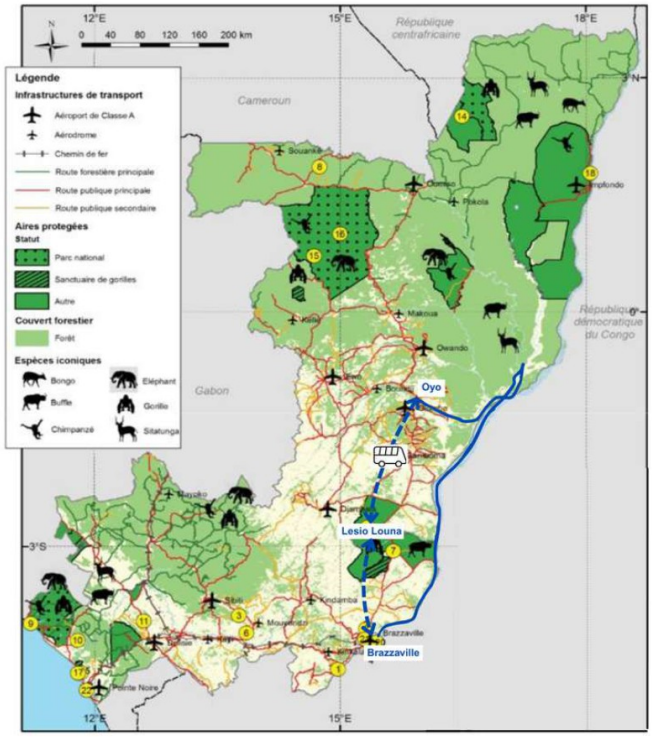


MAJESTIC CONGO: 8-NIGHT RIVER CRUISE

The Congo Basin is the second largest forest massif in the world. It abounds in exceptional flora and fauna. Little known to the public, this region deserves more recognition. It's a gigantic territory of forests and rivers, sparsely populated. We invite you to enter the heart of Central Africa on the Congo and Alima rivers. Our cruises allow you to discover the peoples and the sublime environment. Upstream departures: Brazzaville - Oyo - Lesio Louna - Brazzaville Downstream (reverse) departures: Brazzaville - Lesio Louna - Oyo - Brazzaville



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival in Brazzaville.

Arrival in Brazzaville. Our guide will meet you at the airport. Boarding begins at 5 p.m. on the Princesse Ngalessa ship.

Night on board.

Day 2 – Beginning of the cruise



After breakfast, we start our ascent of the Congo River. We sail through a landscape of green hills as we familiarise ourselves with the boat and the program and get to know our guide. In the afternoon, we go on a short boat excursion on the beautiful green waters of the Maipili River.

Night on board.

Day 3 – The Téké Kingdom and Kebe Kebe ritual

In the morning, we visit Ngabe, one of the ancient capitals of the Teke kingdom. We ascend through the village to visit the current queen. As the guardian of "Nkwembali," the spiritual deity of the Bateke, she is the person authorised to transfer power to the new king, the Makoko. She holds significant influence in the Teke kingdom, one of the powerful kingdoms in the country.

After our lunch on board we return to the village to witness a kebe kebe ritual. It refers to a dance and an initiatory society of the Congo. The ordinary form of the kebe-kebe resembles whirling dervishes, wrapped in raffia robes set with feathers of various birds, and manipulating a puppet which generally represents a painted Koyo head exhibiting the particular scarifications of the ethnic group.

In the afternoon, we reach the estuary of the Lefini River, a popular spot for birds and hippos depending on the season. We leave the ship on launch boats to observe the majestic mammals. We return to the ship for lunch and continue our ascent.

Night on board.

Day 4 – The thousands of islands of the Congo River and the “whaling ships”

The Congo River widens considerably (more than 10 km) and a labyrinth of islands is formed. Fishing villages are established there during the dry season. In the estuary of N'keni, we will go for birding in the morning (bee eaters, weavers, egrets, kites).

From the observation deck, we watch the fascinating boats, whaleboats and long flat-bottomed transport barges that are pushed along the Congo River. Travelling for weeks at a time and measuring up to two hundred metres in length, these floating villages transport goods, people and livestock from town to town. They play a crucial role in the economy and life of the Congo River communities. If the weather permits, we will take the opportunity to bivouac on a sandbank in the middle of the myriad of islands.

Night on board.

Day 5 – The city of Mossaka and its famous salted fish and the village of Likendze

In the morning we set out to explore the city of Mossaka. Led by our local guide Jean de Dieu, we discover the remnants of the colonial era, we visit the bustling local market where we'll immerse ourselves in the daily life of the local people. Our visit takes us through the alleys where salted fish dryers are installed. This traditional technique of preserving fish has made Mossaka famous throughout the region. We also discover the production of palm wine and meet a potter. We return to the ship for lunch and continue our navigation to Likendze.

At the village of Likendze on the Sangha River, we learn different fishing techniques such as cast net fishing, trap fishing, and net fishing. Those interested can even try their hand at line fishing.



