

MOABI TENTED CAMP-LOPÉ | 5-Days

Experience Lopé National Park's Wonders!



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Day 1 - Arrival in Libreville

Night at the Radisson

Guests who do not arrive in time to take the train from Libreville to Lopé at 18h00 can spend the evening / night relaxing at the Radisson in Libreville.

Guests who do arrive in Libreville with enough time to take the train that night are welcome to request day rooms or city tours for the daytime while they are waiting for the train. The rest of this itinerary will be based upon the assumption that guests stay overnight in Libreville, because most do.

International Flights

We do not provide international flights. However, we can suggest the Airlines that work well: Air France, Ethiopian Airlines, and Turkish Airlines. Whichever airline you book yourself on, we will arrange for you to be collected from Libreville Leon Mba international airport on arrival for transfer to your hotel.

Relax and Prepare for your Adventure to Begin

The Radisson is our hotel of choice for our guests because it offers everything a first-time traveller to West Africa requires. Currency exchange can be done here. Card payments are accepted for dinner, drinks etc.





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Day 2 - Evening Departure for Lopé

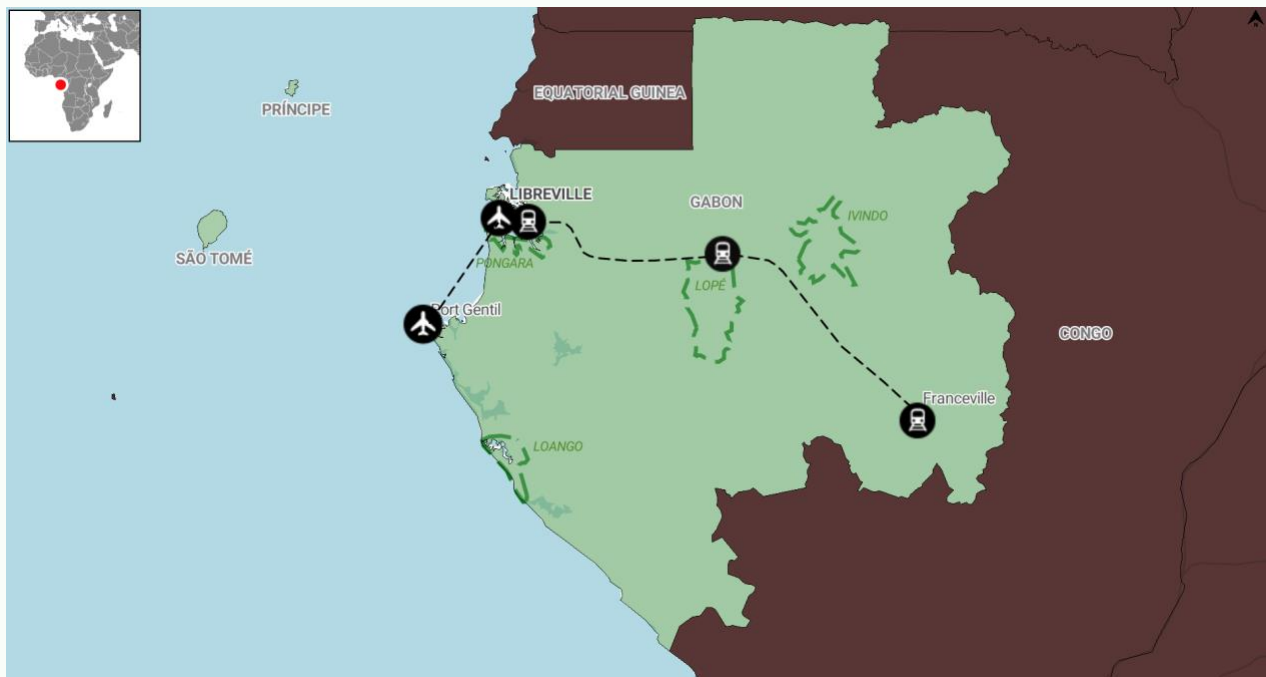
Relax or Take a City Tour

The overnight train to Lopé departs around 18h00. Guests therefore have a full day in Libreville. Relax in the hotel and fully charge your batteries or, there is the option to add-on a city tour to see the main attractions i.e. art museum, markets, St Michel's church, and more.

Evening Travel

After a day of relaxing or seeing the city's main attractions departure from Libreville's Owendo station will be around 18h00 with Transgabonais. You will be deposited at the station by 17h00.

The journey lasts around 7 hours. Bring a good book, darkness descends on Gabon at around 18h30 every evening so taking in scenery will not be an option for this part of the adventure.



