



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Bonobos

DATES: 03th to 16th September 2026

DURATION: 14 days / 13 nights

SUMMARY: Middle-Africa have been travelling and exploring DRC since 2016 and has seen the great potential of this country for those travelers looking for last virgin places on the Planet. This is a trip focused in Bonobos.

According to the WWF, Bonobos and chimpanzees look very similar and both share 98.7% of their DNA with humans—making the two species our closest living relatives. Bonobos are usually a bit smaller, leaner and darker than chimpanzees. Their society is also different—bonobo groups tend to be more peaceful and are led by females. They also maintain relationships and settle conflicts through sex. However, bonobo life isn't entirely violence free; if two groups of bonobos come together, they may engage in serious fighting.

Wild bonobos can only be found in forests south of the Congo River in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Sometimes known as the pygmy chimpanzee, bonobos weren't recognized as a separate species until 1929. As the last great ape to be scientifically described, much remains unknown about the bonobo—including the extent of its geographic range. Efforts to survey the species over the past two decades have been hampered by the remote nature of its habitat, the patchiness of their distribution and years of civil unrest within the DRC.

Civil unrest and increasing poverty in the area around the bonobos' forests have contributed to bonobo poaching and deforestation. Though the size of the bonobo population is largely unknown, it has likely been declining for the last 30 years. Scientists believe that the decline will continue for the next 45 to 55 years due to the bonobo's low reproductive rate and growing threats.

Doing this trip, you participate and help to the Bonobos conservation projects.



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ITINERARY:

(We suggest to arrive 1 day earlier –Wednesday 02 September-, just in case you have a delay on your plane or possible flight date change. The extra to pay will be 150 euros for the extra single room)

Day 1 (Thursday 03 September 2026): KINSHASA

Arrival in Kinshasa airport, meet the guide and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation in: **Hotel Sultani**. ____

Day 2 (Friday 04 September 2026): KINSHASA – BASANKUSU

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport and flight (3h) to Basankusu with a private plane. Arrival and walk 5 minutes to the accommodation where you will spend this night. Late lunch and walking tour in town. Basankusu was founded by the Okutsu, a Mongo tribe group. The town is in the Equator province and is situated on the Lulonga River, a tributary of the Congo River. **Accommodation in: Basankusu** hotel (small hotel, with basic rooms with bed, mosquito net and bucket shower). **BLD**

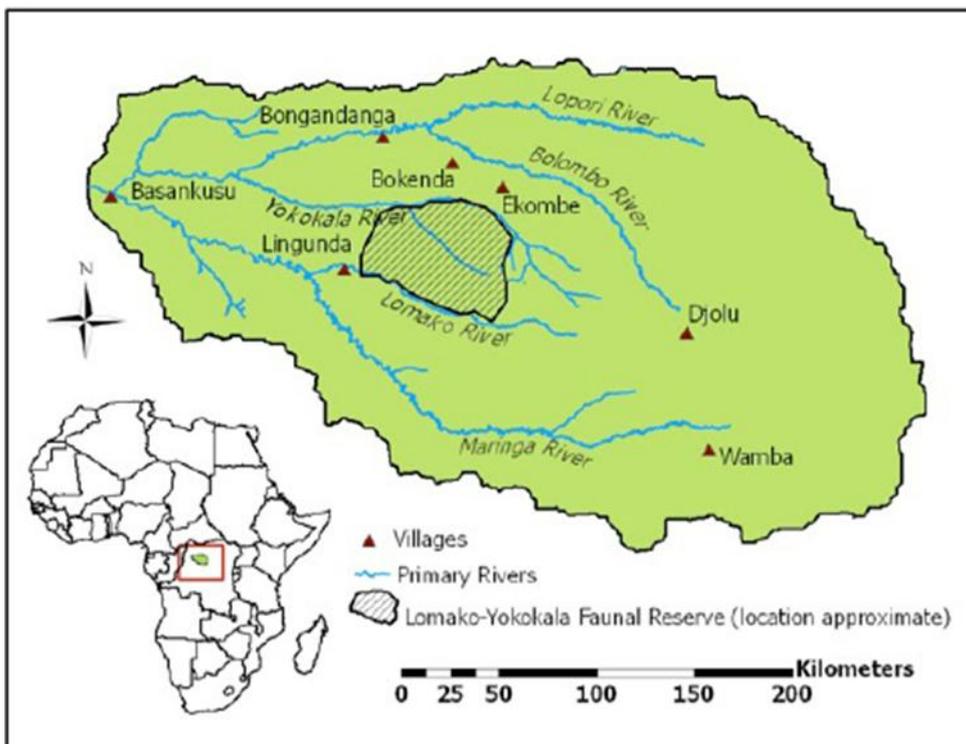
Day 3 (Saturday 05 Sept): BASANKUSU – LINGUNDA

At 6 am walk to the River and start an amazing trip (10h) with a dogout canoe deep inside the rainforest. In the canoe we will be all seated in chairs with an umbrella –please bring from home- and have breakfast, lunch, coffee and snacks. Time to read, to relax, to listen and contemplate the nature with the river, sky, clouds, trees, birds, monkeys, etc. Arrival in Lingunda village before the night falls and spend the night. **Accommodation in: tents. BLD**

