

SETTE CAMA ECO CAMP

LOANGO NATIONAL PARK
GABON

ACTIVITIES AT SETTE CAMA ECO CAMP

	Rainforest Walks Learn to speak rainforest while tracking un-habituated western lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, red river hogs, rare duikers and other primates.
	Coastal Trails Spot forest elephants, forest buffaloes & red river hogs on the coastline while searching out surfing hippos and sea turtles in the shallows.
	Boat Explorations Explore Ndogo Lagoon's 50,000 hectares of mangroves, islands, and birdlife by boat.
	Coastal Camp-Outs Embark on a Point Milongo overnight to look for surfing hippos at dawn, hiking deeper into the park for an immersive forest experience.
	Kayaking Discover the calls of the rainforest from the water, whether distant primates or resident birdlife.
	Nocturnal Boat Cruises Meet the night time residents of Sette Cama, from water chevrotain to Pel's fishing owls and dwarf crocodiles.
	Wildlife Monitoring Uncover the secrets of Gabon's rainforest through camera-trapping and contribute to scientific efforts to document Sette Cama's biodiversity and wildlife.
	Turtle Monitoring (Nov - Mar) Scout for nesting activity along the shoreline, assist with nest relocation and monitor hatchlings at our sea turtle nursery.
	Ethnobotanical Excursions Learn about Gabon's rich plant life and human history.
	Birding Over 395 recorded species, including specials such as Vermiculated fishing owl, white-crested tiger heron, Loango weaver, rosy bee eater & African river martin
	Sundowners Enjoy evening campfires on the beach, or wait by Ndogo Lagoon's islands as hundreds of black casqued hornbills & african grey parrots roost at sunset.

ABOUT SETTE CAMA ECO CAMP

Sette Cama Eco Camp lies in a coastal forest clearing at the southern reaches of Loango National Park, Gabon.

A short track from camp leads to Sette Cama's remote, uninhabited coastline where forest elephants and sitatunga roam the beach.

Half an hour away by boat, the Ndogo Lagoon meets wild Atlantic Coast at one of the last remaining undisturbed estuary mouths in Africa.

Rainforest trails offer the chance to track un-habituated great apes on foot under the dense forest canopy, together with other primates, mammals and birdlife.

Coastal trails contrast completely with the forest, where isolated beaches become the playground of surfing hippos, forest buffaloes and red river hogs, with seasonal visits from sea turtles and humpback whales.



Entering this totally wild environment is a lesson in learning to speak rainforest - from interpreting the calls of wild chimpanzees, to discovering the cultural and medicinal uses of flora for humans and wildlife alike.

Sette Cama is a living window into tropical Africa's wild past. Where rainforest, lagoon and coastline are home to more forest elephants, great apes, hippos and sea turtles than humans. Our explorations are active and immersive, for a true sense of the disappearing wilderness that once covered most of tropical Africa's coastline.



VIEW SETTE CAMA ECO CAMP IMAGES



MACHABA SAFARIS

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SÃO TOMÉ
AND PRÍNCIPE



CAMP FACILITIES

- Accommodation: Four Meru Tents raised on wooden decks, en-suite, air-conditioned.
- Main Area: Dining room, lounge, bar, and deck surrounded by coastal forest.
- Meals: Set-menu dining featuring fresh, locally caught fish
- Communication: Intermittent cellular reception and WiFi. Satellite phone for emergencies.
- Electricity: Generator-powered
- Children: Recommended for adventurous families with walking-fit children 12 years & over only.
- Group Size: 6–8 guests ideal

WHAT TO PACK?

- Lightweight neutral clothing for walks (avoid bright colours).
- Lightweight rain jacket.
- Rainproof over-trousers
- Warm layers for mornings and evenings.
- Good shoes suitable long walks and wading in water (tevas or crocs work well)
- Binoculars and camera equipment essential.

A 20 kgs checked luggage plus 5 kgs hand luggage limit applies per person for scheduled flights in/out of Gamba. Luggage must be packed in soft bags.



