



# Gabon Expedition



Anderson EXPEDITIONS



## Join us...

on an expedition exploring remote and beautiful Gabon. Our twelve-night expedition focuses on the incredible Lopé and Loango National Parks. We will hike, kayak, and boat our way through some of the region's most beautiful and biologically diverse landscapes. Wildlife highlights include a wilderness coastline visited by forest mammals, turtles hatching on the beach, hippos surfing in the waves, gallery forests home to rare and endemic primates, abundant birdlife, gorilla tracking, forest elephants, clouds of butterflies and the chance of encountering some of the continent's most enigmatic species.



# Itinerary Overview

## Day 1

Résidence Hôtelière du Phare | Libreville

## Day 2 - Day 5

Lopé Camp | Lopé National Park

## Day 5

Résidence Hôtelière du Phare | Libreville

## Day 6 – Day 10

Sette Cama Adventure Camp | Loango National Park

## Day 10

Akaka Forest Camp | Loango National Park

## Day 11 – Day 13

Loango Lodge | Loango National Park



## Gabon Recce

- 2 nights Résidence Hôtelière du Phare
- 3 nights Lopé Camp
- 4 nights Sette Cama Camp
- 1 night Akaka Forest Camp
- 2 nights Loango Lodge



## Libreville

Set along the coast of the Central African country of Gabon, Libreville is the largest city and capital of the nation. This laidback yet vibrant and bustling port city features a palm-lined seafront boulevard dotted with parks and 20-foot Gabonese sculptures overlooking the gleaming coastline. Visitors can look forward to a number of interesting activities including: browsing the Mont-Bouet open-air market offering a wide selection of local goods, visiting the National Museum of Arts displaying local works, or discovering the nearby deserted paradise beaches of Cap Esterias or to Cap Santa Clara. Pongara National Park located just outside the capital along the spectacular Komo Estuary features over 900 square kilometres of unspoilt nature.





## Résidence Hôtelière du Phare Libreville

The Résidence Hôtelière du Phare is the hotel that welcomes you to Libreville, the capital city of Gabon. This charming little hotel boasts an unrivalled scenic location right on the Atlantic Ocean, with rooms that spill out directly onto the beach for incredible access to the sands and waters whilst offering gorgeous views out to sea. This boutique hotel is conveniently located and is just a quick 2 minute drive from the airport. The hotel's restaurant opens up to the views of the ocean and is the ideal place to recharge after your flight and settle in with the sound of the sea to calm your senses.



## Day 1

### Libreville

- Arrival at Libreville International airport
- Road transfer to the Résidence Hôtelière du Phare
- Dinner out at local restaurant
- Overnight at the Résidence Hôtelière du Phare



## Day 2

### Libreville to Lopé National Park

- Train trip from Libreville to Lopé National Park in 1<sup>st</sup> class
- Arrive at Lopé and 4x4 transfer to Lope Camp
- Overnight at Lope Camp





## Lopé National Park.

Lopé is located in the centre of Gabon, on the equator and framed by the beautiful Ogooué River, Lopé was the first protected area in Gabon and has enlisted as a Unesco World Heritage Site in 2007. The National Park is an important refuge to over 1400 endangered mandrills. There are 420 bird species in the national park as well as western gorillas, sun-tailed guenon, black colobus, chimpanzee and forest elephants. Diverse habitats and landscapes include forests, riverine areas, savannah and rolling hills.





## Day 3 & Day 4

### Lopé National Park

- 2 full days exploring Lopé National Park with a chance of seeing the incredible Mandrill
- Overnight at Lope Camp

## Day 5

- Train trip from Lopé National Park to Libreville in 1<sup>st</sup> class
- Overnight at the Résidence Hôtelière du Phare



## Day 6

### Libreville to South Loango National Park

- Scheduled flight from Libreville to Port Gentile
- Scheduled flight from Port Gentile to Gamba
- Vehicle transfer to Ndogo Lagoon for the 50 km / 90 min boat transfer to the Sette Cama Adventure Camp
- Overnight at Sette Cama Adventure Camp





## Sette Cama Adventure Camp

### South Loango National Park

Set in a clearing in the coastal scrub forest, the rustic Sette Cama Adventure Camp is a collection of wooden chalets and a main living area overlooking the Ndogo Lagoon. A 350m track behind the camp leads to an endlessly-deserted beach. The only other human habitation in the vicinity is an ANPN (National Park's Service) base camp and the tiny, spartan Sette Cama settlement. The camp is a full-service facility which includes a stocked bar, tea and coffee station, and set-menu meals. Sette Cama Adventure Camp's cooks are known for serving excellent dishes, many of them based on fresh fish. The accommodation is in simple, twin configuration, ensuite, air conditioned, chalets.





