

# Let's Sail Down the Congo River

JULY 3, 2026 – JULY 20, 2026 (CONGO)

13 cabins – 24 guests

A CHALO EXPLORERS CLUB EXPEDITION





Photo credit to Chalo guest @Kit Boey



**REPUBLIC OF CONGO, BRAZZAVILLE (ROC) – CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC –  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)**  
*WITH AN OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO GABON*





## INTRODUCTION

### WITH SANGEETA SAHAYA

Dear All,

After a wonderful pioneering adventure to the Congo Basin this past December with a group of stalwart Chalo guests, we are delighted to offer a slightly new version of this trip for July 2026. I hope that you will consider joining us to explore the tributaries and hidden channels of the mighty Congo River as it reveals its secrets to us...

From the point of view of charismatic wildlife, this trip includes **2 (yes 2!) gorilla treks** of habituated lowland gorillas, a **bonobo trek** for that most rarefied of all great apes, a visit to the extraordinary **Sangha Bai for its vast gatherings of forest elephants** (whilst also praying for bongos and red river hogs), **an agile mangabey trek**, night walks for **nocturnal animals like pottos and pangolins**, and should you choose to do the Gabon extension, then your trip will also include another elusive primate – **the mandrill**,

other rainforest primates, **3 species of crocodilians** and **great flocks of resident & migratory birds** like African River Martins, Rosy Bee Eaters and African Grey Parrots.

In terms of cultural interactions, I can honestly tell you that the experiences you can expect on this trip are without parallel. You will meet the **Ba'aka forest people** and enjoy their sensational 'water drumming' and explore their forest home with them. You will go kayaking among mangrove forests on a 'black river', receive an audience from the **Queen of the Téké Kingdom**, participate in fishing village activities, enjoy **traditional dances like the Kébé Kébé** and meet the famous **Congolese 'Sapeurs' or the Congo Dandies**. Tourism is at a nascent stage in this area still, so your interactions will be authentic.

Our trip takes you from the upper reaches of the Sangha River to the Alima River, and from there to the mighty Congo itself. With

the Gabon extension, it takes you all the way down to the Atlantic Coast. It is a deep dive into the heart of Africa, intended for experienced adventurers who wish to discover these remote corners of our planet in safety and comfort.

The wildlife-heavy sections of this trip consist of the time we spend in Dzanga-Sangha (CAR), Nouabalé-Ndoki NP (ROC), the bonobos (DRC) and Lopé & Loango (in Gabon), the latter being offered as an optional extension.

The week spent cruising on the Congo river will be focused primarily on enjoying the historic nature of sailing in the footsteps of Stanley and de Brazza and the cultural insights we get from the villages and people we meet en route.

The Congo basin is a region of thick rainforests, shy wildlife and you should not expect to see the animal densities you see in East Africa or southern Africa.





## INTRODUCTION

We are targeting the very best areas and best wildlife experiences that are possible in this environment, but if you have some interest in the history, geography and people of Central Africa, then you will find that this trip makes for a comprehensive amalgam of flora, fauna and cultures. The riverbanks of the Congo and its tributaries are not teeming with wildlife, but you will find that the riverscapes are drop-dead gorgeous, and its elusive wildlife species are awe-inspiring.

**Before signing up, please remember that this is an expeditionary trip at its heart. Yes, a very comfortable expedition no doubt, but the daily programs are not set in stone, and we ask for your flexibility and understanding if things don't always**

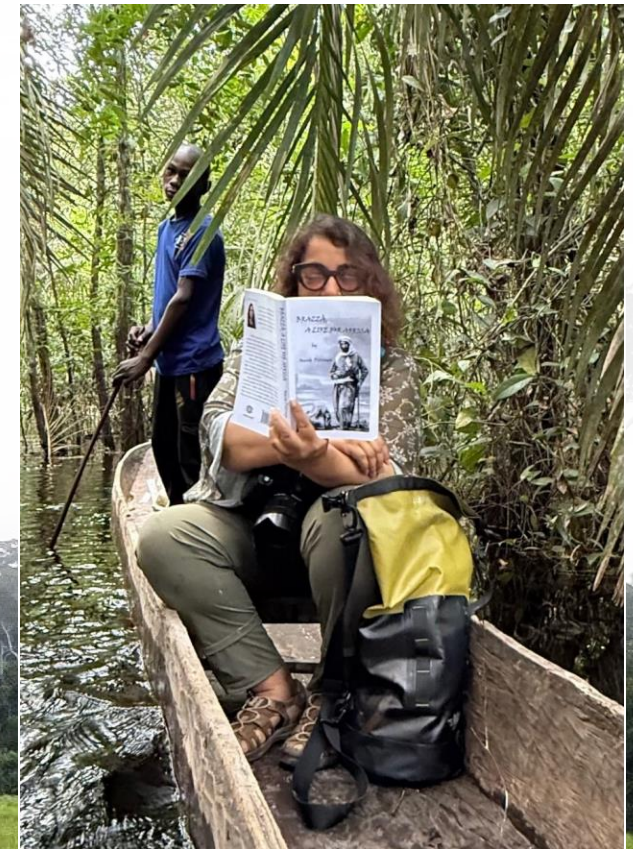
**follow the daily itinerary to the letter.**

