



Gabon

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Best Places to Eat

- L'Odika (p273)
- Le Bistrot (p277)
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Best Places to Sleep

- Loango Lodge (p279)
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- Le Leet Dorian (p271)

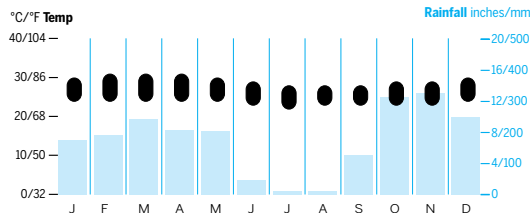
Why Go?

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 enthral nature enthusiasts. Add to that superb white-sand beaches, rushing rivers and ethereal landscapes, and you have an Eden-like travel experience in an unexplored part of Africa.

Gabon is the region's most progressive and traveller-friendly destination, although tourism remains extremely DIY. You'll either have to put yourself into the hands of a travel agency, or negotiate the poor roads, infrequent transport options and the almost total lack of reliable infrastructure yourself. Outside the cosmopolitan Libreville and Port-Gentil, the country's largest cities, Gabon is an undiscovered wonderland not to be missed.

When to Go

Libreville



May–Sep The dry season makes overland transport faster and wildlife easier to see.

Jul–Sep Have a close encounter with a whale swimming off Gabon's coastline.

Nov–Jan Spot turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs on the beaches.



Gabon Highlights

1 Loango National Park (p278) Following a troop of wild gorillas.

2 Lopé National Park (p281) Coming across wild elephants amid spectacular scenery.

3 Libreville (p271) Kicking back in this cosmopolitan city and taking a day trip to nearby Pointe Denis.

4 Mayumba National Park (p279) Bodysurfing the waves while watching humpback whales breach in the distance.

5 Lambaréné (p280) Exploring the charming, laid-back town made famous by the Nobel prize-winning Albert Schweitzer.