

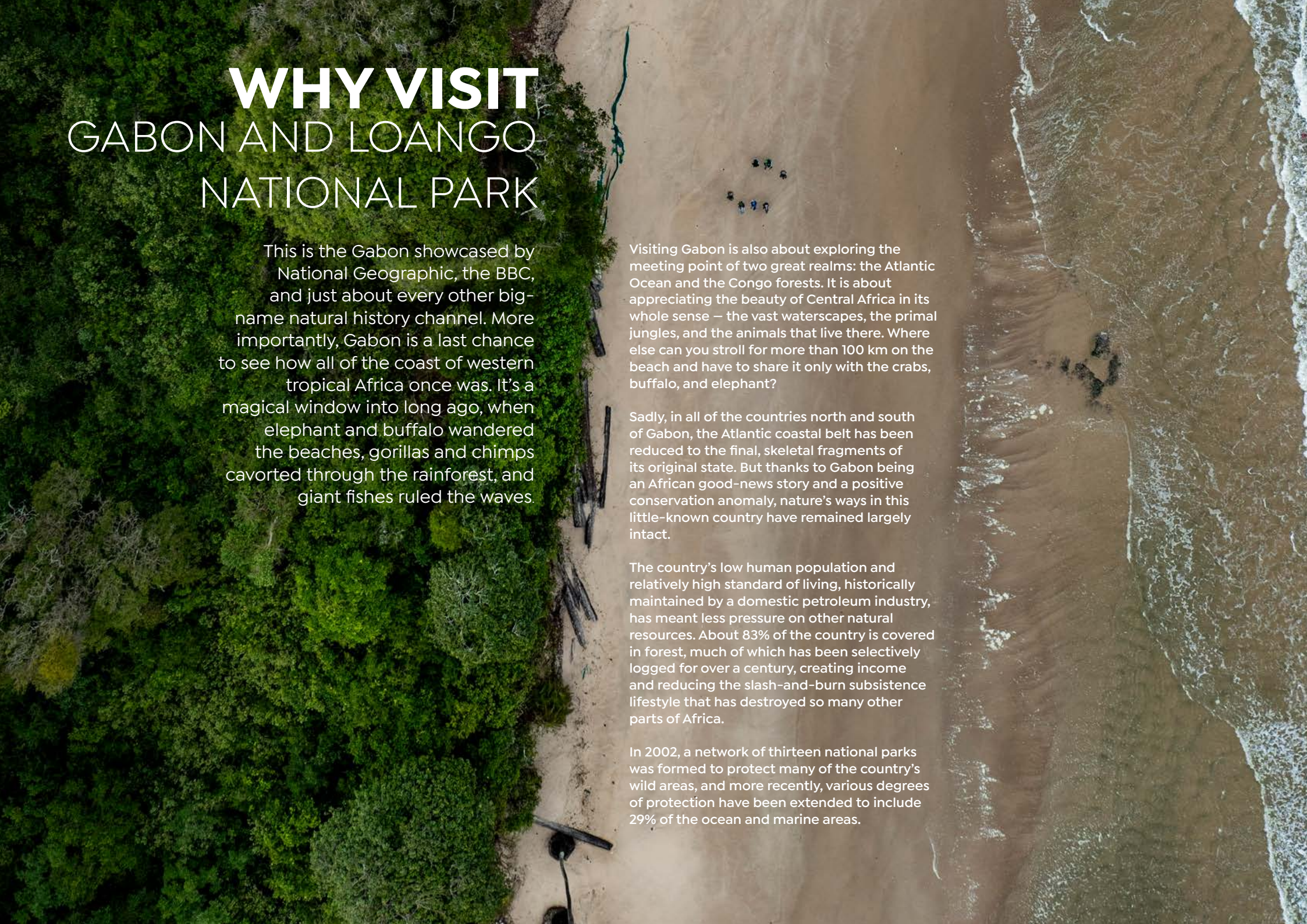


SETTE CAMA ECO CAMP

LOANGO NATIONAL PARK
GABON

GABON BROCHURE

SEASON: ALL YEAR | GROUP SIZE: 6-8 PAX



WHY VISIT GABON AND LOANGO NATIONAL PARK

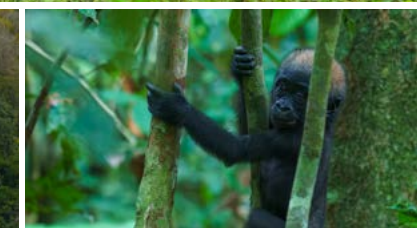
This is the Gabon showcased by National Geographic, the BBC, and just about every other big-name natural history channel. More importantly, Gabon is a last chance to see how all of the coast of western tropical Africa once was. It's a magical window into long ago, when elephant and buffalo wandered the beaches, gorillas and chimps cavorted through the rainforest, and giant fishes ruled the waves.