Night on board.

Day 6 – The Alima River and the Moye people

In the morning, we leave on launch boats to observe the hippos who live a few kilometres north of the village. Back on the ship, we navigate towards the Alima River. This beautiful narrow winding river is surrounded by swamp forests. We finish the day in the village of Bonda where we meet the Moye People. They are our guides to discover the flooded forest. Following the season, we discover the forest by canoe or on foot. In the evening, the Moye people perform a traditional dance on the bank of the river. At night, we will navigate in a 900m loop to listen to the forest and perhaps, spot the shining eyes of the crocodiles.

Night on board.

Day 7 – The traditional medicine

We navigate on the Alima River. Passing the many bends of the river, along the banks we can see many charming raffia villages. Later on, we reach the village of Mondongo. This village, also made primarily using raffia, is home to Moye People. We met a local guide who explains the traditional pharmacopoeia and the preparation of remedies. The swamp forest is teeming with plants the villagers use for traditional medicine to treat diseases and injuries.

In the afternoon, accompanied by our knowledgeable guides, we will walk through the forest, learning about the different emblematic trees, plants, and the secret life of the forest - from the intricate world of insects to the fascinating interplay of flora and fauna that thrives within its lush canopy.

Night on board.

Day 8 – Transfer to Brazzaville and visit of Lesio Louna réserve

We disembark for our return trip to Lesio Louna reserve by car.

Founded in 1999 the Aspinall Foundation, and part of the Congolese gorilla protection program (PPG) Lesio Louna aims to rescue gorillas from wildlife trafficking or zoos which cannot tend to them and reintroduce them into their natural environment. On board a motorboat, we set off on the Louna River, which winds through the forest, with the keepers to reach the islands where the gorillas live during the period of adaptation to their new life. As soon as they are able to feed themselves, they will then be released into the Park. After a memorable time close to these fascinating primates, we return to Brazzaville by car

Night at the Radisson Hotel in Brazzaville

Day 9 – Brazzaville

In the morning, we set out to explore the city, The Congo Basin Museum, the Poto Poto School, the Cathedral, and we end with a meeting with "La Sape" \- Society of Ambiance Makers and Elegant People.

Transfer to the airport and fly out or choose an extension to discover more:

* The coastal city of Pointe-Noire and visit the chimpanzee sanctuary of Tchimpounga in Kouilou river(2-3 nights) and relax at Bamboo beach on the seaside.
* 3 nights extension to the Bai d'Imbalanga in the



Odzala-Kokoua National Park (From Oyo).

* 2 nights extension in DRC for Bonobos tracking (endemic species from DRC).

* 4 nights in Dzanga sangha extension in Doli Lodge. Possible departure to Bangui.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: PRINCESS NGALESSA

YOUR SHIP: **Princess Ngalessa**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

The ship was built in a Belgian run shipyard in Kinshasa in 2017. It takes the form of the passenger ships that have for decades transported passengers on the Congo River and its tributaries between the different capitals of Central Africa. With a robust steel construction, she is powered by two new-generation 380 HP Caterpillar engines, thus reducing noise pollution and fuel consumption. Its draft of 90 centimeters allows it to navigate easily on shallow rivers. In 2022/2023, she was refitted to launch the first 4 safari cruises in the heart of one of the most mysterious forests in the world, the Congo Basin forest. Its renovation into a comfortable 4-star Boutique Hotel Ship launches a new era for the development of sustainable tourism in the Republic of Congo (Congo Brazzaville). In June 2023 she began the first cruises on the Congo and Sangha rivers, thus reviving the long tradition of river navigation in the Congo. ON BOARD LIVING AND SOCIAL AREAS :600 m ² of common areas Dining room Indoor bar and lounge Outdoor lounge Outdoor jacuzzi Massage Room Observation Deck WORLD CLASS DINING PROGRAM A culinary experience nourished by African and European influences A menu specially prepared by a French Chef rewarded for his work with a Michelin star in 2021 Local products and fine wine. LAUNCH BOATS FOR SHORE EXCURSIONS Two auxiliary aluminum launch boats equipped with four-stroke low emission engines. Each boat has a capacity of 15 passengers. Kayaks for two people Accommodation Passengers are accommodated in 14 Design cabins across three decks. Owner 's Suite 35 m². Observation deck. Private balcony (9m²) : Three windows, armchair, writing desk and chair, two bedside tables, sofa, and a closet. Bathroom. Air-conditioning. 1 cabin with two single beds that can convert to a queen. 1 cabin with one queen bed. (401, 402) Forward Superior Suite 30 m ². Third Deck Forward. Public balcony. Four windows, two bedside tables, and a closet. Bathroom. Air-conditioning. 2 cabins with two single beds that can convert to a king. (301, 302) Superior Suite 30 m ². Third Deck Public balcony. Four windows, two bedside tables, and a closet. Bathroom. Air-conditioning. 2 cabins with two single beds that can convert to a king. (303, 304) Forward Master Suite 23 m ². Second Deck Forward. Public balcony : Four windows, armchair, writing desk and chair, two bedside tables, and a closet. Bathroom. Air-conditioning. 2 cabins with queen beds. (201, 202) Master Suite 27 m ². Second Deck. Public balcony : Three windows, armchair, writing desk and chair, two bedside tables, sofa, and a closet. Bathroom.Air-conditioning.1 cabin with two single beds that can convert to a queen. 1 cabin with one queen bed. (203, 204) Deluxe Suite 18 m ². Second Deck. Public balcony : Two windows, armchair, writing desk and chair, two bedside tables, and a closet. Bathroom. Air-conditioning. 2 cabins with two single beds that can convert to a queen. 4 cabins with queen beds. (205, 206, 207, 208,

