

# TRACKS SAFARIS

## WE GET YOU CLOSER



**11 NIGHT ODZALA EXPLORATION**

**ARRIVE THURSDAY AND DEPART MONDAY THE FOLLOWING WEEK**



Complete immersion in the Congo Basin: harmonize with the rhythms of the rainforest on our most in-depth journey to the Odzala-Kokoua National Park area. The proliferation of magical experiences includes forest walks, river cruises, night drives, and three gorilla tracks.



Note: No two Kamba experiences are the same: Our guides customize each trip according to guests' interests, fitness levels, and imaginations, as well as outside factors like weather and wildlife behavior. Thus, the list of activities here is a suggested outline, not a strict itinerary.

## Odzala Exploration

**LODGES** Ngaga (4 nights), Lango (4), Mboko (3)

**REGION** Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Republic of the Congo

**PERMITS** 3 gorilla tracking permits

**INCLUSIONS** Scheduled return flight between Brazzaville and Odzala, all activities, meals, transfers & drinks

Note: International flights to and from Brazzaville are not included.



## Journey at a Glance

### Day 01

Private flight from Brazzaville to Mboko airstrip in Odzala-Kokoua National Park (departs 1pm, Mondays & Thursdays, approx. 2-hour flight). On arrival at the airstrip in Odzala-Kokoua you are welcomed by the Kamba team and the adventure begins with a safari drive (2-3 hours) through the park's savanna and rainforest to your home for the next 4 nights, Ngaga Lodge.



This evening you'll join your guide around the fire for a conservation and gorilla track briefing to prepare you to set off on foot early in the morning in search of Western Lowland Gorillas. Spend 4 nights at Ngaga Lodge with guided activities and all meals & drinks included. 3 Gorilla Tracking Permits included in the 10-night Journey.

- **Stay:** Ngaga Lodge (4 nights)
- **Activities:**
  - Gorilla tracking (3 permits included)
  - Guided forest walks, night walks
  - Optional village visits
  - Sundowners

### **Days 02 -04**

In the Ndzehi Concession, adjoining Odzala-Kokoua, Ngaga Lodge is a focal point for world-class primate research, as well as unforgettable primate encounters. Ngaga is home to the Western Lowland Gorilla research team who has spent the past few decades in the forest navigating its trails and understanding its rhythms. You are invited to share in their knowledge and experience this intact rainforest thriving with life.

During your time at Ngaga, track Western lowland gorillas in the closed-canopy forests around the lodge (3 gorilla tracks included). Get to know the forest and all its inhabitants by way of guided forest walks, night walks, village visits (on request), and enjoy spectacular sundowners.





## Day 05

Enjoy breakfast and one last venture into Ngaga's pristine rainforest before embarking on a road transfer through the park to Mboko Lodge (approx. 2-hour drive). After lunch, set off on kayaks down the Lekoli River on a gentle safari where you may encounter monkeys, elephants, forest buffalo, and a colorful array of birds along the river edge as you drift past and make your way to Lango Bai. Finish the journey on foot and arrive in time for a refreshing sundowner and revel in your surroundings.

Lango Lodge, situated on the edge of Lango Bai, offers one of the most arresting views of any camp in Africa, wraparound walkways and elevated chalets maximize the views. Spend 4 nights at Lango Lodge with guided activities and all meals & drinks included.

- **Stay:** Lango Lodge (4 nights)
- **Activities:**
  - Walking safaris through baïs and forests
  - Birdwatching and wildlife encounters
  - Exploration of the bai and Lekoli River

## Days 06 -08

Explore deeper and truly immerse yourself in this remarkably pristine ecosystem. Time at Lango Lodge is about getting up close with nature, walking in the footsteps of elephants on well-worn trails through streams, baïs, and forests. Get in touch with this pristine landscape by getting wet and muddy on foot or seek drier adventures in the forests that surround the bai.