Visiting Gabon is also about exploring the meeting point of two great realms: the Atlantic Ocean and the Congo forests. It is about appreciating the beauty of Central Africa in its whole sense — the vast waterscapes, the primal jungles, and the animals that live there. Where else can you stroll for more than 100 km on the beach and have to share it only with the crabs, buffalo, and elephant?

Sadly, in all of the countries north and south of Gabon, the Atlantic coastal belt has been reduced to the final, skeletal fragments of its original state. But thanks to Gabon being an African good-news story and a positive conservation anomaly, nature's ways in this little-known country have remained largely intact.

The country's low human population and relatively high standard of living, historically maintained by a domestic petroleum industry, has meant less pressure on other natural resources. About 83% of the country is covered in forest, much of which has been selectively logged for over a century, creating income and reducing the slash-and-burn subsistence lifestyle that has destroyed so many other parts of Africa.

In 2002, a network of thirteen national parks was formed to protect many of the country's wild areas, and more recently, various degrees of protection have been extended to include 29% of the ocean and marine areas.



SETTE CAMA AND LOANGO NATIONAL PARK

Forming part of the protected area network, Loango National Park is a scenic, biodiverse, 1,550 km² mosaic of forests, many types of wetlands, grassy plains, mangroves, lagoons, and sandy beaches along the southern coast of Gabon.

Sette Cama Lodge offers small groups of guests the opportunity to intimately experience the unique, varied, and intact ecosystems of the southern region of Loango National Park, from Petit Loango to Sette Cama. While some activities are boat and vehicle-based, most are centred around guided walks where guests may encounter forest wildlife like common chimpanzee, western lowland gorilla, red river hog, forest (western) sitatunga, leopard, and numerous forest duiker and monkey species, along with the unique experience of forest elephant and forest buffalo sightings on the beach.

The full mammal count for the area is around 65 species (a mammal list is available on request).

For those with more specialised interests, hiding amongst the botanical richness – spanning everything from tiny carnivorous plants to rainforest giants – there are whole microcosms of reptiles, frogs, freshwater fishes, insects, spiders, and more to be explored.

Gabon also offers some of the best inshore, saltwater fishing in the world, and Sette Cama can cater for many fishing interests, all within a sustainable, environmentally sensitive manner. Regardless of whether a guest is a veteran global angler or a first-timer, the team at Sette Cama can put them on the fishing action.

ABOUT US

SETTE CAMA ECO CAMP

LOANGO NATIONAL PARK
GABON

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR

At Sette Cama Lodge we focus on creating a nature experience that allows our guests the best chance to take in the essence of this very special destination. We want our guests to feel deeply, not just see the surface.

Our philosophy for every aspect of the guest experience centres on connecting guests with the surroundings. Camp design, daily activities, and quiet times are built around being immersive, grounded in nature, and maintaining that contact throughout the visit.

We are not purveyors of luxury living, though we will endeavour to provide as much comfort as is economically feasible and practical given the complexities of limited human resources and logistical constraints.

Our utmost goal is to create interpretive, in-depth experiences that captivate, enthrall, fascinate, and inspire our guests, in the hope that they will return home positively changed – with new knowledge and perspective, and a desire to live better.

One of the deciding factors in choosing the areas where Occidental Safari establishes operations is whether our presence can make a positive difference through contributing revenues to conservation management costs and to local communities through employment and benefaction structures. We do not take this lightly, and our guests can rest easy in the knowledge that their visit plays a part in a greater good.



MACHABA SAFARIS

VISIT WWW.MACHABASAFARIS.COM
FOR FURTHER INFO EMAIL ENQUIRIES@MACHABASAFARIS.COM



SYNOPSIS

DESTINATION:

Sette Cama, Loango National Park (South), coastal Gabon, western Central Africa

SEASONALITY:

There is no bad time to visit coastal Gabon – the emphasis just changes between the October–April rainy season and the May–September dry season. The best season for photography is the rainy season, as there's good light and sunshine between short bouts of heavy rain. The dry season has lots of low cloud and 'grey/flat' light.