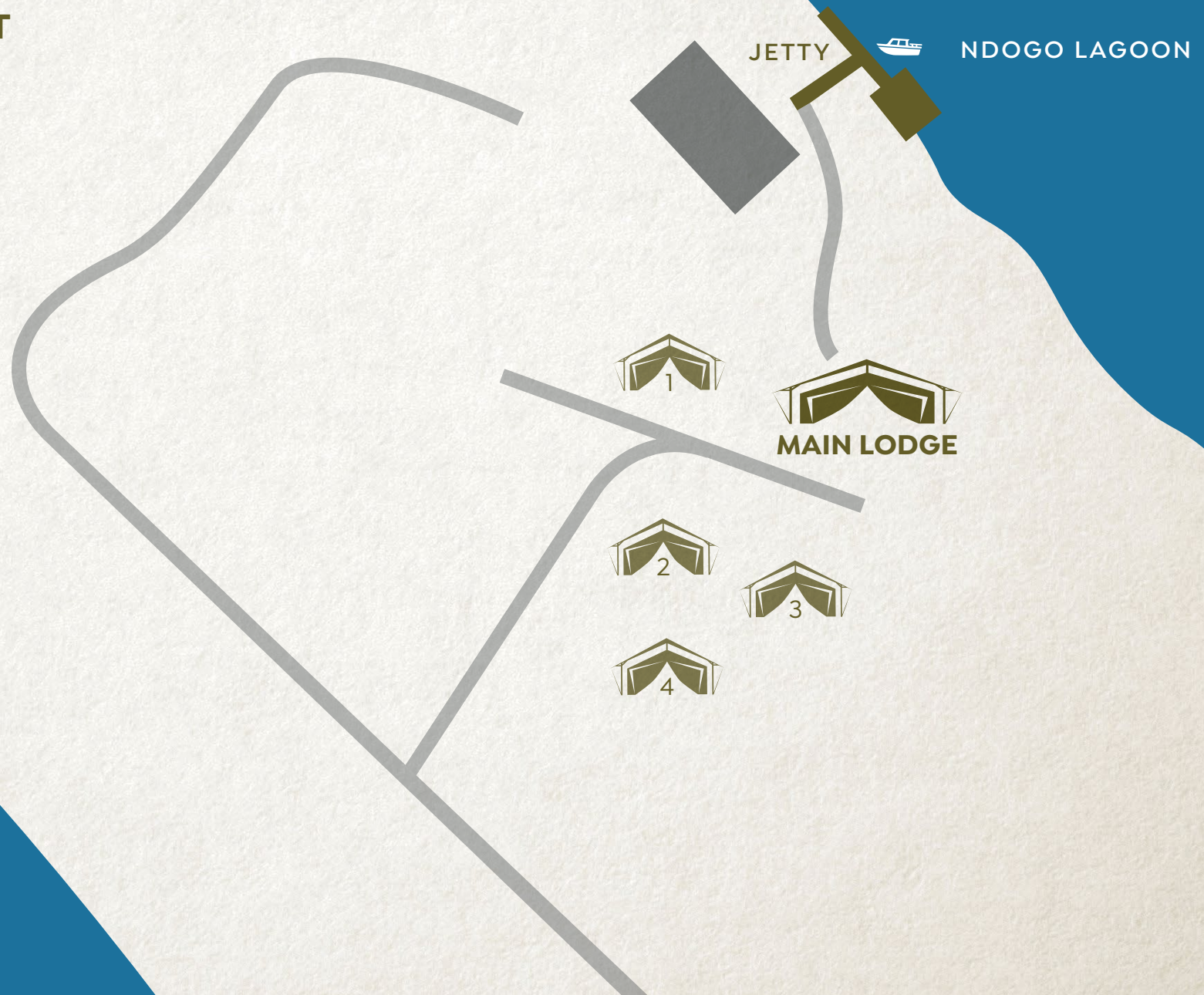
WHERE IS SETTE CAMA ECO CAMP LOCATED?

On the southern edge of Loango National Park, where Ndogo Lagoon's estuary connects rainforest with un-inhabited coastline.

Accessible via charter flights from Libreville to Gamba, followed by a one hour boat transfer into camp.



