



Let's Sail Up the Congo River with Chalo Africa

December 22, 2024 – January 7, 2025

14 cabins – 28 guests



We will visit:

**Republic of Congo, Brazzaville (ROC) – Cameroon – Central
African Republic – Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

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Chalo Africa Inc.

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Up A Lazy River...

Up a lazy river where the Picathartes' song
Awakes the bright new morning
Where we can move along
Blue skies up above, everyone's in love
Up a lazy river, how happy you could be
Up a lazy river-er with me
Up a lazy river with me...



Russell Mittermeier

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Dear All,

Much has changed since I wrote to you a few weeks ago – hopefully all for the better! Here are the final updates on our Congo trip – I hope you will agree with me that despite the loss of the habituated gorilla trek from our original program, we now have many other highlights, and the current river cruise is as rich as it ever was, even richer. Seriously 😊

- 1) To combat the threat of potentially low water levels in the Sangha river, we have inverted the direction of the cruise. Instead of starting the cruise by sailing upriver from Brazzaville to Ouesso, we will now fly first to Ouesso (thereby eliminating the need for any overland transfers), and then sail downriver to Brazza after our time spent at the TriNational Sangha. Aug -Nov are typically the rainy months in the Congo when water levels rise in the river system. These levels start to gradually fall again in January. By completing the shallower Sangha section of the trip right at the beginning, we hope to avoid this problem altogether. By the time the water levels start to drop, we will already be on the main Congo river!
- 2) In our original program, we were going to spend only 1 night in Dzanga Sangha NP in the CAR. We were trying to cram in a lot of activities into that one-night stop at Doli Lodge. In this new & improved program, we will be spending 3 full nights at the famous Sangha Lodge. This will give us the ability to visit Bai Hokou, do an agile mangabey trek, our birders can devote time in search of the elusive picathartes. We will also get to spend time at the famous platform at Sangha Bai and should there be any pangolins being rehabilitated at Sangha Lodge, we will get an opportunity to visit the pangolin project too. Needless to say, this is a serious upgrade to the original program & at no extra cost to you.
- 3) In the original program, all told, we were spending 4 nights in the Triparks area. In the amended program, we are now spending 7 nights in what we hope will be the most rewarding part of the cruise. These 3 bonus days are special and will allow us to explore without rushing.
- 4) In terms of logistics, and assuming that we are full boat of 28 people, we will be divided into 2 groups of 14 each, and these 2 groups will then be further sub-divided into two sub-groups of 7 for the various activities in the national parks, so that we are never too many people for any non-boat-based activity. The chart below shows how this will be done.

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- 5) Since we have lost access to the habituated gorilla groups because of the silverback deaths, we have added on an optional visit to the Aspinall Foundation's Lesio-Louna gorilla sanctuary at the very end. Should you decide to do this, you will need to tack on an extra night to the trip at the very end. We are offering this extension at cost, recognizing that this is an unanticipated extra. But it will bring you into close proximity with lowland gorillas in the process of being rewilded.
- 6) Mbeli Bai at Nouabale-Ndoki NP in ROC is currently under repair/construction and may or may not be ready by December. So we are now planning on visiting the nearby Wali Bai instead, where the last group had very good wild gorilla sightings.
- 7) Drumrolls- we are bringing along a very special guest scientist on this trip and we couldn't be more pleased. Russ Mittermeier is a renowned scientist who actually has a whole Wikipedia page devoted to his work – you can read more about him here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russell_Mittermeier He is one of the leading primatologists, herpetologists and conservationists of our times and chairs the IUCN Primates Group. Russ will present a series of lectures to us over the course of the cruise, and share his lifetime of knowledge with us. It will be such a privilege for us to have him on board.
- 8) There is no change to the bonobos visit – all as before – it is just the day that has changed.
- 9) As before, we are still offering the post-cruise Gabon extension. This may be of more interest to some of you now because habituated gorilla trekking is indeed included on this section of the trip, along with wildlife on the beach and nesting leatherbacks.

Everything else about the trip remains the same. We will still go to Lobeke in Cameroon, look for the Bouvier's colobus along the Mangui river, and still spend an evening with the Congo dandies in Brazzaville.

FLIGHTS: Because of pre-existing bookings at Sangha Lodge, we need to be done there by the 29th of December, so we are requesting people to fly Ethiopian if they possibly can. The Ethiopian flight gets into Brazza at about 12:15pm on the 22nd, which allows the charter flight from Brazza to leave by 2pm so that you can be in Ouessou by 4pm and checked into the river boat in time for dinner. If any of you have already bought your tickets on Air France, then that flight arrives in the evening, and the AF people will fly to Ouessou the following day on Dec 23 on a commercial flight. But if you haven't bought your flights yet, then Ethiopian is the preferred option.

