

Republic of Congo



Remote and decidedly off-the-beaten track, the Republic of Congo is a thrilling destination which offers unique wildlife encounters and fascinating activities. Beginning and ending in Brazzaville, this ten-day guided safari will see you explore the wilds of Odzala-Kokoua National Park on guided game drives, walking safaris, and mokoro safaris. Early morning treks into the rainforest to locate Western Lowland Gorillas will provide you with opportunities to also observe other primates, such as putty nosed and moustachioed monkeys, while water-based activities including river boat trips and kayaking, will provide an opportunity to explore the famous (or infamous!) Congo River.

This is a remote journey to an off-the-beaten track destination, but for those travellers with a sense for adventure, it is well worth the effort involved.

Day by day Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Brazzaville

You will be met on arrival at Brazzaville and transferred to the Radisson Blu Hotel for one night, inc. breakfast.

Radisson Blu

The Radisson Blu M'Bamou Palace Hotel is located less than 6km from the airport on the banks of the famous Congo River, within Brazzaville's Central Business District.

One of the few international-standard hotels in Brazzaville, the Radisson offers 178 spacious and contemporary guest rooms, including suites and apartments which overlook the River, and a wide selection of on-site dining options.

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.



Day 2: Brazzaville - Ngaga Camp, Odzala-Kokoua National Park

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and board your private charter flight to Mboko airstrip, Odzala-Kokoua National Park.

On arrival in Odzala, you will be met and transferred to Ngaga Camp, (approx. 1½ hrs), where you stay the following four nights, inc. full board and activities.

Ngaga Camp

Ngaga Camp is located just outside the park boundary in the Ndzehe concession, overlooking a beautiful open glade above a forest stream. This places Ngaga directly within the overlapping home ranges of several family groups of western lowland gorilla, two of which are habituated and form the focus of game activities at this uniquely-positioned camp.

Ngaga Camp's unique design reminds you of a treehouse. There are six very private elevated guest rooms with wraparound walkways that allow you to peer directly into the forest canopy.

The main boma, set at a higher level with views into the forest, has a comfortable lounge, fire pit and dining area.

The camp is constructed from natural materials using traditional techniques so as to blend in with the environment.



In the afternoon, you will have your first introduction to the forest on a guided walk, led by an experienced tracker. This will give you the chance to spot various birds, primates, and interesting insects and flora.



Day 3: Gorilla trek

This morning you will be woken early at around 5am, ready to depart with your guide and gorilla tracker after an early breakfast at camp.

There are two habituated gorilla groups within reach of Ngaga Camp – Neptuno and Jupiter. Your tracker will be aware of the gorilla’s overnight location, so you should be able to find your group within around an hour, but of course it can take longer.

You will track the gorillas on foot from the camp. The terrain is mostly flat although you may have to cut a path through thick vegetation – your guide and tracker will lead.

Once you find your allocated group, you will have around an hour to observe them as they eat, play and socialise.



Although lowland gorillas are the main species you will search for today, other primates, such as crowned, putty nosed and moustached monkeys can also be encountered in the forest, while chimpanzees are often heard and very occasionally seen.

Various forest duikers occur as well as some spectacular forest birds, such as the seemingly pre-historic black-casqued wattled hornbill, the great blue turaco, and a host of others.

After an hour with the gorillas, return to camp for lunch. In the afternoon, you can enjoy another forest walk or, if preferred, relax at camp.

NB. For the gorilla trek, it is a good idea to wear long trousers, a long-sleeved shirt and light walking boots, which are easier to dry.

Day 4: Gorilla Trek

This morning will follow the same schedule as yesterday, though this time visiting the other family group of gorillas – or both (the two groups share territory and often overlap and spend time with each other).



