Lake of WONDER!

Stretching a colossal 673km from end to end (that’s farther than London to Aberdeen), Lake Tanganyika, in eastern Africa, is the longest and second deepest lake in the world. Surrounded by four countries — Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia — this beautiful Great Lake is home to 600 unique species not found anywhere else in the world.

So grab your sunhat and join us as we meet the creatures that call Tanganyika’s waters home...

Lake Tanganyika and the forests that surround it are teeming with wildlife. All seven species of crab found here are unique to the lake. Hippos wallow in the shallows while otters and Nile crocodiles swim alongside terrapins. Giant kingfishers and cormorants rely on the lake’s warm waters for their daily meals — dining on its fish.

Swing with the chimps

It’s not just the lake’s crystal clear waters that are bursting with life. Long before you spot them in the trees, you’ll hear the loud, piercing sound of chimpanzees chattering to each other. World-renowned ape expert Jane Goodall came to Lake Tanganyika’s eastern shore in 1960 to begin her groundbreaking research on chimpanzees. And 54 years on, Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania still has a population of around 100 chimps.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Lake Tanganyika may be deep, but there’s very little life below about 200m. At its deepest point, the lake’s ‘fossil water’ is thought to be about 20 million years old!