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VISAS: You only need to obtain an ROC visa for this trip. For those of you that have no embassy in your country of residence nor a country nearby that can handle this ROC visa, we will arrange your visa on arrival. For everyone else, please arrange to get your physical visas stamped in your passports. For US guests, Sangeeta's daughter Nina lives in DC, and she can handle your visa submission & collection for a handling fee, should you wish to use her services (Nina is a responsible young lady and often handles complicated African visas for Chalo guests). The Triparks system allows for people with a visa from the ROC to visit the sister parks in Cameroon and CAR on the same visa. For the DRC, we have organized a day pass, so you don't have to apply for an additional visa. For those of you who are taking the Gabon extension, you will need a Gabonese visa. Nina can handle this for US guests from her base in DC, or visas on arrival can be arranged for all guests with an authorization letter.

Ducret has now completed 3 Congo cruises, including 1 cruise that was a charter very much like ours, and many of the initial wrinkles have been ironed out. The cruises have all been completed successfully and we have received good feedback. Not everything went off as planned originally, but everything went off well. With pioneering expedition cruises of this type, we must be prepared to go with the flow, and have fun doing it. It is important to realize that this is not your usual well-oiled trip to sub-Saharan Africa, and I request you to please be patient and understanding on the trip. Tanvi is headed out on her own Congo cruise next week, and we'll have full feedback for you when she returns.

We have had a few cancellations since my last note, so we now have 2 empty cabins on Deck 3, and 2 sharing berths (one male and one female on deck 2). Should any of you have any friends who might like to join, please feel free to invite them on board. We will be advertising these spots from our side as well, but it is always better to ask friends first.

Thank you, all, for sticking with us through thick & thin. I promise - it will be a memorable and fun trip – and we'll talk about it for years to come!

Sangeeta

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| | Location | Map |
|--|---|-----|
| <p>Day 1 Dec 22 (Sun)</p> | <p>- Group 1 (Ethiopian Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrives 12:15 - Flies to Ouesso in the late afternoon. The flight takes about 1:45, so arrival time is roughly 4 pm. <p>Overnight on board Princess N</p> | |
| <p>Day 1 Dec 22 (Sun)</p> | <p>- Group 2 (Air France Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arriving later in the evening - Overnight in Brazza hotel | |

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| <p>Day 2 Dec 23 (Mon)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group 1 (ET Group) - Boat transfer to Bayanga & from there to Sangha lodge. First views of the river. - 14 pax in skiffs - Overnight Sangha Lodge | |
| <p>Day 2 Dec 23 (Mon)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group 2 (Air France Group) - Flies early morning into Ouessou on a commercial flight. - Group of 14 to visit Ouessou town & war monument. - Followed by a very interesting forest walk where you will first walk through a community forest on to a secondary forest and finally into a primary forest. - Overnight on board Princess N | |

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| <p>Day 3 Dec 24 (Tue)</p> | <p>- Group 1 (ET Group)</p> <p>ET 1a: Agile mangabeys trek & Bai Hokou - 7 pax</p> <p>ET 1b: Picathartes & Sangha Bai (optional platform overnight) - 7 pax</p> <p>- Overnight Sangha Lodge</p> | |
| <p>Day 3 Dec 24 (Tue)</p> | <p>- Group 2 (Air France Group)</p> <p>- AF 2a: Wali Bai - 7 pax morning</p> <p>- AF 2b: Botanical walk - 7 pax morning</p> <p>- AF 2a: Botanical walk - 7 pax afternoon</p> <p>- AF 2b: Wali Bai - 7 pax afternoon</p> <p>- Overnight on Princess N</p> | |
| <p>Day 4 Dec 25 (Wed)</p> | <p>- Group 1 (ET Group)</p> <p>ET 1a: Picathartes & Sangha Bai (optional platform overnight) - 7 pax</p> <p>ET 1b: Agile mangabeys & Bai Hokou - 7 pax</p> <p>Overnight Sangha Lodge</p> | |

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| <p>Day 4 Dec 25 (Wed)</p> | <p>- Group 2 (Air France Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit Lobeké & flycamp on sandbar on Lobeké side of river (all 14 pax in 3 skiffs) - Overnight Lobeke flycamp or on Princess N | |
| <p>Day 5 – Dec 26 (Thurs)</p> | <p>- Group 1 (ET Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All 14 pax return to ship - some kayaking opportunities today. - Overnight Princess N. | |
| <p>Day 5 – Dec 26 (Thurs)</p> | <p>- Group 2 (Air France Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boat transfer to Bayanga & the lodge - all 14 pax together in 3 skiffs - Overnight Sangha Lodge | |

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| <p>Day 6 – Dec 27 (Fri)</p> | <p>- Group 1 (ET Group) - Visit Ouesso town, war monument - community - secondary - primary forest walk. - Overnight on board Princess N</p> | |
| <p>Day 6 – Dec 27 (Fri)</p> | <p>- Group 2 (Air France Group) - AF 2a: Agile mangabeys & Bai Hokou - 7 pax - AF 2b: Picathartes & Sangha Bai (optional platform overnight) - 7 pax - Overnight Sangha Lodge</p> | |
| <p>Day 7 – Dec 28 (Sat)</p> | <p>- Group 1 (ET Group) - ET 1a: Wali Bai - 7 pax morning - ET 1b: Botanical walk - 7 pax morning - ET 1a: Botanical walk - 7 pax afternoon - ET 1b: Wali Bai - 7 pax afternoon - Overnight on Princess N</p> | |

