

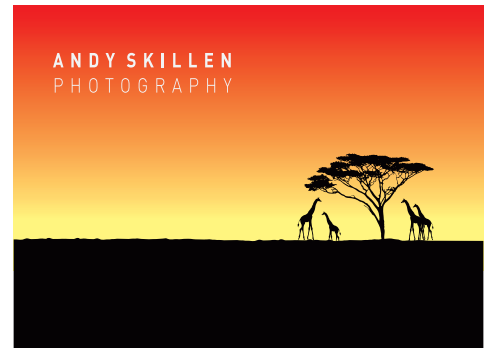
Glorious Gabon: a Dark Heart Safari

Dates: D1: 19 February – 1 March

D2: 1 -11 March

Location: Libreville, Lope and Loango National Parks

Group size: 4; Cost GBP 10,295 per person for 10 nights



Central Africa, the greater Congo basin, is arguably one of the most exciting safari destinations on the continent...if not the planet. The array of species to seek, the experience of being in some of the oldest jungles on earth and the chance to capture images that so few manage every year in comparison to the more popular locations, makes this relatively uncharted destination hugely attractive.

As such in 2025, I'm giving a total of eight people (two groups of four) to join me in this most special of places with the aim of trekking for lowland gorillas, forest elephants on the beach and perhaps hippos in the surf, red river hogs, giant forest hogs, Congo buffalo, an array of primates and countless other species. The February/March window is also the the best balance of time and opportunity photographically.

Working on our own, with private boats and vehicles throughout, as well as treks, you will be thoroughly immersed in this spectacular location, as well as being looked after in complete comfort in superior accommodation. We will also avail ourselves of internal flights between locations too, to guarantee you as much time in the field as we can in a country where logistics can otherwise – and usually are – a challenge. This is a truly epic photographic adventure.

In addition, Because of the work I'm doing out there presently, I've managed to get permission from the authorities to allow guests travelling with me (or on the independent version) to fly a drone within the national parks. This is normally **HUGELY** restricted, and the preserve of professionals, but having negotiated on your behalf, I have managed to open the chance for you to secure a drone permit and a daily opportunity to fly. One thing to bear in mind though...there is an extra charge for the permit and paperwork, so please consider that before jumping in. If you're keen, let me know when you book and I'll get the price updated for you. It's likely to be around GBP100/day and will be monitored. However, a few days of flying should be enough to get you sufficient aerial coverage 😊

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **EXCLUSIVE GROUP SIZE OF JUST 4 GUESTS**
- **REMOTE LOCATIONS AND TRULY EPIC SCENERY AS WELL AS MARKET-LEADING ACCOMMODATION**
- **TWO SEPARATE LOWLAND GORILLA TREKS**
- **CHANCES FOR ELEPHANTS ON THE BEACH AND HIPPOS IN THE SURF**
- **PRIVATE VEHICLES AND BOATS THROUGHOUT**
- **AS MUCH, OR AS LITTLE, PHOTOGRAPHIC TUITION AS NEEDED**

COSTS AND LOGISTICS

- **Group size: 4 guests only**
- **GBP 10,295 for 12 nights**
- **Start point: Libreville International Airport**
- **End point: Libreville International Airport**

WHAT'S INCLUDED...

- 10 nights accommodation (full board except in Libreville)
- Airport collection and drop-off (meeting you from your in-bound flight)
- All internal transfers (including flights when required)
- Private boats and vehicles at our disposal
- Two gorilla treks (maximum group size 4!)
- Assistance with visa applications with letters of invitation
- Ability to purchase a drone license (see notes below) as an additional advantage
- As much, or as little!, photographic tuition as needed!

WHAT'S NOT...

- International and/or any domestic flight to/from the itinerary start/end points
- Items of a personal nature
- Visa fees as appropriate (with your own local consulate/embassy)
- Any departure taxes not covered in your international flight
- Gratuities

YOUR ITINERARY....

