

TRACKS SAFARIS

WE GET YOU CLOSER



REPUBLIC CONGO – ODZALA NATIONAL PARK AND ETHIOPIAN HIGHLIGHTS 20 NIGHT ITINERARY

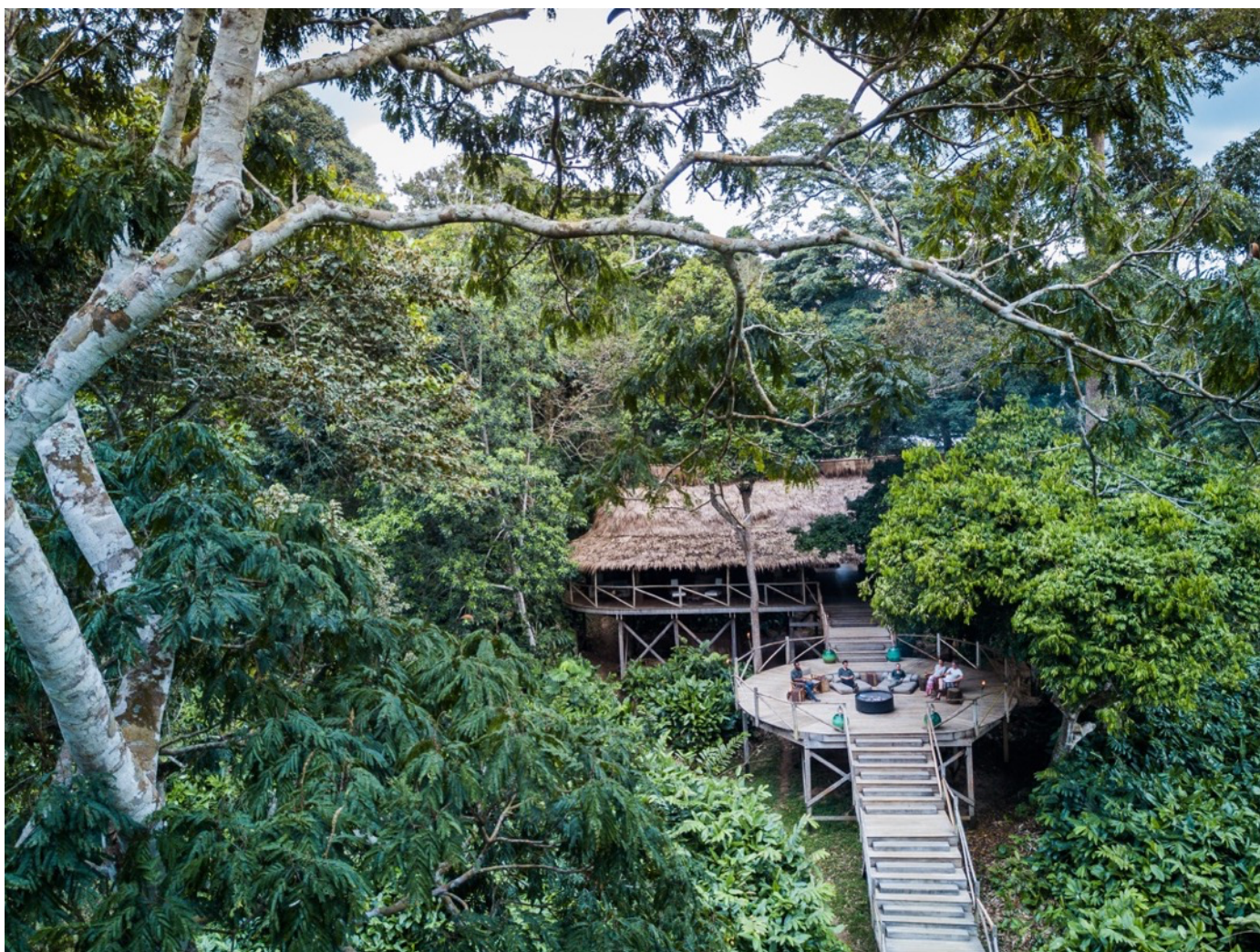


DAY 01

On arrival into Brazzaville Republic of Congo with Ethiopian Airlines you will be met and transferred to the Radisson Blu Hotel for one night on a bed and breakfast basis.

Day 02

Today you will transfer back to the international airport in time for your light aircraft flight to Mboko airstrip in Odzala-Kokoua National Park (departs 1pm, Mondays and 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 3 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 3 nights at Ngaga Lodge with guided activities and all meals & drinks included. 2 Gorilla Tracking Permits included in the 7-night Journey.

- **Stay:** Ngaga Lodge (3 nights)
- **Activities:**
 - Gorilla tracking (2 permits included)
 - Guided forest walks, night walks
 - Optional village visits
 - Sundowners

Days 03 - 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 (2 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 2 nights at Lango Lodge with guided activities and all meals & drinks included.

- **Stay:** Lango Lodge (2 nights)
- **Activities:**
 - Walking safaris through bai's and forests
 - Birdwatching and wildlife encounters
 - Exploration of the bai and Lekoli River



Day 06

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.

Today you will explore the bai, Lekoli River, and surrounding areas with guided walks through the various biomes as you set forth in the footsteps of great explorers and unearth the history and heritage of the area. Your guide will share details about the delicate ecosystem and fascinating flora and fauna as you explore on foot.

Day 07

Set out 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 2 nights at Mboko Lodge with guided activities and all meals & drinks included.

- **Stay:** Mboko Lodge (2 nights)
- **Activities:**
 - Walking, boating, and kayaking adventures
 - Wildlife spotting along riverbanks and forests
 - Relax on river deck



Day 8

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 tranquility of the river babbling past.