DURATION:

Nights can be booked on an ad-hoc basis, but we suggest seven nights on location based on our weekly charter flights in and out of camp. Various add-ons are available to explore other highlights of Loango National Park, gorilla trekking, or Moukalaba Doudou National Park.

TRIP ITINERARY:

Set departures are based on a Thursday to Thursday itinerary in accordance with weekly private charter flights. Ad-hoc options available. Detailed itineraries, safari add-ons, and available dates will be confirmed per enquiry.

ACCOMMODATION:

Comfortable, shared, en-suite rooms on location. Private rooms in small hotels while in transit.

SECURITY AND RISKS:

Gabon is a politically stable country with no history of war or significant civil unrest. Malaria is present. Dangerous game is present in the wildlife areas, but encounters are usually relaxed.

CLIMATE AND COMFORT:

The coastal climate is very comfortable by equatorial standards. Daytime temperatures are typically 22–29 °C during the warm, rainy season (with high humidity), and 18–29 °C during the cooler, dry season. For forest walks, the coastal rainforest has a very open, park-like understory, the ground is flat and soft, and there are very few thorns and biting bugs.

FITNESS AND SUITABILITY:

Although activities can be tailored to guests' fitness levels, the Sette Cama experience is best suited to guests who are walking-fit, enjoy being on foot, and don't mind getting a little dirty. Many activities involve medium to longer-distance walks. The ideal guest is the amateur naturalist or traveller with an above-average interest in coastal, tropical rainforest environments. Occidental Safari cannot cater for guests seeking a luxury, vehicle-based safari.

GROUP SIZE:

Ideally suited to 6–8 guests.



THE EXPERIENCE

CAMP DETAILS

Lying in a clearing in the coastal scrub forest, the rustic Sette Cama Lodge 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 at standard times and/or as when suites the particular guest program. Sette Cama Lodge'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. Communication with the outside world is via intermittent cellular network, but which generally works for applications like WhatsApp. There's a satellite phone for emergencies in the event of other communications networks failing.

ACTIVITIES

Through close interaction with Nature combined with explanation and interpretation by the guides, Sette Cama strives to provide guests with rich, indelible experiences of Gabon. Activities will always be accompanied by at least one guide. The recommended activities program is designed to give our guests the 'whole package' but it can be adjusted to cater for specific interests. All of the following are possible, as half-day, full-day, and in some cases, multi-day excursions.

ACTIVITIES

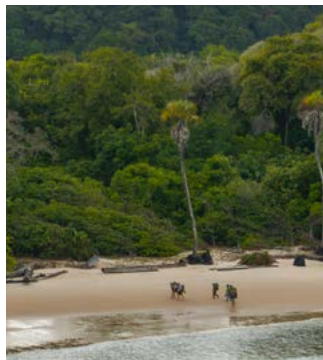


FOREST WALKS (YEAR ROUND):

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 few hours to a few days. Full-day walks can include a picnic and siesta, which is a great way to enjoy more of the sounds and smells.

BEACH WALKS (YEAR ROUND):

Beach walks in Gabon 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, but there's also the chance for other exciting encounters such as seeing forest sitatunga, crab-hunting red river hogs and red-capped mangabeys (a monkey species), cruising bull sharks, and the very rare Atlantic humpback dolphin, etc., plus, from June to September, breaching humpback whales (in the distance). As animal movements and behaviour varies along the coast at different times of the day, doing at least one full-day walk with a picnic, optional swims, and a siesta is recommended.



SEARCHING FOR SURFING HIPPOS (YEAR ROUND):

The Loango coast is probably most famous for its population of 'surfing' hippos. These hippos are totally at home in the ocean and one's best chances of seeing them in the waves is to walk the beach at dawn as the hippos use the sea and currents to move between their night-time feeding and daytime resting areas.

BIRDING (YEAR-ROUND, BEST FROM OCTOBER TO JANUARY):

The bird life is rich and varied, but as with other forest animals, most birds require searching for. Bird-watching sorties to a large variety of habitats are by foot, boat, or vehicle. For the hardcore birders there are the 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, etc. For the folks who just enjoy the colourful and the charismatic, there's many kingfisher species, Palm-nut Vulture, (African) Grey Parrot, Great Blue Turaco, Blackcasqued Hornbill, etc. The bird species count is at 355, a species list is available on request.



