



Mziki

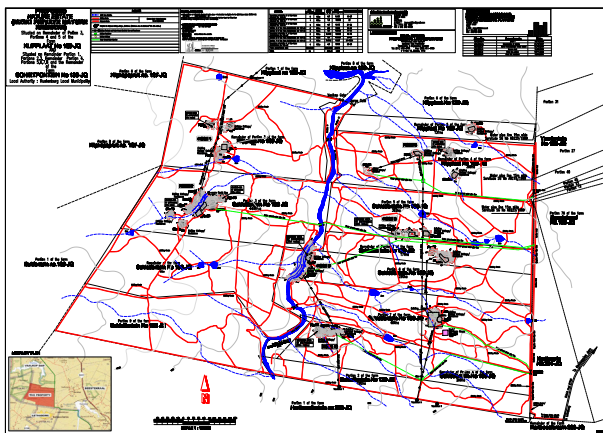
PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

VISITORS GUIDE



MZIKI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Mziki Private Game Reserve, is 6000ha of malaria-free bushveld boasting the presence of "4 of the Big Five" and a diverse array of over 50 mammal species, along with an impressive collection of 372 bird species.



Map Mziki Private Game Reserve



MZIKI NATURE RESERVE ANIMAL CHECKLIST

These are just some of the animals that can be found at Mziki Nature Reserve.

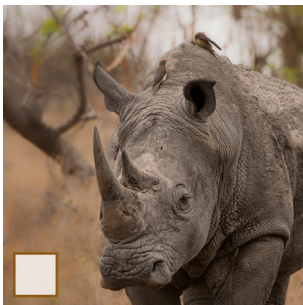
Use the check boxes next to the animal pictures to keep a record of your sightings.



LEOPARD (*Panthera pardus*)

Identifying features: A golden coat that is covered in dark rosette-shaped marks. It is significantly heavier than the cheetah.

Interesting fact: We think of leopards as African or Indian, but they used to be found across Asia - and leopard fossils have even been found in Japan.



WHITE RHINOCEROS

(*Ceratotherium simum*)

Identifying features: Grey skin that appears to be hairless. They have a square-shaped, wide mouth and a hump on their neck.

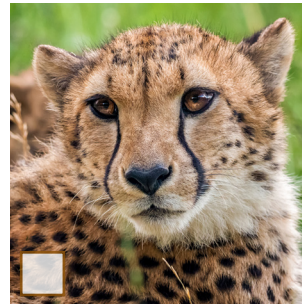
Interesting fact: The word "white" in the name white rhino originates from the Dutch term 'wyd', which refers to the rhino's distinctly wide mouth. English speakers heard this as "white" and it has since been called the white rhino.



CAPE BUFFALO (*Syncerus coffer*)

Identifying features: Covered with hair that can range from brownish to black in colour. Their horns form a question mark shape.

Interesting fact: The Cape buffalo is well known for its exceptional memory. They are able to recognise people (e.g. hunters) who have hurt them in the past and may attack those people when they next encounter them.



CHEETAH (*Acinonyx jubatus*)

Identifying features: A tan pelt with black spots. Distinct black "tear" marks run from their inner eyes to their mouths.

Interesting fact: Cheetahs are the fastest land animals and can reach speeds of up to 120km/h.



SMALL SPOTTED GENET

(*Genetta genetia*)

Identifying features: Dirty white to beige coat covered in dark spots. It has distinct white patches below the eyes. Tail is long and ringed black and white with a white tip.

Interesting fact: Small Spotted Genets have retractable claws adapted to climbing and catching prey.





YELLOW MONGOOSE (*Cynictis penicillata*)

Identifying features: Coat is a reddish-yellow to a tawny-yellow colour. Tail has a very distinctive white tip.

Interesting fact: Due to its reddish tinge, the Yellow Mongoose is also known as the Red Meerkat in certain areas.



