



CHAD: ENNEDI AND ZAKOUMA

Sandstone wonderland and the jewel of the Sahel

16 DAYS

ITINERARY

N'DJAMENA

DAY ONE

Arrive N'Djamena International Airport, Chad
Meet and assist through customs and immigration
Airport transfer (5 minutes)
La Résidence Hotel (one night)

ENNEDI (SEVEN NIGHTS)

DAY TWO

Charter flight from N'Djamena to Nisham Natural Airstrip (3 hours)
Road transfer to Warda Camp (15 minutes)
Warda Camp (four nights)
Fly Camping (three nights)

ZAKOUMA (SEVEN NIGHTS)

DAY NINE

Charter flight from Nisham Natural Airstrip to Zakouma (4 hours)
Camp Nomade (seven nights incl. one - two nights fly camping)

DAY 16

Charter flight from Zakouma to N'Djamena International Airport
Connect to your outbound flight

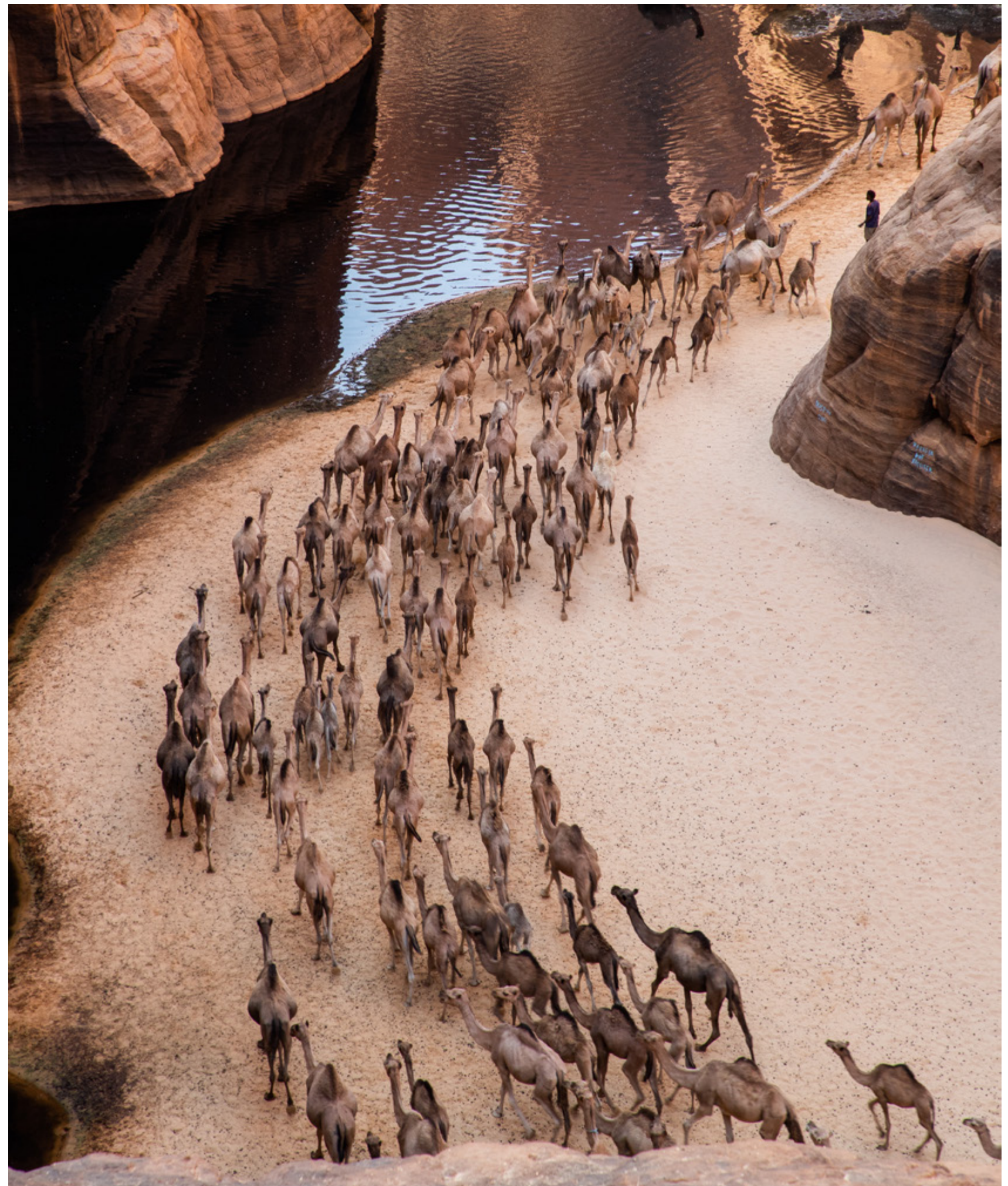


A CHADIAN ADVENTURE

For many years, Chad was deemed an unrealistic destination for even intrepid travellers due to the ongoing unrest and what seemed like an unstoppable wave of poaching. In 2010 African Parks were invited by the Chadian government to take over management of Zakouma, Chad's oldest and arguably most spectacular national park. They have subsequently done an extraordinary job of stemming the poaching tide and carving out a real future for this truly special corner of Africa. In 2018, after their success in Zakouma, African Parks were awarded management of Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, a 50,000km² sandstone wonderland steeped in ancient rock art and Saharan culture.

An exploration into both of these landscapes will resonate on many levels, from discovery through to conservation. It is a journey of great contrast, encompassing two of Africa's wildest destinations: one a meditative expression of silence and solitude, the other an explosion of life and abundance. This is for the traveller who wants an authentic experience beyond the infinity pool.

Ennedi is best visited between October and early March, Zakouma between January and mid-April, and the sweet spot to visit both of these destinations is between January and March. Camp Nomade is only bookable by a small selected group of African Parks partner guides, making this an incredibly exclusive experience for our guests.



