

Get to know our expert Guides



JOSH DUFFUS

HEAD FIELD GUIDE (ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK)

FROM: Kenya

LANGUAGE: English

INTERESTS: Conservation | Elephants

I was born in the Maasai Mara and grew up in game reserves across Africa. Guiding as a career was a natural choice. I initially studied at Campfire Academy in South Africa and guided and managed lodges in the Greater Kruger area, Madikwe Game Reserve and Tswalu Kalahari before starting my new adventure in the Congo Basin at Odzala. As a guide, I love sharing about the smaller things out there as well as helping photographers capture those most sought-after images. Exploring some of the wildest places left on our planet has always been a passion and being able to do that here is a life dream come true. There is a magic here in the Congo that cannot be described, and we are blessed to be able to experience that.



PEDRO LOPES

ASSISTANT HEAD FIELD GUIDE (ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK)

FROM: Brussels -Belgium | Lisbon -Portugal

LANGUAGES: English | French | Portuguese | Spanish

INTERESTS: Birds | Trees | Elephants | Community | Conservation

Having spent and worked most of my life in a big city, my love for nature started on the small screen; but it all changed the day I finally travelled to Africa and found out that the magic was real. I could see it, smell it, feel it. Becoming a guide was the perfect compromise in order to put to the test all my senses. Being able to share my passion for the natural world with people is such a rewarding feeling and my insatiable hunger for learning keeps me kicking. I've never felt more alive since I made that life-changing decision.

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HELEN DUFFUS

SENIOR FIELD GUIDE (ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK)

FROM: Germany

LANGUAGES: English | French | Russian | German

INTERESTS: Walking | Photography | Birding

My parents believed in as much time spent outdoors as possible and I grew up loving it. When I discovered the guiding industry in 2012 in South Africa, it quite simply "clicked" with me and I never looked back. Always keen for explorations and adventure, as well as pushing myself out of my comfort zone, coming to the Congo after having experienced several different areas of South Africa, from the thickets of the Eastern Cape to the Kalahari, via the lush hills of KZN and the Waterberg bushveld, seemed like a great way to learn more and grow further. The excitement of building guest experiences in such a massive and truly wild region of Africa and the fascinating ecology of this area make it an absolute privilege to work here. My passion for walking and exploring untouched areas has not subsided since my youth and Odzala is possibly the best place in Africa for anyone with such interests.



DANIKE MEYER

FIELD GUIDE (ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK)

FROM: South Africa

LANGUAGES: English | Afrikaans

INTERESTS: Birds | Plants | Aquatic Life | Rare, Small Mammals

I started my guiding career on the beaches and thickets of the Eastern Cape, then moved on to the forest, mountains, and eventually the Kalahari deserts and I still found myself looking for new challenges and adventures. Now is my time to explore the rainforest of Odzala. The rural, untouched beauty and the ability to be one with nature is a life-changing experience. One of the best ways to view animals in their natural environment is to do it unnoticed and in a rural place like the Congo, your sightings are unimaginable. I look forward to the continuing process of discovering and learning all about the fauna and flora, and to having the ability to share my "office" with everyone.

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LEON WEINFURTNER

FIELD GUIDE (ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK)

FROM: Germany

LANGUAGE: English | German | French | Spanish

INTERESTS: Birding | Tracking | Ecology | Community

The moment I went out for the first time on foot surrounded by wild animals in South Africa changed my life. I've never felt so present and alive before. Coming to the Congo rainforests from city life with a business background goes way beyond what I had dreamt of as a kid growing up in Germany. It is a matter of heart to me to conserve the last remaining intact and unfenced wild places on this planet. I take it as a huge privilege to be able to guide in this unique and special place which amazes me every single day. My passion is to share these moments of complete awareness and fascination with people from all over the world.



ANDREW HAY

FIELD GUIDE (ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK)

FROM: Hexham, United Kingdom

LANGUAGES: English | Basic Gaelic | Basic French

INTERESTS: Birding | Walking | Ethology/Ecology | Anthropology

I gained an MA in History and from there worked towards my goal of becoming a Field Guide, which I accomplished in 2022. I began my career in the big five reserves of South Africa and I am exceptionally eager to be working in the Congolese rainforest so early on in this journey. I have worked in the Australian Outback and my passion for rainforest biodiversity and ecology was sparked in the jungles of Borneo. To be able to come and work in Odzala-Kokoua is a dream come true. To teach guests about the extraordinary interconnectedness of life in the jungle and how humans, both indigenous and tourists, can save its precious and vital ecosystems is a humbling mission but one that I am incredibly excited for.

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DYLAN SMITH

SENIOR FIELD GUIDE (ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK)

FROM: Johannesburg, South Africa

LANGUAGE: English

INTERESTS: Primates | Amphibians | Ecology

Throughout my childhood, and well into my adult life, I took every opportunity I could to spend as much time as possible in reserves across the continent, developing a passion for wildlife and a lifelong goal to work in the wilds of Africa surrounded by the animals I love. I am a FGASA qualified guide, and also a qualified tracker, and have been working in the industry for the past ten years. My honest passion for this continent has led me to some of the most wild, and incredible adventures, only helping to further develop my dream of sharing a magic, which so few people get to witness in their lifetimes, a dream to aid my guests in exploring and learning about the one of the last true wilderness of our world.