



Wilderness Beyond Compare

Lomako Faunal Reserve, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Expedition

July 13th – July 30th, 2022

"The most unbelievable place I have ever seen" – Stacey Dooley, 2010

Proudly Presented by Pictus Safaris

Created for Mammalwatching.com





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Overview

Lomako Faunal Reserve, DRC

- An extraordinary expedition to one of the most remote corners of Africa
- High likelihood of prolonged encounters with the elusive bonobo
- Possibility of other primates including black mangabey and Wolf's mona monkey
- White-bellied pangolin, Weyns' duiker and Ansorge's cusimanse all possible
- Red river hog, bongo and leopard known to be in the area
- Discover the highly-prized Congo Peafowl
- An unmatched wilderness experience

Itinerary

Day 1

<i>Accommodation: Hotel Invest</i>	<i>Location: Kinshasa</i>	<i>Meals Included: N/A</i>
<p>On arrival into Kinshasa, you will be met by your Pictus Safaris representative and transferred to your local hotel. Kinshasa is a bustling, even chaotic, city and there is much to see here – we would be glad to arrange a tour of the city for an extra fee, though bear in mind a city tour is included in the cost of your holiday on day 17. Your day is at leisure, and we recommend taking this opportunity to relax ahead of a busy few weeks ahead!</p>		

Day 2

<i>Accommodation: Auberge Emma</i>	<i>Location: Mbandaka</i>	<i>Meals Included: B, D</i>
<p>This morning we will transfer back to Kinshasa Airport for a domestic flight to the city of Mbandaka. This flight, usually with Congo Airways, lasts for about an hour and gives us a great opportunity to appreciate the scale of the Congo River and surrounding rainforest. Following the course of the Congo, we head north-east to Mbandaka, a relatively small city that serves as a key port on the trade routes up and down the river.</p> <p>Mbandaka is not a city blessed with many sights, with its lifeblood being the river and its associated industries. With the remainder of the day at leisure, we recommend taking a walk around the city, with particularly adventurous visitors welcome to seek out the 'equator stone', where colonial explorers thought the equator crossed the Congo River, or the city's neglected botanical gardens, once one of the finest in Africa.</p>		

Days 3 to 7

<i>Accommodation: Camping</i>	<i>Location: En Route to Lomako FR</i>	<i>Meals Included: B, L, D</i>
<p>The adventure begins! The next five days will be spent travelling up the remote Congo, Maringa and Lomako rivers by motorised canoe, leaving behind the relatively bustling Mbandaka. Whilst not the most comfortable means of transport, this unique way of travelling the Congo is a real experience. Each morning we will take to the water, with a full day of travelling through the jungle ahead. With breaks for photographic opportunities and lunch, there will be opportunities to stretch our legs, and each evening we will camp near a local village on the banks of the river, with the permission of the local villagers of course.</p> <p>Our campsites will be basic and remote, but perfect for those with the spirit of adventure! On the afternoon of day seven we will arrive at the entrance to Lomako, where we will collect our assigned ecoguards and head directly to the camp, located at an old research station. For those who wish to, there may be a brief opportunity to explore the</p>		



area around camp this evening, using a spotlight and thermal monocular to locate any species of wildlife native to the Congolese interior.

Days 8 to 11

<i>Accommodation: Camping</i>	<i>Location: Lomako FR</i>	<i>Meals Included: B, L, D</i>
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We have four full days ahead to explore this remote and beautiful wilderness. Each morning we will leave camp on foot before sunrise, navigating the forest tracks with headtorches. Our primary goal will be to intercept a family of bonobos, habituated to human presence after years of research, as they descend to the forest floor from their night-time roosts. Should we be lucky enough to encounter these rare primates, there will be a fantastic opportunity to sit and watch them play, feed and interact just metres away. Bonobo are well-known for their complex and varied social interaction, and photographic opportunities should abound.

