

Culture and traditions of two kingdoms in Congo Brazzaville

From the savannahs of the Niari plains to the flooded forests of the north, from the mighty Congo River to the steep, forested mountains of Mayombe, not to mention the 170km of beaches along the Atlantic coast, the Republic of Congo is home to a wide variety of cultures and traditions.

Along the way, we'll explore the culture and traditions of the Loango kingdom and the Téké kingdom of Mbé. Mâ Loango is the one whose power and care extends far and wide, covering the entire kingdom. The monarch of the Loango Kingdom enjoys a reputation for farsightedness and prestige, and also plays a social role whose primary function is to maintain the security and prosperity of the kingdom. The royal domain of Mbé, for its part, is associated with living beliefs and traditions that have enabled this entity to survive to this day. We will discover the story of the queen of Ngalifourou, 'mistress of the fire', respected sovereign and undisputed mother, who succeeded her husband Iloo 1st. He was the first Téké sovereign and is said to have signed the treaty with the Italian-born Frenchman Savorgnan de Brazza, which gave birth to Brazzaville in 1880.

ITINERARY

12 days / 11 nights

Day 1: EUROPE- POINTE NOIRE

Welcome and transfer to your hotel in the economic capital of Congo Brazzaville, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 2 and 3: POINTE NOIRE and SURROUNDINGS

Breakfast at the hotel. Two days devoted to visiting Pointe Noire and its surroundings. We will discover the tourist, port, oil, industrial, crossroads and trading city known as Pointe Noire, a name taken from a black asphalt spur found on the coast by Portuguese explorers, who called it Cabo Negro. Excursion to visit the Mâ Loango ethnological museum, the Tchimpounga reserve and the Diosso gorges, visit of the slave route, Pointe Idienne, meeting with the Vili population. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4: POINTE NOIRE - CONKOUATI-DOULI NATIONAL PARK

The Douli Park is a mosaic of habitats with a richness that is unique in the Congo, the Littoral: its savannahs and mangroves, the lagoons and lakes between which lie the Sub-littoral forest, the Mayombe forest whose areas away from the villages are untouched and finally the savannah of the plains. The richness of the fauna reflects these conservation conditions and the diversity of habitats: lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, hippos, elephants, buffalo, sea turtles, manatees and whales.

Early wake-up call, breakfast and provisioning. Departure for Conkouati Douli Park, observation of the marvellous landscape along the way. Arrive and settle into our guesthouse, prepare to cook, dinner and overnight.

Day 5: NGONGO RIVER - CONKOUATI EMBOUCHURE

Early wake-up call, breakfast. Take a pirogue up the Ngongo River, which flows into

the lagoon, and enjoy the beautiful navigation with the possibility of observing elephants, monkeys and chimpanzees. The vegetation covering the banks of the river is a magnificent swamp forest where the animals can be seen, Return to the camp, lunch, after relaxing, pirogue on the lagoon to visit the mouth, this lagoon is dotted with islands and islets with banks lined with mangroves, observation of chimpanzees, the lagoon blends with the ocean is a magnificent and sensational place. Relax on the beach. Return to our hut, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 6: DAY IN THE PARK

Early wake-up, breakfast, entrance to the Park, walk through the savannah and forest for a vision safari, opportunity to observe Elephants, Sitatungas, Bongos, Gorillas etc.. Picnic lunch followed by the continuation of our safari. Return to the hut, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 7: CONKOUATI- DOULI

Early wake-up call, breakfast. 2nd entry to the park for a safari viewing, picnic lunch, animal watching if possible, return to our hut, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 8: CONKOUATI - POINTE NOIRE

Early wake-up, breakfast. Observe the chimpanzees feeding. Departure for Pointe Noire after lunch. Arrival and check-in at the hotel. Dinner in a restaurant in the town. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 9: POINTE NOIRE - BRAZZAVILLE

Early wake-up, breakfast. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Brazzaville. Arrival and check-in at the hotel. Visit to the city, in particular the Poto Poto painting school. Dinner in a restaurant in the city, overnight at the hotel.

Day 10 and 11: BRAZZAVILLE - MBE

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for Mbé in the kingdom of the Téké, a population descended from the Bantu, who were rivals of the great Kongo kingdom and signed an agreement (Makoko treaty) with the French explorer Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza on 3 October 1880, with Makoko as king and settled in Mbé. In the same year, the kingdom fell to France, which allowed French settlement in Nkuna, which later became Brazzaville. The royal domain of Mbé is made up of various sites, villages, sacred places such as the Nkouembali waterfalls, and memorial sites that recall the history of the Téké people, in particular Her Majesty Queen Ngalifourou, who made the kingdom shine for half a century through her strength and dignity. Cultural evening, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 12: MBE - BRAZZAVILLE - EUROPE

Early wake-up call. Return to Brazzaville, opportunity to visit Ile Faignond by pirogue. Dinner in a restaurant. Transfer to the airport. End of the tour.

Price per person:

from 2662 €

single supplement: 310 €

This price includes:

- Accommodation in a double room
- Full board accommodation
- Vehicle, fuel, tolls
- Entrance to the Park
- Sightseeing
- Pirogue
- Tracker
- Guides

The price does not include:

- Cameras
- Drinks
- Tips
- Personal expenses
- International flight and flight Pointe-Noire - Brazzaville
- Visa