HIPPOPOTAMUS

(*Hippopotamus amphibius*)

Identifying features: A grey barrel-shaped body with short, stocky legs.

Interesting fact: When hippos lie in the sun they secrete an oily red substance, which gave rise to the myth that they sweat blood. The secretion is actually just a type of skin moisturiser and sunblock.



BLACK-BACKED JACKAL (*Canis mesomelas*)

Identifying features: Fox-like appearance with tan fur and a thick stripe of black and silver running down its back. Has a black, bushy tail.

Interesting fact: Black-Backed Jackals make a repetitive and very distinctive yapping call when attacking in large groups.

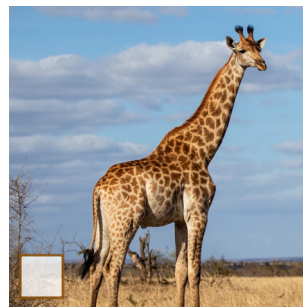


AARDWOLF (*Proteles cristata*)

Identifying features: This striped, insectivorous member of the hyena family looks similar to a striped hyena, but is lighter in build.

Weights up to 15kg.

Interesting fact: An aardwolf can lap up to 250,000 termites in a single night with its long, sticky tongue.



GIRAFFE (*Giraffe camelopardalis*)

Identifying features: Giraffes have a very long neck and legs. Their coat has a light yellowish or brownish colour with dark patches.

Interesting fact: Like human fingerprints, every giraffe's spots are distributed uniquely. Researchers can identify various giraffes by observing their individual spot patterns.

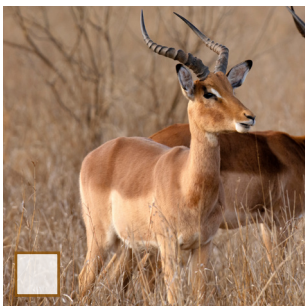


ELAND (*Taurotragus oryx*)

Identifying features: Coat is a smooth beige to orangey brown and at the tip of the tail is a tuft of black fur. Both males and females have a pair of tightly spiralled horns.

Interesting fact: Prehistoric hunter-gatherers in Southern Africa revered the Eland. It features prominently in rock and cave art across the region.

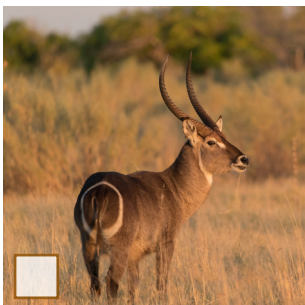




IMPALA (*Aepyceros melampus*)

Identifying features: Reddish or brown hair with black and white markings. White hair can be found in ears and around eyes.

Interesting fact: Impalas produce bark-like sounds to alert other members of the herd in the case of danger.



COMMON WATERBUCK

(*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*)

Identifying features: Coat varies from brown to grey. The long, spiral horns, present only on males, curve backward, then forward.

Interesting fact: The characteristic white ring on the rump helps the herd stay together when it flees from predators through dense bush.



PLAINS ZEBRA (*Equus Quagga*)

Identifying Features: Has a dumpy bodied with short legs and a skull with a convex forehead. The neck is thicker in males than in females. The ears are upright and have rounded tips. The stripes are vertical on the neck and mid-section and horizontal on the rump and legs.

Interesting Fact: Each zebra's pattern is as unique as a human fingerprint, and no two zebras share the same arrangement of stripes.



BLUE WILDEBEEST

(*Connochaetes taurinus*)

Identifying features: Coat ranges from bluish grey to light grey or even brown with a long black mane and a beard of hair hanging from the throat and neck. Males and females both grow curved horns.

Interesting fact: The Blue Wildebeest got its name from the blue sheen of its coat.



RED HARTEBEEST (*Alcelaphus*

buselaphus)

Identifying features: Colour varies from rich red-brown to fawn. The top of the nose and the forehead are black.

Interesting fact: The red hartebeest is one of South Africa's fastest antelope and can reach speeds of 55km/h. It runs in a zigzag fashion to evade predators.



