

Proposed CTT itinerary for 3 day Kinshasa tour plus 7 days Goliath tiger fishing...

...Deep up the Congo River!

Day 1: Arrival at N'Djili International airport Kinshasa. You will be welcomed and assisted by our staff at the airport and directed to one of our taxis for transfer to your hotel.

Day 2: After breakfast, the driver will pick you from your hotel and take you on a guided city tour of Kinshasa. You will visit some historic sites and buildings from the colonial times, museums, the mausoleum of former president Laurant Kabila, and experience the vibrant city of Kinshasa which is bustling with activity, particularly the market places. You will get your first sighting of the mighty Congo River. You will also have opportunity to purchase extra supplies for the tiger fishing expedition. We will supply the necessary food and water for the trip, but you may have specific preferences. Our guide will assist you with your shopping.

After you have finished shopping the driver will take you back to your hotel where you can relax for the evening or make final preparations for the fishing trip. If you wish to leave luggage at the hotel we can arrange with the manager Paul. He is very friendly and facilitating.

Day 3: Let's go fishing! After an early breakfast the driver will take you to Kinkole fishing village which is on the outskirts of the city just after the airport. We will begin our river journey from here to Mai Ndombe village (approx 3 hours) which will be the base for the next 7 days while you hunt for the elusive goliath tiger fish. There are 2 immigration check points where you will be required to leave a copy of your passports and pay a fee which is included in the package price. Our local guide will assist with the procedure as he is well known by the immigration officials. The 2nd checkpoint is further along the river before we reach Mai Ndombe village. The local police in Mai Ndombe will also want to see documents but this is normal procedure and the village chief will have notified them already.

Once we arrive at the village we will set up camp and you can relax in the peaceful surroundings with a great view of the Iconic Congo River. There may be some curious onlookers as the village children rarely see outsiders. The cook will prepare dinner and afterwards you can relax by the campfire and make final preparations to begin fishing early next morning. If you wish you can begin fishing in the evening after settling in to the campsite. The boat will be available at all times or you can fish from the river bank if you prefer.

Day 4: After an early morning breakfast you will begin fishing on the river around Mai Ndombe. The local fishermen will supply you with live bait and show you the best spots to fish. Mai Ndombe village is the location where the goliath tiger fish were caught for TV documentaries, which were shown around the world by national geographic and other TV channels. The Mbenga (Goliath tiger fish) are much larger than tiger fish which are found in other African countries.

You can have your lunch on the boat or return to the village. After the days fishing is done we will return to the village where the cook will have prepared an evening meal, and afterwards you can relax by the campfire and discuss the days fishing.

Day 5: After an early breakfast you begin your 3rd day on the river. The local fishermen will supply you with live bait and guide us to the best fishing spots. We can stop at suitable locations along the river to try fishing from the bank and have lunch.

After the days fishing is done and hopefully you have caught the elusive Mbenga (although it can take several days to catch one) we will return to the village for evening meal and relax again by the campfire. You certainly will not be bored as this is the ultimate fishing experience in Africa's last wild frontier on the Majestic Congo River. There are other large fish species such as the elephant fish and catfish. The local fishermen will keep you entertained with stories about this iconic river. This will be a fishing experience like no other as you will see and hear sights and sounds which are unique to the Congo River.

Day 6: After an early breakfast we begin our 4th day on the river in search of the Mbenga. There will be basic washing and toilet facilities at the camp (a bucket) if you wish to wash in the mornings and evenings. Hot water can be provided. This will be a real cultural experience. You will live as the villagers have done for centuries (except for cell phones). There is a Vodacom mast near the village so we will have a good reception.

After trying out some fishing from the boat we can find a suitable location on the river bank again to fish and have lunch. In the evening we will return to the village for dinner and relax by the campfire telling exciting fishing tales which would be considered exaggerated in other locations, but not on the Congo River (bring a camera to show the proof, otherwise no one will believe you). The Congo River has over 686 species of fish, of which 80% are found nowhere else in the world. The chances are you will hook a fish which is undocumented.

