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# odzala discovery camps

## facts



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### LANGO CAMP

A beautiful camp containing 6 double occupancy rooms built high up in the dense forest overlooking Lango Bai. These unique rooms were constructed from natural materials such as locally woven raffia palm panels.

#### LOCATION

- Located in the south central part of the park allowing easy access to a variety of habitats.

#### CAMP FEATURES

- Camp is connected by a series of raised walkways creating a treehouse-like atmosphere.
- Dining room, lounge and bar area are all on raised decks overlooking the bai.
- A star deck and fire pit is placed on a dropped deck overlooking the bai for pre-dinner drinks and relaxation.

#### ROOM DETAIL

- Rooms raised 3-4 meters above the ground.
- Each room has a 360 degree wraparound viewing walkway.
- En-suite bathroom with hot shower.
- Flush toilet.
- Mosquito net.
- Environmentally friendly soaps and shampoos are supplied in each room.
- Fans and power points in each room
- (no air-conditioning).

### GAME VIEWING (MAIN HIGHLIGHTS)

- Forest Buffalo
- Harnessed Bushbuck
- Forest Elephant
- Spotted Hyaena
- Bongo
- Red River Hog
- Western Sitatunga
- Black and White (Guereza) Colobus monkeys
- Grey-cheeked Mangabey
- Putty-nosed Monkey
- Hippo (occasionally seen)
- Slender-snouted Crocodile (occasionally seen)
- African Dwarf Crocodile (occasionally seen)
- African Grey Parrot
- Green Pigeon

### ACTIVITIES

Activities from Lango Camp focus on the bai, Lekoli River and surrounding savannah. Most activities are a combination of walking and boating, while some driving may be required to get from one place to another. River activities are done in either our aluminium boat (complete with cushioned seats and an awning) or kayaks. These activities can involve wading through streams and bays as well as waiting patiently to view the various primates, birds, forest elephants, bongo and forest buffalo.





# odzala discovery camps

## facts



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### MBOKO CAMP

This 12 room adventure camp is our largest, with canvas cabins that have been constructed along the Lekoli River. Frequent visitors can include Forest elephant and buffalo.

#### LOCATION

- Located inside Odzala-Kokoua National Park.

#### CAMP FEATURES

- Dining room, lounge and bar area look out into the wide-open grasslands.
- A star deck and fire pit is attached to the dining/ lounge area for pre-dinner drinks and relaxation.
- A river deck is located along the Lekoli River for post forest walk drinks, cocktail parties or private dinners.

#### GAME VIEWING (MAIN HIGHLIGHTS)

- Forest Buffalo
- Harnessed Bushbuck
- Forest Elephant
- Spotted Hyaena
- Bongo
- Red River Hog
- Western Sitatunga
- Black and White (Guereza) Colobus monkeys
- Grey-cheeked Mangabey
- Putty-nosed Monkey
- Hippo (occasionally seen)
- Slender-snouted Crocodile (occasionally seen)
- African Dwarf Crocodile (occasionally seen)

### ACTIVITIES

Activities from Mboko Camp are the same as those at Lango Camp. Most activities are a combination of walking and boating, while some driving may be required to get from one place to another. River activities are done in either our aluminum boat (complete with cushioned seats and an awning) or kayaks. These activities can involve wading through streams and bays as well as waiting patiently to view the various primates, birds, forest elephants, bongo and forest buffalo.

### ROOM DETAIL

- 10 double occupancy cabins and 2 family cabins (4 people max)
- Each room has a private deck with a view of either the forest or rivers
- En-suite bathroom with hot shower.
- Flush toilet.
- Mosquito net.
- Environmentally friendly soaps and shampoos are supplied in each room.
- Fans and power points in each room (no air-conditioning)





# odzala discovery camps

## facts

### NGAGA CAMP

A stunning camp consisting of 6 double occupancy rooms that rest amongst the dense forest. The rooms are beautifully constructed from natural materials such as locally woven raffia palm panels.

#### LOCATION

- Located in the Ndzehi Forest on the western boundary of Odzala-Kokoua National Park.