BLESBOK (*Damaliscus pygargus*

phillipsi)

Identifying features: Brown with a lighter coloured saddle on the back. A prominent white blaze on the face. Both females and males carry horns.

Interesting fact: "Bies" comes from the Dutch term for "blaze", which refers to the dash of white on its forehead.





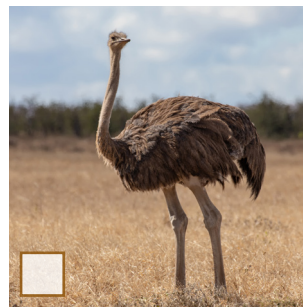
STEENBOK (*Raphicerus campestris*) Identifying features: Short, golden-brown or reddish-coloured coat. Chin, throat and belly are white and eyes are encircled with white hair.
Interesting fact: They form monogamous couples (they mate for a lifetime).



GREY/Common DUIKER (*Sylvicapra grimmia*) Identifying features: Small antelope which ranges between fawn and grey in colour. Both the males and females have horns.
Interesting fact: Grey/Common duikers have been known to eat birds, reptiles and carrion in addition to browsing.



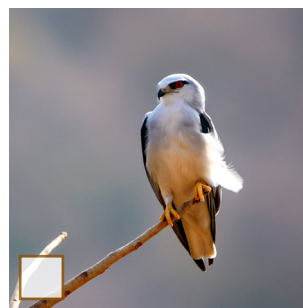
WARTHOG (*Phacochoerus africanus*) Identifying features: Grey to black in colour with a tail that stands upright when moving. Skin is covered in bristles and they have dark "manes".
Interesting fact: Warthogs are so named because of the wart-like bumps on their large, elongated faces.



OSTRICH (*Struthio camelus*) Identifying features: Grey-brown plumage with dark patches on the neck and back.
Interesting fact: Ostriches don't hide their heads in the sand. They will lay their head on the ground if they sense danger. The colour of their head blends with the colour of the ground and it looks like it is hidden in the sand.



CAPE VULTURE (*Gyps coprotheres*) Identifying features: A creamy-coloured body with dark feathers. Head and neck are near-naked and eyes are yellowish.
Interesting fact: A group of 50 Cape vultures can reduce the carcass of a sheep or impala to skin and bones in 20 minutes.



BLACK SHOULDERS KITE (*Elanus caeruleus*) Identifying features: Pale grey feathers, except for a white head, black "shoulders" and wingtips. There is a black "comma" above each red eye.
Interesting fact: Black-shouldered kites are able to hunt by hovering. Widespread in Africa and Asia, they are now expanding their range into Spain and Portugal.

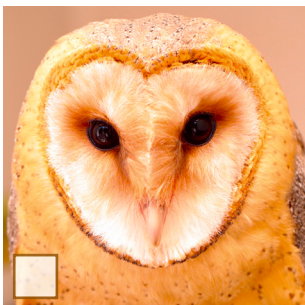




YELLOW BILLED KITE (*Milvus migrans*)

Identifying features: Dark brown with yellow beak and distinctive V-shaped tail.

Interesting fact: Relies on termites as a major food source.



AFRICAN GRASS OWL (*Tyto Capensis*)

Identifying Features: Resembles the barn owl and has a heart-shaped whitish-cream face. The crown to the lower back and wings are a uniform sooty blackish-brown, with small white and greyish spots.

Interesting fact: African grass owls live up to their name - they roost in the grass during the day, and even make tunnels in the vegetation.



SPOTTED EAGLE-OWL (*Bubo africanus*)

Identifying features: One of the smallest eagle-owls, this species has mottle, dusky brown upper parts with off white lower parts. Eyes are yellow.

Interesting fact: Spotted eagle-owls love bathing and during summer thunderstorms they can be seen on trees with wings outspread.