We will divide our trip into 2 groups of 12 each, with one group starting from Brazzaville and the other starting from Bangui. Everyone will then come together for the cruise on the riverboat and end together in Brazzaville. These groups of 12 will be further sub-divided into sub-groups of 4-6 guests, so that none of the activities feel overwhelming, either to us or to the wildlife we wish to see. In addition to the descriptive itinerary, we thought it might be helpful to also provide it in chart format for more clarity, so you can choose the routing that works best for you, on a first-come basis.

I look forward very much to welcoming all of you on our Congo Basin adventure! I am a

mere phone call or whatsapp chat away at +1-703-220-6393 should you have any questions at all.

- Sangeeta



Reading De Brazza on the Alima River – Photo credit Chalo guest @Joel Gunter





## INTRODUCTION



### WITH KEITH BARNES

South African by birth, but a globetrotter by persuasion, Keith's first love was dragonfly larvae, before mammals and birds became a driving obsession. An ornithologist by training, author, and seasoned wildlife tour leader, he is renowned for his extensive contributions to bird conservation across Africa. Barnes has led numerous expeditions throughout the continent, guiding enthusiasts and professionals alike to some

of Africa's most remote and biodiverse regions.

Keith earned a PhD in African lark taxonomy and evolution from the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town. His academic work includes pivotal roles in launching the first Important Bird Areas (IBA) of Southern Africa program - including publishing the initial directory, as well as revising the threatened species assessments and coordinating the Red Data Book in 2000 for BirdLife South Africa.

His research interests encompass evolution, ecology, and the intricate interactions within biological systems. In addition to his scientific endeavors, Barnes is an author and co-author of several acclaimed field guides, including ***Wildlife of Kruger National Park*** and ***Field Guide to Birds of Greater Southern Africa***. These works are celebrated for their accessibility and comprehensive coverage, making them invaluable resources for both novice and

experienced naturalists.

He has also co-authored ***Wildlife of Madagascar, Wild Rwanda*** and ***Birding Ethiopia***, further solidifying his expertise in African wildlife. His latest endeavor was ***Habitats of Africa***, which delves into the continent's varied habitats and ecosystems, their wildlife, and the varied mechanisms that drive them. Barnes emphasizes deep ecological understanding and expert guidance. He enjoys leading tours that are designed for those who have experienced traditional safaris and are now seeking a more profound connection with the natural world, and the usual and odd enigmas that inhabit it. The focus is on rare species and unique ecosystems, often in remote and under-visited areas.





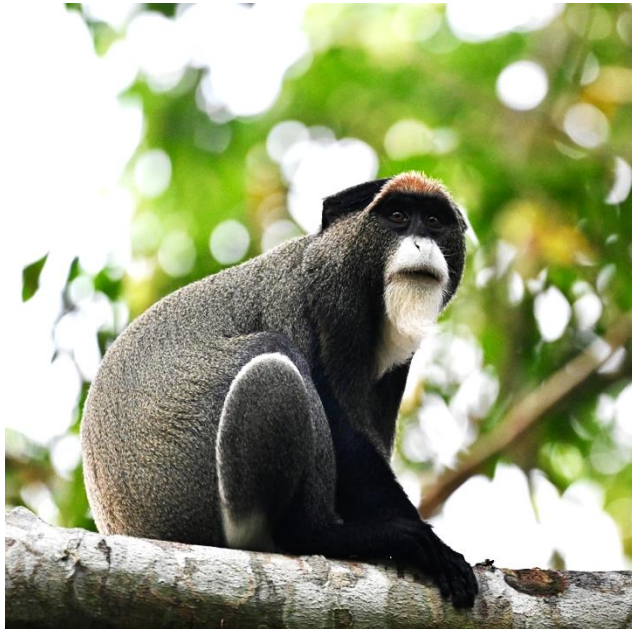


*Pietro Paolo Savorgnan di Brazzà - @1890 by Nadar*

### CONGO BASIN TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Wending down the mighty Congo River in a beautiful river boat.
- **2 gorilla treks** – one in Dzanga Sangha and the other in Nouabalé Ndoki NP.
- 1 habituated **bonobo trek** at Mbou Mon Tour in DRC.