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| <p>Day 7 – Dec 28 (Sat)</p> | <p>Group 2 (Air France Group) - AF 2a: Picathartes & Sangha Bai (optional platform overnight) - 7 pax - AF 2b: Agile mangabeys & Bai Hokou - 7 pax</p> <p>Overnight Sangha Lodge</p> | |
| <p>Day 8 – Dec 29 (Sun)</p> | <p>- Group 1 (ET Group) - Visit Lobeké & flycamp on sandbar on Lobeké side of river (all 14 pax in 3 skiffs) - Overnight Lobeke flycamp or on Princess N</p> | |
| <p>Day 8 – Dec 29 (Sun)</p> | <p>Group 2 (Air France Group) - All 14 pax return to ship - some kayaking opportunities today. - Overnight Princess N.</p> | |

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| <p>Day 9 – Dec 30 (Mon)</p> | <p>All are together on ship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - start to sail downriver. Ndoki river, black waters, good birding. - Afternoon meet up with the Tokou people. - Overnight Princess N. | |
| <p>Day 10 Dec 31 (Tue)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sail on to Pikounda. - Meet chieftain of the land in the evening. Village visit. - Overnight Princess N. | |
| <p>Day 11 Jan 1 (Wed)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Today we look for Bouvier’s red colobus along the Mangui river. - Overnight Princess N. | |

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| <p>Day 12 Jan 2 (Thur)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Passing the Equator - Some kayaking opportunities in small tributaries - Overnight Princess N. | |
| <p>Day 13 Jan 3 (Fri)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reach Mossaka - fishing villages. - Hippos in estuary. - Overnight Princess N. | |

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| <p>Day 14 Jan 4 (Sat)</p> | <p>- Reach Tshumbiri - - Group 1 ET group departs at 4 am for Bonobo trek Group 2: AF group sails on to Ngabe & meets the Teke queen</p> | |
| <p>Day 15 Jan 5 (Sun)</p> | <p>- Group 1 ET group sails on to Ngabe & meets the Teke queen Group 2: AF group departs at 4 am for Bonobo trek</p> | |

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| <p>Day 16 Jan 6 (Sun)</p> | <p>- Sail to Brazza. - Evening of music. Overnight Brazza hotel.</p> | |
| <p>Day 17 Jan 7 (Mon)</p> | <p>- Optional visit to Lésio-Louna gorilla sanctuary - Overnight Brazza hotel - Others fly home today</p> | |

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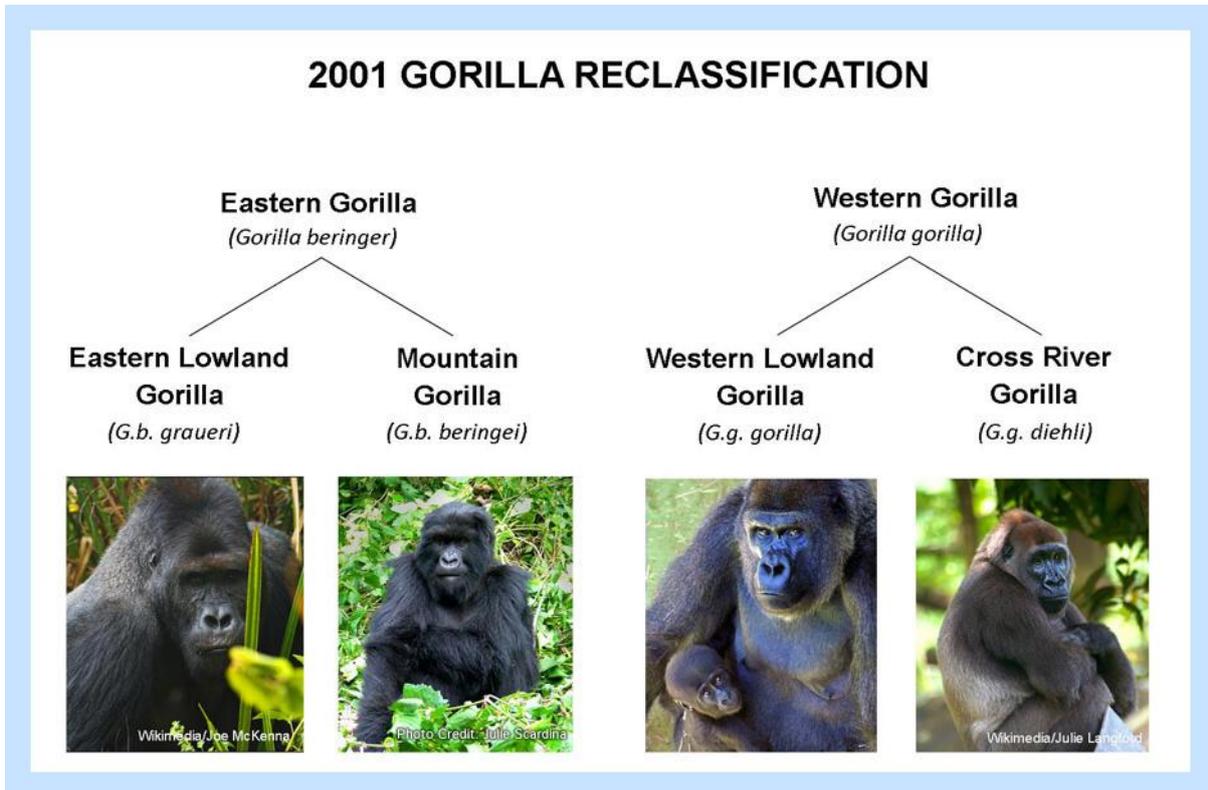
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| <p>Day 18 Jan 8 (Tues)</p> | <p>Rest of group flies home. Gabon folks fly to Libreville.</p> | |
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Don't you love that the proper scientific name for western lowlands gorillas is...
gorilla gorilla gorilla