SETTE CAMA LAYOUT



ATLANTIC OCEAN

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Sette Cama Eco Camp isn't built around the rhythm of a 'typical' week. Out here, the pace is set by nature itself - shaping what you'll do and when.

Explorations adapt to environmental shifts and how your guide sees this changing the routine of wildlife, along with the clues left behind by them to follow.

Together with your guide, you'll read the tracks, the sounds and the silences - and follow them deeper into Loango's wilderness.

What you can expect is contrast over certainty: different landscapes to discover, varied ways of exploring them, and the chance encounters that bring the forest and lagoon to life.

The outline that follows is a glimpse of Sette Cama's highlights and the experiences we'll weave into your week. Think of it as a guide to what makes certain places worth lingering in - or experiencing more than once.

DAY ONE Thursday	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
		Early morning flight Libreville to Gamba.
		Boat transfer (approx 1 hr) into Sette Cama Eco Camp
		Lunch in camp
DAY TWO Friday	Afternoon activity	Afternoon boat exploration of the Ndogo Lagoon's estuary and mangroves
	Sundowner location	Sundowners on the coast near camp
	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
		Early morning wake-up call & breakfast
DAY THREE Saturday		Short boat transfer to rainforest trailhead
		Rainforest walk (3-5 hours) including camera trapping, reading spoor and morning tea out on the trail
		Return to camp for lunch & siesta
	Afternoon activity	Afternoon boat exploration in the back bays of Ndogo Lagoon
DAY FOUR Sunday	Sundowner location	Sundowners by the lagoon's islands
		Sea turtle nursery visit & conservation talk
		Dinner

DAY ONE Thursday	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
		Morning boat transfer to lagoon back bays
		Kayaking Ndogo lagoon (3-5 hours) looking for birdlife with morning tea on the water
		Lunch in camp
DAY TWO Friday		Overnight bag preparation during siesta
	Afternoon activity	Mid afternoon boat transfer to estuary mouth
		Walk to Point Milongo (approx 1.5hrs)
		Afternoon swimming on the coast, scouting the coastline for wildlife
DAY THREE Saturday	Sundowner location	Sundowners and campfire at Point Milongo
	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
		Early wake-up for 5:30am departure for 1hr approx walk north along the coastline
		Dawn arrival at coastal lagoons to look for surfing hippos
DAY FOUR Sunday		Morning tea in hammocks on the beach
		Further two hour walk (approx) on a rainforest trail
		Boat transfer back to camp for lunch
	Afternoon activity	Afternoon game drive south of Sette Cama for swimming on the coast and sundowners in the plains looking for resident bird life & mammals
DAY FIVE Monday		Dinner in camp



DAY FIVE Monday	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
		Morning boat transfer to rainforest trailhead
		Rainforest walk tracking primates, duikers and looking for signs of great apes (approx 12 kms / 3 - 4 hrs)
		Rainforest immersion hammock stop with morning tea
		Return to camp for lunch & siesta
	Afternoon activity	Afternoon boat cruise around Soungha Bay with kayaking in the saltmarsh, water levels permitting
	Sundowner location	Sundowners and campfire at the estuary mouth
		Nocturnal boat exploration back to camp
		Dinner in camp
		Morning turtle patrol along the coastline looking for fresh turtle nesting activity
DAY SIX Tuesday		Morning picnic brunch in the coastal forest and ocean swimming
		Return to camp for lunch & siesta
	Afternoon activity	Visit to local plantation with a focus on medicinal plants and challenges to subsistence farming in Gabon, including human wildlife conflict
	Sundowner location	Sundowners on the water
		A night time boat cruise or forest walk in search of Sette Cama's nocturnal residents followed by dinner

DAY SEVEN Wednesday	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
		Morning boat transfer to rainforest trailhead
		Rainforest walk to track primates and collect camera trapping data (approx 10 kms / 3 hrs)
		Rainforest immersion hammock stop with morning tea
		Kayak back to camp for lunch
DAY EIGHT	Afternoon activity	Siesta review of camera trap data and findings
		Boat cruise to Ndogo Lagoon islands for ethnobotanical walk, searching for red capped mangabeys hunting crabs in the mangroves en route
	Sundowner location	Sundowners at bird island
		Dinner and Great Ape research project chat
DAY EIGHT		Breakfast in camp
		Depart

