ZAKOUMA NATIONAL PARK

'a spectacular wildlife area of just over 3000km² located in south-eastern Chad'

Abundant in game species and teeming with birdlife, Zakouma offers a unique wildlife experience in Chad as well as a secluded and peaceful getaway from the urban world.

Life in the region is dictated by the rains and much of the game moves out of the park during the wet months from July to October. As the dry season advances in November, and available water in the park periphery dwindles, animals and birds move back into Zakouma, concentrating around the permanent water pools that will sustain them until the following rains.

Tinga Camp, nestled amongst giant Tamarind trees on the bank of the Bahr Tinga, is in the heart of the best game viewing area in Zakouma. The recently upgraded 40-bed camp offers comfortable accommodation with a large open dinning/lounge area available for relaxing and enjoying the tranquility of the bush.

Both day and night game drives in open 4x4 vehicles are offered giving two completely different and exciting perspectives of the park. Additional activities such as bush dinners and picnics, visits to local markets or nomad camps and walks along the river can be arranged.

MORNING/AFTERNOON DRIVES

Species seen on a typical game drive include ungulates such as giraffe, buffalo, hartebeest, roan, kob, gazelle, waterbuck, tiang and reedbuck as well as predators such as lion, hyena and cheetah. If you are lucky you will also see Zakouma’s flagship species, the elephant.

NIGHT DRIVES

Night drives in Zakouma offer regular sightings of Africa’s rarer nocturnal species such as the African civet, common genet, wild cat, serval, caracal and honey badger as well as hyena and lion. The elusive leopard and striped hyena are also seen at times.

A touch of culture

The Salamat region is not only abundant in wildlife, but is culturally rich too. The Nomads of Chad follow the same movements as the elephant of Zakouma, in search of grazing pastures for their cattle. Weekly markets on the boundary transform dusty villages into a mosaic of reds, greens and neon hues. Leather decorations, brass bells and piles of sundried tomatoes, sold by the local population, make for a picturesque and magical day out.
Zakouma can be reached by road or by air. Although a full day’s journey by vehicle from Ndjamena, one passes through an ever changing landscape of Sahelian plains, rocky mountains and nomadic camel trains drifting through the Acacia thickets. Alternatively an aircraft is available for charter from Ndjamena directly to the park. More information regarding directions and how to arrange an aircraft can be obtained by contacting our representative in Ndjamena.

Management of Zakouma was taken over by African Parks in October 2010. 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.

www.african-parks.org