Jane Goodall, the Gombe, the JGI

Jane Goodall is the renowned British scientist who has run revolutionary, pioneering studies on chimpanzees in their natural environment. As a young woman, in 1960 she moved to the forest on lake Tanganyika in Tanzania, and lived there almost continuously for 30 years. There she founded the Research Centre which still exists. Thanks to her intervention the Gombe Stream National Park was created in order to protect a population of chimpanzees which nowadays counts almost 150 individuals (when she arrived there were a few hundred). Among other Primates we can find Olive Baboons, Spotted monkeys, Diademed monkeys, Vervet monkeys, the Red colobus and the Galago. In 1977 Jane Goodall founded the Institute named after herself involving the local communities in the conservation of nature and starting humanitarian and development cooperation projects. Today, the JGI has seats in 25 countries in the world, among which Italy, and its humanitarian and environmental youth programme Roots and Shoots is operating in 96 countries.

Contact the Jane Goodall Institute Italia (info@janegoodall-italia.org) and we will tell you how you can contribute: donations, help with the maintenance operations, work with the children if you have experience in the field, expert advices on several subjects if you have specific skills (if you are a doctor, an engineer, a psychologist, an agronomist, a veterinarian …). Naturally, the volunteering duties will be assigned according to the duration of your stay, the children from Sanganigwa and the JGI-Italia will appreciate any kind of contribution, be it the smallest one, including the offering you may give by simply staying at our facility.

Guests can be guided by our local representative on a visit in Sanganigwa, in order to know our activities and our more urgent needs.
**New Sanganigwa Volunteer Eco-House**

**Away from beaten tracks**

Suitable for those who want to combine volunteering at Sanganigwa Children’s Home with an unforgettable holiday on the shores of lake Tanganyika.

The Sanganigwa Volunteer Eco-House is situated in the compound of the Sanganigwa Children’s Home in Kigoma, just a few steps away from the city centre. “Sanganigwa!” (“Welcome everybody!”) offers simple, comfortable accommodation at the Volunteer’s House which hosts 10 beds, breakfast and, upon request, meals and packed lunches. Further services: transfer to and from the airport, information about excursions to the beaches on the lake, the city of Ujiji, the Gombe and Mahale National Parks.

Kigoma is a small town situated in a typical tropical environment on the lake Tanganyika; the city is the main port and hosts the most important and final stop of the Central Railway Line.

It is possible to see the architectural signs dating back to the German colonial time such as the impressive Railway Station - a construction showing evident Arab influences combined with that of the workers who contributed to the building process - the Kaiser Haus, seat of the governor and the state buildings.

We recommend as a striking historical site Ujiji, an ancient town to be reached by urban minibus or taxi. In town, the old slaves’ market is still visible, but above all, we suggest to visit the small museum and the memorial of the famous meeting taking place here in 1871 between Livingstone and Stanley, who greeted the former by the well-known sentence “Doctor Livingston, I presume!”

However, the main reason for tourists (a few) and primatologists from the world to visit Kigoma is the Gombe Stream National Park, one of the few places in the world, along with the Mahale Mountain National Park – also reachable from Kigoma - where it is possible to observe chimpanzees in nature. The Mahale N. P. can be reached by the legendary motor vessel Liemba which has been cutting through the waters of lake Tanganyika from North to South since 1914: itself a reason to visit Kigoma.

Sanganigwa Children’s Home gives shelter to orphans (mainly AIDS orphans) and it is a reference Centre to all childhood in the territory. The JGI-Italy has been supporting the structure since 1998 (accommodation, food, medical expenses, school expenses, employees' salaries, building and renovation, etc.). Thanks to many Italian donors and volunteers, Sanganigwa recently turned into a modern centre structured in Family Houses and has now been converting itself to the use of renewable energies and structures (biological vegetable gardens, rainwater gathering systems...) which are making it a model of Eco Village for the whole territory. Sanganigwa is the JGI-Italy’s main project and it is situated in the place which is also the symbol of the history of the Jane Goodall Institute; nevertheless, the Institute also works in Italy on protection of primates, educational and environmental programmes, besides intercultural and peace education activities.

Many other sights has Kigoma to offer:
- sunsets over the lake;
- fishermen villages and lamplights as candles over the waters in the night;
- the cloudy peaks of Congolese mountains on the horizon;
- the lively market with the kindness of its people;
- the red beaches on the lake where it is possible to bathe;
- the sounds of sunrise: roosters, birds, bells, Christian chants and calls from minarets, as a proof of the peaceful coexistence between Christians belonging to the most different confessions and Muslims.

The minimum offering for overnight stay (breakfast included) is 20 US$ per person; offerings will contribute to the maintenance of the children homes.

Volunteering

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