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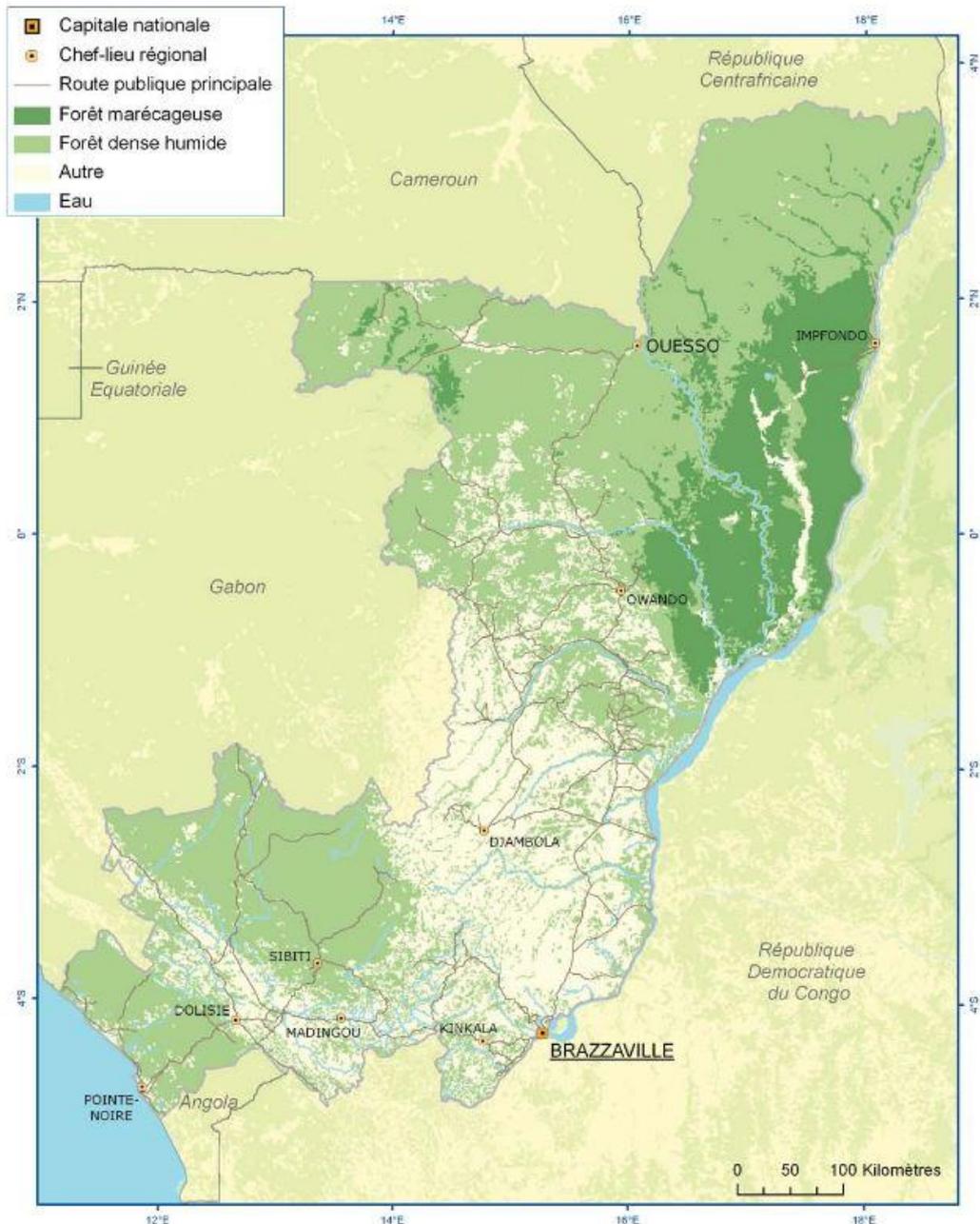
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Geographical Map of Congo Brazzaville

Legend: Country capital; Regional centers; Main public roads; Swamp forests; Thick rain forest; Other; Water.