A NOTE ABOUT ENNEDI

Ennedi is utterly surprising by its grandeur of scale. It is larger than Switzerland and only from the air when the mountains themselves are dwarfed by the endless expanse does one get a vague sense of its enormity.

While decades of poaching and conflict almost eradicated much of the wildlife, and sightings are few and far between, there are some extraordinary creatures that call this desert home, including Barbary sheep, Dorcas gazelle, striped hyena, yellow baboon, patas monkey, caracal, honey badger, desert hedgehog, common genet and Rüppell's fox. Around 525 plant species have been found and around 200 birds have been recorded passing through Ennedi. Remarkably, a small relic population of desert-adapted crocodiles persists in the Guelta d'Archei, the last known representatives of this species throughout the Sahara.

Yet in contrast to the wildlife paradise of Zakouma, Ennedi's allure lies in the sorcery of its sandstone towers, mesmerising night skies, ancient rock art, passing caravans of camels with their semi-nomadic herders and a breathtaking vastness that few from the outside world have ever seen. One could say Ennedi is best experienced as a near silent retreat. It is not a place to speak about, it is a place to be.



N'DJAMENA

DAY ONE | ONE NIGHT

ARRIVAL

Today your Chad adventure begins. You arrive at N'Djamena International Airport where you will be met and assisted through customs and immigration. Your driver will then take you to La Résidence Hotel where you will stay for your first night.

YOUR STAY: LA RÉSIDENCE HOTEL



[Click to view](#)

The refurbished four star La Résidence Hotel is described as “delicately poised between a business and leisure hotel”. It has 119 en suite rooms either facing the garden or the pool with a balcony or terrace. Other amenities include two restaurants, two swimming pools (one semi-Olympic size for swimming lengths), a fitness room and a night club. This hotel is perfectly located for ease of airport transfers and a comfortable night's rest before heading into the wilderness.



Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve

In the north-east of Chad the stunning Ennedi Mountains arise, a red sandstone mountain range sculpted into fascinating, manifold rock formations by wind and sand. This is one of Chad's most beautiful areas; its natural arches, deep canyons and isolated waterholes make it a real joy to explore. The Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve covers approximately 50,000km² of the Ennedi Massif, an area that spans the country's Sahelian and Saharan areas and which was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016. Since 2018 Ennedi has been co-managed by African Parks and the Chadian government. Here we enter the land of Tubu, one of Africa's most traditional, and least known people. Our excellent local connections give us the rare opportunity to witness their remarkable desert lifestyle.



ENNEDI DAY TWO | SEVEN NIGHTS

ARRIVAL

You will be transferred from the Hotel to N'Djamena International Airport from where you take a private charter flight to Archei Natural Airstrip. From here your driver will take you to Warda Camp. For the next week, your home is the Sahara. Four nights will be spent at Warda and for three nights we will make use of a mobile fly camp to explore deeper into the desert.

YOUR STAY: **CAMP WARDA** [Click to view](#)

Camp Warda was born out of passion, a big dream and constant research. It's the first and only semi-permanent camp in this special location giving you the rare opportunity to explore the heart of the Ennedi Massif. Warda Camp consists of eight tents fitted with a private shower and field toilet, as well as a communal area designed for relaxation. It offers a combination of luxury and authentic local aesthetic with designs and crafts from the native surroundings. We use Warda as a base camp from which to launch a variety of fly camping expeditions.

EXPERIENCE: FLY CAMPING

The fly camping allows access to some of the hidden gems of Ennedi during the most magical hours of the day, with nights spent under a blanket of stars. This is when you get the greatest sense of wilderness and remoteness. During the nights away, the amenities are fewer and not as luxurious but we will have comfortable beds and great food that is freshly prepared on a daily basis. Each day we will witness sunrise and sunset in some of the most spectacular settings imaginable, covering vast regions by vehicle and exploring on foot.





Ennedi Highlights

- Crossing the spectacular region of Bamena Massif and its array of canyons, pinnacles and sandstone castles alternating with winding dunes.
- The stunning Aloba Arch, one of the most remarkable natural arches in the world, large enough to shelter the Notre-Dame of Paris.
- The famous Guelta d'Archei is a unique basin between vertical rock walls, which for centuries has served as an oasis for camels in the heat of the Sahara Desert. To be up above the guelta and listening to the herdsman bringing in their camels is a truly biblical experience.
- Witnessing a tiny population of desert adapted crocodiles which have survived here for millennia.
- The isolated small oasis of Anoa is extraordinary, often rewarding visitors with an unexpected spark of life.
- Rock art dating back 7,000 years.
- Getting a rare glimpse into the secretive Tubu culture
- A possibility of seeing unique desert animals like Dorcas gazelle and Rüppell's fox

Conservation

- African Parks are working on the restoration and conservation of Ennedi's wildlife populations through regular ecological data collection and long-term monitoring of key species, and the reintroduction of locally extinct emblematic species.
- The red-necked ostrich was successfully translocated from Zakouma National Park.
- A study is underway to explore the possibility of introducing more desert crocodiles.
- Reintroduction of the critically endangered addax antelope.
- Preservation of the rich cultural heritage through strong community-based conservation.

“The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched, they are felt with the heart”
— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*



A NOTE ABOUT ZAKOUMA

We are often asked by guests on safari as to our favourite destinations in Africa – a hard question to answer, since there are so many extraordinary wild places to visit. However if one place would hold the top spot it would be Zakouma National Park in Chad.

Zakouma is a place of abundance, and it is perhaps this that makes it so remarkable. Flocks of 4,000 plus black crowned cranes fly over camp each morning, swarms of over 10 million red-billed quelea, waterfowl too numerous to count, large herds of Central African buffalo fringe the pans, Kordofan giraffe, roan antelope, tiang and a host of other antelope species speckle the plains and lions are numerous. Zakouma recalls a time when the wilds of Africa seemed so much fuller and more complete.