- 1 agile **mangabey trek** in Dzanga Sangha.
- 2 overnights on platforms at Wali Baï and Mbeli Baï in **Nouabalé Ndoki NP** (Mbeli Baï provided their 'mirador' platform construction is ready in time).
- Visiting the **forest elephant** gatherings at Sangha Baï.
- **Kayaking** in a mangrove forest along the Alima River.
- 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.



*And here's the aptly named De Brazza's monkey - Anil Prasad*

- Audience with the **Queen of the Téké**, the spiritual head of the Batéké Kingdom.
- Visiting with the **Condo Dandies** and exploring Brazzaville.
- **Whoa!**



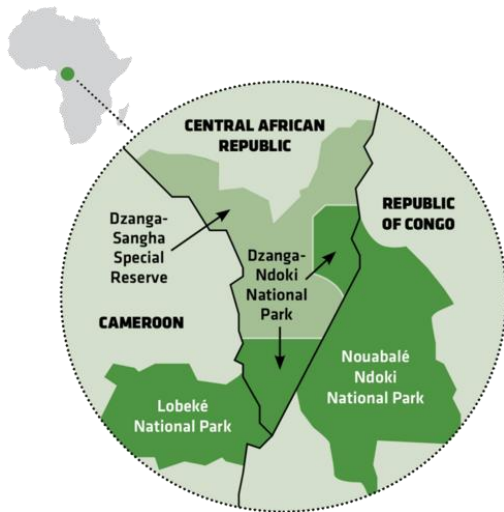
*Joel with the Congo Dandies*



### DEEP DIVE INTO THE TRINATIONAL SANGHA

**The Tri-parks Area or the Tri-National Sangha consists of:**

- Lobeké (Cameroon)
- Dzanga Ndoki & Dzangha-Sangha (CAR)
- Nouabalé Ndoki (Republic of Congo)



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 elephants, lowland gorillas, forest buffalo, antelopes like bongo, duikers and sitatunga, as well as a host of other primates, including chimpanzees.



*Photos by Chalo Africa guest: Joel Gunter*

- **Participants will be divided into 4 sub-groups**, plus guides, and each sub-group will do all the activities in Dzanga-Sangha and Nouabalé Ndoki parks on a revolving basis.
- Each person will spend **3 nights at Sangha Lodge**: they will each do 1 gorilla trek (age permitting), they will visit Sangha Bai, Bai Hokou (for the agile mangabey trek) and participate in some cultural interactions with the local Ba'aka people.
- **Each person will spend 3 nights in Nouabalé-Ndoki NP**: they will overnight on the platform at Wali Bai. The plan is to spend a second overnight on Mbeli Bai (provided the construction of the platform has been completed). Mbeli Bai is special for its views of wild gorillas and elephants, often sharing the same space & 1 night at Mondika camp and do a gorilla trek here as well (age permitting).

- Each person will spend **1 night camping on an island on the Sangha River**.
- If Mbeli Bai is not ready for visitors by July 2026, then we will visit Lobéké NP in Cameroon for a hike there instead.

**The 4 nights spent between Sangha Lodge and the river boat will be rough and rustic. We will provide as many comforts as possible, but please note that you will be mobile camping in the rain forest, sleeping on folding cots, and using a dry toilet that has been set up underneath the platform for your use. There will be shower facilities with a bucket of water for the time spent at Nouabalé Ndoki.**

I believe that this gives you a wonderfully authentic and immersive rainforest experience and this constitutes a highlight of the trip for me personally, but please ensure that you have understood this section well before signing up for this adventure. I am available to answer any questions you may have about the facilities – please call or Whatsapp me at +1-703-220-6393.





### Bonobo Tracking in Tshumbiri, 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.**

Here is a very **realistic first-hand description of the bonobo trek** by Chalo guest @Kit Boey:

*It is pitch black at 3.30am but the camp is already alive with people getting ready to jump into the jeeps for an early dawn trek for the main event in the Mbou-Mon-Tour in Nkala in the Democratic Republic of Congo to see the endangered Bonobos.*

*Once described as the pygmy chimp, the bonobo gained its full species status in 1929. This fourth of the 4 African great apes is found only in the Democratic Republic of Congo, not the easiest place to navigate into. Bonobos occur only in the south of the Congo River. The wide fast-running river draws an impenetrable line between the two great apes - the chimpanzees and its very close cousins, the*

*bonobos. In a gist, while the chimpanzees are larger, have a male-dominant society and show stronger aggressive and violent characteristics, the bonobos are smaller with groups that are led by females, and adopt a "copulation" strategy to resolve disputes. One theory is that bonobos occupy areas that have abundant productive trees and there is less need to compete for food, which probably resulted in less aggression in the bonobos.*



Photo courtesy @Herman Phua

*We leave the camp after 3.30am for about an hour's drive to the forest. We are again split into two groups. The "slow" group includes the older folks (us!), which is given the easier bonobo family to follow as the grounds there are generally flat. The "fast" and younger group will track the other bonobo family which is roosting in a more difficult terrain of hills and marshes. In darkness with only our head torches lighting a narrow path, we stumble along a trail that is sometimes hidden by*