POINT MILONGO SLEEP OUT

Pack an overnight bag during siesta and depart from camp mid-afternoon for a short boat transfer through the estuary. On your 30 minute transfer to the estuary mouth where the coastal trailhead begins, we'll spot herons, kingfishers and bee-eaters from the water. Once on foot, the 1.5 hr walk (approx.) along the coastline offers the chance of seeing elusive forest sitatunga and forest elephants on the beach.

We'll reach Point Milongo in the late afternoon to set up camp under the milkwood trees from where we have the perfect vantage point over the coastline to the north. Time along the beach here gives us the chance for a swim in the Atlantic Ocean, or downtime in hammocks watching with binoculars for a glimpse of forest buffaloes or red river hogs in the distance. From August to October, we may even catch migrating humpback whales offshore before enjoying dinner and a campfire before bed.

An early wake-up call gives us the chance to start our walk at 5:30am, heading north for about an hour to the lagoons along the coastline. From June to September, we have a chance of finding red river hogs hunting ghost crabs on the beach. We'll hang hammocks between the palm trees on the coast and wait – hoping to catch hippos in the surf as they move south along the coast from their nocturnal feeding grounds. If we're lucky, we'll catch the hippos as they emerge from the ocean and make their way across the beach to the lagoons. After a bit of time to relax on the coast and enjoy tea and coffee, we'll continue on foot into the rainforest.

The next two hours gives us the chance to pick up on any calls from great apes and primates or just enjoy the sounds and tracks of the rainforest before emerging at Ndogo lagoon for pick-up by boat. We'll arrive back in camp for lunch.

RAINFOREST WALKS

We explore the rainforest trails of Sette Cama and the Loango National Park in the early morning. This gives us the best chance of picking up tracks and signs of primates who are most active in the earlier hours of the day. The rainforest ecosystem plays host to a variety of mammals we may encounter on foot, from red river hogs foraging to forest buffaloes, forest elephants, and four species of duiker. The birds of the forest are always present too, whether black headed bee eaters in sandy clearings, or white crested hornbills following primates through the canopy.

Depending on what signs we encounter along the way, our walks may average 8 to 12 kms over 3 to 5 hours. We'll enjoy breaks while walking to read the signs around us, listen for sounds and enjoy tea and coffee under the canopy.

During the week, we'll take the opportunity on some of these walks for a 'rainforest immersion' – hanging up hammocks and providing chance to eavesdrop on the conversations being had by birdlife and primates around us.

On your walks towards the beginning and end of the week, the chance to partake in setting up camera traps and to download captured images of wildlife assists with scientific data collection, and a better understanding of Sette Cama's residents.





BOAT EXPLORATIONS

Ndogo Lagoon's estuary, channels and bays comprise one of the largest un-disturbed wetland ecosystems of its kind in Africa. The lagoon's 50,000 hectares cannot be fully explored with just one boat exploration. The waterways are expansive, favoured by many different species of birds, mammals and marine life.

As forest walks are most productive for wildlife sightings in the mornings, your explorations of Sette Cama's waterways are more likely to happen in the evenings and afternoon, providing a relaxing exploration after mornings spent exploring on foot.

Boat excursions provide the chance to spot birdlife such as Great blue turacos, palm nut vultures, several species of kingfishers (including giant, shining blue, pied and malachite), resident pods of hippos, and primates by the water's edge.

In the wet season, the chances of spotting forest elephants while on a boat in the estuary increase dramatically, and most forest walks will begin with a boat transfer to Sette Cama's trail heads.

Sundowners by the lagoon's islands can provide sightings of hundreds of black-casqued hornbills, great blue turacos and African grey parrots coming in to roost for the evening. From November to March, boat explorations may also include access to remote stretches of beach to monitor sea turtle nesting activity, including leatherback, green, hawksbill and olive ridley turtles.



