

KIGOMA

Kigoma town is the major Tanzania port on Lake Tanganyika; the second most voluminous lake in the world. Once a staging port for slaves brought from the Congo across the lake, Kigoma is now a quiet and slightly rambling, lakeside town. It is the terminus of the Central Railway, which runs across Tanzania starting in Dar es Salaam. This railway was opened in 1914 when mainland Tanzania (along with modern day Burundi and Rwanda) was part of German East Africa. The railway station and Regional Commissioner's residence were built by the Germans prior to the loss of their African colonies in the aftermath of the WWI. Kigoma is also the home port of the MV *Liemba*, a pre-WWI German warship that now plies her trade as passenger ferry up and down the length of Lake Tanganyika between Kigoma and Mpulungu in Zambia.



In 1871, just seven kilometres down the road, in the neighbouring township of Ujiji, Henry Stanley uttered the now immortal (although probably apocryphal) phrase "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?" upon finding the Scottish medical missionary Dr. David Livingstone. This would have been a rather composed greeting seeing as it had taken Stanley a mere eight months and a team of no fewer than 200 people, to find the good doctor. There is now a museum and monument to mark this momentous event.

Kigoma is also home to the Jane Goodall Institute, one of the world's leading (and longest running) centres of research on



chimpanzees. It was here, in the now gazetted Gombe Stream National Park, that Jane Goodall did her ground breaking research based on behavioural observation of our nearest genetic relative. Jane Goodall was one of the so-called Trimates; three researchers championed by British palaeoanthropologist Louis Leakey. Sometimes also referred to as Leakey's Angels, this trio includes Dian Fossey who worked in neighbouring Uganda and of *Gorillas in the Mist* fame, and Briute Galdikas who carried out similar studies on Orangutans in Indonesia. Jane Goodall still regularly visits Kigoma and Gombe Stream National Park. Located on the lake 12kms north of Kigoma, Gombe is accessible only by boat or plane.



We love this region and all of Tanzania. If you have any interest in planning a trip out here, contact us and we give you some recommendations!