#### CAMP FEATURES

- Dining room, lounge and bar area are all on raised decks looking into the rainforest.
- A star deck and fire pit is placed on a dropped deck below the main area for pre-dinner drinks and relaxation.
- A river deck is located on the Ngaga stream for post forest walk drinks, cocktail parties or private dinners.

#### GAME VIEWING (MAIN HIGHLIGHTS)

- Western Lowland Gorillas (2 groups are habituated. Please note that although every effort is made, gorilla viewing is not guaranteed)
- Crowned Monkeys
- Moustached Monkeys
- Forest duikers
- Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill
- Great Blue Turaco
- Butterflies
- Insects

### ACTIVITIES

The main activity at Ngaga Camp is the tracking of Western Lowland Gorillas. These excursions are led by a guide and skilled local tracker who are able to interpret and follow signs on the forest floor that can lead them to the chosen gorilla group. Birding walks and night walks are possible as well for groups that are interested.

For more in-depth gorilla tracking, guests can choose an itinerary, which allows them to extend their stay at Ngaga beyond 3 nights and experience fieldwork alongside our research team of Dr Magda Bermejo and German Illera. Guests would help set camera traps, watch the footage captured by the remote cameras to analyze behaviour and participate in genetic and stress non-invasive sampling.

Cultural visits to nearby Ombo village provide guests with an insight into the sustainable forest lifestyle of the people who inhabit this remote area.

### ROOM DETAIL

- Rooms raised 3-4 meters above the ground.
- Each room has a 360 degree wraparound viewing walkway.
- En-suite bathroom with hot shower.
- Flush toilet.
- Mosquito net.
- Environmentally friendly soaps and shampoos are supplied in each room.
- Fans and power points in each room
- (no air-conditioning)



# odzala discovery camps

## facts

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### SEASONS

##### (GORILLAS TREKS TAKE PLACE ALL SEASON LONG)

- High Season: 16 May - 31 October and 15 December - 14 January
- Green Season: 1 November - 14 December and 15 January - 31 March

#### CHILD POLICY

- Children of 15 years and older can be accommodated at Lango and Ngaga Camps (adult rates apply).
- At Mboko Camp children of all ages are welcome but must be supervised by an adult at all times.

#### ELECTRICITY & WATER

- 24-hour electricity is provided by solar energy with a back-up generator if required.
- Water provided has been filtered through our onsite system
- Hairdryers and flat irons are restricted.

#### WIFI

- Wifi is available at each camp however we ask that guests use the connection minimally during business hours.

#### DRINKS POLICY

- Drinks are included on excursions.
- Water, coffee (excluding the espresso machine) and tea are provided throughout the day.
- During meals drinks may be purchased individually using USD, Euro or XAF.
- Guests also have the option to purchase our drinks inclusive package for \$40 per person per night (standard drinks included).

#### LAUNDRY POLICY

- Laundry is done daily and is included in the nightly Tariff. Please note that due to the humid conditions, drying times may be longer than usual.

#### EXTRAS PAYMENT

- Gratuities can be settled during checkout.
- Payment of any extras (activities, drinks, etc) can only be made in cash (USD, Euro, or the local currency, XAF Francs)
- Please note that there are no credit card payment facilities at the camps, and Travellers' Cheques cannot be accepted

#### TRANSFERS

- We transfer guests up to the camps from Brazzaville on Fridays and Sundays only.
- Guests fly to the town of Ollombo and are then transferred in our private air-conditioned bus to the village of Etoumbi (4 hour drive).





# odzala discovery camps

## facts

### ETOUMBI HOTEL

- The Etoumbi Hotel is exclusively operated by CCC.
- Due to the afternoon arrival of the flight from Brazzaville, the distance to Etoumbi from Ollombo and the closure of the barge at 17:00, guests must overnight here.
- Accommodation and meals are included in the transfer fee.
- Guests will be met at the hotel by our guides from the camps and shown to their rooms, each of which has ensuite bathroom, toiletries, ceiling fan and one double bed (we can add an extra bed upon request)
- Guides then travel with guests the next morning to their first camp (4 hours drive).