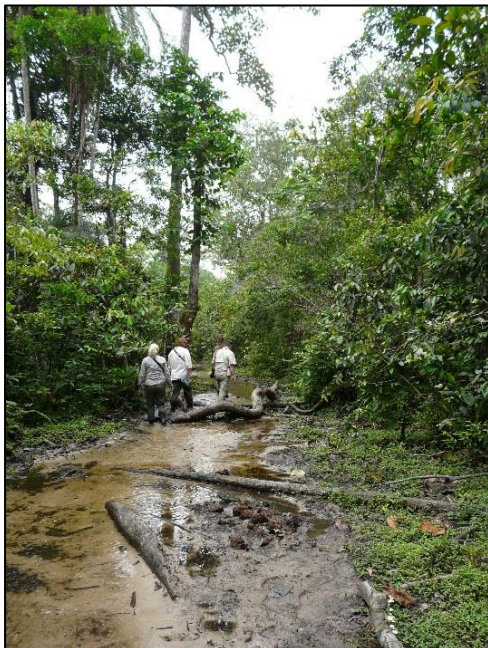
Again, you will have around an hour with the group once you have located them, before returning to camp for lunch.

In the afternoon, pay a visit to a local Ombo village. The village has around 40 inhabitants, whose houses straddle the 'main' road to Gabon. The villagers use the forest to gather food, and are well accustomed to their immediate neighbours, the western lowland gorillas!

Return to camp late afternoon.

Day 5: Lango Camp, via Mboko, Odzala-Kokoua National Park

After breakfast depart with your guide for Mboko Camp, a drive of approx. 2½ hours, during which you will leave the jungle behind and enter a landscape of open savannah plains – keep your eyes peeled for buffalo, duiker and forest elephant.



Arrive at Mboko Camp in time for lunch, then continue your journey to Lango Camp via kayak along the beautiful Lekoli River. This is a great way to spot wildlife, as the kayaks allow you to move quietly without disturbing the more sensitive creatures of the forest.

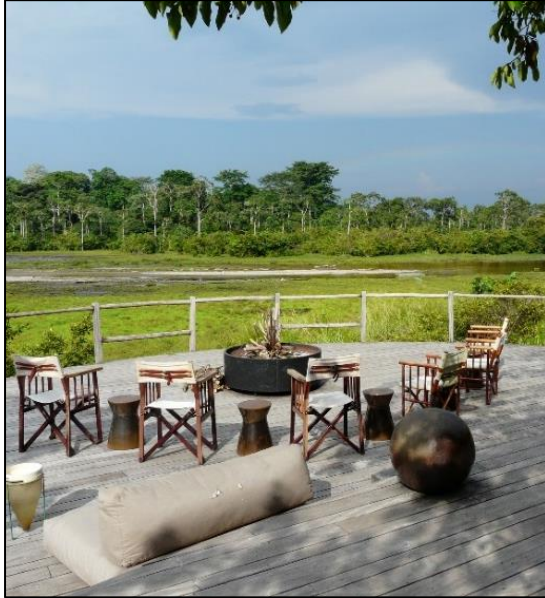
After approximately an hour spent slowly drifting downstream, you will turn off the main river and onto a tributary, then shortly after drag the kayaks on to the shore.

From this point you will continue by foot, accompanied by your guide. The trail will be muddy initially, but once you reach the stream, walking becomes much easier along the stoney bed. The areas you walk through are open marshlands which are often used by herds of grazing buffalo, which your guide will take care to avoid.

This is one of the few places in Africa where you can safely explore streams and marshes on foot – a truly immersive experience!

Eventually, you will arrive at the bai, or open marsh area, in front of Lango Camp, your home for the next two nights. You're unlikely to be the only creature to arrive from the marsh – the bai in front of Lango Camp is frequented by several species, including forest elephant! With luck, you may also spot forest hog, buffalo and duiker.

On arrival, enjoy a well-earned hot shower before settling down for supper.



Lango Camp

Lango Camp has six guest rooms, each raised to the level of the surrounding forest, granting stunning views out over the open marshy bai – one of the most beautiful views of any safari lodge in Africa. The bai attracts huge flocks of African green pigeons and grey parrots, as well as herds of forest buffalo by day and forest elephants by night.

Other (primarily nocturnal) visitors to the bai include bongo, leopard and red river hog. Western sitatunga and various forest duiker species can be encountered nearby, while guereza colobus monkeys are frequently seen in camp. Chimpanzees are often heard but rarely sighted.

Hippo occur at low densities in the Lekoli River and serval are occasionally seen in the savannah areas.