Day 9

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 where you will be transferred to the Radisson Blu Hotel for one night on a bed and breakfast basis.

Brazzaville Exploration ½ Day Tour – can be enjoyed on the day of arrival or last day – please ask!

(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)



DAY 10

You will be transferred to the airport in time to catch your Ethiopian Airways flight to Addis Ababa. On arrival into Addis Ababa, you will be welcomed by your guide and drive about 15 minutes to your hotel. A traditional Ethiopian dinner is included on your first night.

Jupiter Hotel – Addis Ababa – on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis

DAY 11: Fly Addis – Bahirdar

Early in the morning, you will transfer back to Addis Ababa airport and fly to the lakeside town of Bahir Dar. After check-in to your hotel, drive 32 km southwest of Bahir Dar to the small town of Tiss Abay and walk for twenty minutes to visit the famous Blue Nile Falls. The fall plunges 45 meters below, giving rise to steam clouds, smoke for fire, which is locally known as Tiss Issat.

In the afternoon, you will enjoy a boat trip on Ethiopia's largest water body, Lake Tana (3,600 sq km) to visit

the monasteries of Ura Kidane Mihret and Azwa Mariam, which are found on the largest peninsula of the lake. These monasteries are known for the colorful frescoes of religious scenes, and an impressive display of illuminated bibles written in Ge'ez, Ethiopia's oldest language.

Abayminch Lodge on a full board basis



Day 12: Drive Bahirdar – Excursion to Simien Mountains National Park

Drive from Bahirdar to Simien, which occupies a surface area of 180 km sq. The park is situated between 4,430 and 1,900 (6,200-4,500 feet) and boasts varied flora with three marked botanical areas. The highest parts have meadows with little vegetation, characteristic of Afro Alpine Zones. Today spend some time at the park seeing the endemic mammal of Ethiopia – the Gelada Baboon and the breathtaking scenery of the Simien Mountains.

Simien Lodge on a full board basis

Day 13: Simien Mountains National Park

After breakfast, head to Sankaber which is the headquarters of Simien Mountains National Park. Here we can find the endemic *Lobelia Rhynchopetalum*, small groups of perpetual flowers, *Helichrysum*, and striking *Kniphofia Foliosa*. The mountains are crisscrossed with tracks made by local people travelling from village to village or moving their animals to fresh pastures. The combination of these tracks and spectacular scenery make for excellent walking. After a short walk, the landscape suddenly opens onto a picturesque valley dotted with mud hut houses, horses and livestock.

Simien Lodge on a full board basis

Day 14: Simien Mountains National Park

Today have an excursion to Chenek to see the other endemic mammal not only to Ethiopia, but to Simien Mountains – The Walia Ibex. There are spectacular views across the range from here and you have a chance to interact with the local villagers.

Simien Lodge on a full board basis



Day 15: Drive Gondar

Drive back to Gondar after spending some time at your lodge visiting troops of Gelada Baboons.

Mayleko Lodge on a full board basis

Day 16: Fly Gondar – Addis – Drive Langano

Fly back to Addis then continue driving to Langano visiting the pre-historic archeological site of Melka Kunture, and the stele field of Tiya (UNESCO World Heritage Site). At Lake Langano enjoy swimming and bird watching.

Sabana Beach Resort on a full board basis

Day 17: Drive Langano – Bale Mountains

In the morning start driving to Bale Mountains. Today you will be hiking around the head quarter of the park to spot the endemic mammals like Mountain Nyala, Menelik bushbuck and the common mammals like warthog, reedbuck, and gray dicker.

Bale Mountains Lodge on a full board basis



DAY 18: Bale Mountains

Today will be a day of great contrasts with amazing scenery and birding. We will depart early and ascend the Bale massif onto the Sanetti Plateau, which is between 3800m and 4377m above sea level. This site is an important Bird Area of immense importance, supporting seven globally threatened species and nearly all of Ethiopia's Highland biome species. Our main target today is to see the plateau's most celebrated resident, the Ethiopian or Simien Wolf, crowned with the unenviable title of 'the world's rarest canid'.

Watching these vibrantly colored animals, most closely related to the European Timber Wolf, exhibiting their hunting prowess while pouncing on Giant Mole-rats (another endemic to the Sanetti Plateau), is surely one of Africa's greatest wildlife experiences. You should enjoy excellent photographic opportunities in this unique mountain wonderland.

Bale Mountains Lodge on a full board basis

Day 19: Bale Mountains

Today you will spend the day exploring the surrounding area with your guide and hopefully spot some monkeys. You can also try and spot the Simien Wolf again.

Bale Mountains Lodge on a full board basis

Day 20: Drive Bale Mountains – Awassa

After breakfast, drive to the park's entrance to meet with park warden and scouts then drive the same way until the town of Shashamane and then continue to Awassa, one of the rift valley Lakes. Today you will also have a boat ride on lake Awassa.

The rest of the day will be free at Haile resort, at the bank of Lake Awassa, where we will have the chance to enjoy the great sunset over the lake.

Haile Resort on a full board basis

Day 21: Drive Awassa – Addis Ababa

In the morning visit the fish market at shore of lake Awassa before driving back to Addis visiting the rift valley lakes Ziway, Abijatta and Shalla. If there is time, we will visit the famous Gallery of Lemma Guya.

In the evening you will have farewell dinner at one of the best traditional restaurants in Addis to watch traditional Ethiopian folk dances and taste the variety of traditional Ethiopian dishes. Later in the evening transfer back to Addis Ababa international airport in time for your international flight home.



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