*overgrown bushes. After about 45mins or perhaps longer, we reach the nests where the bonobos had spent the night. They are on the move.*

*In the low morning light, we can just about make out the bonobos at the tops of the tall trees, several of which pause and watch us curiously. My photos are almost unsalvageable because of the low light. The bonobos slide down the trees and move on the ground. We are split into two groups, one group immediately tries to follow them, the other group, including my pauses to check out a video that Mick takes of the bonobos moving down the trees. We finally walk again through the thick forest, climbing over fallen trees, squeezing between vines and trying to avoid being caught by the tough vines on the forest floor. We find the first group but they are stopped by marshy and wet grounds. The lead tracker tries to find another way but comes up against a fast-flowing stream. We decide we have seen enough and we aren't sure if we can follow fast enough as the bonobos. It is a long way out, climbing a hill but finally finding the trail we had been on.*

*As we near the vehicles, suddenly the "fast" group comes walking in. They had been trying to search for the bonobos for nearly three hours without success and were wading through mud and marshes. They finally gave up and decided to try our bonobo family. Thank goodness they did find the bonobos.*

*And thus, we finally joined the rarefied group of fewer than 1,000 people outside the local residents in the world to have seen bonobos in the wild.*





Photo credit @<http://wwf-panda.org/>

# CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

STARTING ON **JULY 3, 2026** FROM

**BRAZZAVILLE (R.O.C.)**

OR

**BANGUI (C.A.R.)**





## ITINERARY – FROM BRAZZAVILLE

### STARTING FROM BRAZZAVILLE

REPUBLIC OF CONGO



#### DAY 1, July 03, 2026:

##### FOR THOSE STARTING THEIR TRIP FROM BRAZZAVILLE

On arrival in Brazzaville, you will be met and transferred to the Radisson Blu located in downtown Brazza, on the banks of the Congo river. The Radisson Brazza is a well-appointed chain hotel, with decent rooms and the usual amenities. Tonight, we will enjoy a welcome dinner at Mami Wata, one of Brazza's better-known restaurants. Such a nice way to start the trip with a dinner on the banks of the mighty Congo, and the lights of Kinshasa twinkling on the far bank of the river.

Overnight at Radisson Blu Hotel.

Meals included: Dinner on Day 1 (drinks not included) and breakfast on Day 2.

#### DAY 2, July 04, 2026:

Today, you will fly from Brazza to Ouessou and the safari begins. Evening at leisure. Overnight at a mobile camp on an island on the Sangha River. Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Also included local drinks (beer, wine, soft drinks).

#### DAY 3, July 05, 2026:

Activities and overnight:

- Mbeli Bai: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Wali Bai: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Gorilla tracking: 4 guests (overnight at Mondika camp)

Individual dome tents at Mbeli & Wali Bai; shared dome tents at Mondika (2 tents with 2 beds).

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

## ITINERARY – FROM BANGUI

### STARTING FROM BANGUI

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



#### DAY 1, July 03, 2026:

##### FOR THOSE STARTING THEIR TRIP FROM BANGUI

On arrival in BANGUI, you will be met and transferred to the Ledger Plaza Hotel for a welcome dinner and overnight. This is the best hotel in Bangui, but please be flexible as not everything works as efficiently as we may expect.

Overnight at Ledger Plaza Hotel.

Meals included: Dinner on Day 1 and breakfast on Day 2.

#### DAY 2: JULY 4, 2026:

This morning, you will fly from Bangui to Bayanga, and from there, you will be transferred to the famous Sangha Lodge for 3 nights.

Activity: Night walk at Sangha Lodge

Overnight at Sangha Lodge (all drinks and laundry are payable directly at Sangha Lodge. Meals and activities are included here.)

#### DAY 3: JULY 5, 2026:

Activities for Group 1:

- AM - Agile Mangabeys (Bai Hokou - time permitting)
- PM - Dzanga Bai

Activities for Group 2:

- AM: - Gorilla Tracking
- PM - Water drumming

Overnight at Sangha Lodge (inclusions as above)





## ITINERARY – FROM BRAZZAVILLE

### STARTING FROM BRAZZAVILLE

REPUBLIC OF CONGO



#### DAY 4, July 06, 2026:

- Mbeli Bai: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Wali Bai: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Gorilla tracking: 4 guests (overnight at Mondika camp)

Individual dome tents at Mbeli & Wali Bai; shared dome tents at Mondika (2 tents with 2 beds).

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

#### DAY 5, July 07, 2026:

- Mbeli Bai: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Wali Bai: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Gorilla tracking: 4 guests (overnight at Mondika camp)

Individual dome tents at Mbeli & Wali Bai; shared dome tents at Mondika (2 tents with 2 beds).

