



Ennedi Expedition

2nd – 9th February 2021



Anderson EXPEDITIONS

Expedition Overview

2nd February 2021

Radisson Blu Hotel | N'Djamena | Chad

3rd February 2021

N'Djamena to Ennedi National Park

3rd – 9th February 2021

Explore Ennedi National Park

9th February 2021

Ennedi National Park to N'Djamena



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Ennedi Expedition

2 nights Radisson Blu Hotel

4 nights Warda Camp

2 nights Mobile camp



A day-to-day breakdown...

2nd February 2021 - N'DJAMENA | CHAD

On arrival in N'Djamena you will be met by your expedition guide, and your ground team, and road transferred to the Radisson Blu Hotel for the night. Dependent on arrival time you may want to relax in the hotel, experience the N'Djamena horseracing or enjoy relaxing sundowners overlooking the Chari river and Cameroon.

3rd February 2021- NDJ-FADA-TERKEI | ENNEDI

Today we will have an early start before heading to the airport to board our charter flight to Fada. Fada is a characteristic Saharan village and the gateway to Ennedi. On arrival in Fada we'll meet our expedition team and complete some district formalities before heading out into the vast landscape of the Ennedi Massif. Our route to Warda camp passes a beautiful region of tassilian rock formations, tongues of sand and, in Terkey, we will visit one of the most important rock art sites in the region. After a day of adventure we arrive at Warda camp, our base for the next 3 nights. Dinner and overnight at Warda Camp.



A day-to-day breakdown...

4th February 2021– NOHI-LABYRINTH-ARCHEI | ENNEDI

Today we head out to explore the beautiful and verdant landscape of Wadi Nohi, amazing cave sites rich in paintings, the water formed Oyo labyrinth and finally the incredible wadi Archei. The guelta at wadi Archei is one of the most important sites in Ennedi boasting an incredible rugged landscape, a major watering point for the region's camels, a meeting point for nomadic pastoralists and a unique population of West African crocodiles. Back to the camp in the late afternoon. Dinner and overnight at Warda Camp.

5th February 2021–ALOBA ARCH-SAMPORO ARCHES-BAMENA MASSIF | ENNEDI

Today we cross the spectacular region of Bamena massif, made up of a succession of pinnacles, gorges, sandstone castles and winding dunes. Our destination is the giant Arch of Aloba, the second largest arch in the world. The Aloba Arch - about 120 metres (394 feet) high with a span of about 77 meters (253 feet) is one of the most remarkable sites on our journey. Dinner and overnight at Warda Camp.





A day-to-day breakdown...

6th February 2021 – ABAIKE-FADA-SABI NJALLA-ALLICHA | ENNEDI

For the next 2 nights we will travel further afield and overnight in fly camps to explore some beautiful and remote parts of Ennedi. Today we will cross vast areas of remote mountain formations, cordons of sandy dunes, and incredible tassilian landscapes until we finally enter the Mourdi depression where we will camp at Allicha. Dinner and overnight in fly camp.

7th February 2021 – MOURDI-KOURTALULA-ANOA-AJOUS-BICHAGARA | ENNEDI

Today we follow a challenging route through the Mourdi depression in a westerly direction. We must cross Kourtaloula to attempt to reach Anoa, a high tower of stone and a beautiful palm grove. This is desert adventure at its finest. Eventually we will reach the base of the Bichagara cliffs on the southwestern border of the Ennedi massif. An amazing group of gargantuan stones that stand out from the sand. Here we will camp in a spectacular remote landscape under enormous skies. Dinner and overnight in fly camp.



A day-to-day breakdown...

8th February 2021 – BICHAGARA – KERNEK – BECHIKE – CHIGEOU | ENNEDI

Today we journey through the beautiful tassilian region of Bichagara. Big sandstone formations, separated by sand plains and hidden dunes create a splendid labyrinth of unique beauty. In this area natural shelters contain some really fascinating rock art. Driving through a narrow canyon named Bechiké we will discover a small guelta that provides water to the wild animals living here. Finally, winding through fabulous landscapes, we will cross Archei ouadi, to get to Chigeou spires and later back to Warda Camp. Dinner and overnight at Warda Camp.