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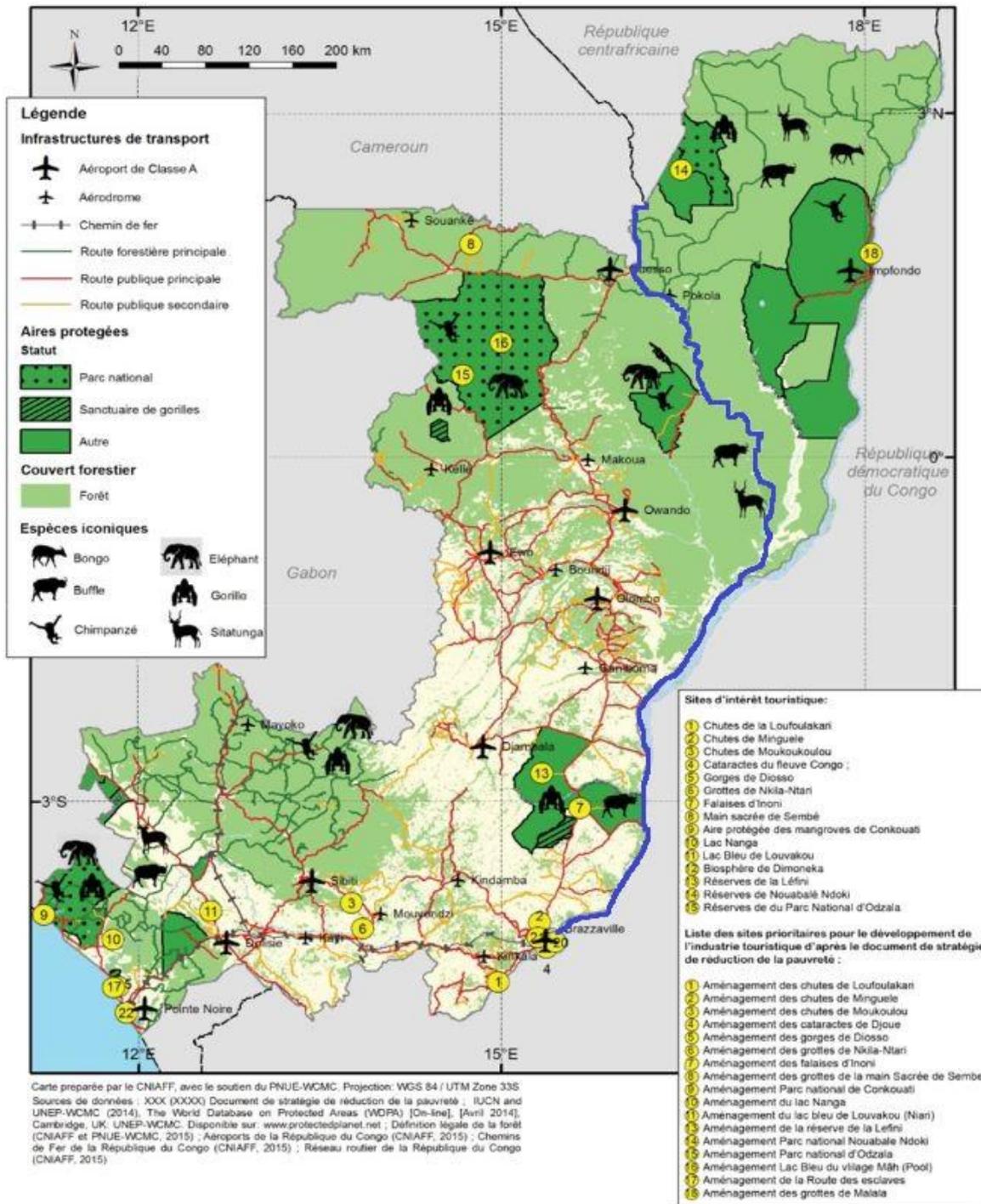
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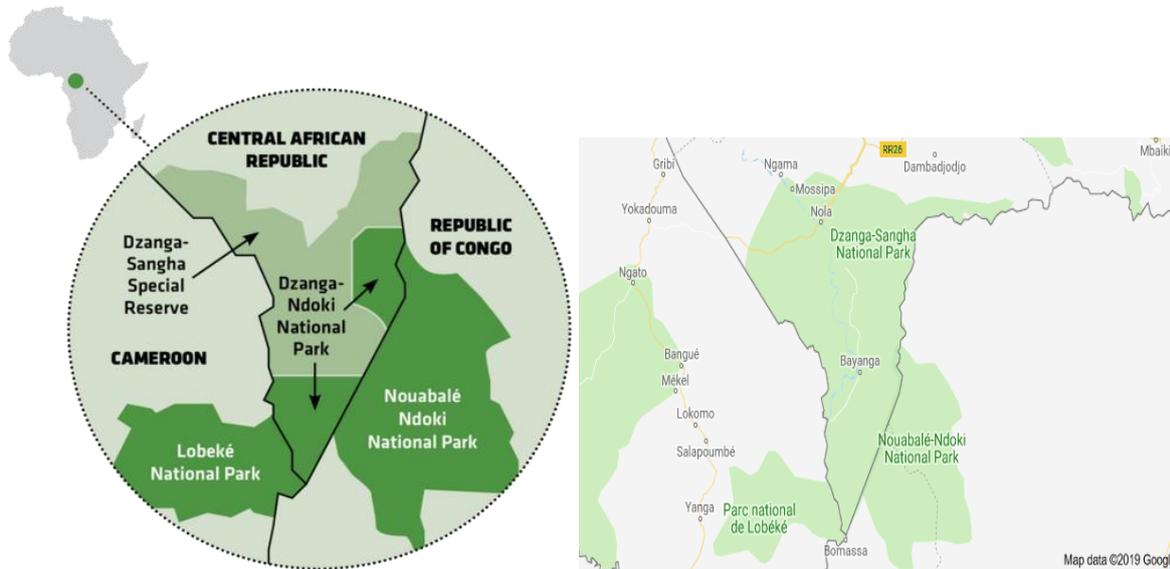
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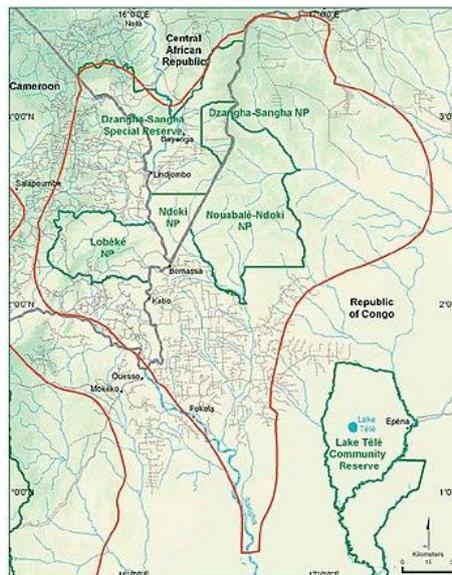
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The Triparks Area – Lobeké (Cameroon), Dzanga Ndoki & Dzangha-Sangha (CAR) and Nouabalé Ndoki (Republic of Congo)



