

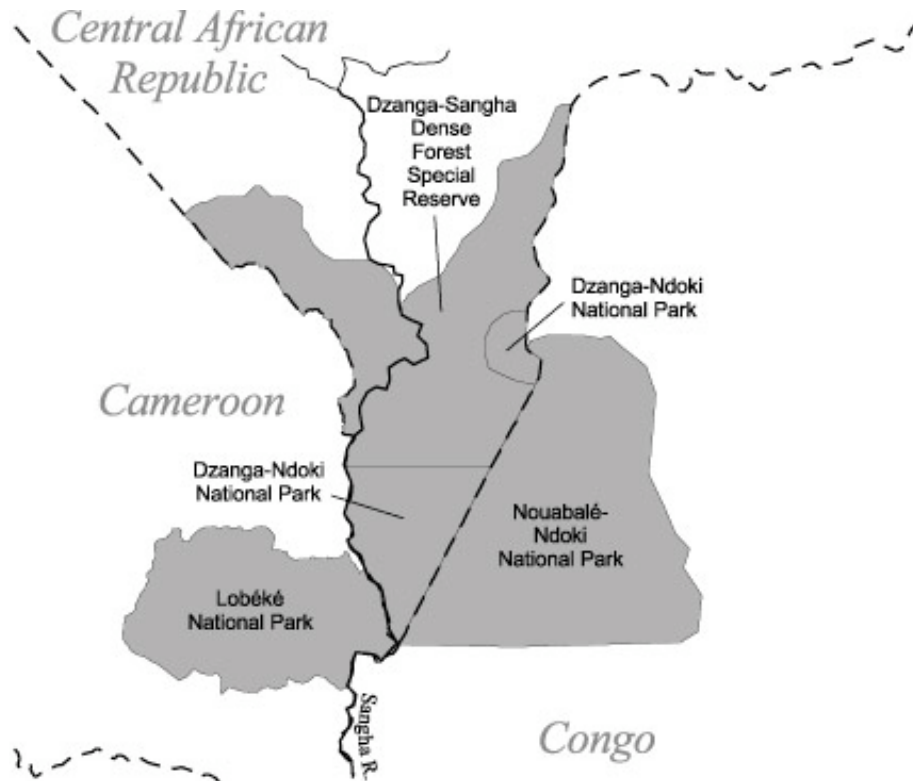


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WILDLIFE • PHOTOGRAPHY • EXPEDITIONS

NOUABALE NDOKI CONGO REPUBLIC
(10 days – 9 nights)
LOWLAND GORILLA EXPEDITION

MAP OF THE REGION



ABOUT THE LOCATION

The Tri-National Park of Central Africa basin includes the Dzanga Ndoki National Park in Central Africa Republic, the Nouabalé Ndoki National Park in Congo Republic and the Lobeke National Park of Cameroon. These parks are considered as probably the most beautiful accessible rainforest national parks in Africa.

THE NOUABALE NDOKI NATIONAL PARK CONGO REPUBLIC

The Nouabale Ndoki National Park offers something special: the Nouabale Ndoki National Park is an area with untouched forest (no lumbering) surrounded by swamps difficult to access by poachers, therefore providing a safe habitat for a wide range of animals. Here the principal activities are watching animals in the Bai, especially the lowland gorillas that are attracted here by their favourite food, a unique type of vegetation only found in and around this bai. Mbelli Bai also allows the unique opportunity to watch gorillas in their natural habitat and to learn more about their behaviour. Mbelli Bai also offers viewings of other species of mammals such as elephants, sitatunga, buffalo, red river hogs, otters, crocodiles, etc.

Best Season

The rainy season between July and November is the best time to visit the region. From February to June the level of water in the rivers Ndoki and Mbelli make access difficult. Mondika on the other hand is accessible for tracking lowland gorillas all the year.

Availability:

There is limited capacity at Mbelli Camp (8 beds only) and only 4 beds at Mondika for the gorilla trekking.

Visa:

Visas are required: double entry visa for Democratic Republic of Congo and a visa for Republic of Congo. These take time to get, it can feel stressful waiting on a slow process. We will help you with these.

Vaccinations

Yellow fever certificate needs to be presented on entry. Please seek advice from your travel clinic or GP on other recommended vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis.

Getting there

Access to Noubale Ndoki is from Brazzaville by plane and then motorized pirogue or boat and car. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday only we are able to fly to Ouessou in Northern Congo. From Ouessou we take the motorized pirogue to Bomassa WCS headquarters (about 5 to 6 hours). An overnight at Bomassa is necessary as we will arrive there as it gets dark. The next morning we drive to Ndoki river side for those of us going first to Mbelli or Djeki river side for those going first to Mondika.

- *From Ndoki River there is one hour by pirogue and then 20 minutes to the camp. The viewing platform is only a 30 minute walk from the camp.*
- *From Djeki River side we will trek for 3 hours to get to the Mondika tented camp. Only four beds are available. From there we track gorillas whose range is about 3 km to 6 km depending on the season and food availability.*

Summary Itinerary:

Day 1: Brazzaville – Ouesso – Bomassa

Day 2: Bomassa – Mbelli or Mondika

Today is a transfer day to Mbelli or Mondika. Depending on the size of the group, if more than four participants then we have to divide the group into two sub – groups as follows:

	Group A	Group B
Day 2	Transfer to Mbelli camp	Transfer to Mondika
Day 3	Mbelli Bai	Gorilla tracking in Mondika - only four permits per day
Day 4	Mbelli Bai	Gorilla tracking in Mondika - only four permits per day

Day 5: Today the two groups transfer sites, those in Mbelli transfer to Mondika and vice versa.

