



8 DAYS

TANZANIA · WILDLIFE SAFARI

8-Day Chimpanzee Safari: Gombe Stream & Mahale Mountains

Track wild chimpanzees in both of Tanzania's chimpanzee parks on Lake Tanganyika: Jane Goodall's Gombe Stream and the remote Mahale Mountains.

DURATION

8 days

DESTINATIONS

5

ROUTE

Dar Es Salaam › Dar Es Salaam

AT A GLANCE

The journey

Western Tanzania is far from the usual safari route, and that is the point. Both of the country's chimpanzee parks lie on the shore of Lake Tanganyika, where forested mountains drop straight into clear water, and neither can be reached by road.

The trip begins with a flight from Dar es Salaam to Kigoma. From there a boat takes you north to Gombe Stream, where Jane Goodall began her chimpanzee study in 1960. Two days give you two treks and a much better chance of a long, close encounter. You then travel south along the lake to the Mahale Mountains, a larger, wilder forest where a habituated community has been studied since 1965. You stay in a camp on the beach and track again.

Each visit with the chimps lasts one hour, and the walk to reach them can be anything from twenty minutes to several hours on steep ground.

Good for: primate enthusiasts and well-travelled visitors. You need reasonable fitness, and travel depends on flight and lake schedules. The minimum age is 15, and anyone with a cold cannot trek.

DURATION

8 days

DESTINATION

Tanzania

TRIP STYLE

Wildlife Safari

DESTINATIONS

Dar Es Salaam · Kigoma · Gombe Stream · Mahale Mountains

Highlights

- Chimpanzee trekking in both Gombe Stream and Mahale
- Two treks in Jane Goodall's Gombe
- Beach camp in the Mahale Mountains
- Boat travel along Lake Tanganyika
- Ujiji, where Stanley met Livingstone in 1871
- Swimming and snorkelling in the clear lake



TANZANIA

Your route

Where the journey takes you, from the first day to the last.



Dar Es Salaam Day 1 › Kigoma Days 2-3 › Gombe Stream Days 4-5 › Mahale Mountains Days 6-7 › Dar Es Salaam Day 8



1 Dar Es Salaam

DAY 1 • START

Overnight: Southern Sun Dar es Salaam



2 Kigoma

DAYS 2-3 • ARRIVE BY FLIGHT

Overnight: Kigoma Hilltop Hotel



3 Gombe Stream

DAYS 4-5 • ARRIVE BY ROAD

Overnight: Gombe Forest Lodge



4 Mahale Mountains

DAYS 6-7 • ARRIVE BY ROAD

Overnight: Greystoke Mahale



5 Dar Es Salaam

DAY 8 • ARRIVE BY FLIGHT

8 DAYS

Day by day

Your journey through Tanzania, one day at a time.



DAY 01

Arrive in Dar es Salaam

Transfer from the airport to your hotel. Your guide explains the flights, boats and trekking rules for the days ahead.

DESTINATION Dar Es Salaam

OVERNIGHT Southern Sun Dar es Salaam



DAY 02

Fly to Kigoma on Lake Tanganyika

A morning flight of about two hours to Kigoma. Afternoon visit to Ujiji and the Livingstone memorial, and a sunset by the lake.

DESTINATION Kigoma

OVERNIGHT Kigoma Hilltop Hotel



DAY 03

Kigoma

A day to prepare: the market, a swim at a beach near town, and a briefing on how chimpanzee treks work and how to behave around the animals.

DESTINATION Kigoma

OVERNIGHT Kigoma Hilltop Hotel



DAY 04

Boat to Gombe Stream, first chimpanzee trek

An early boat north along the lakeshore, one to two hours. With park guides you climb into the forest to find the chimpanzee community and spend an hour with them. Overnight at Gombe.

DESTINATION Gombe Stream

OVERNIGHT Gombe Forest Lodge



DAY 05

Second trek in Gombe

A second morning with the chimps, then the walk to Kakombe waterfall or up to Jane's Peak, and a swim in the lake.

DESTINATION Gombe Stream

OVERNIGHT Gombe Forest Lodge



DAY 06

Lake Tanganyika to the Mahale Mountains

The journey south to Mahale by boat, a long day on the lake that depends on the weather, or by charter flight where schedules allow. Arrive at your beach camp.

DESTINATION Mahale Mountains

OVERNIGHT Greystoke Mahale



DAY 07

Chimpanzee tracking in Mahale

Trackers head out early to locate the chimps and you follow into the forest, which is steeper and thicker than Gombe. One hour with the group, then an afternoon of swimming, kayaking or a dhow trip.

DESTINATION Mahale Mountains

OVERNIGHT Greystoke Mahale



DAY 08

Fly back to Dar es Salaam

An optional early forest walk, then a boat to the Mahale airstrip and the flight back to Dar es Salaam for your onward journey.

DESTINATION Dar Es Salaam

AFRICAN QUEEN ADVENTURES

Where you stay

Lodges and camps chosen for their setting, comfort and service. (or similar, depending on availability)



Southern Sun Dar es Salaam

DAY 1 · HOTEL · MID-RANGE

A comfortable, modern hotel next to the botanical gardens in central Dar es Salaam. A reliable overnight before or after the southern parks, with a pool and easy transfers to the a...

Restaurant · Bar · Swimming pool · Wi-Fi in public areas · Private bathroom



Kigoma Hilltop Hotel

DAY 2-3 · HOTEL · MID-RANGE

A hotel on a hill above Kigoma town, with views over Lake Tanganyika from the rooms and pool. The usual overnight before and after the boat or flight to Gombe and Mahale.

Restaurant · Bar · Swimming pool · Wi-Fi in public areas · Private bathroom



Gombe Forest Lodge

DAY 4-5 · TENTED CAMP · MID-RANGE

A small tented camp on the shore of Lake Tanganyika inside Gombe Stream National Park, where Jane Goodall began her chimpanzee research. Forest walks to find the chimpanzees, with...

Restaurant · Private bathroom · Beach access · Guided walks



Greystoke Mahale

DAY 6-7 · SAFARI LODGE · LUXURY

A remote camp of wooden bandas on a white-sand beach of Lake Tanganyika, at the foot of the forested Mahale Mountains. Days are spent trekking to find the wild chimpanzees, evening...

Restaurant · Bar · Private bathroom · Beach access · Guided walks



8-DAY CHIMPANZEE SAFARI: GOMBE STREAM & MAHALE MOUNTAINS

Make this journey yours

Every itinerary can be changed: dates, pace, lodges and the parks you visit. Tell us how you like to travel and we will shape this trip around you.

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