

# TRACKS SAFARIS

## WE GET YOU CLOSER



### REPUBLIC CONGO AND ETHIOPIA 20 DAY ITINERARY



#### **DAY ONE**

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 TWO**

After breakfast at the hotel you are transferred to the airport and assisted through the airport to board your schedule charter (Let L-410, 15 seater) flight to Odzala (2 hours), landing at the strip near Mboko camp. Road transfer from airstrip to Ngaga Camp (about 2.5 hour drive through the Odzala-Kokou National Park). Meet the gorilla research team followed by dinner.

**Overnight Ngaga Camp in a luxury en-suite forest room**

### DAY THREE

**Morning (5:30):** Early morning breakfast

**Morning (6:00):** Depart with an expert tracker and one of our guides for an early morning gorilla trek.

**Afternoon:** Lunch at the lodge

**Afternoon:** Choose between a forest Introduction walk or free time

**Sundown:** Relax on the fire deck before dinner

**Evening:** Dinner at the lodge



### DAY FOUR

**Morning (5:30):** Early morning breakfast

**Morning (6:00):** Depart with an expert tracker and one of our guides for an early morning gorilla trek.

**Afternoon:** Lunch at the lodge

**Afternoon:** Choose between an afternoon forest walk or free time

**Sundown:** Relax on the fire deck and have a gorilla orientated discussion.

**Evening:** Dinner at the lodge, after dinner there is an optional, short, night walk.

### DAY FIVE

**Morning (5:30):** Early morning breakfast

**Morning (6:00):** Depart with an expert tracker and one of our guides for an early morning gorilla trek.

**Afternoon:** Lunch at the lodge

**Afternoon:** Choose between an afternoon forest walk or free time

**Sundown:** Relax on the fire deck before dinner

**Evening:** Dinner at the lodge, after dinner there is an optional, short, night walk.

### DAY SIX

**Morning (5:30):** Early morning breakfast

**Morning (6:00):** Depart with an expert tracker and one of our guides for an early morning gorilla trek.

**Afternoon:** Lunch at the lodge



**Afternoon:** Choose between an afternoon forest walk or free time

**Sundown:** Relax on the fire deck before dinner

**Evening:** Dinner at the lodge, after dinner there is an optional, short, night walk.

#### **DAY SEVEN**

Breakfast at Ngaga Camp and transfer back to the airstrip.

Today you will fly back to Brazzaville from Odzala on the Charter Flight. We have arranged a tour of Brazzaville today which includes lunch.

**Overnight at the Radisson Blu on a bed and breakfast basis.**

#### **DAY EIGHT**

You will be transferred to the airport in time to catch your Ethiopian Airways flight to Addis Ababa. Upon 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**



#### **DAY NINE: Fly Addis – Bahirdar**

Early in the morning, fly from Addis 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'. Walk about 20 minutes to an interesting viewpoint.

In the afternoon, you will make 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**



#### **Day 10: 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), 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**

#### **Day 11: Simien Mountains National Park**

After breakfast, head to Sankaber - 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**



**Day 12: 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 as well. This would give you a chance to interact with the local villagers.

**Simien Lodge****Day 13: Drive Gondar**

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

**Mayleko Lodge****Day 14: 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****Day 15: 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****DAY 16: 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 amongst Africa's greatest wildlife experiences. We should enjoy excellent photographic opportunities in this unique mountain wonderland. **Bale Mountains Lodge**

#### **Day 17: Bale Mountains**

Today you will spend the day exploring the surroundings with your guide and spot some monkeys. You can also try and spot the Simien Wolf today again. There are about 200 of them left so make a note of how many you can find.

#### **Bale Mountains Lodge**

#### **Day 18: 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**

#### **Day 19: 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 we have 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 of Addis to see the folkloric dances of the Ethiopian people and to taste the variety of meals of the Ethiopian People.

#### **Day 20**

You will be transferred to Addis Ababa Airport in time for your Ethiopian Airways flight departing very early in the morning and arriving back into London Heathrow the same day.

#### **ODZALA INCLUSIONS:**

- Camp rates are per person per night and include accommodation, 3 meals per day, house wines, beers, spirits, water and soft drinks (excluding connoisseur wine and champagne).
- Ngaga Camp: Includes guided walking activities & 4 gorilla trekking permits.
- All rates include Odzala meet and greet at Brazzaville Maya-Maya Airport and on arrival assistance with visitor's visa.
- Return transfers to and from Brazzaville hotel and Maya-Maya Airport.
- Laundry and internet access (Wi-Fi available in all camps)

#### **ETHIOPIA INCLUSIONS:**

- Accommodation on a double/twin room sharing basis
- Meals – Bed and breakfast in Addis and full board outside Addis
- All entrance fees as per the itinerary
- All airport transfers
- All ground transportation
- Local guide at each spot

- Professional English speaking guide
- Boat rent on lake Tana
- Mule hire where applicable
- Scout fees
- Government tax

**Price does not include:-**

- Meals in Addis Ababa
- Any alcoholic drinks
- Personal expense and photographic fees
- Any expense not included in the itinerary



**TRACKS SAFARIS – WE GET YOU CLOSER TO AFRICA!**

