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Congo



Almost as large as Western Europe, the Democratic Republic of Congo is a sprawling mass of rainforest, fast-running rivers, red clay and dust - the epitome of Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness. Formally called Zaïre and now often shortened to DRC, it remains intoxicatingly mysterious and largely cut off to visitors, thanks to past civil war, lamentable lack of development, and naturally impenetrable terrain. The country clings to a fragile ceasefire after decades of brutal civil war and neglect, but as the situation continues to stabilise it has the potential to reclaim its mantle as Africa's most adventurous destination. Our pioneering trips are designed to reflect the spirit of eco-tourism. You will enjoy close encounters with the abundant nature and local culture.

From the capital we offer three different itineraries.

Our two most popular tours, a choice of a 10 or 14 day itinerary, offer travel into the little visited interior of the country. From Kinshasa we take a scheduled flight to the city of Mbandaka, capital of the Equator province and located right on the equator line. We then travel out of the city using 4X4 vehicles and head deeper into the rainforest to discover a land of pristine nature and a fascinating culture. Travel will be by jeeps and 'pirogues', a traditional dug-out canoe.

We use the rivers, as the locals do, as our highway to explore a truly unique landscape, delving deep into the rainforests, visiting small villages and a people completely untouched by the outside world. Our travels will be challenging and, as foreign tourists, extremely pioneering. However, the rewards are all around us, as we are amongst the first of an elite group of privileged travellers to get up close to nature in its purest form and to immerse ourselves in a culture so alien to the developed world.

Our third itinerary is the ultimate Congo experience, a 1750 kilometres voyage from the city of Kisangani to Kinshasa, covering the largest navigable portion of the mighty Congo River. With a total length of 4371 kilometres the Congo River is the second longest in Africa, after the Nile.

On all of our tours, once in the interior of the country we use tented camps.

Sample Itinerary: Equator Province Explorer

Group Size: Min 4, max 12

Also available as a private journey for individual travellers - contact us for details

Rating: 

Transport: 4WD, boat, plane

- Day 1** UK to Kinshasa via Brussels or Paris
- Day 2** Kinshasa
- Day 3** Kinshasa to Mbandaka
- Day 4** Travel by 4X4 to rural village
- Day 5** Travel by dug-out canoe
- Day 6** Travel by dug-out canoe
- Day 7** Travel by 4X4
- Day 8** Trek in tropical rainforest
- Day 9** Travel by 4X4
- Day 10** Mbandaka to Kinshasa
- Day 11** Malebo Pool and village excursion
- Day 12** Kinshasa
- Day 13** Chute de Lukaya and Bonobo (pygmy chimp) orphanage
- Day 14** Full Day Excursion
- Day 15** Kinshasa to London Heathrow via Brussels or Paris
- Day 16** Arrive London Heathrow

Guide Price: £1,950

(Including flights from £2,850)

Journey Ideas: Travel with Ethiopian Airlines and combine your Congo adventure with a stopover in Addis Ababa. From the capital venture north and explore Ethiopia's fascinating cultural heritage.

For detailed itineraries, prices and dates please visit www.congo-undiscovered.com or call our well-travelled team