## Loango National Park

Loango National Park, one of the most enchanting of the thirteen parks within the central African country of Gabon, offers an alluring combination of scenery and wildlife. The park is 1,550 km<sup>2</sup> with an uninhibited coastline of pristine beach, savanna, forest, lush mangroves, calmly flowing rivers, and views over the glistening South Atlantic Ocean. Loango offers its visitors a chance to spot an abundance of wildlife including forest elephant, hippo, leopard, slender snouted crocodile, a variety of monkey species, Western lowland gorillas, red river hogs and duikers as well as a large concentration of humpback whale (in season) and dolphins. In addition birdlife is spectacular and botanical wonders abound making Loango one of the most unique wildlife watching spots on the planet





## Day 7 – Day 10

### Sette Cama Adventure Camp | South Loango National Park

- Stay at the rustic Sette Cama Adventure Camp including a night sleep out in a simple mobile fly camp
- Each day will be spent exploring the forest and coastline on foot, boat and by game drive vehicle.
- Day and night excursions
- Overnight at Sette Cama Adventure Camp



## Day 10

### Akaka Forest Camp

- Depart Sette Cama Adventure Camp by boat to Sounga Lagoon followed by 15km forest walk to the Rembo Ngowe River. From here a short boat transfer to Akaka Forest Camp.
- Overnight at Akaka Forest Camp



## Akaka Forest Camp

Akaka Forest Camp is nestled deep in the jungle at the crossing of the Ngowe and Echira rivers. Sleep amidst the sounds of the jungle and immerse yourself in this most peaceful forest setting. Akaka forest camp has 5 comfortable tents, each with 2 single beds, ensuite bathroom with (outside) shower, basin and toilet, mounted on a platform with private terrace facing the forest.

Along with enjoying delicious meals that are prepared onsite, guests can embrace the bewitching views of the waterway outside the restaurant and the bar's expansive terrace under incredible night skies. From any vantage point, even the most casual observer will find plenty of wildlife to spot, including hippos and forest elephants.





## Day 11

### Gorilla tracking | North Loango National Park

- After breakfast depart by boat to the Max Planck Gorilla project for a pre-trail briefing. You will then depart by boat to the point where you will start your gorilla trekking.
- Boat transfer to Loango Lodge, a 60 to 90 minute traverse of the Ngowe/Iguela Lagoon.
- Overnight at Loango Lodge



## Day 12

### Loango Lodge | North Loango National Park

- Explore the surrounding savannah by vehicle searching for the regions' forest wildlife and birds.

## Day 13

### Loango National Park to Libreville | Gabon

- Road transfer from Loango to Port Gentile
- Scheduled flight from Libreville to Port Gentile
- International departure flight





## Loango Lodge

### North Loango National Park

Located in the northern part of Loango National Park on Iguela Lagoon, Loango Lodge's wonderful setting offers uninterrupted views over the water and national park. Accommodation is in comfortable wooden bungalows with private terraces and ensuite facilities. From this base we will explore the region's ecosystems in search of wildlife.





## Forest Walks

The best way to truly take-in the atmosphere of the region and its biotypes is on foot. One can encounter all of the big game species in the area and also have a better chance of finding the smaller or more inconspicuous forest animals, primates, birds, reptiles, etc. Walks can range from a gentle local stroll to several hours on foot. Full day walks can include a picnic and siesta.

## Beach Walks

Beach walks in the Loango are like no other beach walks on the planet. Apart from just the joys of having one's feet in the sand and beach combing, one is on the lookout for the iconic big-game-on-the-beach phenomenon, especially forest buffalo and forest elephant, There is also the chance for other exciting encounters such as seeing forest sitatunga, crab-hunting red river hogs and red-capped mangabeys.



## Birding

The bird life is rich and varied and we hope to find some of the regions amazing species. Bird-watching sorties to a large variety of habitats are by foot, boat or vehicle. Local specials like Vermiculated Fishing Owl, White-crested Tiger Heron, Loango Weaver, Black-headed Bee-eater, Rosy Bee-eater, African River Martin, Forbes's Plover, Grey Pratincole, Mangrove Sunbird, Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush, African Finfoot are all present. There are also many kingfisher species, Palm-nut Vulture, (African) Grey Parrot, Great Blue Turaco, Black-casqued Hornbill, etc. The bird species count is at 355, a species list is available on request.