NILE CROCODILE (*Crocodylus niloticus*)

Identifying features: Pale yellow with black stripes when young but dark greenish-drab coloured as adults.

Interesting Fact: The expression "cry crocodile tears" is based on a true fact. Crocodiles produce tears when they eat because they swallow a lot of air. This air reacts with their lachrymal glands (glands that produce tears) and moisture flows from their eyes.



BLACK MAMBA (*Dendroaspis polylepis*)

Identifying features: A highly venomous, slender snake, ranging from gunmetal grey to olive brown in colour with a coffin-shaped head, It can reach lengths of 3 metres.

Interesting Fact: The black mamba can raise as much as half of its body off the ground. It can reach a maximum speed of 17km/hour - so yes, a human can outrun one.

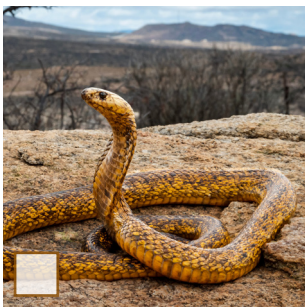


PUFF ADDER (*Bitis arietans*)

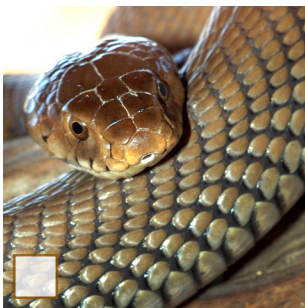
Identifying features: This bulky, slow-moving snake has a lightning fast strike. Its body is covered with brown or reddish-brown bands, giving it superb camouflage.

Interesting Fact: Highly venomous with potent





CAPE COBRA (*Naja nivea*)
 Identifying features: Varies in colour from near-black to dark or light brown, beige, yellow or speckled.
Interesting Fact: Venomous and extremely dangerous. Can affect breathing. Immediate hospitalisation and anti-venom is required.



MOZAMBIQUE SPITTING COBRA (*Naja mossambica*)
 Identifying features: The head is distinct from the neck with a broad temporal area. The colour is light to dark brown or olive with some scales edged in black.
Interesting Fact: Venomous. One of the most dangerous snakes in South Africa, it can spray venom into the eyes, causing blindness.



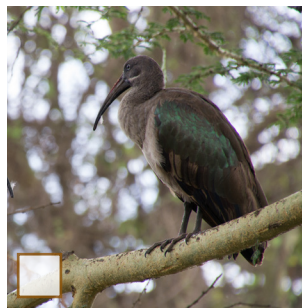
RINKHALS (*Hemachatus haemachatus*)
 Identifying features: What looks like a cobra but isn't a true cobra? A rinkhals - a dark coloured elapid capable of spitting venom into the eyes of a human. Common in grassland areas.
Interesting Fact: Unlike true cobras, rinkhals are ovoviparous - they give birth to live young.



CHAMELEON (*Chamaeleonidae*)
 Identifying Features: They have crests or horns on the backs of their skulls, long, sticky tongues, and uniquely-shaped feet. Many chameleon species also have a prehensile tail, which can be wrapped around branches to aid them in climbing. The scales of many species can change color.
Interesting Fact: They have incredibly complex and developed eyes, which can be moved independently from one another to view multiple objects at once.



YELLOW-BILLED HORNBILL (*Tockus leucomelas*)
 Identifying features: Easily identified by its black and white plumage and distinctive yellow bill.
Interesting Fact: They are also called 'flying bananas' because of their huge bills that are yellow and look just like bananas!



HADEDA IBIS (*Bostrychia hagedash*)
 Identifying Features: A large bird with a gray-brown plumage. Its wings feature metallic purple hues. One of its notable characteristics is its long, curved beak.
Interesting Fact: It is renowned for its loud and harsh call, which sounds like "ha-da-da."