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Plus Tshumbiri in DRC



The village of Tshumbiri is 180kms upriver from Kinshasa, south of Mbandaka, and the bonobo conservation project is in an area called Mbou Mon Tour.

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Trip Highlights

- Wending along the mighty Congo River in a comfortable river boat;
- Meeting Queen Ngalifourou of the Téké Kingdom in her capacity as the spiritual guardian of the Batéké people;
- Visiting colonial landmarks from the time of the Savorgnan de Brazza and Stanley expeditions;
- Botanical explorations among the more than 1000 species of plants along the river;
- Meeting the Ba'aka or the forest people, one of the last remaining groups of hunters and gatherers on our planet;
- Searching for the Bouvier's Red Colobus, until very recently thought to be extinct!
- Looking for wild lowland gorillas, bongo and forest elephants at Dzangha-Sangha;
- Forest walks & watching eles, buffalos and birds from Wali Bai;
- Exploring riverbanks at Lobeké NP in Cameroon;
- Visiting habituated wild bonobos at Mbou Mon Tour in DRC;
- Enjoying an evening of jazz and rumba with the Congo dandies themselves!
- Optional extension to Lesio-Louna, the gorilla sanctuary 2.5 hours from Brazzaville. You will see habituated gorillas from up close!
- Taking this river voyage to its natural conclusion with a few nights at Loango National Park in Gabon (optional extension).
- Whoa!

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DAYS 1-7: DECEMBER 22-28, 2024: IMMERSION IN THE TRINATIONAL SANGHA

In the north-western section of the Congo Basin, at the meeting point of Cameroon, CAR and ROC, lies an enormous tract of land, made up of 3 contiguous national parks in 3 different countries. Together, this protected area of over 750,000 hectares, harbors a wealth of flora and fauna, including considerable populations of forest elephant, lowland gorillas, forest buffalo, antelopes like bongo, duikers and sitatunga, as well as a host of other primates, including chimpanzees. Participants will be divided into 4 sub-groups, plus guides, and each sub-group will do all the activities in the 3 parks on a revolving basis.

- Each person will spend 3 nights at Sangha Lodge, visiting Sangha Bai, Bai Hokou, doing an agile mangabey trek, looking for picathartes & other special birds, and also overnighing on the platform at Sangha Bai, should they be interested;
- Each person will visit Wali Bai and Nouabale-Ndoki NP;
- Each person will visit Lobeké, and that night will be spent on the boat or flycamping on the sandbanks;
- Forest and botanical walks, and a visit of Ouessou town.

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Sangha Bai – © *Sinziana-Maria Demian/WWF*



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Day 8: DECEMBER 29, 2024: OUESSO – GATHER ON BOARD



Groups 1 and 2 gather on the boat for our first night all together aboard the Princess Ngalessa.



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Day 9: DECEMBER 30, 2024: START SAILING DOWNRIVER TOWARDS PIKOUNDA



Presentations on board.