When not with the bonobos, there will be plenty of opportunities to walk the reserve in search of rare mammals. Any of the mammals native to the Congolese interior could be found here, including bongo, leopard, red river hog and African golden cat. However, the most commonly seen mammals are Weyns's duiker, Ansorge's cusimanse and black-bellied pangolin. We aim to spend time traversing the reserve after dark as often as possible, as this is when many species are most active. Due to dense foliage and relatively low wildlife densities, sightings are often hard to come by, but persistent and determined guests are often rewarded with fantastic sightings.

Days 12-15

<i>Accommodation: Camping</i>	<i>Location: En route to Mbandaka</i>	<i>Meals Included: B, L, D</i>
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The next four days will see us return downstream to the city of Mbandaka, again stopping each night to camp on the banks of the mighty Congo and Maringa rivers. We will arrive back in Mbandaka late on day 15.

Day 16

<i>Accommodation: Auberge Emma</i>	<i>Location: Mbandaka</i>	<i>Meals Included: B, L, D</i>
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There is a full day to be spent in Mbandaka to allow guests to recuperate after a long journey. Guests have the day at leisure, but may choose to explore the town or simply rest at the hotel.

Day 17

<i>Accommodation: Hotel Invest</i>	<i>Location: Kinshasa</i>	<i>Meals Included: B</i>
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A mid-morning flight will return us to Kinshasa from Mbandaka. The remainder of the day is at leisure in Kinshasa, with a tour of the city included in the cost of your tour.

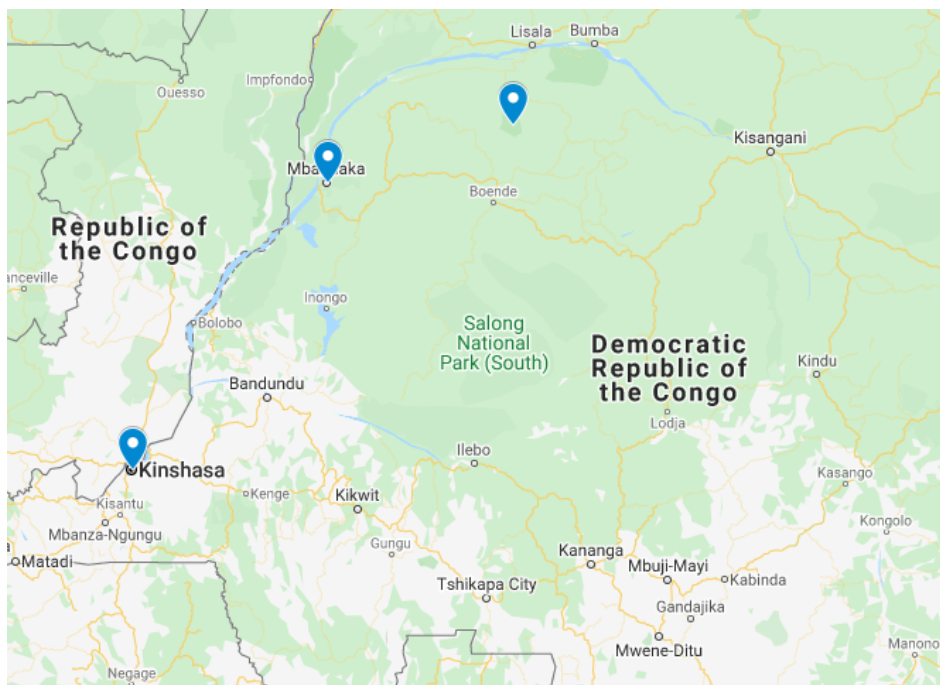
Day 18

<i>Accommodation: N/A</i>	<i>Location: Kinshasa</i>	<i>Meals Included: B</i>
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Today you will be transferred back to Kinshasa Airport for your homeward flights.



Tour Map



Costs & Inclusions

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is hardly ever visited by tourists, and this is particularly true for the areas visited by this tour. We at Pictus Safaris strongly believe that such an incredible destination should be more popular – but this country remains a deeply difficult and expensive area in which to operate. With this in mind, this tour is currently priced at £5,995 per person sharing. There is a £150 single supplement for the entirety of the tour. These prices exclude international flights.