Day 7: After taking breakfast we begin our 5th day hunting for the elusive Mbenga. The largest one on record is 70kg (154 pounds). Let's see if you can beat that record. I am sure there are bigger ones out there in Africa's 2nd largest river, after the Nile. The Congo River is also the deepest in the world in some parts so it's very likely it contains monstrous sized fish.

Again we will try fishing from the boat and the bank. The boat will have a generator and fridge to keep drinks cool. There will be opportunity to buy fresh meat or fruit and veg for daily meals from passing boats. The Congo River is one of the main trading routes; so many passing boats are loaded with goods for sale in towns along the river.

After the days fishing we return to the village for evening meal and relax around the campfire.

Day 8: After an early breakfast of freshly brewed coffee/tea, fruit, eggs and bread freshly baked in the village bakery, we begin our 6th day chasing the elusive Mbenga. Each day will be different as you encounter new experiences and meet new local characters. The fishing will also be different get more exciting with each passing day as you continue the hunt for the ferocious Mbenga. Our fishing guide will lead us to new spots where the goliath tiger fish are likely to be hunting for their prey, which includes small crocodiles! Again we will fish from the boat and the bank if preferred.

After the days fishing is done we will return to camp for dinner and chill by the campfire telling exciting tales from the days fishing.

Day 9: Final day and last chance to catch the elusive Mbenga if you have not done so already! After early morning breakfast we head out on the river again. Our fishing guide will lead us to new spots where you can fish from the boat and the bank.

In the evening we will return to camp for dinner and final sundowner (Congolese style).

Day 10: After an early morning breakfast you can pack your equipment and belongings in preparation for the return river journey to Kinkole village where our driver will be waiting to take you to your hotel. We will have a traditional meal in Kinkole (fresh fish barbequed in banana leaves with fried plantain bananas) before we depart for the city.

You can be refreshed at the hotel with a hot shower before taking your evening meal. Spend the evening relaxing either at the hotel or by the pool in the restaurant/bar across the road. There is an interesting story to this restaurant as it is owned by 2 brothers who had a disagreement some years ago, so they divided the restaurant in 2. One of them owns one half and the other owns the other half. The older brother is in his eighties but still shouting orders and serving guests in the restaurant.

Day 11: If your return flight is in the morning the taxi driver will pick you from your hotel to take you to the airport. If it's an evening flight you can avail of another local tour to the Bonobo sanctuary or do some shopping for souvenirs etc. The taxi driver will transfer you to the airport on time for check in. He will take you to our airport lounge where you can relax while waiting for check in. Our staff will assist you with check in.

End of tour

Price: \$11,999 (\$2,999 per person for 4 for example) 11 days
(3 days Kinshasa + 7 days on the river)

Includes: Transfers, airport assistance, use of JT lounge, hotel accommodation in Kinshasa (3 nights at \$170 per room with breakfast), city tour with lunch provided, motorized boat +fuel, crew, engine oil, fuel for generator, all necessary supplies for 7 days on the river, including food and water, tents, mattresses, immigration fees on the river, cook, guides, interpreter, live bait, security for camp, official invitation letter from DGM (immigration office) and token food gifts for village chief, as is the custom (if clients wish to bring token gifts for the village children I recommend pencils and copy books as these are in

short supply and would be very much appreciated. These items are expensive to buy and they cannot afford them).

I have also included a fee for use of camping site in Mai Ndombe village, as they too must benefit from tourists.

Not included:

Tips, evening meals in Kinshasa (all meals on the fishing trip are included), visas, travel and medical insurance, international flights, and laundry, sleeping bags, telephone calls, alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages other than bottled drinking water supplied.

Accommodation: Kinshasa: Hotel. Mai Ndombe: Tented camp.

Note: If clients prefer we can include evening meals at an extra cost of \$45 per meal which is a total of \$540 (4 pax for 3 evenings). There is a nice restaurant with swimming pool across from the hotel, which is convenient for the clients.

If there is time on the last day, and the clients wish to do the Bonobo tour this will be at an extra cost of \$340 (\$85 per person with refreshments, guide and entrance fees included).