

ZAKOUMA EXPEDITION CHAD

10th – 17th FEBRUARY
2021





Itinerary Overview

Zakouma Expedition

9th – 10th February 2021

- Radisson Blu Hotel – N'Djamena, Chad

10th – 17th February 2021

- Camp Nomade – Zakouma NP
- Fly Camp – Zakouma NP



A day-to-day breakdown...

Day 1 / 9th February 2021

On arrival in N'Djamena you will be met by your expedition guide, 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.

Day 2 - 8 / 10th - 17th February 2021

An early departure to the airport for the charter flight to Zakouma National Park. The charter aircraft is a Cessna Caravan 208 and the flight will take about 2.5 hours. On arrival in Zakouma you will game drive to Camp Nomade.

Your week in Zakouma will be spent exploring the Park and surrounding areas in open game drive vehicles and on foot. Visits to the park headquarters, nomadic villages and markets offer insight into regional conservation and culture. Two nights will be spent fly camping in a remote part of Zakouma.

Day 8 - / 17th February 2021

A final morning in Zakouma before your charter flight departs for N'Djamena. On arrival at N'Djamena airport you'll be assisted with your connecting international departure flight.

Zakouma National Park

Considered to be one of the last strongholds of plains game in the Sudano-Sahelian zone, Zakouma National Park in south-eastern Chad is 3000 km² of untamed African wilderness. Due to its close proximity to the centre of the Chadian Basin, the terrain of the park is almost exclusively flat with the exception of the beautiful granite inselbergs found in the south-west near Ibir.

As one of three national parks in Chad, Zakouma forms an integral part of the conservation of flora and fauna in the region. The Chadian government has been committed to protecting this natural heritage even through many years of conflict. Today Zakouma is one of the most important protected areas in Central and West Africa.



African Parks

African Parks is a non-profit organization 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.

African Parks has been instrumental in rejuvenating Zakouma National Park and their work on the ground is a model on which much of Africa's conservation efforts could (and should) be based in future.



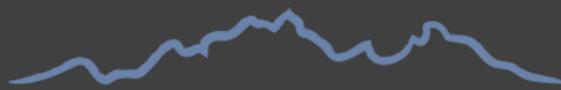
Mammals

Zakouma is a sanctuary for West and Central African biodiversity. Notable mammals include the Kordofan giraffe, red-fronted gazelle, Lelwel's hartebeest, tiang, patas monkey and pale fox.

Herds of orange tinted buffalo (a mix of the forest and Cape buffalo) are often seen together with cattle egrets on the edges of the pans and swamps. A healthy population of roan antelope means that herds of over 50 can be seen grazing alongside tiang and Lelwel's hartebeest. Seeing the elephant herd is a highlight and the numbers have now recovered to over 400.

Night drives in Zakouma reveal an abundance of Africa's smaller predators and one is almost guaranteed of regularly seeing serval, pale fox, civet and African wild cat during ones stay. This said, all the main predators are found in the park with lion common and leopard seen occasionally, as well as striped hyena and aardwolf.





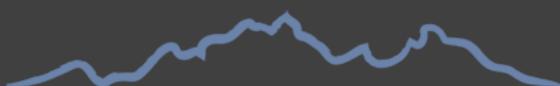
Birds

The birdlife in Zakouma is by far one of the highlights of any trip to the park. Species that one is accustomed to seeing only in pairs elsewhere in Africa are found here in flocks of well over 500. The northern crowned crane is even seen in groups of over 2000. These raucous birds roost in the east of the park and early morning and late evening the air is full of their cries as they gracefully head to and from their roosts.

Pelicans move in lines through fish infested pools herding fish to the edge for an easier scoop, while marabou storks lurk on the side, hoping for a cheeky steal.

Abyssinian ground hornbills are seen patrolling the plains with their vibrant blue and red heads, perfectly contrasted with the dry habitat. Zakouma is home to beautiful red-throated bee-eaters and black-headed gonoleks. Northern carmine bee-eaters breed along the Salamat river. Enormous flocks of red-billed quelea congregating to drink is an unbelievable spectacle.

Many migrant species are present and identifying the various warblers offers a challenge to keen birders. Notable species seen on previous expeditions to Zakouma include Black-breasted barbet, Pel's fishing owl, Bat Hawk and Greater Spotted Eagle.



Culture

The nomadic pastoralists who live throughout the Sahelian belt are said to be of Arab descent and still live a completely nomadic lifestyle. Families move in colourful trains, with oxen, camels and horses decorated in red and green wool, leather tassles, brass bells and thousands of cowrie shells. With the women clad in neon yellow, magenta and emerald green, the procession is nothing short of breath-taking. The periphery of the park is the perfect place to explore both the culture of the residents and the nomads of the region.

The Saturday market to the East of the park offers a relaxed and immersive cultural experience in strikingly colourful surrounds.





Camp Nomade

Camp Nomade is an exciting new tented camp in Zakouma National Park. Camp Nomade is a high-end tented safari camp designed to capture the romance of the nomadic culture that is an integral part of Chadian/Sahelian culture. It is a truly authentic and intimate safari experience. The tented camp is light enough to move throughout the season as the game congregates around the rapidly drying pans.

Fly camping infrastructure and a support team is available for our guests in order to experience different locations within Zakouma during the 7 night stay.