### TOUR GUIDE

- Tour guides who come with large groups pay \$75.00 per person per night for accommodation and meals (beverages, transfer and hotel costs in Brazzaville excluded).
- Guides can come on excursions if there is room with the group - game drives, walks and kayaking excursions have a maximum of 6 pax.
- Our guides and trackers take guests on gorilla treks however we will try to take outside guides on a separate trek. Additional treks depend on guide/tracker availability and time.
- Activities are free of charge.



## MAP KEY: MBOKO CONCESSION

-  Savannah
-  Forest
-  River
-  Camp/Infrastructure
-  Road





MAP KEY: NDZEHI CONCESSION

-  Forest
-  Savannah
-  Camp/Infrastructure
-  Road
-  Trails
-  Rivers

RESEARCH CAMP

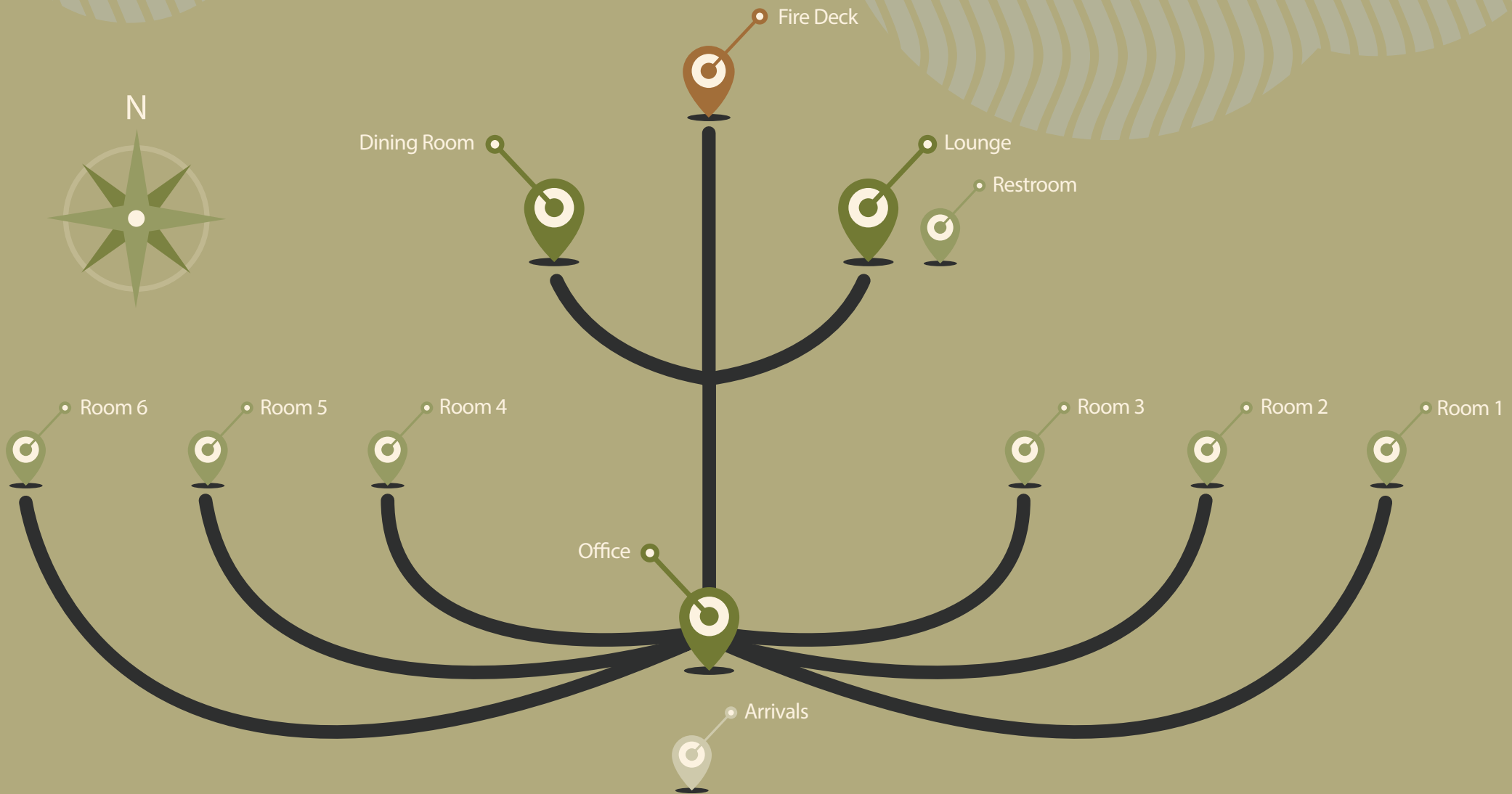
NGAGA CAMP

Ndezhi Stream

Ngaga Stream

Ambambara Stream

# LANGO CAMP LAYOUT

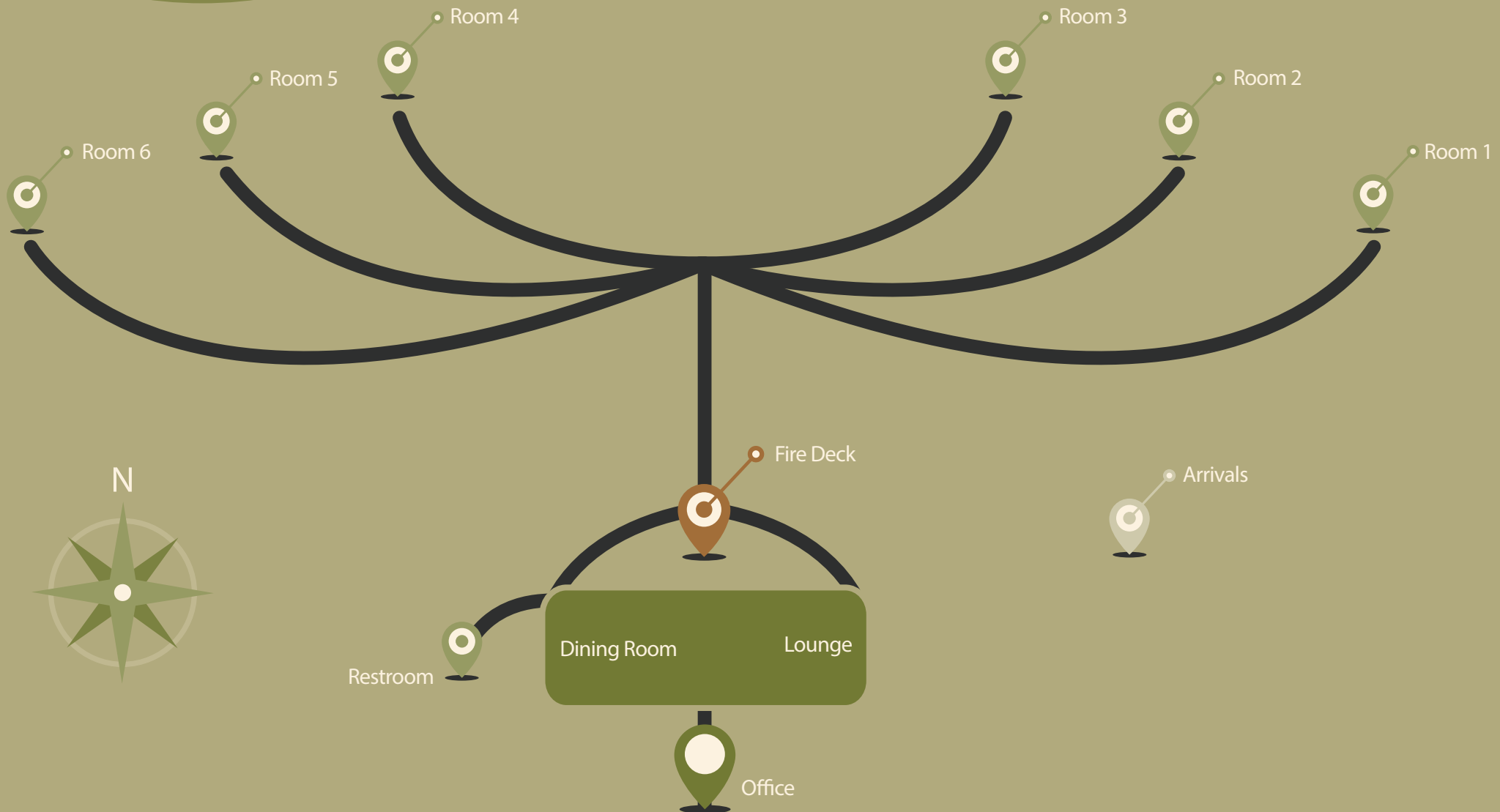




# MBOKO CAMP LAYOUT



# NGAGA CAMP LAYOUT







# odzala discovery camps

## activities



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### ODZALA DISCOVERY CAMPS

Daily excursions from our camps are designed to offer our guests to experience the widest possible range of habitats, species and activities during stay. While the main focus at Ngaga Camp is the tracking of gorillas and forest walks, Lango and Mboko Camps offer a completely different range of experiences.

#### NGAGA CAMP GORILLA TRACKING

As a result of the work done by gorilla researchers Dr. Magda Bermejo and German Illera, habituated gorilla groups can be tracked and observed in the area around Ngaga Camp. In the extended area there are at least seven groups perhaps 105 individual gorillas.