NOCTURNAL BOAT CRUISES

The Sette Cama ecosystems are so diverse, that limiting explorations to the day time reveals only part of the picture of which species call the lagoon and rainforest home.

Nocturnal boat cruises at Sette Cama usually begin with a campfire on the beach at the estuary mouth, or a sundowner elsewhere on the water with time to watch the sun go down. Exploring for at least an hour by boat at night allows the nocturnal species to reveal themselves by the water's edge. Possible sightings include dwarf and slender snouted crocodiles, water chevrotain, and if we're lucky, Pel's or vermiculated fishing owl. Even Forest Elephants may be bolder in their movements by the water under the cover of darkness, allowing you to witness their changes in behaviour once the sun goes down.

KAYAKING

Exploring the Ndogo Lagoon by kayak allows the sounds of the rainforest to come alive, unimpeded by the sound of a boat's motor. Getting closer to where the rainforest meets the water's edge allows for closer sightings of smaller species such as African finfoot, and dwellers of the forest canopy, from great blue turacos to a multitude of primates. Exploring by kayak creates the opportunity for the water's surface to amplify the calls of the rainforest, with the potential to hear distant communications of Great Apes and see under the forest canopy in a way that's not as possible on foot.

TURTLE NESTING MONITORING

Gabon is home to the largest nesting population of leatherback turtles in the world who come ashore from November to March annually to lay clutches of eggs. While Sette Cama's coastline is incredibly remote and should provide a haven for leatherback hatchlings, nesting success is impacted by predation from monitor lizards, beached trees carried in by ocean currents, and litter that arrives from elsewhere in the world to Sette Cama's remote coastline. From Nov - March, turtle nesting patrols may be scheduled from camp to assess fresh nesting sites, and relocate clutches of eggs to our 'sea turtle nursery' to increase their chances of survival. 60 to 70 days later, eggs start to hatch, creating the opportunity to check relocated nests and release hatchlings to the ocean from January to April. Patrols may be done along the coast, and where necessary, boat access may be provided via the estuary to cross the coastal forest and patrol the beach on foot. As this time of year also coincides with a large amount of wildlife on Gabon's coast, there is a chance of seeing forest sitatunga, forest buffaloes or forest elephants while out on turtle patrol. On warmer days, turtle patrols may include a beach picnic and swim in the surf.