And wild it truly is. Getting there is more challenging than many destinations, but the 3,300 square kilometer of Zakouma delivers the freedom to explore in ways that very few parks can offer in today's increasingly regulated world. We will spend much time on foot, possibly even in the presence of lion, buffalo and elephant. Zakouma's elephants are one of its greatest lures: these majestic beings sometimes travel together in a single herd of over 450... a reminder of both past tragedy and future hope.



Camp Nomade is perfect in its simplicity and elegance, providing everything you need and nothing you don't. Using the camp as a base, we explore remote pans and corners of the Salamat River with the perfect fly camp — essentially just a mosquito net under the stars!

Before the image of Shangri-La seems too complete, it must be said that it can also be blisteringly hot and dusty with tsetse flies. The luxury lies in you being part of an elite few to have experienced this remote and untouched part of Africa.

Zakouma National Park

Zakouma National Park, located in the Salamat region of south-eastern Chad, situated just south of the Sahara Desert and above the fertile rainforest regions, is considered the primary safe haven for Central and West African wildlife. Once a stronghold for well over 4,000 elephants, by 2010 the park had lost 90% of its elephants to ivory poachers, while further havoc was wreaked on the park and local communities by poachers on horseback. The Chadian government then invited African Parks to secure the park, protect the remaining 500 elephant and bring back stability to the surrounding communities. The success of this conservation endeavour has been so marked that African Parks were invited to manage the adjoining Siniaka-Minia Wildlife Reserve (SMWR) and Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve, including adjoining wildlife corridors, giving them the mandate to manage the entire Greater Zakouma Ecosystem of 28,162 km².





The Birdlife

The birdlife in Zakouma is by far one of the greatest highlights of any trip to the park. Species that one is accustomed to seeing in pairs are found here in unbelievable abundance. The black crowned crane is sometimes seen in flocks of over 5,000. These raucous birds roost in the east of the park; and in the early morning and late evening the skies are full of their cries as they gracefully head to and from their roosts.

Pelicans drift in lines over a kilometer long and meander through fish infested pools, herding fish to the shallows for an easier scoop - while marabou storks lurk on the edges, hoping for a cheeky steal. Abyssinian ground hornbills are often seen patrolling the plains with their vibrant blue and red heads, perfectly contrasted with the dry habitat. Towards the end of the dry season, northern carmine bee-eaters gather in great numbers at their mud bank colonies and red-billed quelea flocks form dark clouds in the sky.

The Wildlife

Zakouma is home to a thriving and abundant wildlife population. Guests will have the opportunity to view herds of Central African savannah buffalo, often seen together with cattle egrets on the edges of the pans and swamps. A healthy population of roan antelope can be found grazing alongside huge herds of tiang and Lelwel hartebeest. The highlight of any trip is seeing the main herd of elephant, often moving as a unit of over 400.

Night drives in Zakouma reveal an abundance of Africa's smaller predators and one is all but guaranteed of seeing serval, pale fox, civet, honey badger or African wild cat. All the main predators are found in the park, with the West African lion particularly abundant. Zakouma is arguably the most important stronghold on the continent for this highly endangered subspecies. Other species of interest include Kordafan giraffe, red-fronted gazelle, Patas monkey and Buffon's kob.



ZAKOUMA

DAY NINE | SEVEN NIGHTS

ARRIVAL

You are taking a charter flight from Warda Camp to Camp Nomade in Zakouma, where you will stay at the exclusive mobile camp and their fly camp and their fly camp for the following seven nights.

YOUR STAY: CAMP NOMADE



[Click to view](#)

Your experience with Camp Nomade will be one to remember - a unique, first-class mobile camp that gives you exclusive use of the northern section of Zakouma. A truly intimate and bespoke experience of one of the last intact Central African savannah ecosystems.

