

Close encounters of the chimpanzee kind

Exclusive expedition visits Jane Goodall's apes in Tanzania

As once-in-a-lifetime experiences go, there can be few more memorable than coming **face to face with a chimpanzee** in its natural surroundings. Add to this the anthropological insight of the world-renowned **Jane Goodall Institute** and exploration expertise of top adventure travel company, **Baobab Expeditions**, and this is certainly a holiday unlike any other.

Celebrating 50 years of the work of leading primatologist, Jane Goodall, in 2010, Baobab Expeditions has joined forces with the Jane Goodall Institute to launch **Gombe 2009**, a unique African itinerary that includes three days in the **Gombe National Park in Tanzania** – home to around 100 chimpanzees and location for the longest-running study of an individual animal in the world. As well as being the setting for Dr Jane Goodall's pioneering work with chimpanzees, Gombe provides a spectacular backdrop in which to encounter these fascinating animals and learn more about them **in the company of a senior researcher from Dr Goodall's team** including **exclusive access to the Jane Goodall Institute, Tanzania Research Centre** - which is usually closed to the public.

Found only in Africa, chimpanzees are humans' closest relatives in the animal kingdom, sharing 98.6% of their genetic make-up as well as the ability to communicate fluidly, solve problems, share emotions and form strong friendship bonds. Compare the similarities on this **11-day itinerary** that begins in Arusha and moves on to Kigoma before reaching Gombe, accessed by boat across the vast expanse of the awesome Lake Tanganyika.

The spacious tents of the Gombe Forest Lodge offer a **comfortable lakeside base from which to explore the forest** on the look-out for chimps (average trekking time is 1-2 hours) while also spotting the myriad of other fascinating primates to be found in this part of Tanzania, such as **olive baboons, vervet, and colobus monkeys**. From the lodge, **witness conservation in action** with a visit to one of the Jane Goodall Institute's projects, where the team works with Tanzanian children and young people to ensure the future survival both of the human and chimpanzee population amid this incredible landscape. There's plenty of time for relaxation, too, whether it's having a swim in the lake, taking a boat out to enjoy some fishing or walking to one of the beautiful local waterfalls, before watching the sun set over the distant Congolese mountains.

And, whilst the animal encounters available in Gombe are enough to sate the appetite of even the most avid wildlife lover, the itinerary also includes an excursion to **Arusha National Park** - where the habitat ranges from rainforests to savannahs with great views of Kilimanjaro – and two days exploring the intricate ecosystem of the **Serengeti** with the services of a private guide. Scene of the annual migration every October and November, this is the **perfect time to witness of one of nature's great events**, as over a million wildebeest and 200,000 zebras flow south to the southern plains.

Departing 9 October 2009, Gombe 2009 costs from £4,880 pp based on two sharing. Price includes return flights (Heathrow) to Nairobi/from Arusha, all internal transfers (road, air and boat), nine nights' accommodation in high-quality inns, hotels and safari lodges with most meals, all park fees where applicable, a private guide whilst in the Serengeti with morning/afternoon game drives and flying doctor cover. Also included in the price is **a donation to the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI)** supporting projects visited during the trip and **one year's free membership** to the JGI.

Places on Gombe 2009 are extremely limited so early booking is essential. **For further information**, call **Baobab Expeditions** on **020 8951 2854** or visit www.baobabexpeditions.com

*****EXCLUSIVE EVENT - Jane Goodall at ZSL London Zoo – 25 June 2009*****

The Jane Goodall Institute and Baobab Expeditions are delighted to announce this exclusive event, **featuring Dr Jane Goodall** as part of her forthcoming visit to the UK.

Meet Dr Jane Goodall, hear more about her fascinating life and work with chimpanzees, and take part in an informative question and answer session at ZSL London Zoo, Regent's Park on Thursday 25 June 2009, from 7.00 pm to 9.30pm. Tickets are available on a first-come, first served basis and are priced at £20 for members of the Jane Goodall Institute and £40 for non members. Discounts for multiple tickets available.

For more information and to book tickets, please contact the Jane Goodall Institute on 023 8033 5660 or visit www.janegoodall.org.uk

Ends

26 May 2009

Press: Please contact Karen Carpenter at Travel PR (www.travelpr.co.uk) on 020 8891 4440 or email k.carpenter@travelpr.co.uk

At the Jane Goodall Institute, please contact Claire Quarendon on 023 8033 5660 or email claire@janegoodall.org.uk

Background Notes for Editors

Jane Goodall Institute

- Founded in 1977, the Jane Goodall Institute continues Dr Goodall's pioneering research of chimpanzee behaviour research that transformed scientific perceptions of the relationship between humans and animals.
- Today, the Institute is a global leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. It also is widely recognized for establishing innovative community-centred conservation and development programmes in Africa, and the Roots & Shoots education programme, which has groups in almost 100 countries.
- In 2010, the Jane Goodall Institute celebrates 50 years since the beginning of Dr Goodall's research of chimpanzees.
- The Jane Goodall Institute UK started in 1989 and is based in Southampton.
- For more information, visit www.janegoodall.org.uk.

Baobab Expeditions

- Founded in 2005 by Richard Pfaeffli, Baobab Expeditions offers its clients some of the planet's greatest adventure experiences including specialist safari, wildlife, nature, ski and board, and corporate expeditions.
- Part of the Fabulous Experience Company, Baobab Expeditions actively supports wildlife conservation and local community enterprise in the countries to which it travels. As well as its exciting new Gombe 2009 project with the Jane Goodall Institute, Baobab also holds exclusive travel partnerships with the AfriCat Foundation, The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and Save The Rhino, and makes a monetary donation towards these organisations for every booking made.
- Baobab Expeditions is based in London and has offices in Cape Town and New York.
- For more information, visit www.baobabexpeditions.com.