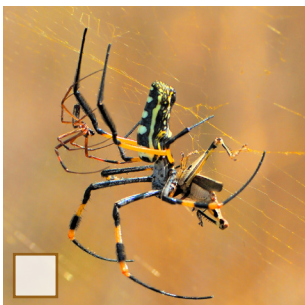




GOLIATH HERON (*Ardea goliath*)

Identifying Features: Is the world's largest living heron with heights of 120–152 cm (3 ft 11 in – 5 ft 0 in). These wading birds, rarely stray far from water sources.

Interesting Fact: Their call is a deep and resonant "kowook," which can be heard up to 2 km away.



GOLDEN ORB SPIDER

(*Trichonephila clavipes*)

Identifying Features: commonly called the golden silk orb-weaver or golden silk spider. Their distinctive feature lies in their magnificent golden webs, which are strong and often span large areas between bushes. The female spiders are large, with black legs and a yellow to white abdomen.

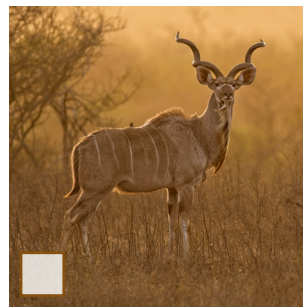
Interesting Fact: It creates a very strong silk that is eight times as strong as steel.



AARDVARK (*Orycteropus afer*)

Identifying Features: It has a stout, piglike body. Unlike most insectivores, they have a long snout, similar to that of a pig, which it uses to sniff out food. Their long snouts and powerful legs allow them to dig for food and create burrows.

Interesting Fact: The tongue of an aardvark can reach up to 30cm (12 inches) in length.



KUDU (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*)

Identifying Features: Kudu are large African antelopes with long spiral horns. Their coats are reddish brown, with thin white stripes down their flanks, but the number of stripes varies based on the species.

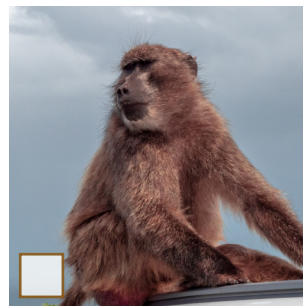
Interesting Fact: Males are larger than females, and have long spiral horns. Females have no horns at all.



VERVET MONKEY (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*)

Identifying Features: Characterized by their black faces and gray body hair. Females typically measure around 40 cm (16 inches) in body length, while males are slightly larger, reaching about 50 cm (20 inches).

Interesting Fact: Vervet monkeys love to groom cats and will play and live together in harmony!.



BABOON (*Papio*)

Identifying Features: A ground-dwelling monkey with long, dog-like muzzles, powerful jaws with sharp canine teeth, and close-set eyes. Their fur is thick, except on their muzzles. Baboons possess short tails and nerveless, hairless pads of skin on their protruding buttocks.

Interesting fact: The bond between mother and infant baboon is very special. The mother will carry the young until he or she is able to ride on her back. They are in constant contact for the first four months.





AFRICAN FISH EAGLE

(Haliaeetus vocifer)

Identifying Features: known as the African sea eagle. The adult African Fish Eagle has a mostly brown body with a white head and large, powerful, black wings. Its hook-shaped beak, ideal for a carnivorous lifestyle, is yellow with a black tip.

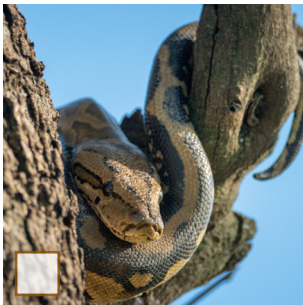
Interesting fact: African fish eagle's call is often referred to as "Africa's Voice".



SABLE ANTELOPE (Hippotragus niger)

Identifying Features: These antelope have astonishing horns and painted faces. They are rotund, barrel-chested antelope with a short neck, long face, and a dark mane.

Interesting Fact: Sable grow their horns over an entire lifetime. Each year they develop a new ring, so the sable's horns can be used to determine age.