Two of these groups have been habituated and are able to be viewed by our guests. Tracking takes place on foot with one of our guides and a skilled local tracker, with tracking excursions departing from camp and following the tracks and sign of the animals until they are located. Please note that although every effort is made, gorilla viewing is not guaranteed.

Given that Ngaga Camp is situated at the overlap between the home ranges of several groups (habituated and unhabituated), tracking expeditions do not cover enormous distances and can range in length from 1 to 8 kilometres (0.5 to 5 miles) over rolling terrain and often amidst thick undergrowth.

Including the time spent with a gorilla group, excursions can last between 2 and 8 hours.

The gorilla viewing protocol is based on the guidelines issued by the IUCN for great ape viewing and is very similar to that of Rwanda/Uganda. Protocols are designed specifically to limit stress, behavioural impact and potential disease transmission from humans to gorillas. These protocols play a critical role in gorilla conservation.

- Minimum age for gorilla viewing is 15 years – this is for reasons of safety, but also for possible disease transmission, with children under this age more prone to infection.
- Maximum proximity to gorillas is 7 metres (22 feet). It is not permitted to approach more closely and we typically view the animals at 10-15 metres (32-50 feet).
- Maximum viewing duration of any group is one hour per day. Each group of guests has two opportunities to track gorillas.
- Maximum number of guests per gorilla tracking excursion is 4, plus a guide and local tracker to make a maximum group size of 6.
- Guests that display cold, flu or other respiratory tract symptoms (coughing, runny nose, excessive sneezing etc.) will not be allowed to track gorillas.





# odzala discovery camps activities



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- No food or drinks may be consumed when near the gorillas, but guides will carry water and snacks for rest stops.
