



Things to do

In addition to seeing the bonobos, there are many other activities to do in the area, such as:

- Visit the local traditional villages, hear local tales and learn traditional skills, such as how to weave a mat or basket, local fishing methods and traditional cooking including pounding cassava
- See other animals in the area, such as monkeys habituated by MMT and birds, or do a night walk and if you are lucky, spot nocturnal animals (including bats, civets, crocodiles and even elephants and buffalos)
- Walk a botanical trail and learn about the traditional uses of different local plants, such as those used for medicine, construction, food, etc.
- Watch and get involved in dancing with locals in a traditional ceremony with the band Mantsio-mubaru or Bonobo-folk
- Fishing trip on the Congo River
- Explore the area by bicycle or motorbike



Prices

We can put together a personal package to suit your interests and budget, depending on the number of people, number of days and your accommodation and travel preferences.

Bonobo viewing fee for 2 visits	National/ DRC resident/ International \$50/ \$125/ \$250
Conservation fee	\$30 per person
Accommodation	Bungalow (2 ppl) WWF base \$50/night Room at MMT farm \$25/night
Meals	\$25 per person per day
4/9 seater plane hire	\$1500/ \$2500 each way
MMT boat	\$2500 return journey

Visitors will need to have their own comprehensive travel insurance. WWF/MMT does not take responsibility for any accidents that occur during the visit.

Where does your money go?

WWF and MMT are non-profit organisations. In addition to covering the costs of your trip, you are contributing to a community fund for local development and the protection of bonobos. The revenue from the bonobo viewing fee and a conservation fee goes directly back to the local villages, for example, by contributing towards projects building schools and small hospitals, but also sustainable agriculture and farming. This revenue increases the motivation of the community to conserve the bonobos and their habitat.

Contact

For further information and to make a booking, please contact us at

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Community-led ecotourism & bonobo conservation

Maï Ndombe, DRC



Visit our research site for a unique
experience with wild bonobos



Organised by the Congolese NGO
MbouMonTour (MMT) and the World
Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)



Why see the bonobos?

Bonobos, along with common chimpanzees, are our closest living relatives and share with us over 98% of the same genetic blueprint. They are only found in the Democratic Republic of the Congo south of the famed Congo River and are classified on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List as «Endangered» with twenty thousands individuals. They are known for their peaceful nature and unique display of greetings!

The area and the site

The site (Malebo) is located in the south west of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the province of Mai Ndombe and the territory of Bolobo, less than 400 km away from the capital, Kinshasa. The bonobos live in the community forests of the villages of Nkala and Mpelu. The site is located in a unique habitat made up of a forest-savannah mosaic, providing a fantastic place to view these gentle animals in the wild.



In the local tradition it is taboo to eat the bonobos as it is believed they are distant ancestors, however, they are still threatened by frequent destruction of their natural habitat and emerging diseases which can be transmitted by humans living or working in their proximity. The WWF PICBOU project (Projet Intégré de Conservation des Bonobos de l'Ouest), in collaboration with local NGO MMT, who initiated the project, started working with the bonobos in the area in 2006. Since then they have been habituating 3 groups of bonobos in the area in an effort to learn more about their

behaviours which will aid in elaborating effective conservation strategies and developing ecotourism to bring revenue to local communities to sustain their initiative of protecting their natural heritage.

Getting there

The easiest way to get to the site is by direct flight from Kinshasa Ndolo airport which takes approximately an hour, during which beautiful views of the Congo River, the unique forest-savannah mosaic habitat and local villages can be observed. Alternatively to enjoy the beauty of the Congo river you can travel by boat with MMT (14 seats with a toilet on board).



Accommodation

There are 5 bungalows with ensuite bathrooms and a family cottage at the WWF base, where you can take a splash in the Bamboo River which runs through camp. There are also rooms available at the MMT farm, near the village of Nkala for a more authentic and homestay experience.



Food

Our local cooks will prepare dishes with fresh produce from the area such as plantain, village-farmed goats/chicken/ducks/pigs/sheep/cows, fish from the nearby river, succulent pineapples and other seasonal fruits, plus other treats can be brought in from Kinshasa, depending on your culinary preferences.

Bonobo visit

Before entering the bonobo's forest home, you will first be privileged with a visit to the local chiefs in order to get their consent to enter into their forests. Because the bonobos are early risers, you will get up at the crack of dawn to join the local trackers on their journey into the forest. The trackers work each day to follow the bonobos and make notes on their behaviours, ranging patterns and overall health. Depending on the distance from the entrance of the forest to where the bonobos made their nests the night before, you will hike in the dense tropical forest to reach the site to see them waking up and starting to feed and play. You can then spend between 1-2 hours observing the bonobos and taking photos and videos. You will be part of a small exclusive group of approximately 4 visitors, plus the guides, to enhance this unique experience.