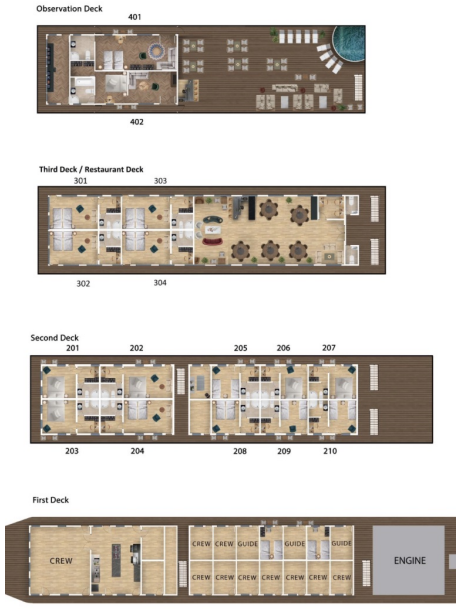
209, 210) Classic Cabin 12 m ². First Deck. Public balcony : One window, armchair and a closet. Bathroom. Air-conditioning. 2 cabins with two single beds



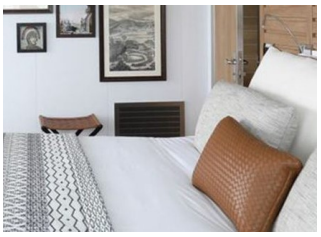
(101, 102)



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



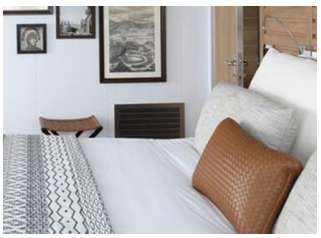
Deluxe Suite



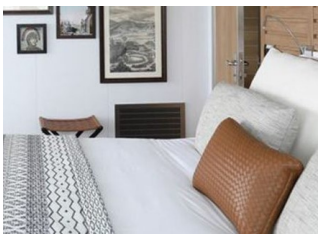
Forward Master Suite



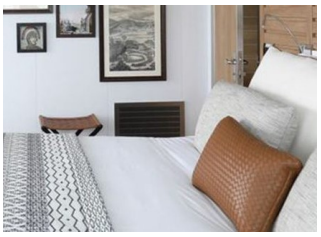
Forward Superior Suite



Master Suite



Owner's Suite



Superior Suite





PRICING

23-Jan-2027 to 31-Jan-2027

Deluxe Suite	£3889 GBP pp
Master Suite	£4208 GBP pp
Forward Master Suite	£4208 GBP pp
Forward Superior Suite	£4654 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£5036 GBP pp

21-May-2027 to 29-May-2027

Deluxe Suite	£4165 GBP pp
Forward Master Suite	£4485 GBP pp
Master Suite	£4485 GBP pp
Forward Superior Suite	£4935 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£5275 GBP pp

16-Jun-2027 to 24-Jun-2027

Deluxe Suite	£4165 GBP pp
Master Suite	£4484 GBP pp
Forward Master Suite	£4484 GBP pp
Forward Superior Suite	£4930 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£5270 GBP pp

11-Sep-2027 to 19-Sep-2027

Deluxe Suite	£4165 GBP pp
Forward Master Suite	£4484 GBP pp
Master Suite	£4484 GBP pp
Forward Superior Suite	£4930 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£5270 GBP pp

04-Dec-2027 to 12-Dec-2027

Deluxe Suite	£4165 GBP pp
Master Suite	£4484 GBP pp
Forward Master Suite	£4484 GBP pp
Forward Superior Suite	£4930 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£5270 GBP pp

15-Jan-2028 to 23-Jan-2028

Deluxe Suite	£4165 GBP pp
Master Suite	£4484 GBP pp
Forward Master Suite	£4484 GBP pp
Forward Superior Suite	£4930 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£5270 GBP pp

22-Jan-2028 to 30-Jan-2028

Deluxe Suite	£4165 GBP pp
Forward Master Suite	£4484 GBP pp
Master Suite	£4484 GBP pp
Superior Suite	£4611 GBP pp
Forward Superior Suite	£4930 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£5270 GBP pp