- Smoking is not allowed. Hand washing facilities are provided at Ngaga Camp prior to gorilla tracking.
- Although gorilla sightings and encounters are very reliable, viewing is dependent on variables such as weather and tracking conditions.

## **WALKING – NDZEHI FOREST TRAILS**

The primary rainforests of the Ngaga area offer a completely different walking experience to the swampy forest area at Lango and the Savannah at Mboko. Relaxed walks along the well-maintained trail system are great for birding and finding some of the spectacular forest species. Guereza Colobus and Putty Nosed Moneys are regularly seen while other species also occur. The density of Chimpanzee in the area is very high with nest sites being regularly seen while tracking gorillas. The noisy screams and hoots of this species are often heard while in the forest, or even from Ngaga Camp itself, but it requires some good fortune to glimpse our closest relatives in the thick forest. Forest Squirrels, elaborately-built termite castles, spectacular butterflies and cool forest streams all make walking here an incredible nature experience.

## **WALKING – NIGHT WALKS**

The Ngaga area has a much lower density of Forest Elephant and Buffalo than Lango or Mboko and it is therefore safe to venture out at night on foot in search of the forest's most secretive inhabitants. Nocturnal primates are well represented. Along with the more familiar Galagos, two really bizarre and unique creatures can possibly be spotted: the Potto and the Angwantibo. These slow-moving prosimians are tricky to find, but once located often offer really good viewing as they cling motionlessly to a branch. Shy Forest Duikers, Palm Civets and Tree Pangolins are also occasionally encountered.