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

#### DAY 6, July 08, 2026:

Departure for Dzanga Sangha NP around 12 pm.

You will be transferred to the famous Sangha Lodge for 3 nights.

Activity: Night walk at Sangha Lodge

Overnight at Sangha Lodge (all drinks and laundry are payable directly at Sangha Lodge. Meals and activities are included here.)

## ITINERARY – FROM BANGUI

### STARTING FROM BANGUI

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



#### DAY 4, July 06, 2026:

Activities for Group 2:

- AM - Agile Mangabeys (Bai Hokou – time permitting)
- PM - Dzanga Bai.

Activities for Group 1:

- AM - Gorilla Tracking
- PM - Water drumming.

Overnight at Sangha Lodge (inclusions as above)

#### DAY 5: JULY 07, 2026:

Departure for Bomassa.

Activity: Evening at leisure.

Overnight at a mobile camp on an island on the Sangha River.  
Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Also included local drinks (beer, wine, soft drinks).

#### DAY 6: JULY 08, 2026:

Activities:

- Mbeli Bai: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Wali Bai: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Gorilla tracking: 4 guests (overnight at Mondika camp)

Individual dome tents at Mbeli & Wali Bai; shared dome tents at Mondika (2 tents with 2 beds).

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.





## ITINERARY – FROM BRAZZAVILLE

### STARTING FROM BRAZZAVILLE



#### DAY 7, **July 09, 2026**:

Activities for Group 1:

- AM - Agile Mangabeys (Baï Hokou - time permitting)
- PM - Dzanga Baï

Activities for Group 2:

- AM - Gorilla Tracking
- PM - Water drumming

Overnight at Sangha Lodge (inclusions as above)

#### DAY 8, **July 10, 2026**:

Activities for Group 2

- AM - Agile Mangabeys (Baï Hokou – time permitting)
- PM - Dzanga Baï.

Activities for Group 1:

- AM Gorilla Tracking
- PM - Water drumming.

Overnight at Sangha Lodge (inclusions as above)

## ITINERARY – FROM BANGUI

### STARTING FROM BANGUI



#### DAY 7: **JULY 09, 2026**:

- Mbeli Baï: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Wali Baï: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Gorilla tracking: 4 guests (overnight at Mondika camp)

Individual dome tents at Mbeli & Wali Baï; shared dome tents at Mondika (2 tents with 2 beds).

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

X

#### DAY 8: **JULY 10, 2026**:

- Mbeli Baï: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Wali Baï: 4 guests (overnight on platform)
- Gorilla tracking: 4 guests (overnight at Mondika camp)

Individual dome tents at Mbeli & Wali Baï; shared dome tents at Mondika (2 tents with 2 beds).

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

#### DAY 9: **JULY 11, 2026**: FULL GROUP TOGETHER

Both groups will meet up in Ouessou today, after their week-long stint in the Tri-National Sangha. This will be our first night with the full group together and we will overnight at the Oninga Hotel in Ouessou as we get ready for the second half of our Congo adventure. The Oninga is a basic hotel, but the best of what is available in Ouessou. Rooms are air-conditioned & en suite and the hotel staff are friendly. Our meals will be prepared by our own chef from the boat, so of high quality. The hotel has wifi in selected areas only.

Overnight Oninga Hotel. All meals included. No drinks included.





### DAY 10: JULY 12, 2026:

#### ALL ABOARD THE PRINCESS NGALESSA – beautiful maiden of the Congo!



We will get an early start this morning - transfer by bus from Ouessou to Oyo (about 5 hours by road), embark on the Princess Ngalessa, check into our rooms and then gather in the common lounge/dining room for lunch and our safety briefing by the ship's captain. We will then start cruising down the Alima River, on our way to join the Congo.

Overnight: On board the Princess Ngalessa

Meals: All meals included. Local wine, beer, and soft drinks are included at mealtimes. Additional drinks may be purchased from the bar at any time. The crew will keep a running tab.

