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**HIGHLIGHTS OF
DZANGA SANGHA**

8 day set departure



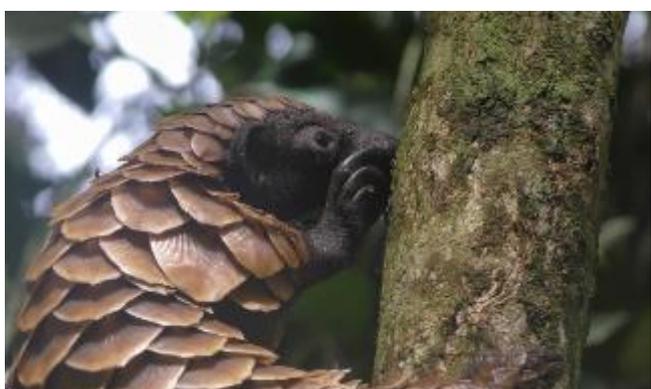
HIGHLIGHTS OF DZANGA SANGHA

Lowland gorillas, Forest elephants and Baka pygmies

7 night/8 day set departure to the rainforests of Central Africa

If the mysterious tropical forests of Africa fascinate you then this is the expedition for you, a journey into the untouched rainforests of Central Africa. This vast region, spanning three countries sparsely populated with Bantu tribes and nomadic groups of pygmies will not disappoint the adventurer and wildlife lover. Dzanga-Sangha lies in the northern section of the Congo Basin.

Large populations of Forest Elephant, Lowland gorillas, 16 of the country's primate species, hundreds of birds species, frogs, reptiles etc abound in this large reserve. Visit a village of Baáka pygmies and if you want, join them in a hunt for food in the forests. Sangha Lodge works with the Baáka in establishing conservation, especially of Pangolins, but also other small animals common in the bush meat trade. The next few days may be spent visiting Dzanga Bai, trekking lowland gorillas and hunting with the Baáka.



WILD FRONTIERS
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DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 01: SUNDAY

The tour starts in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, where you will be met at the airport and transferred for your charter flight to Bayanga. Flight times and aircraft used to be advised, but are planned to link with the scheduled Kenya Airways flights from Nairobi. Transfer to Sangha Lodge in time for lunch.

Situated on the banks of the Sangha River in the Dzanga-Sangha special reserve, Sangha lodge is the ideal tranquil spot from which to set off on activities within the Dzanga-Sangha National Park, and the perfect most relaxing spot to return to after a long day in the field. The lodge consists of 5 well-appointed bungalows, each with their own en suite bathroom, with hot and cold running water, and flush toilets, and 2 with a shared shower and toilet, giving a total of 7 bungalows.

There is a well stocked bar with cold beer and drinks, ice is made with Bottled water and is safe to add to your drinks. A small kitchen produces simple yet tasty Western and African foods.



If time permits we will venture out in the afternoon to visit the only habituated Black bellied pangolin in the world, followed by a short afternoon sundowner cruise on the Sangha River.

Spend seven nights at Sangha Lodge on a full board basis (all meals included)

Our program will remain flexible as the logistics often dictate but should run closely along these lines:



DAY 2 : GORILLAS

Today you head down to Bai Hokou (+- 90 min drive) where you will spend time tracking a group of Western Lowland Gorillas. Dzanga Sangha and its neighbors in Congo Nouabale-Ndoki National Park and Odzala are the only places in the world where you can find habituated Lowland Gorillas.



DAY 03: DZANGA BAI

Visit to Dzanga Bai. It's +- 90 mins by vehicle and an hour walk to the viewing platform. Dzanga Bai is a large mineral rich clearing extending 500x250 meters, in the middle of the rainforest, where forest elephants gather in large numbers – averaging 40-100 at any given time - to indulge in drinking the mineral rich waters that bubble up in places in this Bai. This interaction between so many different groups of Forest elephants ensure that no one can ever get bored at this place, while the possibility of some of the other normally shy forest creature like Bongo, Giant Forest Hog, Red River Hog, Sitatunga and Forest Buffalos visiting the Bai keep us alert.