Africa's largest bat, the Hammer Head Bat, whose resounding calls are unmistakable, can normally be found by scanning the canopy within the calling area. A number of owls occur in this part of the forest, the Red Chested Owlet being the most commonly seen.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Our resident guides and research team offer regular, informal discussions on the Gorilla Research Project, the area's wildlife and unique creatures, our conservation efforts in the region and the challenges faced in conserving viable forest ecosystems in Africa.





# odzala discovery camps activities



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## COOLING OFF – NGAGA STREAM

After a hot day's gorilla tracking, the clear, cool and fresh waters of the Ngaga Stream below camp offer a blissful experience. A short, shaded stroll from the Camp brings one to an idyllic stream where lying in the shallow natural pools washes away the rigours of a day in the jungle. We have built a comfortable wooden deck on the edge of the stream to provide an alternate place to spend the middle of the day, either cooling off or enjoying watching the forest birdlife.

## LANGO AND MBOKO CAMP

### BOATING – LEKOLI RIVER

The Lekoli River in the Lango region offers one of the best chances to observe the wildlife of the forest since visibility here is greater than within the canopy. We make use of motorised aluminium boats and traditional pirogues to travel against the river currents whilst the most rewarding time is spent drifting silently downstream searching the beautiful forested banks for Forest Elephant, Forest Buffalo, primate species like Putty-nosed Monkey and de Brazza's Monkey and birds. Although Hippo do occur, their numbers are low and they are seldom seen. Bongo antelope are an exciting possible sighting. Crocodiles are represented by two harmless species, the Slender-snouted Crocodile and the African Dwarf Crocodile. Chimpanzees are regular in this area although more often heard than seen.

## WALKING – LANGO BAI, GALLERY FOREST, SAVANNAH FRINGE

Exploring the Lango and Mboko areas on foot offer many great wildlife viewing opportunities. The area's savannah, marsh, swamp forest and riverine forest are home to Forest Elephant and Forest Buffalo, both of which are regularly encountered. Stalking quietly along forest trails can produce sightings of Red River Hog and shy forest birds. Monkeys are also often encountered and interestingly, the riverine and swamp forest is home to no less than eight monkey species. Guereza Colobus, Grey-cheeked Mangabey and Putty-nosed Monkey are regularly seen. With a bit of luck one may encounter Crowned and Moustached Monkeys, De Brazza's Monkey and Northern Talapoin.

Walking is also the best way to study the fine detail of the forest – insects, fungi, orchids, animal tracks and birds are all part of the show. The soundtrack is provided by a chorus of frogs, birds and insects whilst monkeys and other creatures hoot, scream and grunt in the background. Walking in the Lango area is adventurous as the area is very wet. Trails have been opened to allow access to the main areas, but one often returns to camp with wet and muddy shoes and even other parts of your clothing as proof of the adventure!





# odzala discovery camps activities



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## **DRIVING – MBOKO AND LANGO SAVANNAH**

Game viewing vehicles are used in the Lango and Mboko areas primarily to access the region's diverse attractions rather than for game viewing. We use the vehicles to get to and from walking and boating activities. In the early mornings and late evenings a drive along the forest edge offers a different perspective of the landscape. Wildlife that is often seen along the forest edge includes Forest Elephant, Forest Buffalo and Western Sitatunga. After a sundowner stop, we continue to explore the savannah and forest edge, spotlighting in search of rarely seen and shy nocturnal creatures. Some of the elusive species that can be encountered with a bit of luck include Spotted Hyaena, Aardvark, Leopard, Golden Cat, Emin's Pouched Rat, Palm Civet and two species of Pangolin. This is also a good time to search for some of the many owls that occur here, whilst both Long-tailed and Swamp Nightjars are common all year round.

## **COOLING OFF – LEKOLI RIVER**

The perfect place to end a forest or adventure walk is our river deck at Mboko Camp. Replete with comfortable chairs and a view of the surrounding wildlife, guests can swim, relax or enjoy a cold beverage here.