LAGOON EXCURSIONS (YEAR ROUND):

There's an endless number of quiet nooks and crannies on the 487 km² 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.

KAYAKING (YEAR ROUND):

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

NIGHT-DRIVES FOR THE TINY SPECIALS (YEAR-ROUND):

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, galagos, etc

SPORTFISHING (YEAR-ROUND, BEST FROM OCTOBER TO APRIL):

The inshore fishing in Gabon is world renowned and the best of its kind on Earth today. Occidental Safari has more than twenty years sportfishing experience in Gabon and whether one is an experienced angler or never held a fishing rod before but would like to try, there's a thrill waiting for whoever wets a line. The fishing is either from the beach or in the lagoon from a boat and varies from fly fishing to casting lures or natural baits for everything from monster bull sharks to Atlantic tarpon and all manner of other species unique to the Eastern Tropical Atlantic, like giant African threadfin, African cubera snapper, Guinean barracuda, longfin jack, Senegal kob, etc. The fishing is largely catch and release and follows strict, best-practice protocols. All fishing tackle can be provided.

OVERNIGHTING IN THE FOREST (YEAR-ROUND):

The rainforest by night is an otherworldly place. The background sounds are wild and at times the dark air is heavy with the constant calls of insects, frogs, bats and much unexplained rustling, 'snaps' and thuds.

Guests can undertake a two-day forest hike, carrying ultralight tents/hummocks, sleeping gear and food, and head out on an adventure that will be the source of many stories down the line.

CROCODILES (YEAR-ROUND, BEST FROM SEPTEMBER TO MAY):

Three, and maybe four, species of African crocodile occur in the area with the African dwarf crocodile and West African crocodile being common in and around Sette Cama. Night-time boat trips to look for and get up very close to these crocs is an experience that will be somewhat out of the ordinary for many.

SEA TURTLE NESTING (NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY):

Four species of turtle breed along the Loango coastline, including the impressively monstrous leather-back. Nighttime walks along the beach during the nesting season can be arranged to look for nesting and hatching turtles.

GAME DRIVES YEAR-ROUND, BEST FROM SEPTEMBER TO MAY

The southern region of Loango National Park has no standard- vehicle access (hence most activities in the park are on-foot or waterborne), but there are areas outside of the park with a road network that do have wildlife, albeit more shy than that encountered in the park. Drives in this area can at times encounter especially forest elephant and forest buffalo, while sightings of chimps and gorillas crossing the broad grassy prairies that separate the forest mosaic are not rare. Of course, it goes without saying that there is always a chance for the sighting of any of the other wildlife. These game drives serve well for sundowners

BOTANY (YEAR-ROUND):

Coastal Gabon is part of the Guineo-Congolian centre of endemism for plants and the rate of plant endemism in Gabon is 12% higher than in neighbouring countries. Plants play a very important part in the indigenous cultures of Gabon, which is why many of the local guides are very accomplished amateur botanists able to identify a great number of the plants and relate their characteristics and significance.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES (YEAR-ROUND):

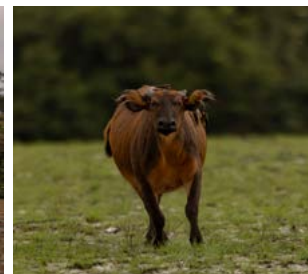
The Loango coastline has a long history of human settlement and guests can be shown a number of archaeological sights ranging in age from the early Stone Age, through Bantu settlement and leading up to the colonial era.

SUNDOWNERS:

At Sette Cama the sun sets into the sea, and come late afternoon, a five minute walk brings one to the beach where there's the option to take a dip in the waves and enjoy a drink while savouring the day's end. The evening sky is often an exploding, mind-blowing 'cloud-o-scope' of glowing colours. And for those who want, the camp staff can set up a surfcasting rod in the hopes of catching a few fish.

FLY CAMPING:

Depending on availability and season, there is the option for guests to spend a few nights in very basic fly camps that lie in the epicentre of wildlife activity zones.