To secure your place on this tour, a deposit payment of £1,800 per person is required, as well as any single supplement.

We always ask for payment in Sterling (GBP), which is unusual for a safari operator. We do this as most of our clients are based in the United Kingdom. We also deal with a large number of small, local partners who use a combination of US Dollars, Euros and local currency – as such, our use of a single currency simplifies things for both us and our partners. We understand that using GBP may mean some clients, particularly in the USA, incur some additional fees. We apologise, and recommend that these clients look into low-fee options for transfers if the fees levied by their bank are unacceptably high. Payments must be made by electronic transfer to the bank details specified on your invoice. We regret that we cannot accept payment by card or cheque.

Please see the below matrix for detail on what activities are included in the cost of your tour, and what is excluded.



Included	Excluded
Letter of invitation (if required)	Visas
Pick up from airport and transfer to hotel in Kinshasa & Mbandaka	International flights
Accommodation in Kinshasa	All soft and alcoholic drinks
Breakfast in Kinshasa	Gratuities
All meals in Mbandaka and interior	Items of a personal nature
Accommodation in Mbandaka	Travel insurance
All game-viewing activities/trekking permits	Drinking water in Kinshasa and Mbandaka
Tents in interior	Lunches and dinners in Kinshasa
Drinking water in interior	Departure taxes from Kinshasa
Canoe transfer to Lomako from Mbandaka	Sleeping bag/pillow/sleeping mat
Gasoline	
Crew in interior incl. technician & cook	

Getting to the DRC

Kinshasa International Airport is currently served by airlines including Air France, Brussels Airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, Royal Air Maroc and Turkish Airlines. We recommend using Air France, connecting through Paris. Their flights arrive into Kinshasa at around 19.15. Please note that Air France depart Kinshasa at 21.05 on your return.

A departure tax is payable before your outward flight. This amounts to \$50 plus 5000 Congolese Francs for international flights and \$10 for domestic flights.

We ask that you do not book flights until we have specifically advised you by email that the tour will be going ahead.

Accommodation

As is the case across Africa, the standards of accommodation can be highly variable. We have chosen the accommodation for this itinerary carefully, but we ask clients to be aware that even with the utmost diligence the accommodation chosen may fall below standards in the west. The following accommodation options will be used during your trip:

Hotel Invest – One of the nicest hotels in Kinshasa, even if not particularly modern or spacious. Friendly service, clean rooms and even (slow) wifi make this a great hotel to stopover. Its surprisingly well-located, providing an oasis of calm in the chaos of Kinshasa.

Auberge Emma – Mbandaka is lots of things, although luxurious isn't one of them. Auberge Emma makes up for what it lacks with a warm welcome and good location, just metres from the Congo River. Come to Auberge Emma expecting third-world accommodation, but we'll do our best to make your stay as comfortable as possible.

Camping (Lomako & En route to Lomako) – This tour is expedition-style, and the bulk of our time will be spent under canvas. The tents are small and basic, and clients will need to bring own



sleeping bags and mats. En route to and from Lomako we will camp on the riverbanks of the Congo, Lulonga, Maringa and Lomako Rivers, buying food from local markets and sleeping near villages with the locals' permission. In Lomako, we will be based in or near an established research camp with very basic facilities.

Food & Drink

All meals (except lunches and dinners in Kinshasa) and drinking water (except in Kinshasa and Mbandaka) are included in your tour price. We recommend budgeting \$100 per person for the meals/drinks in these cities. Please note that no alcoholic or soft drinks are included.

Our meals throughout the tour are not haute cuisine. Expect meals, especially in the interior, not to vary significantly. You will, of course, get three square meals a day, but don't expect a culinary masterclass!

Game Viewing

All game viewing in Lomako will be conducted on foot. We will usually set out before dawn, aiming to intercept families of bonobo as they descend from their night-time roosts. We will spend much of the day in the field, again on foot. We also hope to spend time in the jungle at night to search for nocturnal creatures, although this is at the discretion of local ecoguards.