# odzala discovery camps

## ecotourism



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### GREEN BUILDING

The lodges were built with the environment in mind, including the choice of the building sites, the use of local sourced, sustainable materials and their earth friendly natural designs. The rooms are built using indigenous materials and techniques such as weaving raffia palms fronds into rain proof panels that form the roofs and walls of our bungalows and common areas.

The camps are able to sustain themselves with electricity and water by utilizing our natural resources of sunshine and nearby water sources. Africa is the perfect place for solar power energy thus we enlisted the help of Africa Solaire, a local Congolese solar company, to install and maintain a solar farm at each camp. The group of panels of 12.5 kWc cover our daily needs from running kitchen appliances to ceiling fans to charging electronic devices. Through reverse osmosis we are able to produce our own water source for the entire camp, including drinking water. We are proud to be able to use the renewable natural resources of the park to run our camps.

### BIODIVERSITY

Odzala-Kokoua National Park (PNOK) in north-western Congo is a vast green wilderness and one of Africa's oldest national parks. It covers some 13 600 square kilometres (1.360 million hectares) of pristine rainforest and is an integral part of both the Congo Basin and the TRIDOM transfrontier park system overlapping Gabon, Congo and Cameroon.

Covered in forests, rivers, marshes and swamps, the Park is blessed with some 1 500 mm of rain annually, which falls mainly during the two wet seasons. Permanent rivers are a primary feature of Odzala-Kokoua, with the Lekoli and Kokoua rivers flowing into the Park's major channel, the Mambili. In some places, the Mambili is up to 100 metres wide between densely forested banks; it then via the Likoula flows into the great Congo River.

The north of the Park has dense forest covering many steep-sloped hills. In the west, a major escarpment runs roughly north-south from which the altitude drops 350 metres into a low swampy forest towards neighbouring Gabon. The southern part of the Park is characterised by pockets of savannah dotted with forest islands, bisected by the rivers and their associated gallery forests.

A major feature is the occurrence of "bais" or salines. These are swampy, grassy clearings in the otherwise dense forest that forest wildlife visit on a regular basis in order to drink, feed on sedges and grasses, and obtain minerals and salts.

This vast and truly wild region, with its wide range of landscapes and habitat, is home to an incredible diversity of life. Forest Elephant, Forest Buffalo, Leopard, Bongo, Giant Forest Hog and Hippopotamus live alongside the greatest density of Western Lowland Gorilla in Africa, the highest numbers of Chimpanzee yet recorded for any central African forest block, and a further nine diurnal and five nocturnal primates.





# odzala discovery camps

## ecotourism



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Clouds of spectacular butterflies are characteristic of the region, whilst close to 440 bird species have been recorded here. The trees are spectacular: ancient giants well over 50 metres tall emerge from the canopy, delicate orchids cling to the branches and the forest floor is littered with an incredible array of pods, fruits, flowers and fungi.

### PROTECTING THE RAINFOREST

Protected areas are crucial for life on our planet. The African rainforest may seem far away to Europeans, Americans, Asians or Australians, but its contributions to our green lungs and climatic stability are vital globally. Thus, destroying it has disastrous consequences.

Rainforests store greenhouse gases and stabilize the climate. The rainforest of the Congo Basin is a giant reservoir for CO<sub>2</sub> and thus of critical importance for the global climate. The people living in or near the national park work with us to protect the rainforest. Odzala-Kokoua National Park in northern Congo protects a significant part of the world's second largest rainforest, the Congo Basin. With an area of 13 500 km<sup>2</sup>, Odzala plays a vital role in the health of the global climate, and consequently of the survivability of wildlife and humans.

Around 70 villages are dotted around the borders of the National Park, meaning that although Odzala is remote, it still has an important human constituency uniquely able to play a crucial role as protectors of the rainforest ecosystem.

Park management is handled by the government and African Parks Network who offer additional jobs as eco-guards, trackers, and administrative positions. Apprenticeships and job offers are the only long-term alternatives to poaching and deforestation.