Crocodiles are represented by two harmless species, the slender-snouted crocodile and the African dwarf crocodile.

Day 6: Forest and water-based activities

After breakfast, depart on an adventure walk accompanied by your guide and ranger. The walk will last approx. 4 hours and will see you explore the different habitats found around the lodge.

You'll begin by crossing the stream in front of the lodge and then enter the woods, emerging into an area of savannah. You then walk along more streams and finally appear back at the lodge.

Along the way you will encounter beautiful scenery and a variety of birds and wildlife. This area is completely untouched and the trails you follow are those which have been made by wildlife and not man.



Return to the lodge for a hot shower. The rest of the afternoon is free. You can enjoy another walk in the vicinity of camp, or try bird watching from the camp deck.

Day 7: Lango Camp – Mboko Camp

Enjoy a guided morning wet walk through the followed by breakfast overlooking the bai.

You then depart camp with a scenic through the forest followed by a short walk along a wooden footpath to Mboko Camp, where you stay tonight.

Mboko Camp

Mboko Camp has 12 very spacious en-suite guest rooms, which extend along the banks of a free-flowing tributary of the Lekoli River.

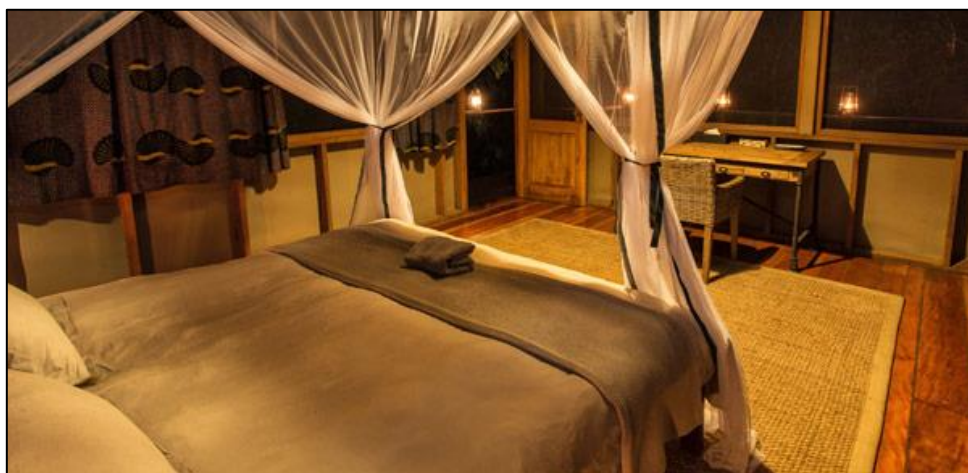
The lodge is situated in an area of lush meadow-like savannah, which is frequented by forest buffalo, forest elephant and spotted hyaena.

Each room has a deck with lounge chairs, where you can relax and listen to the tranquillity of the river while enjoying a spot of bird watching – you may even see a forest elephant!

Mboko provides spectacular star-gazing opportunities, while also offering easy access to the nearby river for various activities, including motorboat safaris and kayaking.



This afternoon, embark on a motorboat safari on the Mambili River. A river safari in this region offers the possibility of seeing primates including chimpanzee (sightings are rare), colobus and grey-cheeked mangabey, as well a variety of birdlife and other large mammals including forest elephant and buffalo. But it's also an opportunity to chill and enjoy a sundowner as you quietly drift down the river and the sun begins to set.



Day 8: Brazzaville

After breakfast, transfer to the airstrip where you board your charter flight to Brazzaville. On arrival, transfer to the international airport for your onward flight, or to the Radisson Blu Hotel if your flight schedule requires you to overnigh in the city.

NEW for 2019 - Optional 4-night extension to Sangha Lodge, Central African Republic

Beginning January 2019, it is possible to extend your visit to Odzala, Congo, with a 4-night stay at Sangha Lodge, in the neighbouring Central African Republic. If extending, then on day 8 you will fly to Kabo, a small community overlooking the Sangha River in the northern Congo, at the border between the Congo, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic.