Day 4 (Sunday 06 Sept): LINGUNDA – LOMAKO-YOKOKALA RESERVE

Breakfast, visit Lingunda and go back to the Lomako River for a 2h30min canoe trip and enter in the Lomako-Yokokala Faunal Reserve. The Lomako Forest consists of the area between the Yokokala and Lomako rivers. Arrival and walk 3h through the jungle to the Camp where we will stay the next days. Relax and 'bucket shower' from a very clean water spring that we will also drink during these days. We are deep inside of a pure rainforest where we will have the chance to observe wild Bonobos (very good vision and all the time you will like to stay with them and follow them) and other fauna. In this forest there's wildlife like Red-tailed monkeys, Wolf's Guenons, Black Mangabeys, Angolan Colobuses (these 4 monkeys are easy to observe), Allen's Swamp Monkey and other monkeys,

Red River Hogs, Western Blue and Peter's Duikers, Bay Duikers and Weyns's Duikers, many African Palm Civets, White-Bellied Pangolin, Giant Pangolin, Lesser Anomalure, Lord Derby, Demidoff's Galago and other different and bigger Galagos, good population of Golden Cats (from camera traps, but very rare to observe), Leopards (few and difficult to observe), and over 400 species of birds like the Congo Peafowl, Hartlaub's Duck, Congo Serpent Eagle, Forbes's Plover, Yellow-throated Cuckoo, Vermiculated Fishing Owl, African Dwarf Kingfisher, Black Bee-eater, White-crested and Black-casqued Hornbills, Sladen's Barbet, Rufoussided Broadbill, Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike, Bates's Paradise Flycatcher, Gosling's Apalis, Rufous-tailed, Palm Thrush, Cassin's Malimbe, Bob-tailed Weaver, Woodhouse's Antpecker and the gorgeous, localized Grant's Bluebill. **Accomodation in: tents** (good tent with good mattress and a chair). **BLD**



Days 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10: LOMAKO-YOKOKALA RESERVE

Bonobos trekking every morning for 4 persons + guides, including an specialist in Bonobos researchal and conservation. The clients will have the chance to do 2 times (maybe 3) this activity. We will also do by day and night more walks in the forest looking for other wildlife. Is important to know and explain to the clients that we have look for different places where there's Bonobos and this is the best place that we have found where you can really observe Bonobos in the wild, in



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good conditions, near from you and surrounded by an amazing and rich forest. **Accommodation in: tents. BLD**

Day 11 (Sunday 13 Sept): LOMAKO - LINGUNDA

Breakfast and walk 3h through the forest and take the canoes in the Lomako River for 2h30min. Arrival in Lingunda and relax with a beautiful sundowner.

Accommodation in: tents. BLD

Day 12 (Monday 14 Sept): LINGUNDA – BASANKUSU

Early departure to Basankusu (8-9h) with canoe. Arrival in Basankusu for dinner and night. **Accommodation in: Basankusu hotel. BLD**

Day 13 (Tuesday 15 September): BASANKUSU – KINSHASA

Early morning visit (30 minutes boat from Basankusu) to the released orphan Bonobos and back to Basankusu for the private flight (3h) to Kinshasa. Arrival in Kinshasa national airport in the afternoon (3 pm more or less) and transfer to the hotel. **Accommodation in: Hotel Sultani. B__**

Day 14 (Wednesday 16 September): KINSHASA departure

Breakfast, free time (city tour, shopping, etc) and transfer to the airport. **B__**

END OF OUR SERVICES

Price (Maximum 8 pax group) Per Person (sharing): 12.700 €

Individual supplement: 650 €

Booking (signal payment per person): 2.000 euros

Second payment to be done 65 days before departure

Includes:

- all transfers (cars, private plane 2 times, motorized canoes)
- all accommodations
- meals mentioned in the itinerary



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-english speaking guide during all the trip

-all park fees, permits and mentioned activities

-local air taxes

Not included:

-international flights and air taxes (55 usd on departure)

-meals not mentioned in the itinerary

-drinks

-visas (we will send you invitation letter and you can do the Visa in DRC Embassy or Consulate)

-travel and cancellation Insurance

INFORMATION OF INTEREST:

Compulsory vaccinations: Yellow fever.

Notes:

-In Kinshasa the client can arrive with all the luggage that will need, but for the plane trip will travel with a backpack with 15kgs maximum and is possible to bring a second small backpack with camera equipment and personal effects. The client can leave a suitcase in the hotel and have it back when comeback to Kinshasa, and travel to Basankusu and Lomako only with the necessary in the backpack (15kgs maximum). Please note there's basic laundry service in Lomako, so is not need to take many clothes with you.

-The client have to bring solar cream, cap, insect repellent and water purification tablets (in case the clients wants to add to the fresh and pure water from the Lomako spring, but this is not necessary as the water is very good and clean).