighing 118.37–143.52 kg (261.0–316.4 lb). Its prey consists mainly of medium-sized to large ungulates, particularly blue wildebeest, plains zebra, African buffalo, gemsbok and giraffe. They also frequently take common warthog despite it being much smaller.



LEOPARD: (Roland Ward – 15 4/16”) SCI – 14”

The African leopard (*Panthera pardus pardus*) is the nominate subspecies of the leopard, native to many countries in Africa. It is widely distributed in most of sub-Saharan Africa. The African leopards inhabited a wide range of habitats within Africa, from mountainous forests to grasslands and savannahs.

The African leopard exhibits great variation in coat colour, depending on location and habitat. Coat colour varies from pale yellow to deep gold or tawny, and sometimes black, and is patterned with black rosettes while the head, lower limbs and belly are spotted with solid black. Male leopards are larger, averaging 58 kg (128 lb) with 90 kg (200 lb) being the maximum weight attained by a male. Females weigh about 37.5 kg (83 lb) on average. The leopard has an exceptional ability to adapt to changes in prey availability, and has a very broad diet, including rodents, birds, small and large antelopes, hyraxes, hares, and arthropods.

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SPOTTED HYENA:

The spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*), also known as the laughing hyena, is a hyena species, currently classed as the sole extant member of the genus *Crocuta*, native to sub-Saharan Africa. The species dwells in semi-deserts, savannah, open woodland, dense dry woodland, and mountainous forests.

The spotted hyena has a strong and well-developed neck and forequarters, but relatively underdeveloped hindquarters. The base colour generally is a pale greyish-brown or yellowish-grey on which an irregular pattern of roundish spots on the back and hind quarters. A less distinct spot pattern is present on the legs and belly. The female is considerably larger than the male with adult male weigh 40.5–55.0 kg (89.3–121.3 lb), while females weigh 44.5–63.9 kg (98–141 lb). Spotted hyenas often mislabelled as scavengers, while they commonly taken medium-sized prey like blue wildebeest, plains zebra, greater kudu and impala. The spotted hyena have a powerful bite which can exert a pressure of 80 kgf/cm² (1140 lbf/in²), which is 40% more force than a leopard can generate.



WHITE RHINO: (Roland Ward – 26”) SCI – 70”

The white rhinoceros, white rhino or square-lipped rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*) is the largest extant species of rhinoceros. The southern white rhino found in Southern Africa. About 98.5% of white rhinos live in just five countries (South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Uganda). They are found in grassland and savannah habitat.

The colour of the body ranges from yellowish-brown to slate grey. Its only hair is the ear fringes and tail bristles. The bull, averaging about 2,000–2,300 kg (4,410–5,070 lb) is heavier than the cow, at an average of about 1,600–1,700 kg (3,530–3,750 lb). On its snout it has two horn-like growths, one behind the other. These are made of solid keratin,



HIPPOPOTAMUS: (Roland Ward – 24”) SCI – 50”

The hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) also shortened to hippo, is a large semiaquatic mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa. Hippos inhabit rivers, lakes, and mangrove swamps. Territorial bulls each preside over a stretch of water and a group of five to thirty cows and calves.

Hippo skin is 6 cm (2.4 in) thick across much of its body with little hair. The animal is mostly purplish-grey or blue-black, but brownish-pink on the underside and around the eyes and ears. Adult weight is around 1,480 kg (3,260 lb) for bulls and 1,365 kg (3,009 lb) for cows. Exceptionally large males have been recorded reaching 2,660 kg (5,860 lb). Hippo has an average standing height of 1.4 m (4.6 ft) at the shoulder. Male hippos appear to continue growing throughout their lives, while females reach maximum weight at around age 25. On the lower jaw, the incisors and canines grow continuously, the former reaching 40 cm (16 in), while the latter can grow to up to 50 cm (20 in). The lower canines are sharpened through contact with the smaller upper canines. The canines and incisors are used mainly for combat instead of feeding. The hippo is considered to be extremely aggressive and has frequently been reported charging and attacking boats.

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