



WILDLIFE

of Shelanti Game Reserve

We are proud and humbled by the opportunity to showcase African wildlife, indigenous to the Limpopo province, to our guests.

On the reserve animals enjoy the freedom to roam and to live in freedom with an element of danger as nature intended it.

The reserve offers an abundance of wildlife that form part of a spectacular wildlife experience. Leave only tracks and keep only memories as there is enough to share and to enjoy for the animal lover, the enthusiast or the interested. Enjoy the magnificence of wild animals in their natural habitat, birds in abundance and flora to choose from.

Whether you're on a guided drive or relaxing at your accommodation, the bushveld often brings these moments right to your doorstep.

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Aardvark

A secretive, nocturnal mammal rarely seen during the day. Aardvarks use their powerful claws to dig for ants and termites, playing an important role in the ecosystem.

Spotting one on a night drive is a special highlight for lucky guests.



African Buffalo

One of Africa's most formidable animals, the African Buffalo moves in powerful herds. Known for their strength and unpredictable nature, they are a key member of the Big Five.

Watching them interact is a thrilling and humbling bush experience.



Baboon (Chacma)

Highly intelligent and social, Chacma Baboons live in large troops with complex hierarchies.

Often seen foraging or grooming, they are entertaining to observe. Their loud calls echo across the bushveld and signal their strong group bonds.



Bat-Eared Fox

Easily recognised by its oversized ears, this fox uses exceptional hearing to locate insects underground.

Mostly active at dusk and dawn, it feeds mainly on termites. Its delicate build and alert expression make it one of the bush's most charming predators.



Aardwolf

Despite its wolf-like name, the Aardwolf feeds almost exclusively on termites. Mostly nocturnal and shy, it has distinctive striped markings and a mane it raises when threatened.

Sightings are uncommon, making this small predator an exciting checklist tick.



African Wild Cat

The ancestor of domestic cats, this elusive feline is rarely seen. It is slender, quick, and primarily nocturnal, hunting small rodents and birds. Spotting one requires patience and sharp eyes, making sightings especially rewarding for wildlife enthusiasts.



Banded Mongoose

Small, energetic, and highly social, Banded Mongooses live in tight-knit groups. Often seen darting across roads or foraging together, they communicate constantly.

Their cooperative behavior and playful interactions make them a delight to watch on game drives.



Black-Footed Cat

One of Africa's smallest and rarest wild cats, yet a fierce hunter. Nocturnal and extremely elusive, the Black-Footed cat is seldom seen.

A sighting is exceptional and considered a privilege even among seasoned guides and wildlife lovers.



Bushbaby

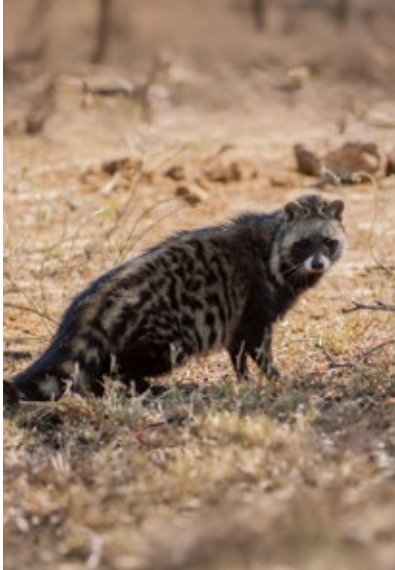
These nocturnal primates are known for their large eyes and incredible leaping ability. Often heard before they are seen, Bushbabies communicate with loud, distinctive calls at night. Spotting one clinging to branches is a magical after-dark experience.



Bushpig

Mostly nocturnal and rarely seen during the day, Bushpigs forage at night for roots and bulbs. Stocky and strong, they play an important role in soil turnover.

Night drives offer the best chance of encountering this elusive species.



Civet (African)

Nocturnal and elusive, the African Civet is known for its distinctive facial mask and musky scent. Often spotted crossing roads at night, it feeds on small animals and fruit. Its unusual appearance makes it an exciting find for guests.



Duiker (Grey)

Small and shy, grey Duikers are often seen darting into dense bush. They browse on leaves, fruit, and flowers, sometimes feeding on fallen fruit beneath trees. Their quick movements and alert posture make sightings brief but rewarding.



Bushbuck

A shy, solitary antelope often found near thick vegetation and water sources.

Bushbucks have striking white markings and prefer to remain hidden. Their cautious nature means



Caracal

A sleek, powerful cat recognised by its long black ear tufts. Caracals are skilled hunters capable of leaping high to catch birds mid-air.

Solitary and secretive, a caracal sighting is always memorable and highly prized.



Crocodile (Nile)

A formidable apex predator found near rivers and dams. Nile Crocodiles bask along the water's edge before slipping silently below the surface.

Observing these ancient reptiles is a reminder of Africa's raw and timeless wilderness.