CCC and Odzala Discover Camps are proud to support the Sabine Plattner Africa Charities (SPAC) conservation efforts around Odzala. SPAC combines biodiversity research, skills training, job creation and education into a holistic, sustainable approach to conservation in the communities around Odzala.

SPAC emphasizes the importance of listening the local people's voices and using education, economic empowerment, and conservation to meet their needs and aspirations, and to help them achieve their goals in ways that contribute to the greater good of Odzala and all its residents.

SPAC's core activities consist of increasing people's capacity and supporting them in the struggle against poaching and exploitative use of natural resources. SPAC's community support initiatives range from the construction of community centers and implementation of early childhood development programs to the creation of opportunities for apprenticeships and jobs, particularly through community tourism initiatives.



# odzala discovery camps

## ecotourism



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### PROTECTING THE WESTERN LOWLAND GORILLAS

The IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, has classified the Western Lowland Gorilla as a critically endangered species. Our relatives are in great danger. The worst case scenario is as follows: Within the next three generations up to 80% of the entire population will disappear. Hence it is all the more important for Odzala to remain a safe place for the animals living there.

In the 1980s, a census of the gorilla populations in equatorial Africa was thought to be 100,000. Researchers later adjusted the figure to less than half because of poaching and diseases.[36] Surveys conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society in 2006 and 2007 found about 125,000 previously unreported gorillas have been living in the remote forests in northern Republic of the Congo. However, gorillas remain vulnerable to Ebola, deforestation, and poaching. Fortunately, the government of the Republic of the Congo has put in place conservation efforts to conserve different species such as chimpanzees, forest elephants, and western gorillas from poaching and deforestation. These efforts would allow these species to benefit from vegetation and ecologically important resources, that are protected in Congo's national parks like Odzala-Kokoua.

Western Lowland Gorillas have suffered exceptionally high levels of mortality, caused by hunting and diseases. In some remote areas more than 90% of the population died over the past 10 years. Most protected areas have serious poaching problems.

Hunting and disease are both ongoing threats that are not at all mitigated. The Western Lowland Gorilla is still highly endangered. Every loss is dramatic, as gorillas are long-lived animals and their reproductive rates are very low.





# odzala discovery camps

## common insects



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Tropical rainforests are renowned for their species diversity, whether this is birds, mammals or trees. The same applies to insects; for example more than 700 butterfly species are found in the areas of Odzala-Kokoua National Park. A number of other insects species occur of course, and are some are less attractive or appealing to visitors, but no less important in the functioning of the ecosystem. For each of our three camps we have listed those species about which we most commonly receive enquiries.

### LANGO AND MBOKO CAMP

- Tsetse Flies (*Glossina sp*) occur in the riverine forests along the Lekoli and Mambili Rivers and deliver a painful bite. They occur in very low density however and are encountered only irregularly, usually while travelling by pirogue along the river.
- Biting Flies (*Trigona sp*). A very small unidentified biting fly occurs in the Lango area and is encountered while on foot in the forests and baies of the area. While the bite is seldom noticeable and is painless, it does result in an irritating itch that can last for several days.
- Mosquitoes (*Trigona sp*). This insects species does occur in low densities in the Lango area and standard precautions should be taken by visitors.

### NGAGA CAMP

- Sweat Bees (*Trigona sp*), are the most commonly encountered insect species here. This is a small stingless bee that resembles a fly and which is known in southern Africa as a Mopane Bee. These insects are harmless but there are certain times of the year when they can be very numerous and thus irritating for visitors as they seek the minerals in skin perspiration on people. They are most common in the dense Marantaceae thickets that occur in some areas of the forests of the Ngaga area.
- African Bee (*Apis sp*), also occur in the Ngaga area and can be remarkably numerous in certain circumstances. This is what is most commonly known as a Honey Bee and can deliver a painful sting. Beyond this they are harmless except to those who suffer allergic reactions to these stings.

The best way for guests to prevent insect irritation is to use standard insect repellents which are effective for most species although seem to be ignored by the Sweat Bees. In addition we suggest:

- Light, quick drying clothes
- Long sleeve shirt and pants

At certain times during activities such as gorilla tracking when sweat bees are most numerous we provide head nets that can be taken on and off depending on the level of irritation.