9th February 2021 – FADA TO N'DJAMENA

In the morning, after breakfast, we'll transfer by vehicles to Fada airstrip for our flight to N'Djamena. Overnight at Radisson Blu Hotel.





Expedition Includes

- Anderson Expeditions specialist safari leader Fraser Gear
- All accommodation as per the itinerary
- Radisson Blu Hotel N'Djamena (Bed & Breakfast)
- Warda Camp and fly camp – all accommodation, meals and drinks
- Scheduled safari activities and park fees
- Private charter flight from N'Djamena – Fada – N'Djamena
- Airport transfers in N'Djamena

Expedition Excludes

- International flights and airport taxes
- Hotels and meals not listed in the itinerary (lunch/dinner and drinks in N'Djamena)
- Activities or arrangements in N'Djamena
- Personal expenses
- Staff gratuities
- Travel Insurance (full comprehensive travel/medical insurance)
- Visa fees



Geology and Biodiversity

Ennedi – located deep in the Sahara Desert - consists of two sandstone plateau's, the western Basso, and the eastern Erdebe which, together, separate the Lake Chad basin from the Nile basin. A multitude of mountain ranges break away from these twin plateaus forming the famous Tassili sandstone formations, carved out by millenia of weathering.

Ennedi's location is a at a strategic crossroad combining Ethiopian, Saharan, Sahelian and Sudanese botanical diversity. The huge, rocky bastions of the massif provide localized refuge for 526 plant species from surrounding regions as well as from southern Africa, India and East Africa.



Ennedi National Park

Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, nestled in the northeast of Chad, is a natural sandstone masterpiece spanning 40,000 km² of sculpted landscape marked by cliffs, canyons and natural arches. Labelled as an Eden in the Sahara, the Reserve lies within Ennedi Massif, a large Sahara mountain massif in Chad. Ennedi Massif was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2016 for its unique natural formations and rock art that dates back 7,000 years. Despite intense poaching in recent decades exterminating most wildlife in the reserve, the remaining biodiversity in this unique landscape is remarkable. It is home to a relic population of crocodiles, over 525 plant species and at least 100 bird species which pass through on their transcontinental migratory routes.

This ancient landscape remains an important resource for two semi-nomadic groups in need of pastures and water for their livestock. Tremendous opportunity exists to transform the conservation of this life-giving landscape to support people and wildlife.



African Parks

African Parks is a non-profit organisation that takes on direct responsibility for the rehabilitation and long-term management of national parks, in partnership with governments and local communities. By adopting a business approach to conservation, supported by donor funding, African Parks aims to make each park sustainable in the long term, thereby contributing to economic development and poverty alleviation. Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve area formally came under the long-term management of African Parks in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Chad in February 2018.

African Parks long-term vision for Ennedi is to restore its natural and cultural assets, reintroducing species that lived here before, and to recreate a representation of the Sindhian-Saharan and Sahelian biomes in Africa, which are no longer found anywhere else in the entire Sahel region.



Wildlife

The gueltas, or semi-permanent water pools, are home to numerous fish. Bird life in the Massif is highly diversified, as the area is a migratory crossroads that provides important habitat for at least 199 listed species utilizing it on their transcontinental movements.

Ennedi has long been a refuge for Saharan wildlife, with species such as addax, oryx, cheetah, Dama and Leptocere gazelles among others present in large numbers until the mid-20th century. While poaching and conflict almost eradicated these species, some exceptional wildlife spectacles remain. Still present are Barbary sheep, Dorcas gazelle, striped hyaena, baboon, patas monkey, caracal (desert lynx) and ratel (honey badger). Remarkably, a small relic population of crocodiles (*Crocodylus suchus*) persists in the Archei Guelta, the last known representatives of this species throughout the Sahara.