Vehicles Used

In Lomako, we will move around solely on foot. Between Lomako and Mbandaka, we will navigate the river in motorized canoes. Internal flights between Kinshasa and Mbandaka are not up to western safety or comfort standards, but we have never encountered any serious issues previously.

Health and Vaccinations

We suggest that all clients visiting the DRC take a malaria prophylaxis for the duration of your stay – please consult a medical professional as to which prophylaxis is right for you. The risk of malaria in the DRC is moderate, and there is always the possibility of malarial mosquitos near stagnant water. Clients may have to produce their yellow fever certificate to enter the DRC, and we recommend up-to-date vaccinations against cholera, diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, meningitis, polio, rabies, tuberculosis, tetanus and typhoid – please note that the advice of a medical professional takes precedence over these suggestions.



If you are concerned about local food and water, we recommend bringing water purification tablets, and any appropriate medicine with you. Your tour leader will also have some basic medication with them should you become unwell during your holiday.

You must alert us to any serious allergies well in advance of travel.

Insurance

Clients must have an appropriate travel insurance policy in order to join this tour. Your travel insurance must cover the costs of medical evacuation and repatriation.

Pictus Safaris have tour operator liability insurance provided by Tasker and Partners. We can provide further information on this on request. Financial failure insurance provided by Protected Trust Services ensures your money is protected in the unlikely event that Pictus Safaris becomes insolvent during or before your holiday.

Visas

The process for acquiring a visa for entry into DRC can be lengthy complex. For UK citizens, the visa must be issued in advance of travel and can only be issued by the nearest Congolese embassy, which is in London. You may book an appointment at the embassy online, or you can choose to send your passport to the embassy by post. If choosing to send your passport by post, we strongly recommend using a recorded delivery service. Clients of other nationalities should check well in advance of travel what entry requirements pertain to them. Please note that applications are often referred to Kinshasa for additional approval and, as such, the process can take 21 days or longer.

The fee levied by the embassy for a visa is £100. To acquire a visa you must submit a completed visa application, your passport (with at least two blank pages and six months validity beyond the end of your visit to the DRC), two recent colour passport photos with a white background, proof of residence in your home country and a confirmation of your itinerary and return flights. You will also need to provide proof of yellow fever vaccination. Should you require supporting documentation, which is sometimes requested, we will provide this.

Safety and Security

We understand that safety and security is a key concern for many potential visitors to the DRC, and the safety of our clients is the utmost priority for Pictus Safaris. As such a vast country, security levels vary widely across the DRC. The east of the country is simply not safe to visit currently, with widespread violence, lawlessness and frequent attacks on outsiders. Similarly, the area around Katanga in the south has seen widespread violent attacks in recent years. In the



same vein, the border areas near South Sudan and the Central African Republic see regular incursions from militia groups and organised gangs of poachers.

However, much of the rest of the DRC is as safe as anywhere on the continent. To not visit the DRC due to the unrest near Goma would be akin to not visiting New York City because of gang violence in Mexico. Kinshasa is a safe and vibrant city and Lomako, despite its remoteness, is entirely stable and secure.

With appropriate precautions taken, we have no doubt your stay in the DRC will be an enjoyable and safe one. At all times, your Pictus Safaris tour leader will have your insurance details and a satellite phone, so medical assistance can be sought quickly if needed. Please be aware that due to the remoteness of the areas visited by this itinerary, medical assistance will be slower and of a lower quality than that which you may be used to at home. As prevention is better than cure, we recommend clients bring their own first aid kit. Your tour leader will also have a first aid kit and will have undergone first aid training.

About the DRC

It cannot be overstated how vast and wild the DRC is. If the country were overlaid onto Europe, the south would sit at the southern tip of Italy, and the northern edge would bisect Stockholm. The west would touch Portugal, and the east would cover Poland. Huge sections of this massive country have barely been explored but, sadly, this scale and inaccessibility has long been a hindrance, rather than a benefit.