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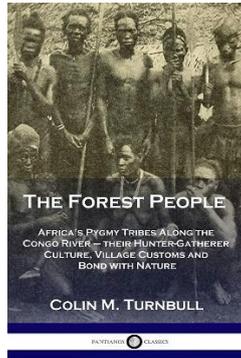
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Day 10: DECEMBER 31, 2024: PIKOUNDA



We will pass the village of Pikounda en route to a Tokou village, deep in the forest. The pygmies are one of the two peoples that inhabit this region. They are among the last groups of hunters and gatherers in the world. We will divide up into small sub-groups and spend the day with them and share in their daily life, as they harvest plant products, collect medicinal plants and go fishing. We will have a chance to discover their incredibly symbiotic relationship with the forest. Dinner will be in a forest clearing, and we will hear about the stories of their people and the forest that is their home. They will tell us their stories through mime, song and dance – this oral tradition being one of the most precious treasures of the people of the forest.



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Day 11: JANUARY 1, 2025: LOOKING FOR BOUVIER'S COLOBUS ON THE MANGUI RIVER

Today, we will try to look for the Bouvier's Red Colobus monkey, which until quite recently had been thought to have gone extinct! In the morning, we will go 15 kms up a tributary of the Sangha, called the Mangui and follow the northern border of Ntokou-Pikounda NP.



*Detail from the world's first photo of Bouvier's red colobus (*Piliocolobus bouvieri*) taken early March 2015 in the Ntokou-Pikounda National Park in the Republic of Congo. The photo shows an adult female with offspring. Photo by: Lieven Devreese.*

*"The last time there was a sighting of Bouvier's red colobus disco was all the rage, the Internet was non-existent, and Madonna still referred solely to the mother of God. But then the African monkey vanished and conservationists feared it had gone extinct—a victim of the bushmeat trade. For years, research groups called for an expedition to find out if Bouvier's red colobus (*Piliocolobus bouvieri*) still survived in the forests of the Republic of Congo. Earlier this year, a 27-year-old Belgian researcher, Lieven Devreese, did just that. And not only did he rediscover the lost colobus, he also took the first photos ever of this long-elusive species."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EnUFP0miGI&t=118s>

Day 12: JANUARY 2, 2025: CROSSING THE EQUATOR – SAILING DOWNRIVER

Presentations on board

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Day 13: JANUARY 3, 2025: FISHING VILLAGES AND MOSSAKA



After a restful night on board, today we will have a relaxed day sailing to the rhythm of the river. The Congo river widens considerably at this point (more than 10 kms) and we see a hodgepodge of islands, where fishing villages pop up temporarily during the dry season. We will visit the fishing village of Mossaka, known throughout the country for its smoked fish, as well as the vestiges of the de Brazza and Stanley expeditions. We will also enjoy a lecture on the people and famous expeditions of the Congo.



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Days 14-15: JANUARY 4-5, 2025: BONOBOBOS AND NGABE

Once again, we will be divided into 2 groups of 14 each, 1 group going to the bonobos and the other to Ngabe.

For the actual bonobo tracking, each group of 14 will be further sub-divided into 2-3 smaller groups as there are 3 habituated bonobo troops at Tshumbiri.



Photo credit @ Janos Rautonen

BONOBO TRACKING

We will complete our DRC immigration formalities at a border post not far from the village of Tshumbiri, so that we can have a very early start the next morning in search of the bonobos. We have taken special permission for this border crossing, although overnight will be on the boat.

Please note that this is a tough trek through thick forest, and the bonobos can move quickly. It's a good idea to train a little bit for this trek, like you would for a mountain gorilla trek.

A little bit about this project: Mbou Mon Tour is the result of a few dedicated individuals and the support of the villagers, without whom this population would simply not exist. It was only in 2008 that WWF and other sponsors started their support of the program that has now seen 6 Bonobo groups being actively monitored with 3 groups that have had extensive habituation, and at least one other group that is part of an ongoing international research study.

This is a special activity, everyone – wild bonobos are holy grails 😊

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MEETING THE QUEEN OF THE TEKE KINGDOM

In the morning, we will reach the village of Ngabe, one of the ancient capitals of the Téké Kingdom, and visit the current Queen Ngalifourou. In her capacity as guardian of the "Nkwembali", spiritual god of the Batéké, she is the person authorized to transmit power to the new king, the Makoko. We will attend a traditional Téké dance today.



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Day 16: JANUARY 6, 2025: BRAZZAVILLE

Afternoon in Brazzaville, visiting some local markets for traditional handicrafts and meeting with La Sape – Society of Ambience Makers and Elegant People - or simply relax and get ready for a fun evening ahead! We have planned an evening of jazz music and rumba in the company of the Congo Dandies to end the trip on a fun note!