DAY 04: BA'AKA HUNTERS

Today you head out with a group of Ba'aka net hunters as they go about their daily hunter-gatherer lifestyle. It is fascinating and a joy in itself to see how well adapted and comfortable the Ba'aka are in the forest while you may find it overwhelming and almost intimidating. You will be shown several of their medicinal plants while the hunt goes on in the background, and the excited cheers will alert us if they catch something.

This activity is not contrived and the hunters are there to catch their food so please be aware that some animals may be killed during this time.

DAY 05: RIVER ACTIVITIES AND TREKKING

River activities and trekking. Heading upriver by boat you will hike to a series of waterfalls in the area. These will take us through the best examples of prime rainforest that you would ever see. Apart from the amazingly beautiful waterfalls, you will see some of the most spectacular trees imaginable. Climbing to the top of the falls will provide vistas over the canopy of the forest while the possibility of seeing the extremely rare and endangered Grey-necked rockfowl/ picathartes will excite any birders.

In the evening you may do a night walk near the lodge with the hope of finding some of the more elusive nocturnal animals such as Potto, Thomas's Galago, Tree Pangolin, African Palm Civet, Frazer's Eagle Owl, Vermiculated Fishing Owl and several more.



DAY 06: MANGABEY

Back into the park today with picnic lunches and you will do a walk around a series of clearings in the forest. The chance of finding buffalos, elephants and several monkey species on this trek are good. You will also visit a group of habituated monkeys called Agile Mangabey and spend some time photographing their interesting antics. This group of habituated monkeys has over 150 members and their fascinating behaviour is part of a long term study in the region.

DAY 07: LEISURE DAY

Leisure day for optional activities, you have these days for optional activities....These can range from repeating any of the earlier activities done at Sangha lodge such as Gorilla tracking, or visits to the Dzanga Bai, or alternatively just relaxing or walking on the several hikes you have laid out in the forest around the lodge. No optional extra activities are included in the tour costs.

DAY 08: SUNDAY

Transfer to Bayanga airstrip for your chartered flight to Bangui. Timings are to be advised but will connect with the Kenya Airways flight to Nairobi. **End of services**

2018 SCHEDULED DEPARTURE DATES

25 Nov – 02 Dec	FULLY BOOKED
16 - 23 Dec	

2019 SCHEDULED DEPARTURE DATES

20 - 27 Jan	
24 Feb – 03 Mar	
17 – 24 Mar	
26 May – 02 Jun	
30 Jun – 7 Jul	PRICE TBA
28 Jul – 04 Aug	PRICE TBA
25 Aug – 01 Sep	PRICE TBA
22 – 29 Sep	PRICE TBA
27 Oct – 03 Nov	PRICE TBA

RETAIL PACKAGE PRICE: *(Based on a minimum of 4 persons / maximum of 8 persons per departure)*

EUROS € 6 265.00 per person sharing

EUROS € 6 705.00 per single person

*All prices are subject to change due to any unforeseen price increase. Valid for departures up to and including 26 May 2019. Rates after this state still to be finalised by Sangha Lodge.

We also have a 10 night/ 11 day set departure available – enquire for details

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Charter flights to and from Bangui
- Meet and greet and airport assistance in Bangui
- 7 nights accommodation at Sangha Lodge on a full board basis (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- 1 Dzanga Bai visit per person
- 1 Gorilla tracking permit per person
- 1 Mangabey tracking per person
- 1 Bai walk per person
- 1 days BaÁka pygmy activities per person (net hunting, hut building and/or medicinal plants)
- 1 Boat trip to the Valley of the Giants (big trees) OR to the waterfall /Picathartes site per person
- 1 night walk per person
- Park entrance fees for all included activities

PACKAGE EXCLUDES:

- International flights and taxes – including departure tax from CAR as indicated below.
- Accommodation and transfers in Bangui if needed
- Any park activities not specified as included above
- All drinks except bottled water
- Tips, laundry and items of a personal nature
- Visas, travel insurance and health requirements etc.
- Euros 50 for message du port where applicable

AIRPORT TAX

International airport taxes are not included in your ticket from Central African Republic and must be paid in cash CFA on departure, 10 000 CFA [Approx €8].