AFRICAN ROCK PYTHON

(Python sebae)

Identifying Features: thick body with colored blotches that often merge into a broad, irregular stripe. Body markings vary between brown, olive, chestnut, and yellow, but they fade to white on the underside. The head is triangular.

Interesting Facts: It is one of the 6th largest species of snakes in the world.



SCORPION (Scorpiones)

Identifying Features: They have eight legs and are easily recognized by a pair of grasping pincers and a narrow, segmented tail, often carried in a characteristic forward curve over the back and always ending with a stinger.

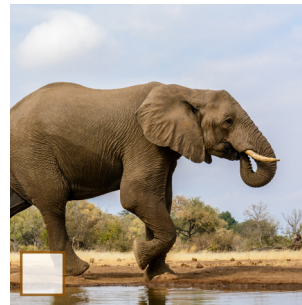
Interesting Fact: They have two venom glands that produce venom used in hunting and self defense.



TORTOISE (Testudinidae)

Identifying Features: One of the primary distinguishing factors is the shell. Each species has a unique shell pattern and shape. The neck and head of a tortoise can also provide clues for species identification.

Interesting Fact: A group of tortoises is called a creep.



AFRICAN ELEPHANT (Loxodonta)

Identifying Features: The largest land animal on Earth. The trunk is a defining feature of elephants.

It serves as a versatile tool for feeding, drinking, communication, and even lifting heavy objects. Both males and females have long tusks: Both male and female African elephants have tusks.

Interesting Fact: There are about 50,000 muscles in an elephant's trunk.





AFRICAN HELMETED

TERRAPIN (Pelomedusa subrufa)

Identifying Features: It looks like a helmet. Instead of its neck sticking in and out, it has a side-necked position where it places its head sideways in its shell. It has a black or brown shell which is slightly domed. Its tail and legs are grey-brown, and its underbelly is yellowish.

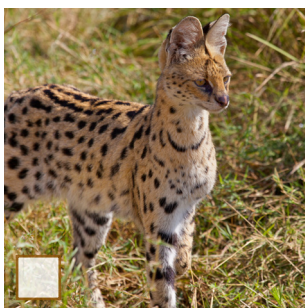
Interesting Facts: it is omnivorous, eating small animals. It uses its sharp claws to tear the flesh off animals, such as birds.



CARACAL (Felis Caracal)

Identifying Features: The term "caracal" is derived from the Turkish word "karakulak," which means "black ear" – a fitting description for this cat's distinctive tufted ears. It has a robust build, long legs, a short face, and long canine teeth.

Interesting Fact: Their remarkable agility allows them to leap over 3.0 meters (10 feet) and catch birds midair.



SERVAL (Leptailurus serval)

Identifying Features: Are lanky cats, with long, stilt-like legs and lean bodies. They have large, triangular ears and a pale yellow coat adorned with a combination of black spots and stripes.

Interesting Fact: Servals are ambush predators. They crouch down and pounce onto unsuspecting rodents, small reptiles, or birds.



AFRICAN CIVET (Civettictis civetta)

Identifying Features: Bright, intelligent eyes, sharp features, and round ears, African civets are often likened to raccoons in appearance. Their thick fur is adorned with unique patterns of spots and blotches that merge into bands running down their legs and tail.

Interesting Fact: The African civet has historically been the primary source of a musky scent used in perfumery, also referred to as "civet."



ROCK MONITOR (Varanus albigularis)

Identifying Features: Is endemic to Sub-Saharan Africa. It is on average the largest lizard found in Africa, and is locally called leguaan or likkewaan. Males average weight is about 6 to 8 kg (13 to 18 lb). The body scales are usually a mottled gray-brown with yellowish or white markings.

Interesting Fact: An intelligent lizard, in an experiment conducted by Dr. John Philips at the San Diego Zoo, they demonstrated the ability to count as high as six. Dr. Philips offered varying numbers of snails, and the monitors were able to distinguish numbers whenever one was missing.



BAKASYON RECENT SIGHTINGS