Dwarf Mongoose

The smallest mongoose species, Dwarf Mongooses live in cooperative groups and are active during the day.

Frequently seen standing upright on termite mounds, acting as lookouts, they are curious and energetic, adding lively moments to any game drive.

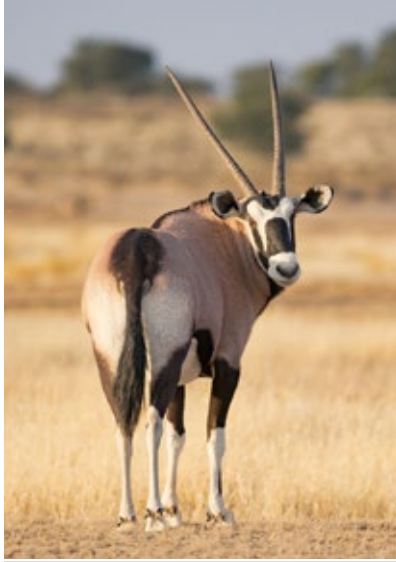




Eland

Africa's largest antelope, Eland are surprisingly agile despite their size. Often seen in small herds, they are calm and graceful browsers.

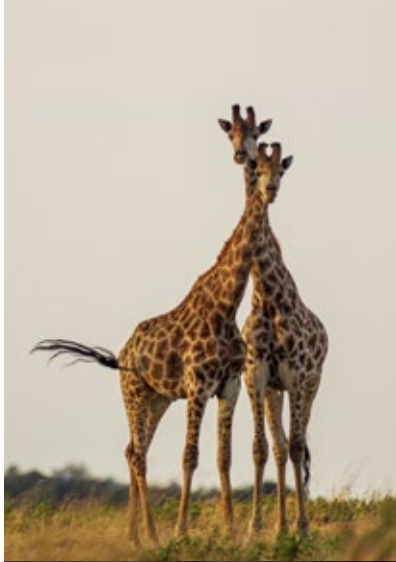
Their distinctive clicking knees can sometimes be heard before they are seen moving through the bush.



Gemsbuck

The gemsbok is a large desert antelope known for its long, straight horns and striking black-and-white facial markings. Adapted to harsh, dry environments, it can survive with very little water and is often found in arid grasslands and sandy plains.

Their calm nature and graceful movements make them impressive animals to observe.



Giraffe

Graceful and towering, Giraffes browse treetops using their long necks and prehensile tongues. Often seen moving slowly across the savannah, they offer wonderful photographic opportunities.

Watching them walk or run across the veld is a uniquely African spectacle.



Honey Badger

Fearless and determined, the Honey Badger is famous for its toughness. Mostly nocturnal, it feeds on a wide variety of food, including honey and small animals.

A rare sighting often leaves guests amazed by its bold character.



Elephant

The largest land mammal on Earth, Elephants are highly social intelligent, and emotional. Watching a herd interact is deeply moving.

Their presence shapes the landscape, and any encounter with these gentle giants is an unforgettable highlight.



Genet

Slender and cat-like, Genets are nocturnal and excellent climbers. Their spotted coats and long tails make them striking when seen in headlights on night drives. Quiet and elusive, they are often spotted near lodges after dark.



Hippo

Spending days submerged in water and grazing at night, Hippos are among Africa's most dangerous animals despite their comical appearance.

Watching them yawn or surface in groups is fascinating, especially at dusk near water sources.



Hyena (Brown)

Shy and mostly nocturnal, brown Hyenas are excellent scavengers.

Rarely seen compared to spotted hyenas, they are an exciting find. Their long shaggy coats and cautious behaviour make sightings especially memorable on evening drives.





Hyena (Spotted)

Highly intelligent and social, spotted Hyenas live in complex clans.

Often misunderstood, they are skilled hunters as well as scavengers. Hearing their calls at night adds drama to the bush and enhances the wilderness experience.



Klipspringer

Perfectly adapted to rocky terrain, Klipspringers move effortlessly across steep slopes. Small and alert, they often stand motionless on rocky outcrops.

Their specialised hooves allow them to balance with ease, making them fascinating to observe.



Leopard

Elusive and powerful, Leopards are masters of stealth. Mostly nocturnal, they often rest in trees during the day. A leopard sighting is always a highlight, offering guests a rare glimpse of one of Africa's most iconic predators.



Porcupine

Africa's largest rodent, Porcupines are mostly nocturnal. Their long black-and-white quills are raised when threatened.

Often seen on night drives, they shuffle along quietly, making them an exciting and distinctive species to tick off.