After the hugely damaging colonial occupation of the Congo, independence saw the growth of authoritarianism, but also lawlessness in much of the country. Militia activity, linked with the illegal trade in minerals, precious stones and even fish, went unchecked, as did terrible human rights abuses, including mass rape and conscription of child soldiers. Irresponsibly poorly managed borders with Rwanda and Uganda only added to this dire situation, leading to terrible famine and war that affects the eastern half of the DRC to this day.

Whilst the humanitarian crisis in the eastern DRC cannot be ignored, the west of the country is far more stable and visitors are welcomed here with open arms and friendly smiles. The Congo River is a life-giver here, snaking through the jungle and providing both a resource and a trade route for millions of people. Whilst the country continues to be affected by the growth of industry, its extraordinary wildernesses persist. As a country, the DRC surely has more to offer the modern-day adventurer than any other.

Official Name	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Population	106,731,000 (2021 est.)
Area	2,345,409 km ²
Currency	Congolese Franc (CDF)
Timezone	UTC+1 or UTC+2
President	Félix Tshisekedi
Capital City	Kinshasa
Independence From	Belgium



Independence Day	30 th June 1960
National Animal	Okapi
Bordering Countries	Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
Highest Point	Mt Stanley (16,762 ft)
Lowest Point	Atlantic Ocean (0 ft)
Longest River	Congo River (4,700 km)
Largest Lake	Lake Tanganyika (32,900 km ²)
Largest Protected Area	Ngiri-Tumba-Maindombe (65,696 km ²)
Largest Religion	Christianity (94.9%)
Largest Ethnic Group	Kongo
Largest City	Asmara (14,342,000 – 2020)
Official Language	French
Drives on the...	Right
National Sport	Football
Number of Regions	26
Nationality	Congolese
Internet Country Code	.cd

Weather

The weather in July in Lomako is hot and humid. It often rains, and temperatures usually reach a maximum of 30°C. In the early mornings it will sometimes get as low as 17°C. We strongly recommend taking all reasonable precautions to minimise your exposure to the sun.

Money

The official currency in the DRC is the Congolese Franc (CDF). £1 usually equates to about 2,800 CDF. \$1 stands at roughly 2,000 CDF at the time of writing.

Tipping is expected for local guides and staff, but is entirely at your discretion. We recommend a tip of 20,000 CDF per day per staff member as a rough guideline. This should of course reflect how much the staff member enhanced your stay, and total amounts should increase or decrease with this in mind.

Tips are not expected by Pictus Safaris tour leaders. If you wish to provide them with a small thank you, we ask that you donate to the Wildlife Conservation Society or a similar organisation of your choice.

Language

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has one official language (French) but also four national languages; Kikongo, Lingala, Swahili and Tshiluba. The most common of these languages in



Lomako is Lingala. There are well over 200 indigenous languages present in the country. English is not particularly commonly spoken, even in major cities.

Our guides and cooks will speak limited English and French, and will tend to speak more readily in French or their mother tongue. For some handy phrases, see the table below:

English	French	Lingala
Hello	Bonjour	Mbote
How are you?	Comment allez-vous?	Ndenge nini?
I am fine, thank you	Bien, merci	Nazali malam
Good morning	Bonjour	Mbote
Good afternoon	Bonjour	Mbote
Good night	Bonne soirée	Butu elamu
Goodbye	Au revoir	Kende malam
I'm sorry	Je suis désolé	Nandimi te
Please	S'il vous plaît	S'il vous plaît
Thank you	Merci	Merci
You're welcome	De rien	Likambo te
Yes	Oui	Ee
No	Non	Te
Do you speak English?	Parlez-vous anglais?	Olobaka Lingelesa?
I need help	Au secours	Salissa Ngai!
My name is...	Je m'appelle	Kombo na ngai...
What is your name?	Comment vous appelez-vous?	Kombo na yo?
I can see a bonobo	Je vois un bonobo	Ngai nazo mona bonobo