Watch flocks of green pigeons coming to roost, forest buffalo grazing, and if you are lucky encounter an elusive bongo or shy forest elephant and you may hear chimps call in the distance as you wade through the water in the bai and waterways in Lango's mystical forests. Your guide will share enlightening details about the delicate ecosystem and the fascinating flora and fauna you'll encounter on your daily adventures.

During your time at Lango, explore the bai, Lekoli River, and surrounding areas with long and short walks through the various biomes as you set forth in the footsteps of great explorers and unearth the history and heritage of the area.

### **Day 09**

Set forth as the dawn breaks on an early morning walking safari followed by breakfast before you depart Lango. Follow a raised wooden walkway through the wetlands and hop on the vehicle for a game drive transfer to Mboko Lodge, situated where the forest meets the savanna. After lunch, enjoy a forest walk or a relaxing afternoon in camp on the river deck, followed by a late afternoon river cruise.



Mboko is set along the Lékéni River which leads into a network of waterways with surrounding savannas; cruise the winding waterways with a new view around every bend in the river. Spend 3 nights at Mboko Lodge with guided activities and all meals & drinks included.

- **Stay:** Mboko Lodge (3 nights)

- **Activities:**

- Walking, boating, and kayaking adventures
- Wildlife spotting along riverbanks and forests
- Relax on river deck

### **Days 10 - 11**

Mboko Lodge is the home of adventure. A combination of wide-open grasslands, gentle rivers, and towering forests provides a place of peace & adventure in equal measure. Alongside your guide, explore riverbanks and forests looking for colorful birdlife, forest elephants and buffalo, spotted hyenas, charismatic monkeys, and the shy bongo antelope and hippos found in this part of Odzala Kokoua National Park.

At Mboko Lodge, activities are a combination of walking, boating, and kayaking through some of the Congo Basin's most beautiful habitats. Take a dip or cool your feet in the quiet, crystal streams found at Mboko. Relax on the river deck which offers a unique vantage point to look for birds, you may also see monkeys or flutters of butterflies while you enjoy the tranquillity of the river babbling past.

### **Day 12**

Depart after breakfast on a game drive through the savanna to Mboko airstrip. Kamba's private plane will be waiting to fly you back to Brazzaville to connect with your international flight.

### **Brazzaville Exploration ½ Day Tour**

(may be done on day of arrival or departure, depending on your international flight schedule)

- **Cultural Highlights:**

- St. Anne's Basilica, Poto-Poto Market, Marché Plateau Ville
- La Corniche views, Independence Bridge

- **Culinary Options:**

- Mami Wata, La Mandarine, Glacy

- **Unique Experience:** Sapeur tours (advance booking required)

Colorful and charming, Brazzaville is an endearing introduction to the culture and cuisine of the Republic of the Congo. Brazzaville is a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable place for Kamba guests to explore before or after their journey to the Congo Basin. Evidence of the French colonial period can be found in Brazzaville's architecture, broad boulevards, and the Corniche, a riverside embankment lined with restaurants and cafés that look across the Congo River to Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (Fun fact: This is the only place in the world where two national capitals face each other across a river.)

We recommend that guests spend two nights in Brazzaville to experience its atmosphere and spirit and discover its restaurants, markets, historic sites, and distinctive culture. Kamba offers various guided tours; guests can also avail themselves of local "green taxis" to explore on their own.

Most of our Journeys include a half-day tour of Brazzaville that takes in the city's highlights, including the Modernist masterpiece St. Anne's Basilica; Poto-Poto Market, an excellent source for exuberantly patterned

textiles; the Marché Plateau Ville, where local artisans sell masks and carvings; and a drive over the iconic Independence Bridge to La Corniche, overlooking the Congo River.

Make time to sample Congolese cuisine, which blends French techniques and African flavors. Highlights include the elegant waterfront destination Mami Wata; La Mandarine, a delicious Lebanese French bakery and café; and Glacy, which specializes in ice cream that highlights the flavors of the jungle.

One don't-miss highlight is an experience with the Sapeurs, a fascinating subculture of street fashion icons whose expressive, dandyish outfits are considered part of Congolese cultural heritage. Sapeur tours must be booked in advance.



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