Day 17: JANUARY 7, 2025: BRAZZAVILLE – LESIO LOUNA GORILLA SANCTUARY – BRAZZAVILLE

- For those not doing this extension to Lesio-Louna, nor doing the Gabon extension, please book your return flights home for January 7, 2025 at any time;
- For those doing this Lesio-Louna extension but not the Gabon extension, this will be an all-day trip and you will need another night in Brazza. Your return trip home should be booked for January 8, 2025. The cost of this day trip to the gorilla sanctuary and an additional overnight in Brazza will cost 460 Euros per person sharing & 540 Euros per person in a single room (return trip by road to the sanctuary, gorilla feeding and other activities, overnight at Pefaco hotel in a standard room with breakfast included);
- For those who are doing the Gabon extension but would just prefer a down day in Brazza

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before heading off to Libreville on Jan 8, that is possible too and priced into the Gabon extension already. The flight from Brazza to Libreville is being booked for Jan 8 because there is no flight on Jan 7, 2025. We have changed hotels from Radisson to Pefaco, so the numbers will be bit better.

- For those doing the Gabon extension AND if you want to add on the gorilla sanctuary day trip, the extra will be 350 Euros per person

LESIO-LOUNA GORILLA SANCTUARY



<https://www.aspinallfoundation.org/the-aspinall-foundation/working-around-the-world/congo-and-gabon/protection-management-of-the-lesio-louna-reserve/>

The most significant conservation success for the reserve has been the reintroduction of Critically Endangered western lowland gorillas, previously hunted to extinction in the area. Through the Gorilla Protection Project, The Aspinall Foundation has raised orphaned gorillas and, when old enough, returned them to live in the wild. In addition, UK-bred gorillas have been repatriated to Congo for release into the reserve. The result has seen breeding groups develop and currently the

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largest troop is formed of more than 30 gorillas headed by a silverback who came to the project as an orphan of the bush-meat trade in 1993, at that time he was less than two years old.



Here's a nice little video link to help you decide:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53D6RvgCWbM>

This is not a wild experience, it is true, but I found it very intriguing that captive gorillas from Kent Zoo in the UK have been 'admixed' into the local gorillas groups of the Congo – it reminds me of the rewilding operations happening in Chad these days with the scimitar-horned oryx and addax.

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Observation Deck

401



402

Third Deck / Restaurant Deck

301



302

Second Deck

201

202

Message Room

205

206

207



203

204

208

209

210

First Deck

101

102



Ship Layout

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Observation Deck :

2 Owner's suites with private balcony 35 m² Euro 11,570 per person on sharing basis

(1 twin cabin & 1 Queen cabin)

Private balcony, 3 windows, armchair, writing desk & chair, 2 bedside tables, sofa, closet, en suite bathroom, AC. 3 windows & easy access to Observation Deck.

Third Deck :

2 Classic Cabins 30 m² Euro 10,795 per person on sharing basis

(Each with 2 single beds that can convert to King)

Third deck – forward. Public balcony. 4 windows, armchair, writing desk & chair, 2 bedside tables, closet, ensuite bathroom, AC.

Second Deck :

2 Forward Master Suites 23 m² Euro 9,890 per person on sharing basis

(Each with a Queen bed)

Second deck – forward. Public balcony. 4 windows, armchair, writing desk & chair, 2 bedside tables, closet, ensuite bathroom, AC.

2 Master Suites 27 m² Euro 9,630 per person on sharing basis

(1 cabin with 2 single beds and 1 cabin with a Queen bed)

Second deck. Public balcony. 3 windows, armchair, writing desk & chair, 2 bedside tables, sofa, closet, ensuite bathroom, AC.

6 Deluxe Suites 18 m² Euro 9,245 per person on sharing basis

(2 cabins with 2 single beds & 4 with Queen beds)

Second deck. Public balcony. 2 windows, armchair, writing desk & chair, 2 bedside tables, closet, ensuite bathroom, AC.

Single Supplement is +50% on above prices (we are encouraging singles to please share if they possibly can).

Payment terms: 30% non-refundable deposit to reserve your spot. Balance due 90 days before departure, i.e. September 22, 2024. You can pay in 3 installments of 30% + 30% +40% should that be more convenient.

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INCLUDED:

All excursions
Guidance and expertise of expedition staff
Gorilla permits and park fees (these costs are subject to change if the park fees change)
Charter flight Ouesso-Brazzaville in a 19-pax private jet (2 rotations needed)
Accommodations on board
All meals and local drinks (beer, wine and soft drinks with meals)
Hotel night in Brazzaville + dinner & dance evening with the Congo Dandies

NOT INCLUDED:

International flights
Bar consumption outside of meal times is extra and payable directly
Additional hotel nights
Private transfers
Comprehensive travel insurance
Visa and visa invitation letter fees
Items of a personal nature (such as internet access and laundry)
Massage
Gratuities

FACILITIES:

Dining room
Indoor bar & lounge
Outdoor lounge
Outdoor jacuzzi
Massage room
Observation deck
World-class cuisine with locally sourced produce & fine wine

CREW & SAFETY:

20, including cruise director and 3 naturalist-guides. Two 15-pax motorboats & several canoes/kayaks. Radio; satellite phone; life jackets for everyone; fire extinguishers & smoke detectors in each cabin; flares and signals. First aid kit on board + crew with basic paramedical training.

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