The charter flight departs Odzala at 9am and arrives at Kabo airstrip at 9:40am, from where it is a short transfer to the boat dock. You then have a 4-6 hour boat journey along the Sangha River, taking you through the Sangha Tri National Special Reserve and into the Central African Republic. You clear customs en-route at Bayanga.

You can expect to arrive at Sangha Lodge, your home for the next 4 nights, late afternoon. On arrival, you will be shown to your en-suite river facing room. The rest of the day is free to relax after a long journey – put your feet up and enjoy a sundowner on the open-air deck and bar area.

***Sangha Lodge***

Sanga Lodge is situated on the banks of the Kadei River, a tributary of the greater Sangha, which flows from Cameroon into the Central African Republic before meeting with the Sangha River on the border with the Republic of Congo. From this unique position, Sangha Lodge provides a gateway to the Dzanga-Sangha Special Reserve, a region of Africa barely touched by humanity.

Sangha accommodates only a limited number of guests in its 7 well-appointed bungalows, of which 5 are en-suite. The main area has a well-stocked bar and a lovely open-air deck overlooking the river and jungle. A small kitchen produces simple yet tasty Western and African foods, with an emphasis on fish.

Day 9: Dzanga Bai

After breakfast at the lodge, transfer by road for approx. 1½ hours to reach the edge of the incredible Dzanga Bai.

Here you will spend time on the covered research platform, observing the diverse wildlife around this remote bai, followed by a short walk in the forest. A host of species are regularly sighted in this region, including forest elephant, bongo antelope, and red river hog. The birdlife, too, is stunning, with notable species including Dzanga robin, African fish eagle, blue-billed turaco and many waders.

After a day of wildlife-viewing, you return to Sangha Lodge with a forest walk and road transfer.



Day 10: Forest activities

This morning you will enjoy a guided forest walk escorted by members of the Ba'Aka tribe, a local forest community. During the walk, you'll learn about the lifestyle of the Ba'Aka, and the forest environment they depend on.

Lunch back at the camp is followed by a visit to a pangolin research team, based in Sangha, who study and seek to raise awareness of this rare and heavily endangered nocturnal mammal.

In the evening, enjoy a sundowner followed by a night walk after dinner to explore the wonderful nocturnal life of this remote region – with luck, you might encounter a pangolin in the wild!

Day 11: Valley of the Giants

After breakfast, transfer by boat to the 'Valley of the Giants', where you'll spend the morning walking amongst some of the tallest trees in the Congo Basin, before stopping for a packed lunch.

In the afternoon, you can continue your forest hike by walking to a waterfall and scenic spot, or you may prefer to return to camp for an afternoon at leisure. When ready, return to camp by boat.



Day 12: Return to Mboko, Congo

An early start this morning, as you set off on the return journey to the Congo, travelling by boat along the Sangha River and then via Bayanga to Kabo. At Kabo, you take the 1pm chart flight arriving Odzala Mboko airstrip at 1:40pm.

Enjoy an afternoon guided forest walk followed by sundowners on the Lekoli River. Overnight at Mboko Camp.

Day 13: Brazzaville

After breakfast at Mboko Camp, take the morning scheduled charter flight to Brazzaville, departing at 9am and arriving 11am.

On arrival, transfer to the international airport for your onward flight, or to the Radisson Blu Hotel if your flight schedule requires you to overnight in the city.

Price Guide:

*The cost of the 8-night Congo itinerary is from **£6,895 per person**, based on twin/double accommodation. The 11-night Congo and Sangha extension itinerary starts from **10,795 per person**, based on twin/double share and subject to availability at the time of booking.*

For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).

Includes:

- Meet & Greet with airport assistance
- Return scheduled charter flights to Mboko, incl. taxes
- Accommodation as described
- All meals and drinks
- National Park entry fees
- Community fees
- Activities as per itinerary, including 2 gorilla trekking permits per person
- Brazzaville city tour with lunch
- Return airport transfers
- Medical evacuation
- Letter of introduction – required for visa

Sangha extension only:

- Charter flight to Kabo airstrip, return boat transfer to Sangha Lodge (when including CAR)
- Central African Republic Access Authorisation fee
- Congo/Central African Republic border-control formalities & services

Excludes:

- International flights – please ask us to quote
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips
- Visa fees