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Day 3 - Lopé

Early morning arrival in Lopé

01h00 – 01h30 Arrival at Lopé Station, assuming that the train is on time. Western Africa rolls at its own pace so it is wise to arrive with the knowledge that time is definitely not of the essence here – relaxation comes without haste!

01h30 – 02h10 Arrive at Moabi tented camp, Lopé. You will be greeted, offered refreshments, and then escorted to your private tent quarters, lit by the luminous glow of paraffin lamps for a much sought-after rest after your long train journey.

A Bespoke Schedule

Morning Breakfast will be available at your leisure, served with glorious views of the mountains and rolling savannas that can finally be appreciated in the morning sunlight.

After breakfast, spend some time with your guides to make a rough itinerary for the day: 4x4 safaris & guided hikes will be on offer. This is an ideal time to explore the surroundings at a more relaxed pace to reserve energy for your adventures that await your next few days. A good option here is to take a short late morning hike behind camp and then a late afternoon safari drive, ending as the sun goes down over the mountains

In the evening there will be seasonal activities available: guided walks in search of pottos and galagos, and other nightlife, are available all year round.

Dine under the stars on grilled delicacies, with wine, at an elegant dining table; a setting where forest elephants, red river hogs or buffalos may also cross your path.



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Day 4 - Lopé

Mandrill Trek

After a full night's rest and breakfast under the backdrop of mountains and rolling savannas, you will depart the camp for your next adventure...mandrill trekking!

Head to the research station for a welcome briefing and safety talk, and then the search for the Mandrills with your guides will begin.



The Mandrills are not yet fully habituated so it is not possible to get as close to them as you can the gorillas in Loango National Park. Fret not though, there are individuals that are regularly tracked by researchers and guides via GPS trackers *and* this incredibly exciting adventure will take you on a journey to reach a subgroup of 150 – 300 individuals. A thrilling experience

to be in the rainforest, just 30 – 50 metres away from a large group of strikingly coloured primates, vocalising and moving all around you. This can involve trekking through the jungle with the Mandrills if they are travelling during your contact time. Your guides will stay with you to assist you in finding the best viewpoints and to keep you safe at all times.

This raw adventure normally lasts 4 to 6 hours, includes a picnic lunch by the river, and there is sometimes the opportunity to spend the evening at the research camp, dining with the staff to gain an in-depth insight into all of the past & present research carried out at the Lopé station.

After you have delved into the magical Mandrill world you will sleep easy in your tent back at Moabi camp, with a multitude of unforgettable memories from the day.

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Day 5 - Lopé

Mount Brazza Hike & Archaeological Sites

After you have recharged your batteries a bush breakfast will be waiting for you to enjoy, with uninterrupted views of what will be your next adventure: a hike to the top of Mount Brazza, named after the explorer Savorgnan de Brazza, whose European expedition was the first to arrive in Gabon in 1875. The ascent isn't especially strenuous, a somewhat quick but stiff hike, which takes 1 to 2 hours (dependant on fitness levels) to reach the antenna at the top.



Once at the top you will stand proud over expansive views of the Ogooué River and the forest-savanna patchwork of the park below. The pond at the foot of the mountain attracts numerous birds.

Your return will be via 2 of the archeological sites, which contain evidence of the passages of different peoples who left behind extensive and comparatively well-preserved remains of habitation around hilltops, caves and shelters, evidence of iron-working and a remarkable collection of some 1,800 petroglyphs (rock carvings). Impressively reflecting a major migration route of Bantu and other peoples from West Africa along the River Ogooué valley to the north of Congo forests and to central east and southern Africa, that has shaped the development of the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.

Time permitting there is the option for late afternoon drive with sundowners before dinner.

After dinner and packing, you will depart Moabi camp and head to Lopé train station for the overnight train to Libreville, with expected departure at around 01h30, and predicted arrival in Libreville at around 08h00.



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International Departure / Next Adventure

Morning arrival in Libreville

Your overnight train should arrive in Libreville at around 08h00. From here we can assist you in the next step of your journey. Whether it is to get to the airport for a flight, spend some time sight-seeing in the city, or relaxing in a hotel.

This itinerary works brilliantly for adding an overnight stop in Pongara because you can take the boat straight to the park once you arrive in Libreville.

If you want to travel onto Loango then you will need to wait until the following day and take the early morning Afrijet flight.

This Itinerary is intended as a rough guide for what guests can expect. Highlighting the logistics for travel between Libreville and Lopé.

Timing of Safaris can vary and specific wildlife sightings are not guaranteed.

Thank you for your business & do not hesitate to contact us at any time to discuss your trip.

Sincerely
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