SAFARI ADD-ONS:

A multi camp approach through Loango National Park. Transcending loango national park and habituated gorilla experience

For guests wanting a near-guaranteed close-up experience with researcher-habituated western lowland gorillas (similar to that offered in Rwanda for mountain gorillas), there is the following option. This add on option is highly recommended, as it allows each guest the rare and unique experience of transcending the Loango National Park from South to North, on foot and boats. This adventure in itself is unique and wonderful - and well worth the trip. Having the habituated gorilla experience serves as the icing on the cake and is a fitting culmination of ones' journey of discovery through this incredible wildness. The extension of your trip further contributes to Gabon Parcs and ultimately the conservation of this amazing ecosystem. Please enquire for a detailed itinerary and recommended activities for this experience.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

- **Passport:** All visitors require a valid passport with at least 6 months validity. Visas for a stay of less than 30 days are not necessary for all G20 passport holders. For guests requiring a visa, our office will arrange your visa on your behalf.
- **Inoculations:** Valid yellow fever inoculations are required, guests must please enquire with their local travel clinics. Note, Gabon is a malaria area.
- **Time:** GMT+1
- **Language:** French is spoken by just about everybody, English is rare.
- **Communication:** Intermittent cell phone reception
- **Terms And Conditions:** African Waters Terms and Conditions apply. It is compulsory for guests to take out comprehensive medical/travel insurance prior to travel.





MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

Any visitor to Gabon should keep in-mind that the country has only a fledgling tourism industry, every- one is still learning and that includes the wildlife, which is largely unhabituated to humans. The birds and mammals are typically forest-bound and dispersed and need to be actively looked for. So rather than expecting sightings on a platter, guests should come envisaging fewer encounters but in an intimate setting. In other words, time in the field in Gabon is about the quality of the overall experience rather than the quantity of wildlife sighted.

Gabon's tourism industry is in its infancy, so there are some aspects of the tourism dynamic that may be lacking in comparison with established tourism countries.

A guest in Gabon might need to be understanding at times as well as to see themselves as somewhat of a pioneer in the exciting process of growing Nature-based tourism and its contribution to conservation.

PRICING



COST IN US\$ PER PERSON SHARING, PER DAY INCLUDING ACTIVITIES:

Nightly rate in camp = 500 US\$ PPPN

DEPOSITS:

A 50% deposit is required to secure a reservation with the balance to be paid twelve (12) weeks prior to departure.

Price Includes

- All accommodation (shared) at Sette Cama Lodge
- Local guides
- All transport ex-Gamba
- All meals in camp
- Occidental Safari representatives for meet and greet, and coordinating
- in-transit transfers and accom- modations services
- All activities outlined in the itinerary

Price Excludes

- International airfares.
- Visas
- Return air travel from Libreville to Gamba via scheduled charter (LBV - POG - GAX - return) = approx 1100US\$ PP
- Road Transfers
- All drinks
- Gratuities
- National Park daily entry fees and taxes (54 € PPPD)
- In-transit accommodation, meals, taxis, and activities
- Satellite phone use & Wifi data charges
- Items of a personal nature

TERMS & CONDITIONS

INSURANCE

Comprehensive travel, medical, baggage, money and cancellation insurance are compulsory on all African Waters tours. This is the clients' own responsibility and should be arranged in your country of origin, when you book your tour.

MEDICAL EVACUTATION

It is imperative that all clients have adequate travel and medical insurance that includes medical evacuation from point of injury. We strongly recommend you obtain this through Global Rescue - <http://www.globalrescue.com/africanwaters/> who are world leaders and are strongly linked with the fishing travel industry. You can sign up using the link provided or request the sign up form in PDF format from African Waters.

CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

A non-refundable deposit of 50% is due within 10 days of booking for all trip packages and reservations, and final payment is due 90 days prior to arrival. All trip cancellations must be received in writing. Both deposits and final payments are non-refundable. If a cancelled package is resold by African Waters, then a full refund will be sent minus a 10% per person cancellation fee. In the case of cancellation by the client, both deposit and final payment may be transferred to another guest or angler for those same (original) dates if facilitated and arranged by the client. If no replacement is found, the following cancellation terms will apply:

- For cancellations outside of 180 days from the start of trip date, a 90% credit (will be issued for a trip to be rescheduled within one year from original trip date.
- For cancellations made 179 to 90 days from the start of trip date, a 50% credit will be issued for a trip to be rescheduled within one year from original trip date.
- For cancellations inside of 90 days from arrival date, all payments will be forfeited, and no credit will be issued.

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS OBTAINED WITH YOUR TRAVEL INSURANCE POLICY AT TIME OF BOOKING

AFRICAN WATERS TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY, PLEASE REQUEST A COPY IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THEM. IT IS COMPULSORY FOR CLIENTS TO HAVE COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL/MEDICAL INSURANCE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