Pulling elements of local nomadic culture, Camp Nomade is designed elegantly, keeping comfort in mind. The tents are encased in large mosquito nets with a canvas roof for shade and uninterrupted views. Each tent has an en suite bathroom with traditional safari bucket showers. The main dining tent is laid with elegant carpets and pillows, perfect for observing the surrounding plains with a cool drink in hand.

The camp is typically based on the edge of Riguek, one of the park's largest seasonal wetlands - a pulsating, heaving mass of wildlife and birdlife like nowhere else on earth. The sounds from the camp are enthralling. Many morning and evening drives or walks end not too far from camp as there is so much happening around Riguek. We would usually rest in the shade during the midday heat.

And no stay at Zakouma is complete without a visit to the African Parks headquarters.





EXPERIENCE: FLY CAMPING

Typically we spend one or two nights fly camping under basic mosquito dome tents in different locations. Fly camping allows you to explore remote pans, water courses and other corners of the park that are simply too far to get to in a single day. In order to travel deep into the reserve we keep a very basic camp setup, allowing for a real sense of expedition and wilderness. The pans are a popular water source for a wide variety of wildlife, offering up a strong sense of Africa that is completely untamed.

Hearty meals are enjoyed around a fire beneath the star-spangled sky, and we sleep with the chorus of night creatures.



Zakouma Highlights

- Black crowned cranes are sometimes seen in flocks of over 5,000. These raucous birds roost in the east of the park; and in the early morning and late evening the skies are full of their cries as they gracefully head to and from their roosts.
- Pelicans soaring in lines over a kilometre long.
- Towards the end of the dry season, northern carmine bee-eaters gather in great numbers at their mud bank colonies, a blur of scarlett and blue that can mesmerise onlookers for hours.
- Millions of red-billed quelea, gathering in towering clouds that dance across the floodplains in front of Camp Nomade. The sound of the flocks alighting from the water's edge is like a canon being fired. They are followed by hordes of raptors.
- Half of the global population of Kordofan giraffe occur here.
- Exceptional night drives that often reveal pale fox, serval, civet, honey badger and other rarely seen creatures.
- The opportunity to spend time with what is likely the largest single elephant herd in Africa.
- Endangered roan antelope in breathtaking herds, as well as gathering of tiang and Lelwel's hartebeest as far as the eye can see.
- Large gatherings of Central African buffalo, many of whom have a beautiful red tinge.
- Fly camping on the Salamat River and witnessing the remarkable densities of crocodile and the mud caves they have made for themselves.
- Contributing to and experiencing one of Africa's conservation success stories.

Conservation

- Over seven straight years have passed without a single recorded poached elephant and there are now around 700 elephants in the park.
- Zakouma is home to 50% of the global Kordofan giraffe population and numbers are on the rise.
- The park's buffalo population was reduced to about 220 animals in 1986 but now numbers over 15,000.
- Zakouma is the largest employer in the region, providing over 250 permanent jobs as well as a multitude of enterprise opportunities.
- 20 schools have been built and outfitted for neighbouring communities.



CHAD
FAREWELL
DAY 16

DEPARTURE

Charter flight from Zakouma to N'Djamena International Airport.
Connect to your departure flight home.



QUICK FACTS

VISAS

Chad visas must be arranged prior to arrival through your nearest Chadian embassy. Please contact us for further details. You can also get more information on [this website](#).

HEALTH

Yellow Fever certification is required when travelling from or passing through yellow fever endemic countries.
Chad is considered to be an endemic country.
It is essential that you consult your medical practitioner regarding anti-malaria requirements prior to your trip.

COVID-19 requirements are changeable please check latest advice.

ARTICLES

<https://africageographic.com/zakouma-african-safari-adventure>
<https://africageographic.com/zakouma-waterhole-wildlife-safari>





Full booking terms and conditions

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