About the Lomako Faunal Reserve

When one thinks of the protected areas of the Congo, Lomako isn't usually at the top of the list. The easterly wildernesses of Virunga, Garamba and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve attract a huge amount of attention, not all of it good, and Lomako itself has been left in relatively obscurity. Even those drawn to this region are likely to visit Salonga and its vast tracts of jungle ahead of Lomako. But, for those in the know, Lomako is a rare example of a Congolese conservation success story. Extensive research has led to the habituation of some bonobo families, a real rarity, but even more important has been the retention of much pristine wilderness in the reserve itself. As untouched, virgin jungle, Lomako deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as Maiko and Salonga – lucky visitors might stumble across anything from African golden cat to bongo, and there are doubtless many unexpected sightings to be had here. For someone who is looking for an authentic wilderness experience, where almost anything is possible, Lomako must surely be high on the list.



Wildlife Highlights

A full mammal and bird list will be sent to you with your pre-departure information document. There are a number of highlights, however, that are worth getting excited about before then!

The Congolese interior is the last stronghold of the endemic and chronically elusive bonobo. Sometimes termed the 'hippies' of the animal kingdom, bonobos certainly believe in making love, not war. Their rich and charismatic social structure is a real eye-opener for many visitors to Lomako, offering an appreciation of their nature that is unmatched even by the chimpanzee and gorilla experiences in East Africa.

But Lomako has plenty more to offer besides bonobos. As such an intact ecosystem, much of the wildlife that can be found in the jungles of Central Africa is present in Lomako. The primate life is diverse here, including black mangabey and Wolf's mona monkey, although sightings are generally fleeting unless we encounter the few groups used to human presence. Longer sightings may be enjoyed of red river hog, white-bellied pangolin or even Ansorge's cusimanse if we are lucky. This forest is also a known haunt of the deeply secretive Congo Peafowl, a species only known to science since 1936, and one of the most highly-prized birds in the world. Whilst Lomako may be difficult to get to, the potential rewards are truly staggering.

About Pictus Safaris

Pictus Safaris are a limited company registered with Companies House in the UK – our registration number is 12812872. Our registered address is Kemp House, 160 City Road, London, EC1V 2NX. Our trading and correspondence address is 117 Canfield Gardens, London, NW6 3DY.

We are a small-group safari specialist operating across Africa. True pan-African experts, we believe that the benefits of ecotourism are yet to reach many communities and ecosystems across the continent. By bringing ecotourism to lesser-visited areas, we hope to play a small part in cementing their future. To find out more about our mission, see our responsible travel policy, available on request. At our heart, we are mammal-watching specialists, and our itineraries are designed to give our clients the very best chance of finding the rarest and most charismatic wildlife Africa has to offer.

Our founder, Tom Clode, has spent much of his life travelling across Africa in search of rare wildlife. Tom loves exploring new destinations and showing his favourite spots to clients – from Angola to Zimbabwe and everywhere in between! Tom's true passion is tracking down isolated populations of predators including African Wild Dog and Cheetah, and it is for that very reason that, when not in London, Tom is usually found in Pendjari or Niokolo-Koba.



Small Group Travel

One of the most common concerns we hear is, “I’m not sure if travelling in a group is right for me”. We completely understand. At Pictus Safaris, we recognise that small-group travel is not for everybody, and that there are benefits to independent travel, particularly on safari.

This all being said, we believe that small-group safaris are an excellent way to explore Africa, for a number of reasons. Group travel is generally less expensive and safer than independent travel. And there’s a huge amount to be said for the friendships that are made, the stories exchanged and the experiences shared when travelling with others. We also always ensure that clients are part of a group we feel they will enjoy being a part of – we try to match first-time safari goers with fellow first-timers for example. We always get to know our clients before travelling with them, and reserve the right to refuse bookings if we feel clients are not a good fit for Pictus Safaris are our current clients.