Day 1: Arrive in Libreville (1 night)

Land from your international flight in the bustling capital of Gabon and be met by Andy and the Libreville-based team. You will be transferred to your hotel for the night (dinner not included) so you can rest and be readied for the adventure starting the next morning.

Day 2-4: Lope National Park (3 nights)

Depart early morning for Lope National Park by road. Bordered by two rivers, the park is dominated by monsoon forest, but also retains large open patches of savannah – some of the last in Central Africa. Forest buffalo and elephant, a variety of cats, mandrills and other primates as well as some more elusive antelopes make up our targets here, and we will spend all our time out (mornings and afternoon sessions) searching for as many of these iconic animals as we can. The mixture of habitats in Lope makes the birdlife prolific too, and other mammal options include two types of pangolin if we're lucky, as well as red river hogs. It's also possible (if conditions permit) that we may take a night safari during our stay here too.

Day 5: Depart for Libreville

Sadly, all good things must come to an end and today we will head back to Libreville by road. We will likely leave after our morning safari and arrive in Libreville in mid-late afternoon. Here you will be taken back to the hotel to rest and recuperate from stage one of your trip, and be ready to head off the next morning. Logistics in Gabon dictate Libreville as an essential stop-over...and I'm trying to make this trip as impactful in terms of time on the ground and comfortable in terms of logistics 😊

Day 6 - 10: Loango National Park (5 nights)

Up and out today as we head for the airport and a flight to Port Gentil. Here we will pick up our 4x4 transfer and be taken to Loango National Park. This would otherwise be a loooong journey from Libreville, so the domestic flight cuts out a lot of that time. Over the next 5 days here you will get to track gorillas twice (once as a group of 2 with me, and once as a group of 4 as just you, the guests). On each day of tracking we will arrange other activities for you whilst the group of two guests are out, and on the day you do your second trek, I will wait for you all in camp to return. There are a number of camps in Loango we have at our disposal, but we will work out the optimum based on game movements. We will explore this mosaic of landscapes by boat, pirogue, foot and vehicle – at all times putting you in the best position for your images. We will seek out some iconic stuff if we can – elephants on the beach and hippos in the sea for example – but at all times we'll be seeking to expose you to some truly fantastic settings in which the likes of red river hog, gorilla, buffalo, sitatunga, glorious birdlife and a wide variety of primates (even chimps if we're lucky) will provide the focal points of interest. We will also take time to focus on the little things too...bring your macro! The plants, flowers and bugs (don't worry...they don't all bite!) that make up much of the biodiversity here are key components of your Gabon portfolio.

Day 11: Depart for Libreville

Alas...the trip is done and we will re-trace our steps to Port Gentil to connect with a domestic flight back to Libreville. Here you will be escorted to the international airport terminal in order to catch the night flight out, but if you wish to stay an extra night in the capital, let us know and we can add that in.

Up and out today as we head for the airport and a flight to Port Gentil. Here we will pick up our 4x4 transfer **HOW DO I BOOK MY SPACE?**

Send an email to Andy@faunavista.com to register your interest and receive a booking form. This trip will be done on a **first come, first served** basis.

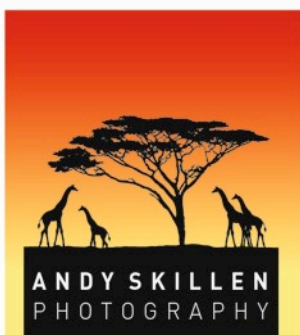
Testimonials: people who put up with me....hahaha!

"Knowledge, humour, attentiveness...all combine to make him [Andy] simply the best photographic guide I have ever travelled with"

"Simply brilliant. My fourth trip with Andy and every time I am challenged more, pushed more and learn more. He's also bl**dy funny and makes a group gel perfectly"

"Another photo guide recommended I travel with Andy...and what a decision that was. He is simply a different class to every other guide I have been with and would gladly only ever travel with him in the future"

"Brilliant from start to finish – his inspiration on the ground is infectious. I just wish he'd do more trips!"



**CHANGING THE IMAGE
OF WILDLIFE TRAVEL...**