## Kayaking

Paddling around in a kayak offers a very different perspective and is a super-silent and stealthy way to sneak around, exploring the islands and forested coves of the Ndogo Lagoon. Sightings of just about anything, small to big, are on the menu, but the kayaks are an especially fun platform from which to enjoy the antics of monkeys and birds in the trees along the water and if luck is on one's side, one might even get to see the ridiculously shy and rare West African manatee.



## Game drives

This is not the typical African game drive, but rather an excursion to areas of mixed habitat to look specifically for the very rarely seen water chevrotain (also known as a mouse-deer or fanged deer), which is a highly specialised mammal that looks like a tiny, beautifully marked antelope but is part of a unique family of tiny ungulates more closely related to pigs. Other small nocturnal mammals that are often seen are African palm civet, servaline genet, marsh mongoose, various bats and galagos.



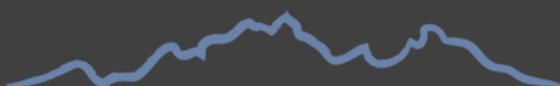
## Lagoon excursions

There is an endless number of quiet nooks and crannies on the vast Ndogo Lagoon that can be visited by boat. While there is always the chance to see big game on these trips, including elephant in the water and hippo, the main aim is to introduce guests to aspects of the general area and the local ecology and thus the focus is on the 'smaller' things. Visitors can expect to see and learn about various birds, fish, plants, crustaceans, insects, etc. and how they interact.



## Sea turtle hatching

Four species of turtle breed along the Loango coastline, including the impressively monstrous leatherback. A great time to see the turtles is during the nesting season (November to February) when we take night-time walks along the beach to look for nesting and hatching turtles.



## Fly camping

One of the nights will be spent in a simple fly camp in the epicenter of the wildlife activity zones. Fly camping offers a different perspective and allows us to access additional wild areas during prime wildlife watching times. Exploring the magnificent rainforests of Gabon is an adventurous journey and a night fly camping in the vast wilderness an unforgettable highlight in our pursuit of the wild spaces we love.





## Includes

- Specialist AE guide Fraser Gear for the duration of the safari
- Scheduled flights and road transfers as indicated in the itinerary
- Accommodation at the Radisson Blu (bed & breakfast only)
- Accommodation, meals, local drinks, activities and park fees in Lopé and Loango National Park
- Gorilla trekking permits



## Excludes

- International flights or airport taxes
- Premium imported drinks
- Hotels, meals and activities not listed in the itinerary
- Activities and arrangements in Libreville
- Personal expenses
- Staff gratuities
- Visa costs
- Travel Insurance

# Gabon

Straddling the equator on the west coast of Africa, this naturally stunning and prosperous sub-Saharan country is a mecca for adventurous nature lovers. From the flat river plains, and dense rainforest on the Atlantic coast, to the Chaillu Mountains in the central highlands and the lush jungle interior of the eastern region, Gabon's terrain is wild, rugged and teeming with African wildlife including leopards, elephants, chimpanzees, and gorillas. The nation is blessed with an 800-kilometre-long stretch of coast dotted with isolated palm-fringed bays, exquisite hidden lagoons, and fertile estuaries brimming with birdlife. With so much to see and do, Gabon has enough charm and diversity to appeal to travellers with a hearty sense of adventure and while it's terrain can be challenging to navigate, the reward is certainly worth the effort.





## Fraser Gear

Fraser is an excellent naturalist, guide and explorer. He has spent the last 28 years leading wildlife, photographic and birding expeditions across the length and breadth of Africa, Madagascar, Middle East, Asia and into the neo-tropics. Fraser's interests and skills are as diverse as his explorations. He is a passionate birder, tracker, botanist and wildlife enthusiast, Fraser has a great love of the planet's wildest places and the adventure that comes with exploring these regions. Fraser is at his happiest when in the thick of things on foot in the African savanna, on a remote sea kayak expedition with his wife and best friend Sandra, or deep in a steamy jungle seeking out avian wonders. A sensitive and caring tour leader, a wonderful teacher with a passion for nature, a wicked sense of humor, a repertoire of incredible tales of challenge and a sharp intellect combine to make Fraser the exceptional expedition leader he is today.