Culture

Ennedi's profound artistic and cultural heritage is rooted in its rich history of human occupation, which dates back more than 10,000 years to the Neolithic period. Mausoleums, hundreds of engravings and rock paintings bear testament to this continuity of human presence; their illustrations depicting wildlife and environmental variation through 16 different styles and three distinct eras of rock art. There are two main seminomadic ethnic groups in the Ennedi,

the Toubou and the Beri, better known as the Zaghawa who live in southern Ennedi extending into Northern Darfur in Sudan. There are numerous rock art sites dotted throughout the Ennedi Massif. The art represents wild animals (including giraffe, elephant and rhinoceros) and reflect the livelihoods of the people who have inhabited the area for thousands of years.



Warda Camp

Warda Camp is the first semi-permanent tented camp in the heart of the Ennedi Massif, and is operated by the team at Société de Voyage Sahariens (SVS) who have 30 years experience leading expeditions into Ennedi.

The spectacular location of the camp is chosen to maximise on access to the various sites of interest in Ennedi. The camp has 8 guest tents which each include a shower and toilet. The main mess tent area is where we will all gather at mealtimes and to reflect on the wonder of the Ennedi experience.



Fly Camp

For two of the nights, as you cross the Sahara in a westerly direction our group will be supported by a team and simple fly-camp set up.

Republic of Chad

Chad, officially known as the Republic of Chad, is a landlocked country in north-central Africa. It is bordered by Libya to the north, Sudan to the east, the Central African Republic to the south, Cameroon and Nigeria to the southwest, and Niger to the west.

Chad has several regions: a Saharan desert zone in the north, an arid Sahelian belt in the center and a more fertile Sudanian Savanna zone in the south. Lake Chad, after which the country is named, is the largest wetland in Chad and the second-largest in Africa.

The capital N'Djamena is the largest city. Chad's official languages are Arabic and French. Chad is home to over 200 different ethnic and linguistic groups. The most popular religion of Chad is Islam (at 55%), followed by Christianity (at 40%).





Fraser Gear

Fraser is an excellent naturalist, guide and explorer. He has spent the last 28 years leading wildlife, photographic and birding expeditions across the length and breadth of Africa, Madagascar, Middle East, Asia and into the neo-tropics. Fraser's interests and skills are as diverse as his explorations. He is a passionate birder, tracker, botanist and wildlife enthusiast, Fraser has a great love of the planet's wildest places and the adventure that comes with exploring these regions. Fraser is at his happiest when in the thick of things on foot in the African savanna, on a remote sea kayak expedition with his wife and best friend Sandra, or deep in a steamy jungle seeking out avian wonders. A sensitive and caring tour leader, a wonderful teacher with a passion for nature, a wicked sense of humor, a repertoire of incredible tales of challenge and a sharp intellect combine to make Fraser the exceptional expedition leader he is today.



Useful Information...



Travel Documents – please make copies of passports and visa documents and carry these with you



Cash - be sure to have some cash for gratuities and incidental purchases.



Laundry – There is no laundry service available on the Ennedi Expedition



Climate – expect hot to very hot conditions. The air is very dry, moisturizers and lip balms are needed in addition to sunblock and sunglasses



Binoculars – we strongly recommend that you travel with at least one pair of good binoculars



Time zone – Time zone in Chad is GMT+1 hours



Medical information – please seek professional medical advice from your local travel clinic prior to travel



Luggage restrictions – Luggage, including camera equipment and hand luggage is restricted to 15kg on the charter flight



Don't forget your hat!



Wi-Fi connectivity – there is no wifi in Ennedi NP



A large, natural rock archway made of layered, reddish-brown sandstone. The arch is the central focus, with a view through it to a desert valley. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The foreground is a sandy dune. The overall scene is a dramatic desert landscape.

Enjoy your Expedition!

Photo credit:

Thanks to Richard Anderson and Fraser
Gear for providing the photos for this
itinerary