### DAY 11: JULY 13, 2026:

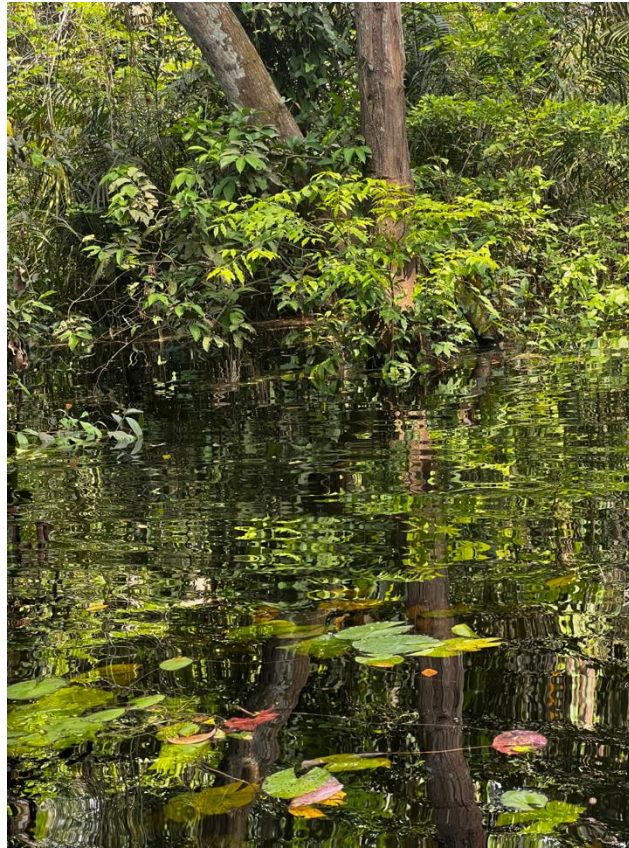
#### SAILING DOWN THE ALIMIA RIVER

The Alima is a 'black water' tributary of the Congo river, and scenically, just stunning to

behold. Our activities today will be limited to 1 off-boat botanical excursion, as well as an on-board presentation by our guest lecturers and guides, providing us an overview of the history and geography of the Congo Basin.

Overnight: On board the Princess Ngalessa

Meals: Inclusions as on Day 10.



*The black waters of the Alima River.*

### DAY 12: JULY 14, 2026:

#### BOUNDA FOREST



Our activities today will be a kayak/pirogue excursion in the mangrove forests along the banks of the Alima (AM) as well as a cultural event in the village in the afternoon.

Overnight: On board the Princess Ngalessa

Meals: Inclusions as on Day 10



*That's Joel lying flat in the pirogue to pass beneath an unexpected obstacle 😊*





## ITINERARY

### DAY 13: JULY 15, 2026:

#### LIKENDZE VILLAGE

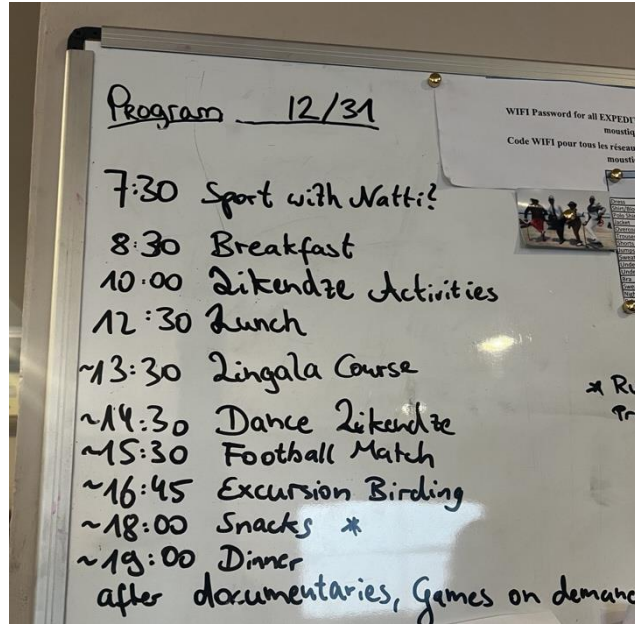
Morning sail, another presentation by our lecturer/guides, and dock in the afternoon at a little fishing village called Likendze. Interaction with local villagers.

Overnight: On board the Princess Ngalessa

Meals: Inclusions as on Day 10



Photo credit @Sangeeta@ChaloAfrica.com



### DAY 14: JULY 16, 2026:

#### AM LIKENDZE VILLAGE - PM MOSSAKA

Morning will consist of various activities in the village, after which we will sail slightly upstream to the town of Mossaka, a town known for its smoked fish. After an interesting walk through the town and market, we will start sailing downriver on the Congo.

Overnight: On board the Princess Ngalessa

Meals: Inclusions as on Day 10



Village photos courtesy @Kit Boey





## DAY 15: JULY 17, 2026:

### TSHUMBIRI – BONOBOs!

This bonobo trek is one of the highlights of our trip.



*Photo of our last bonobo trekking group, the village chief in red.*

Bonobos are the most difficult of great apes to track, not least because they are only found on the DRC side of the river, where logistics, facilities and politics make the effort extremely challenging. Well, that is, until now 😊

Instead of having to take a pirogue or small motorboat upriver or drive over non-existent roads through extremely difficult terrain from Kinshasa, we can now dock our boat parallel to the bonobo tracking site and go there directly. The transport cars are still ramshackle, some of us will need to be transported to the site on motorbikes, but we now have the possibility of visiting these rare apes with relative ease and joining a small group of people who have seen bonobos in the wild.