Impala

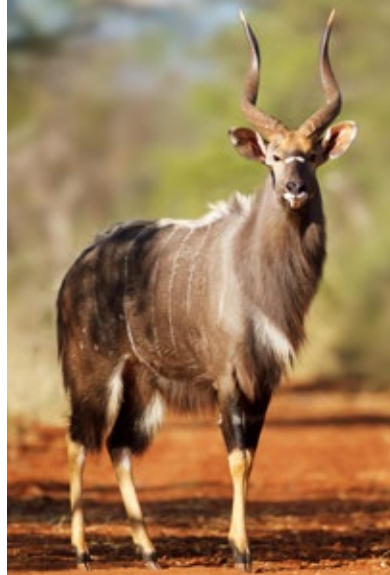
Graceful and abundant, Impala are often seen in herds across open areas. Known for their incredible jumping ability, they are a favourite prey species for predators. Their presence is a constant and beautiful feature of the landscape.



Kudu (Greater)

One of Africa's most elegant antelope, the greater Kudu is recognised by its spiral horns and striped coat. Usually found in woodland areas, they are shy and alert.

Bulls in particular, with their iconic horns, make striking photographic subjects.



Nyala

A beautiful, shy antelope often found near dense vegetation.

Males have striking spiral horns and rich colouring, while females are smaller and more lightly marked. Nyala are calm and elegant, offering peaceful viewing moments.



Red Hartebeest

Tall and long-faced, Red Hartebeest are fast runners adapted to open plains.

They are often found standing alert and scanning for predators. Their unusual shape and energetic movement make them easy to identify and interesting to observe.





Rhino (White – Southern)

The largest of the rhino species, southern White Rhinos are grazers and often seen in small groups. Their calm demeanour allows for extended viewing.

Watching them feed peacefully is both impressive and deeply rewarding.



Rock Hyrax

Despite their small size, Rock Hyrax are closely related to elephants. Often seen sunning themselves on rocky outcrops, they live in colonies and communicate with sharp whistles.

Their social behaviour is entertaining to observe.



Savannah Hare

Active mainly at night, savannah Hares rely on speed and camouflage to escape predators.

Often seen darting across open areas during evening drives, they are an important part of the ecosystem and a fun species to spot.



Serval

A tall, slender cat with long legs and large ears, Servals are excellent hunters of rodents and birds.

Usually seen near wetlands or open grassland, their elegant movement and spotted coat make sightings especially memorable.



Roan Antelope

Despite their large size, roan antelope are agile and alert animals known for their striking curved horns and bold facial markings. They live in small herds across African grasslands and savannas, grazing mainly on grasses near water sources.

Their strong defensive behaviour and calm group interactions make them fascinating to observe.



Sable Antelope

Striking and powerful, Sable Antelope are known for their glossy black coats and curved horns. They are usually found in small herds and are highly territorial.

Spotting a Sable is a highlight for many wildlife enthusiasts.



Scrub Hare

Similar to the savannah Hare but smaller, scrub hares prefer dense vegetation. Mostly nocturnal, they are quick and alert.

Night drives offer the best chance of seeing one pause briefly before disappearing into the bush.



Slender Mongoose

Fast and agile, Slender Mongooses are often seen darting between bushes. Active during the day, they feed on insects and small reptiles.

Their sleek bodies along with their alert nature make them enjoyable to watch when encountered.





Steenbok

A small, solitary antelope that is often seen standing motionless in wide open areas. Steenbok rely on camouflage and freezing behaviour for safety.

Their upright posture and alert expression make them easy to recognise when spotted.



Vervet Monkey

Playful and intelligent, Vervet Monkeys are often seen near trees and water.

Known for their expressive faces and social interactions among each other, they provide endless entertainment.

Watching their group dynamics offers insight into primate behaviour.



Waterbuck

Large and quite shaggy, Waterbuck are usually found near water sources. They have a distinctive white ring on their rumps.

Calm and sturdy, they are often seen grazing peacefully, adding to the scenic beauty of the reserve.



Yellow Mongoose

Small and alert, Yellow Mongooses live in colonies and are active during the day. Often seen sunning themselves near burrows, they are in constant communication.

Their golden coats and curious nature make them delightful sightings.



Springhare

Often mistaken for a kangaroo due to its hopping movement, Springhares are nocturnal rodents. Seen on night drives, they emerge to feed in open areas. Their large eyes and bounding motion make sightings fun and distinctive.



Tsessebe

One of the fastest antelope species, Tsessebe are often seen in open grasslands. They are alert and energetic, frequently standing on termite mounds to scan for predators.

Their speed and posture make them impressive to observe.



Warthog

Recognisable by their tusks and facial "warts," Warthogs are often seen trotting with tails held high.

They graze on short grass and kneel while feeding. Their comical appearance makes them a firm favourite with guests.



Wildebeest

Also known as gnu, Wildebeest are social antelope often seen in herds. Their awkward build contrasts with surprising speed.

Watching them move together across open areas is a classic African wildlife scene.



Zebra (Burchell's)

Easily recognised by their bold black-and-white stripes, Burchell's Zebras are social grazers found in herds. Each stripe pattern is unique. Watching them interact and move together creates striking visual moments on any game drive.





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