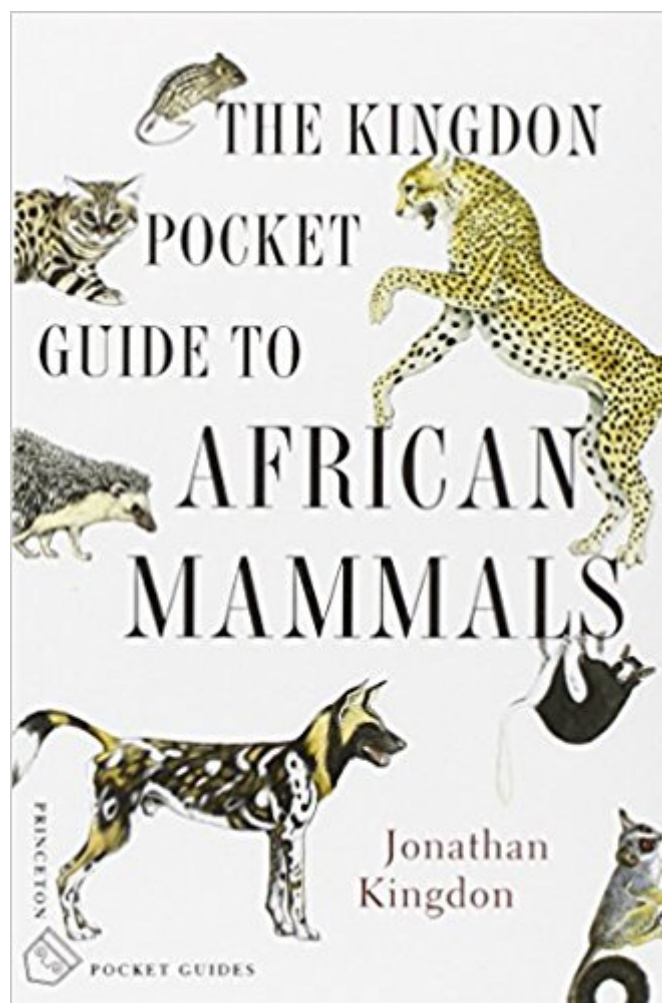


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# The Kingdon Pocket Guide To African Mammals (Princeton Pocket Guides)



## Synopsis

This is an essential guide for anyone with an interest in wildlife who visits Africa--from the tourist on safari to the more experienced naturalist. Compact and beautifully illustrated, it is ideal for use in the field, while its coverage is the most comprehensive for any book of its size. First pocket guide to cover every species of terrestrial African mammal Adapted from the highly acclaimed Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals Fully illustrated with the author's superb color artwork Easy-to-read distribution maps Concise text and clear layout for quick, easy reference Practical format makes it ideal for use in the field

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Jonathan Kingdon loves biology and art. This felicitous combo delivers a delightful book. . . . His knowledge is impressive, and his drawings and paintings wonderful, full of information and character. . . . A great guide, from leaf-plucking gelada to long-eared hedgehog. Take it to any African country."--Maggie McDonald, *New Scientist*"Anyone with an interest in Africa and the animals that roam through the various ecosystems, from lowland rainforests, savannahs, grasslands, to deserts and shrublands, should invest in a copy of noted African mammal expert Jonathan Kingdon's pocket guide of African mammals. . . . [T]he book [is] perfect for serious fieldwork and the vacation traveler."--*Biology Digest*

Jonathan Kingdon is one of the world's foremost authorities on the mammals of Africa, and also a

highly acclaimed artist. American Scientist listed Kingdon's *East African Mammals: An Atlas of Evolution in Africa* as "one of a hundred books that shaped science in the twentieth century." This pocket guide has been adapted from his classic *Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals*.

Unlike its parent volume, "*The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals*," the pocket guide includes indexes to both scientific and English names, a distinct advantage in addition to its more compact size that facilitates use in the field while saving space in packing. Illustrations are sized to serve as well as those of the larger work, although descriptions are necessarily far more concise. A number of the range maps entail a frustrating compromise wherein the area of Africa included to effectively illustrate species distributions is so small as to require a more intimate knowledge of the continent's geography than many likely users will possess. This caveat notwithstanding, the pocket guide is the finest reference of its size.

This compact little guide is a condensed version of *The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals* by the same author. That book is easily the best overview of African mammals, with detailed info on each species/genus, but it is not really practical for use as a field guide (see my review of it). This book contains the same illustrations arranged in a format that makes them handier for actual identification in the field. It is very comprehensive, covering every single species of African mammals with the exception of bats, rodents, insectivores, elephant-shrews and hyraxes, which are usually represented by one species for each genus. But every single genus is represented, and of rodents, every species of squirrel is dealt with separately. Maps and brief info on distribution and ecology of each taxon is now to be found on the pages facing the illustrations. The latter are a mixed bag, as in the original work: while most are quite good, even excellent and life-like, others are quite awful, either showing animals with stiff, straight limbs/bodies as if drawn with a ruler (like the Crowned Monkey) or in highly unnatural positions (like the Potto with the limbs twisted out, or the Cheetah standing up like a circus horse). All things considered, this is easily the best field guide to mammals of Africa, though for more in-depth information on each taxon, you may still want to have the original book in addition to this one.

Excellent guide. Pictures and descriptions are very helpful in identifying the animals you see in the wild. Interesting, but a bit overwhelming before you actually go to Africa. Information on social behavior, eating habits, geographic locations, etc. is also interesting and educational. This is an older edition, but I found the pictures to be superior to the newer "expanded" edition.

Excellent book. If you are going to specific country or area you should mark animals in this compact guide (using data and maps from the Kingdon full guide) so you will be able to locate them quickly.

This book has good illustrations, brief but adequate text, and maps of ranges. 272 pages, 13.5 ounces -- good for traveling. Kingdon (or his publisher) calls it a "pocket guide," but that's true only if you have big pockets. It will easily fit into pocket of day packs, though, and most users will probably have such a pack in the field anyway.

Nice guide to have if traveling to East Africa.

Provides essential range and ID information in a nicely compact format; excellent value and an essential item to have with you in the field.

This book was recommended to me to bring along for an African safari and it was great. I referenced it throughout the trip and the size/weight was perfect for traveling. The pictures/detail of the animals was great!

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