Our trips normally run with between four and six clients. This ensures that clients are guaranteed a window seat during game drives, and that noise is kept to a minimum if on foot. Some trips may run with as few as three clients, and extensions can run with as few as two. This trip is expected to run with three clients in total. In addition to the clients, you will be accompanied by a Pictus Safaris tour leader. In most cases, the tour leader will know your destination intimately – some destinations are impossible to visit for recce trips, so will not have been visited prior to your arrival, and these trips will be advertised as “expeditions”.

On some itineraries, but not this one, a second tour leader will accompany the group. This is done to ensure you get the best possible experience from your tour and is often to ensure there is at least one native speaker amongst the tour leaders. There will never be more than two representatives from Pictus Safaris on your tour.

Responsible Travel Policy

Pictus Safaris have a detailed responsible travel policy that will be provided to you when you book this tour. It is the Pictus Safaris mission to ensure that the benefits of ecotourism are brought the communities and ecosystems in little-visited areas of Africa. As such, we only use local partners who are locally-based or employ local people. We have a zero-tolerance policy towards any behaviour that is disrespectful to local people or damaging to the ecosystem. As per our terms and conditions, any such behaviour is grounds for removal from the tour.

With regard to the DRC, we ask that clients are aware of the environmental and societal differences between our destination and our home countries. In particular, we ask clients to consider limiting their water usage, and usage of single-use plastics. We also ask clients to dress modestly and to never take photographs of people without their permission. We encourage clients to take the opportunity to visit a local project or community during their stay.



Your Tour Leaders

The Pictus Safaris team are there primarily to ensure your safety, to make sure the trip runs smoothly, and to locate as much wildlife as possible. Please note that, whilst knowledgeable, the team are not qualified guides and the responsibility for guiding falls to the local partners we work with. More details about the Pictus Safaris team leading your tour will be shared in your pre-departure information document.

Protecting Your Money

Pictus Safaris client funds are held in a trust account prior to departure, meaning that the deposit and balance payments you make to us are fully protected in the unlikely event that Pictus Safaris becomes insolvent before or during your holiday. The trust account is administered by Protected Trust Services, and we can share additional details on request.

COVID-19

We recognise that COVID-19 has caused a great deal of uncertainty for clients when it comes to international travel. As such, we are keen to be fully transparent about when we ask clients to pay deposits and why. Our suppliers all require a 30% deposit to secure a booking – given the continued and understandable popularity of this itinerary, we ask for this payment (plus fixed costs that we accrue during the booking process and any single supplement) from our clients to secure a booking. The remaining payment is due 60 days prior to travel.

We are currently confident that our 2022 departures will go ahead as planned. Our 2021 departures are less certain, and we therefore ask clients booked on these trips not to pay any deposits at this time. If any of our 2022 departures are cancelled due to travel restrictions resulting from COVID-19, any payments you have made will be put towards a later departure (likely in 2023). We understand this is not ideal and hope you understand the difficulties the industry is facing at this time.

The precautions we take against COVID-19 transmission during our safari will depend on the progress made in fighting the disease between now and July 2022. The situation on the ground in the DRC is unclear, but it seems that the disease has had a significant impact throughout the country. As a minimum requirement, all tour leaders, guides and staff will wear a face mask indoors and surfaces will be sanitised regularly. Visitors must be able to provide a negative PCR test result to enter and exit the DRC – we can assist in arranging the latter in Kinshasa, but visitors should be aware that 1-3 extra days may be required in Kinshasa to accommodate testing requirements.



Packing List

A packing list will be sent to you at least thirty days prior to travel. In the meantime, please do reach out to us should you have any questions concerning what you may need to bring with you, we would be happy to answer them.

Other Tours

Pictus Safaris currently offer safaris to twenty African countries and we think they're all brilliant! Based on your interest in this safari, you may be also interested in our "Dark Heart of Africa" tour to the Central African Republic, during which you could see bongo, giant eland and all four African species of pangolin. You may also be interested in our "Pygmy Hippo Pursuit" tour to Côte d'Ivoire, which offers a good chance of encountering the elusive pygmy hippo.