*Photo @Herman Phua*

**About the accommodation for the bonobo trek:** we will either go to the trailhead directly from the Princess Ngalessa, or we will need to overnight at the project campsite, in tents and huts, with only basic facilities. Spending the night on the boat will certainly be more comfortable, but this is still being sorted out in terms of logistics, and we may not be able to do this. If that's the case, please be prepared for 1 very basic and rustic overnight experience here.

There are 3 groups of reasonably well habituated bonobos at Mbou Mon Tour. We will spread the tracking across the habituated groups.

Overnight as mentioned above.

Meals: Inclusions on Princess Ngalessa as on Day 10. Elsewhere BLD.

## DAY 16: JULY 18, 2026:

### TSHUMBIRI – BONOBOs - A HOLY GRAIL FOR WILDLIFERS!



Once they wake up, bonobos are fast moving apes that jump and glide along the forest canopy with great ease and very quickly. To follow them is to also move quickly over marshy terrain and very thick vegetation. Consequently, fitness levels are important here. You **MUST** be in reasonably good shape physically to do this trek, and since a lot of the trek is done in the pre-dawn hours, you must be able to see reasonably well with a headlamp as you start your trek. If you cannot walk at a brisk pace, you will not be able to keep up with the fast-moving bonobos. Please assess your fitness levels realistically before joining the trek.

For those choosing to opt out of the trek, we will devise alternative activities, including birdwatching from our skiffs, lectures on board etc.

Overnight Princess Ngalessa.

Meals: Inclusions on Princess Ngalessa on Day 10. Elsewhere BLD.





## DAY 17: JULY 19, 2026:

### NGABE – MEETING THE QUEEN OF THE TEKE & KEBE KEBE DANCE



This was one of the experiences that I had personally been a bit iffy about initially, thinking it might be both intrusive and contrived. But in fact, this meeting with the Téké Queen was one of the cultural highlights of the trip, and I recommend it heartily. There is much to learn about Congolese culture from icons such as the Queen. She does things as she will, so you may have a long audience with

her, or a short audience, but either way, definitely worth the effort.

Likewise, the Kébé Kébé dance at Ngabe village. Their drumming is tremendous!

Overnight: On board the Princess Ngalessa

Meals: Inclusions as on Day 10



Photo courtesy @KitBoey

## DAY 18: JULY 20, 2026:

### BACK TO BRAZZA, GOODBYE PRINCESS NGALESSA...

Today, we have organized a short city tour of Brazzaville (very interesting) including a visit to the Poto Poto Art School, the bustling markets for last-minute shopping, as well as some historical sites. We'll have an informal lunch today with the Congo Dandies.

- Those leaving on an evening flight will be taken to the airport in time for their international flight home.

- Those doing the Gabon extension will be transferred to the Radisson Blu for their overnight there at an additional cost. Leave for Libreville the next day.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch.

### End of our services





Observation Deck

401



402

Third Deck / Restaurant Deck

301 303



302

304

Second Deck

201 202 205 206 207



203

204

208

209

210

First Deck



## COSTS FOR OUR SPECIAL CHARTER 18 DAY / 17 NIGHT ADVENTURE

### OBSERVATION DECK:

**2 Owner's suites with private balcony 35 m<sup>2</sup>**

**Euro 14,855 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 Forward Superior suite 30 m<sup>2</sup>**

**Euro 13,995 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.

### THIRD DECK:

**2 Superior Suites with public balcony 30 m<sup>2</sup>**

**Euro 13,435 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.





# SHIP LAYOUT & COSTS

Observation Deck

401



402

Third Deck / Restaurant Deck

301

303



302

304

Second Deck

201

202

205

206

207



203

204

208

209

210

First Deck



## COSTS FOR OUR SPECIAL CHARTER 18 DAY / 17 NIGHT ADVENTURE

### SECOND DECK:

#### 2 Forward Master Suites 23 m<sup>2</sup>

**Euro 13,025 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 m<sup>2</sup>

**Euro 12,615 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 m<sup>2</sup>

**Euro 10,765 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** (only 2 single deluxe cabins available – best to share).





### 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 paperwork for you at an extra cost.

For everyone else, please arrange to get your physical visas stamped in your passports from the ROC embassy near you.

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 bonobo visit in the DRC, we will organize the authorization as well, so no additional DRC visas are required.

**For those taking the Gabon extension, you will need a Gabonese visa.** Visas on arrival can be arranged for all guests at an extra cost, or you can apply for a sticker visa from the Embassy of Gabon in your country of residence. The Gabonese e-visa option is iffy at best & we don't recommend it.