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About your hosts

The lodge is run by Rod and Tamar Cassidy, two South Africans with a passion for birding and conservation, who stumbled into owning a lodge in the heart of Africa. For more on their story, please read the blog on the Sangha Lodge website.

About the lodge

Sangha Lodge is a speciality biodiversity lodge with a track record as a rustic owner run destination, run by passionate (but realistic) conservationists trying to make a difference to this environment. The owners have an excellent birding and wildlife background and offer a place where you will find basic good food and a cold beer. This is not a backpacker's hostel, self-catering or a bed and breakfast but a full-service lodge. Do not expect a typical east or southern African Safari, but rather a rainforest experience reminiscent of Borneo or the Amazon but with charismatic mega fauna thrown in. The high Bio Diversity is far more than just Elephants and gorillas. This is a dynamic wildlife experience you will not find elsewhere in the region and your stay actively supports local conservation efforts.

Who should visit and why?

This is pioneering travel, for anyone with an adventurous and intrepid spirit, who wants to venture where few are willing to go. Central African Republic is at the central heart of the African continent and in Dzanga-Sangha you will find wildlife as you have never seen it before, with forest elephants congregating en-masse in the bai, often accompanied by forest buffalo, bongo, red river hog or giant forest hog. The river and birding experiences are dynamic and engaging and you may enjoy a cultural opportunity of witnessing the indigenous Ba 'Aka (pygmies) practicing traditional net hunting, hut building and collecting medicinal plants still in use today.

What is the best month to visit?

This all depends on what you are looking for. Generally, there is no bad time to visit, we promise. Elephants at Dzanga, and habituated gorillas are easy to see all year round. But there are some things that are better at certain times of the year. Birding is best in the wet season, especially August through end October. While Bongos are best in the dry season, especially late March and April.

Is Sangha Lodge in the national park?

The lodge is not within the National Park, which from a conservation perspective is the preferred route for development. It is located 5 kilometres from the park along the Sangha River, within a 64000 hectare hunting concession. Sangha Lodge pays the annual fees for the Trophy hunting rights and instead of hunting is developing sustainable tourism in this area now under its protection and conservation.

Is it safe coming to Central African Republic?

Travel advisories will always advise against travel to CAR, and while this is sound advice for a large part of the country, the troubled region is as so far away from the remote south west where the lodge is located and they have never, even in the bleakest dark times in 2013 and 2014 been affected. Bangui, the capital too is secure and your passing through this quaint capital should never be an issue. We make every effort to ensure a safe and secure journey and thus control the process as much as possible, flying you directly from Bangui to Bayanga, which also minimises any potential risks significantly.

What is the optimal group size for visits to Sangha Lodge?

Sangha Lodge has 7 chalets, and thus can sleep up to 14 guests comfortably. However, based on the activities available, the ideal group size is 8-10 guests at any time.

What meals can we expect?

Breakfasts are continental and lunches will either be picnic lunches or lunch at the lodge, depending on your activities. In the evenings cocktails are provided as of 18h30 followed by a combination of western and African cuisine and desert. Coffee is available throughout the day.

Why is it so expensive?

Whilst the lodge makes every effort to source locally and support local business, supply is a challenge and thus most goods are still brought in by plane. Similarly flights into the region are limited, and flights or access directly to the lodge comes at a high cost to the lodge. We are working hard to try and bring down the costs, and our efforts are starting to bear fruit, but this is an ongoing process of developing tourism in the region.

Where does my money go?

Fees for your stay contribute directly to local conservation efforts, including amongst others: Pangolin research; wildlife rehabilitation; managing the reduction of the bush meat trade and hunting through funding and maintaining what should be a hunting concession; socio-economic development by providing seeds to local entrepreneurs who grow fruit and vegetables which are then bought by the lodge for use for our guests; and numerous other local initiatives including the minimum requirements of educational, medical and other community support.

Do you provide assistance on arrival at Bangui?

Sangha Lodge provides Meet and Greet, Immigrations and Customs support at Mpoko International Airport in Bangui.

If we need to overnight in Bangui, where should we stay?

Should you require accommodation in Bangui, we recommend that you book directly with Hotel Ledger, details for which may be found on their website - <http://www.ledgerplazabangui.info/>

Does the lodge have internet access?