	Group B	Group A
Day 5	Transfer to Mbelli camp	Transfer to Mondika
Day 6	Mbelli Bai	Gorilla tracking in Mondika - only four permits per day
Day 7	Mbelli Bai	Gorilla tracking in Mondika - only four permits per day

Day 8: transfer to Bomassa

Day 9: Transfer to Ouesso

Day 10: flight to Brazzaville

Detailed Program

Day 1: Transfer to Bomassa (Nouabale Ndoki NP)

□ WCS guest house [L D]

Today we fly in the morning to Ouesso in northern Congo, a one hour flight. We hope to arrive in Ouesso around 12pm. We then board taxis to Hotel Mindingo for a quick snack before the pirogue. By 1pm we transfer to the local port, board our pirogue and depart to Bomassa on the Sangha River. This ride will take us 5 to 6 hours depending on the weather and the speed of the boat. We arrive in Bomassa around 8pm and spend the night. Dinner will be served by a WCS cook.

Day 2: Mbelli bai or Mondika

□ Mbelli camp [B L D] / Mondika Camp [B L D]

To have a great experience of everything Nouabale Ndoki has to offer we split our group into two groups for the next 6 days:

- *For those going to Mbelli Bai: they will drive for one hour through the buffer zone of the Park to Ndoki river side where they will meet with Mbelli camp staff who will take them by boat on the Ndoki River and then Mbelli River for one hour. There is then a walk for 30 minutes or so to Mbelli camp. Walking from Mbelli Camp to Mbelli Bai takes approximately 40minutes – there you will be able to observe the various wildlife from the hide located in the tree line. Mbelli Bai is several hundred metres in length covering an area of approx. 12 hectares; for this reason animal proximity varies so binoculars/spotting scopes/zoom lenses can be necessary.*
- *For those going to Mondika the car will drop them after a one hour drive to Djeki river side. They will be met here by the Mondika staff that will help with portering and guiding. There will be about a 3 hour walk. The track goes through a swamp for about 30 minutes so sandals and shorts are recommend. The rest of the walk is very nice in level forest. The group will arrive by midday at Mondika tented camp, get installed and have a shower, spending the rest of the day relaxing or having a walk around the camp. Overnight Mondika.*

Overnight:

Mbelli Camp: a basic camp with 4 bungalows (two beds per bungalow). No electricity, bush shower and long drop loop (B/L/D)

Mondika Camp: basic camp with tents (two beds per bungalow). No electricity, bush shower and long drop loop (B/L/D)

Group A**Group B**

Day 3	<i>Mbelli Bai: early breakfast 6h30am and walk to Mbelli Bai, spending all all day at the platform. Back to the camp around 4h30pm. Picnic lunch served at the platform. Main attraction is lowland gorillas but there's also the opportunity to see forest elephants, sitatunga, red river hog, buffalo, Brazza monkey, Colobus, otter, crocodiles, fishing eagle, etc</i>	<i>Early breakfast 6h30am and departure at 7am. Depending where the gorillas are the first group of two people goes with the research team to track the gorillas from the last place they spent the previous night until they find them and then stay with them one hour. They come back and then the next two people will go in and track the gorillas. Afternoon free at the camp or optional walk in the forest.</i>
Day 4	<i>Same program as Day 3.</i>	<i>Same program as Day 3.</i>

Day 5: *Today the various groups transfer – the Mbelli group transfer to Mondika and vice versa.*

Group B**Group A**

Day 6	<i>Mbelli Bai: early breakfast 6h30am and walk to Mbelli Bai, spending all all day at the platform. Back to the camp around 4h30pm. Picnic lunch served at the platform. Main attraction is lowland gorillas but there's also the opportunity to see forest elephants, sitatunga, red river hog, buffalo, Brazza monkey, Colobus, otter, crocodiles, fishing eagle, etc</i>	<i>Early breakfast 6h30am and departure at 7am. Depending where the gorillas are the first group of two people goes with the research team to track the gorillas from the last place they spent the previous night until they find them and then stay with them one hour. They come back and then the next two people will go in and track the gorillas. Afternoon free at the camp or optional walk in the forest.</i>
Day 7	<i>Same program as Day 6.</i>	<i>Same program as Day 6.</i>

Day 8: Mbelli Camp or Mondika – Bomassa

Today the two groups transfer back to Bomassa from their respective camp after 12pm and arrive by the end of the afternoon at Bomassa. Overnight WCS camp. [B L D]

Day 9: Bomassa - Ouesso

Late breakfast and transfer to Ouesso by boat where we arrive after 3 ½ hours boat ride. Immediate transfer to Hotel Mindongo for lunch. Overnight Mindongo Hotel.

Day10: Ouesso – Brazzaville

Late breakfast and transfer to Ouesso airport for our flight back to Brazzaville. Arrival in Brazzaville by mid-afternoon, transfer to Hotel Saphir for overnight.