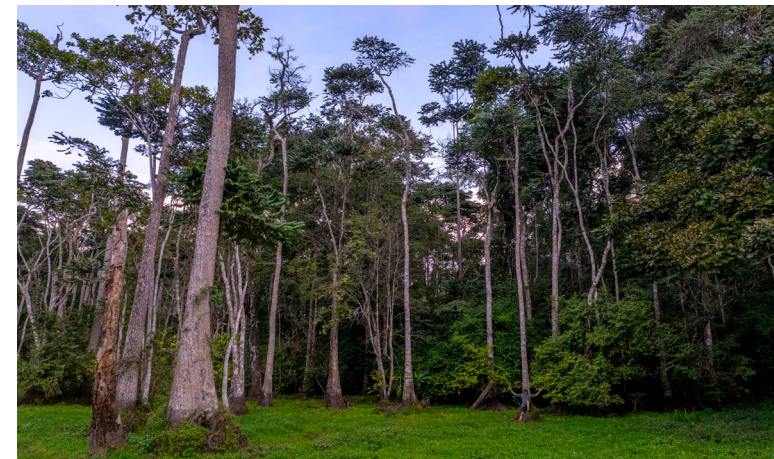


BIRDING

Over 395 species of birds have been recorded in Loango National Park, many of which are resident year-round. While boating from Gamba to Sette Cama, the chances of spotting palm nut vultures are high, with many species of kingfishers seen frequently in the lagoon: pied, shining blue, malachite & giant. Great blue turacos are often seen high in the canopies by the water, and huge flocks of African grey parrots are an incredibly special - yet consistent - sighting in the area. White-crested tiger heron and Hartlaub's duck are worth keeping an eye out for on the water, and nocturnal boat explorations may even reveal Pel's and vermiculated fishing owls. On forest walks, open sandy clearings may reveal black headed bee eaters with black guinea fowl and Latham's forest francolin seen occasionally. Black-casqued and white-crested hornbills can be frequently spotted while walking in the forest as well. For true birding enthusiasts October through to November marks the start of the breeding season for thousands of African river martins and rosy bee eaters which become easy to observe as they begin nesting. In August & September when the milkwood trees are fruiting, flocks of hundreds of African grey parrots can be seen in the trees - especially while sleeping out at Point Milongo. From September to October, most bird species are in their breeding season, making them a lot more vocal, and easier to locate in denser vegetation. For birding, kayaking is the perfect way to approach birds on the water at closer distances without disturbing them, such as Hartlaub's duck, African finfoot and malachite kingfisher. During the wet season, kayaking on the salt marsh is possible when flooded, to catch storks, herons and kingfishers while they look for food.

ETHNO-BOTANICAL EXCURSIONS

Loango National Park's rainforest has an overwhelming wealth of biodiversity. The flora in the rainforest has its own story to tell, from the plants that Great Apes use to medicate, to tree saps that can be re-purposed as firelighters or used for pharmaceutical benefits. Learn about the plant roots used in traditional bwiti ceremonies, trees that live symbiotically with ants, and how chimpanzees beat the buttress roots of the forest's tallest trees like a drum, sending messages far across the forest. Learn the tricks of navigating in the enclosed forest where the stars and sun provide no guide, and landmarks can be easily overlooked. Pick up on tracks and signs to build out your own dictionary of how to speak 'rainforest' and abandon your mother tongue.



WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Mammals: Western lowland gorilla, chimpanzee, forest elephant, forest buffalo, red river hog, sitatunga, leopard, duikers, surfing hippos.

Birds: 395+ species, including African river martin, great blue turaco, palm nut vulture, white crested tiger heron and rosy bee eater.

Marine: Dwarf crocodile, slender snouted crocodile & west African crocodile. Surfing hippos, Humpback whales (Jun – Sept) leatherback turtles, green turtles, olive ridley turtles, hawksbill turtles.

SEASONALITY & CLIMATE

Wet Season (Oct – Apr): Bigger herds of forest buffaloes and forest elephants start appearing on the coastline from October onwards. Sea turtles start nesting from Nov to Mar with hatchlings Dec to May.

Dry Season (May – Sept): The coastline carries forest elephants and forest buffaloes in smaller numbers. Red River Hogs more actively hunt ghost crabs on the beach. Humpback whales pass through from August to early Oct. Walking is easier with drier conditions and cooler mornings and evenings.

Temperature Range: 18 – 29°C

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Sette Cama Eco Camp is no ordinary wilderness adventure. Days often unfold through self-powered exploration—on foot or by kayak—into places few ever reach. Expect rainforest treks of 9–12 km over several hours and trails that reward fitness, self-reliance, and a love of discovery.

ACCESS & TRAVEL

Fly-in access: Weekly charter Libreville – Gamba – Libreville on Thursdays Sept – April. Private charter for groups on request May – August

Gamba Airstrip Transfers: 20 minute road transfer followed by 1 hour boat cruise to Sette Cama Eco Camp.

Visa & Passport: Valid passport (6 months). G20 nationals may not require a visa <30 days. Yellow fever certificate mandatory. Visa must be organised at least 30 days in advance via Machaba Safaris at additional cost to ensure successful visa processing.
Language: French widely spoken; English limited.

CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY

Sette Cama Eco Camp supports the conservation goals of Loango National Park and contributes to local communities through employment and guiding. Visits directly fund Gabon's pioneering conservation model, protecting both forest and marine ecosystems.

Our approach to eco-tourism is designed to safeguard Sette Cama's wilderness, prioritizing long-term conservation, over short-term gain. We do this by exploring in ways that emphasise a deeper immersion and understanding over instant gratification. Guests at Sette Cama are invited to read and adapt to its wild environment. Our model aims to prove that sustainable tourism can protect and conserve our planet's wildest spaces, just as they are.