Yes, the lodge has connectivity via satellite, thus you will have limited and sometimes somewhat slow connectivity in certain areas of the lodge.

Does the lodge have mobile / cellular network access?

Unfortunately, not, other than in a small area in Bayanga village. You will not be able to use your mobile phone or send SMSs.

Currency - can I use my credit card or access a bank?

There are no banks in Bayanga or in proximity to the village or lodge, thus visitors should bring cash with them in EURO, preferably in smaller denominations. Dollars are not accepted at all, and cannot be exchanged. You should bring adequate money to settle personal extras including : bar bill, tipping, purchasing of curios in the village, optional extra activities and other expenses.

What language do they speak in CAR?

Sango (also spelled Sangho) is a creole language in the Central African Republic and is the official and primary language spoken in the country. Most locals speak French, specifically for more technical speech or loan words where detailed description is required.

Can one drink the water?

Water is sourced straight from the Babongo River and is filtered for drinking and cooking. Guests are provided bottled water free of charge, and have the option to use bottled or filtered water for drinking. Ice is made from bottled water.

Is it suitable for children?

Children are not accepted at the lodge during set departures.

Will I be able to see Pangolins?

Most likely yes, if you are a guest at the lodge. There are currently black-bellied pangolins being rehabilitated and reintegrated into the wild, and it is likely that you will be able to visit one during your stay. Note that our priority is the well-being of the Pangolins, thus should their safety be compromised, they are unwell or under distress for any reason, a visit may not be possible and no non-residents will be allowed to visit.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ACCESS

These trips have been set up from a Sunday – Sunday to connect with the Kenya Airways flights arriving in Bangui at 08h45 and departing to Nairobi at 14h20 (schedule current and subject to change)

If arriving in C.A.R. on other flights, you may require overnights in Bangui on the way in and out – these can be included but at an extra cost. We advise against spending extra time in Bangui, and rather recommend the Kenya Airways flights.

VISAS

This is supportive advice only, and the onus remains with you to ensure that you have the latest accurate information for your nationality, prior to travel. Sangha Lodge can assist with a visa on arrival, they require a passport copy and **the charge is 50Euro for the message du port** (document to allow clients to fly here without a visa, stating that one will be granted on arrival). This is added to the invoice for all customers who require one. **There is a further 50Euro charge for the visa itself payable in cash on arrival at Bangui.**

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Yellow fever vaccination is compulsory and it is recommended that you consult your medical practitioner and local travel clinic regarding recommended additional vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis.

CURRENCY

The only currency accepted in CAR is Euros which can be changed into Central African Francs in Bangui. **PLEASE DO NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO CHANGE YOUR DOLLARS OR OTHER CURRENCIES IN BANGUI AT ALL.** Try to bring some small notes.

CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are unheard of and cannot be used at all in CAR. **PLEASE DO NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO DRAW MONEY OR PAY FOR ANYTHING ANYWHERE WITH A CREDIT CARD.**

ELECTRICITY

Central Africa Republic is one of the darkest countries on earth and there is limited electricity with load shedding in Bangui. At Sangha lodge electricity is supplied by generator in the evenings from 6 - 10 pm.

INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is compulsory for all guests travelling with Wild Frontiers. You are strongly advised to have take out an insurance policy to cover baggage, personal accident and medical attention. South Africans - minimum R1000000 medical and related expenses cover is suggested.

TIPPING

Tipping is at the discretion of the visitor and we suggest you tip at the END of your safari. Work on about Euros 15 – 20 per day, which will be OK for guides / trackers / lodge staff – the lodge will advise expected amounts.

BAGGAGE

When flying on charters, baggage is limited to 15 kg in soft barrel bags. Packing within your bag in plastic garbage bags is a good idea in case of rain while travelling.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Despite fears, Bangui is a relatively safe city and reports of incidents are few, but normal safety precautions should be taken when leaving your hotels.

COMMUNICATIONS

Limited Cell phone coverage only reliable in Bangui and sometimes at the Park Head Quarters at Bayanga. Sangha Lodge has a Thuraya satellite phone for emergencies. Internet is only available in certain parts of Bangui.

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CONTACT US FOR BOOKINGS OR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Websites:

- www.wildfrontiers.com
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