

GABON

Gabon is a country lying on the west coast of Africa, astride the Equator. Gabon retains strong ties to France and to the French language and culture. The capital is Libreville. The earliest humans in Gabon were believed to be the Babinga, or Pygmies, dating back to 7000 B.C., who were later followed by Bantu groups from southern and eastern Africa. Now there are many tribal groups in the country, the largest being the Fang peoples, who constitute 25% of the population.

Gabon has an equatorial climate, with year-round high temperatures and humidity. With an impressive 11.25% of the country proclaimed as national parkland, Gabon offers a spectacular array of wildlife in its dense rainforests and open savannah to enthrall nature enthusiasts. Add to that superb white-sand beaches, rushing rivers and ethereal landscapes, and one may have an Eden like travel experience in an unexplored part of Africa.

Gabon is the region's most progressive and traveler-friendly destination. Outside the cosmopolitan Libreville and Port-Gentil, the country's largest cities, Gabon is an undiscovered wonderland not to be missed. It has amazing and intact nature with diverse wildlife. Witnessing and photographing animals in their natural habitat is one of the primary reasons to visit Gabon. It is the place to be for bird watchers and anyone enamored with nature. The best thing here is that one won't have to stand in line to buy entrance tickets or push one's way through a crowd of tourists to take a picture – those prestige white sand beaches, national parks and jungle roads are just for anyone!

The best way to explore Gabon at a slow and enjoyable pace is by car and boat. Whilst cruising through savannas or rivers you can see exceptional abundance of wildlife such as elephants, hippos, buffalos, antelopes, monkeys and a number of birds like the hornbill and turaco. One might consider themselves very lucky if they have ever had a chance to visit a local village in Gabon. Some places are still very traditional and due to their remoteness impossible to visit. But if you have a chance and a good guide with you, don't miss this unique opportunity.