### The cost includes:

- All excursions throughout the core trip
- Guidance and expertise of expedition staff & Keith Barnes
- Park fees (these costs are subject to change if the park fees change)
- Flight Brazzaville to Ouessou (group 1)
- Flight Bangui to Bayanga (group 2)
- Accommodation on board the Princess Ngalessa
- 3 nights at Sangha Lodge (all drinks and laundry are payable directly at Sangha Lodge. Meals and activities are included here)
- All meals on board the Princess (beer, wine and soft drinks in limited quantities with meals)
- Laundry included on board the Princess
- First hotel night in Brazzaville/Bangui + dinner on day 1
- Gratuities included

### The costs do not include:

- International flights
- Bar consumption outside of mealtimes is extra and payable directly
- Extra hotel nights in Brazza or Bangui – 350 Euro for a double, 280 Euro for single
- Private transfers
- Comprehensive travel insurance
- Visas fees & invitation letters and authorizations
- Items of a personal nature (such as internet access and laundry at city hotels)
- Massage







### CREW & SAFETY:

20, including the cruise director and 3 naturalist-guides from the boat + our Chalo Africa crew. 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.

### FACILITIES:

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







#### Expedition Payment Terms:

- A 30% non-refundable deposit confirms the reservation.
- An additional 40% deposit is due 180 days prior to trip date.
- Remaining 30% due 90 days prior to trip date

#### Cancellations:

- Cancellation from confirmation date until 181 days from trip date – forfeit the 30% deposit.
- Cancellation from 180 days to 91 days from trip date – forfeit 70% deposit
- Cancellation 90 days or less from trip date -- forfeit 100% of trip cost.

Payment means that you have read, understood, and accepted our Terms and Conditions: <https://www.chaloafrica.com/docs/terms-and-conditions.pdf>

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#### NOTES:

- The itinerary and activities are subject to change in accordance with local conditions
- Please travel with a **single 'soft' suitcase/duffle bag** (not a 'hard' suitcase) and one backpack
- We recommend that you bring a **hiking pole, torch, sunscreen, and dark clothes** for the forest





*Photos by Chalo Africa guest: Joel Gunter*

# THE AMAZING SANGA BAÏ





# WALI BAÏ



Photo credit – Chalo guest @Kit Boey

@kitboey



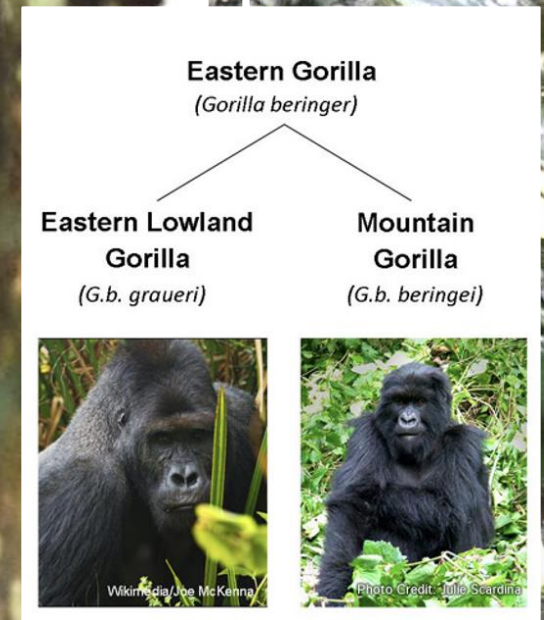
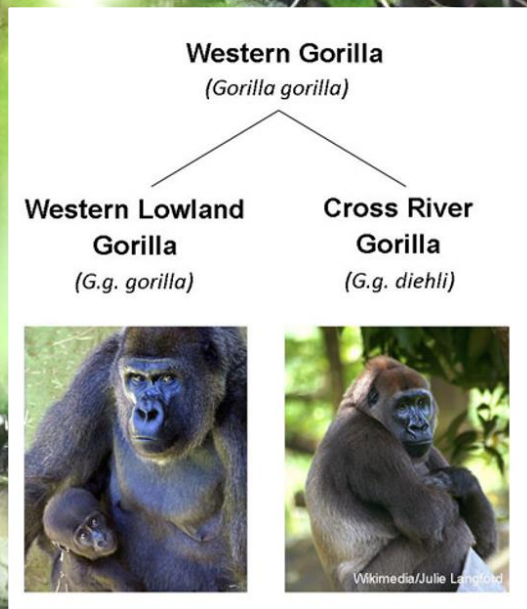
Agile Mangabey photo credit to Chalo guest @Herman Phua





Don't you love that the scientific name of the western lowland gorilla is...  
**Gorilla gorilla gorilla!**

*2001 Gorilla Reclassification*



**AN UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTER WITH  
A NON-HABITUATED GORILLA AT WALI BAÏ**  
NICELY DONE @ANIL PRASAD





# BA'AKA WATER DRUMMING



Photos @Sangeeta – Chalo Africa





*Photos by Chalo Africa guest: Joel Gunter*

# ONINGA HOTEL







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