# Useful information



**Travel Documents** – please make copies of passports and visa documents and carry these with you



**Cash** - be sure to have some cash for gratuities and incidental purchases.



**Laundry** – There is limited laundry service in the camps but no ironing.



**Climate** – Gabon has an equatorial climate, with year-round high temperatures and humidity. Expect to have some rainfall during your stay.



**Binoculars** – we strongly recommend that you travel with at least one pair of good binoculars



**Time zone** – Time zone in Gabon is GMT+1 hours



**Medical information** – please seek professional medical advice from your local travel clinic prior to travel



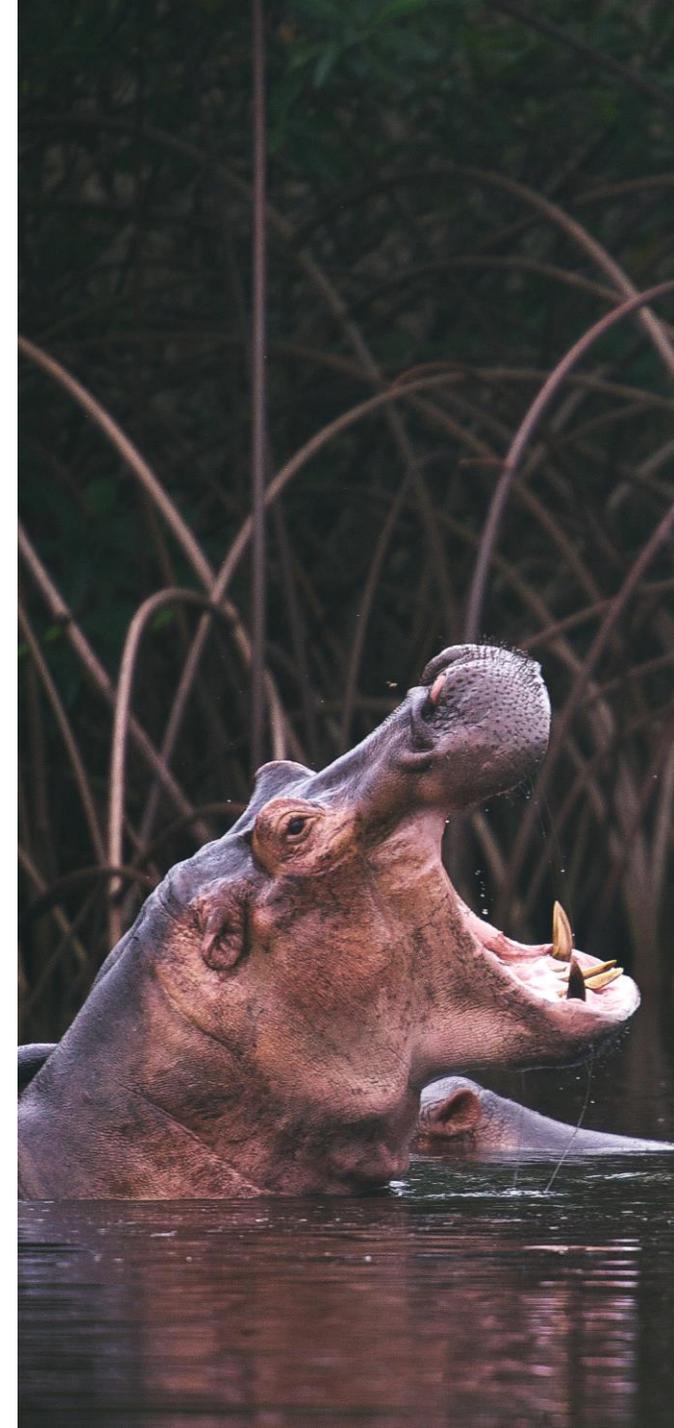
**Luggage restrictions** – Luggage, including camera equipment and hand luggage is restricted to 15kg on the charter flight



**Don't forget your hat!**



**Wi-Fi connectivity** – there is **no** wifi during your stay in Lopé and Loango National Park



A lush, dense tropical forest scene. In the foreground, a large, thick, gnarled tree branch extends horizontally across the frame. The background is filled with a dense canopy of green leaves and smaller tree trunks, creating a sense of depth and wilderness. The lighting is natural, with some sunlight filtering through the leaves.

We are excited to share this unique  
wilderness adventure with you!