A decision will be made once at Zakouma how, when and where, the mobile fly camp will be utilised. Generally, after a few nights in Camp Nomade, enjoying the Regueik Pan area, we would explore the southern reaches of Zakouma, possibly camping for a night on the Salamat river or on one of the pans in the south of the Park. These decisions will be made based upon the game movements and local conditions at Zakouma during the time of the expedition.



Included

- Anderson Expeditions specialist safari leaders for the duration of the expedition
- All accommodation and meals as per the itinerary
- Radisson Blu Hotel N'Djamena – breakfast only
- Scheduled safari activities and Park fees
- Charter flights N'Djamena – Zakouma – N'Djamena
- Airport transfers in N'Djamena



Excluded

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



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.





Richard Anderson

After university Richard was trained and subsequently guided in the Kruger National Park and in Northern Zululand in South Africa where his naturalist passions, including animal behaviour and birdwatching were developed. He spent time leading leopard research safaris and as a specialist private guide on various South African reserves. Pursuing his passion for exploring the bush on foot, Richard then trained and qualified as a walking trails guide and led multi-day walking safaris in the northern Pafuri region of the Kruger National Park.

After time spent training guides in South America, Richard returned to Africa and established himself as a pan-African safari guide, leading specialist trips throughout southern and east Africa and as far afield as the Horn of Africa and the central, west region of the continent. He has led kayaking expeditions in Madagascar, walking trails in the Kruger Park, cultural expeditions to the Omo Valley, canoe trails on the Zambezi river and flying safaris on the Skeleton Coast. He regularly guides trips to Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya and has recently added Ethiopia and Chad to his repertoire.

Guests on a safari led by Richard described their experience with the following: *"Richard... it was by far the best travel experience we have ever had. Much of this was due to your expertise, vast and intricate knowledge, wonderful humour and your personal capacity to manage people, and create an exhilaratingly fun space in which we all felt safe and confident. Thank you for being our friend, such good company and for guiding us safely through areas where we could not go ourselves"*.



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 – Camp Nomade has laundry service but no ironing. There is no laundry service when staying at the fly camp



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



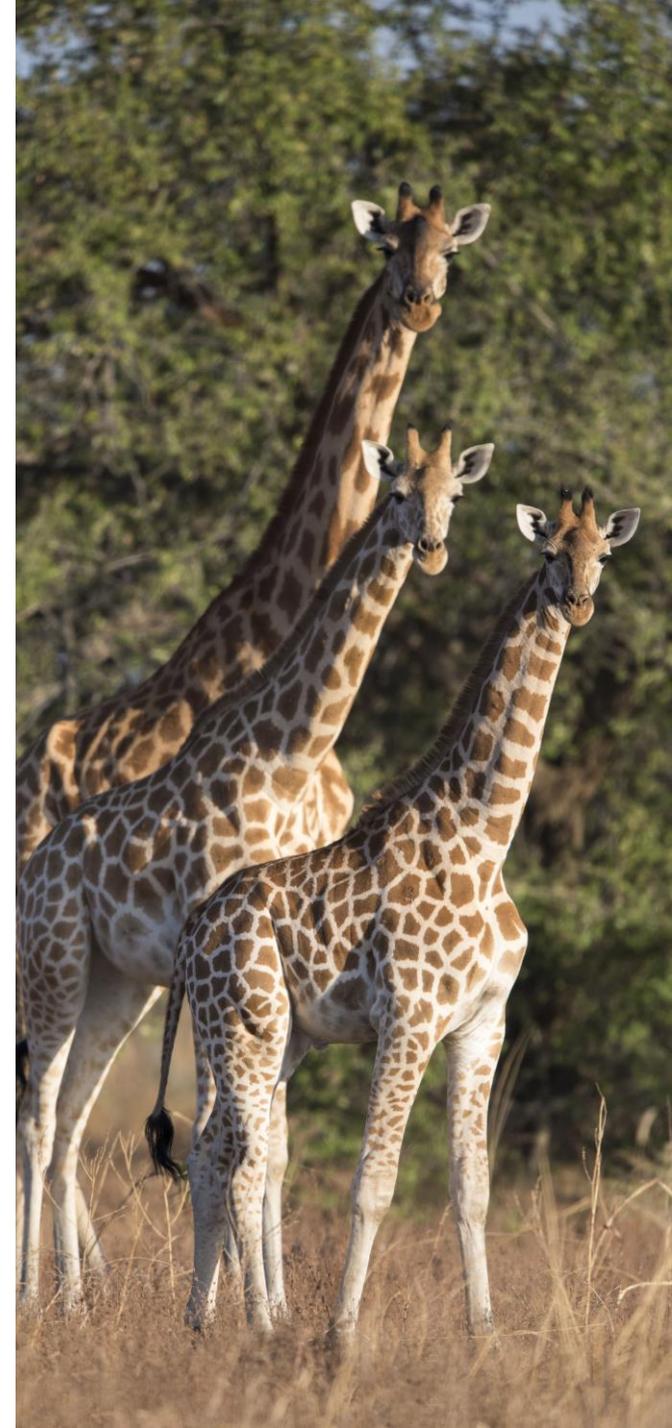
Luggage restrictions – Luggage, including camera equipment and hand luggage is restricted to 15kg on the charter flight



Don't forget your hat!



Wi-Fi connectivity – there is **no** wifi at Camp Nomade



Enjoy your Expedition!

Photo credits:

Thanks to African Parks, Richard
Anderson and Sandra Schonbachler for
providing the photos for this itinerary

