

## 5 Reasons to Visit Zakouma National Park - Chad

- 1) This area is largely untouched and is the last intact Central African Savannah ecosystem.
- 2) Zakouma offers sightings of herds of over 500 elephants due to intensive conservation efforts to bring the population back from the brink of extinction.
- 3) Witness high concentrations of buffalo, wildebeest and tiang antelope around drying pans.
- 4) Enjoy flocks of tens of thousands of birds around the pans too, in particular black-crowned cranes.
- 5) Some of the best game-viewing is from March through May. Zakouma's Camp Nomade is available for a 7 night stay (Monday to Monday). Access is from N'Djamena.
- 6) **AAC has secured limited space on the April 8, 2020 departure!**

This relatively unexplored Park has made a massive comeback in recent years after conflict and neglect and now proudly offers a unique safari experience for the adventurous! Years of special effort, conservation and community initiatives undertaken by African Parks allows for an unrivalled rawness, meaning visitors will enjoy an exclusive experience free from teems of other tourists.

Despite being an arid nation, annual rainfall allows Acacia savannah and seasonal wetlands to flourish for a short window of time, with peak game viewing periods during the dry season. There is a chance of spotting the rare Kordofan Giraffe (a special sub-species native to that part of Africa. Enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are inadvertently supporting efforts to reverse a decline in their elephant population.

Zakouma National Park has been described as the "Okavango on steroids", boasting massive flocks of birds and huge herds of elephant, buffalo and tiang, as well as predators all in the same panoramic frame!



## Zakouma National Park: Chad



**April 8-17, 2020**

### **10 Day / 9 night private safari**

Located in south eastern Chad, you'll find **Zakouma National Park**, a true wildlife treasure. Uncover 350 000 hectares of raw, wild Africa. Here, lions roam open plains in search of vast buffalo herds, and red-billed queleas flock in their thousands. Roan , tiang , amazing birding, local villages and cultures complete this very special picture. A park once ravaged by civil conflict and poaching, Zakouma is one of African Parks real turnaround success stories. Evidence of their conservation efforts being rewarded include :

- A buffalo population that has grown from 200 in 1986, to over 10,000 in 2016.
- A thriving elephant population which was brought back from the brink of extinction
- Zakouma is home to 50% of Africa's Kordofan Giraffe population

In April 2020, we are offering an adventure to Zakouma on a 10 day expedition led by Alan McSmith. With 32 years of safari industry experience in several African countries, Alan lives and breathes as a private safari guide, tracker and conservationist. He is an accredited Zakouma guide who led our 2019 trip to Zakouma.

#### **FEEDBACK FROM GUESTS ON 2019 ZAKOUMA SAFARI**

A couple that joined us are really expert African travellers having been on countless safaris, but they say this was "probably the best safari experience we have ever had. Alan is an excellent guide and really added value to the experience, being particularly good at spotting on night drives. Day & night games drives were extremely productive. We enjoyed other activities like walking safaris and a village market visit. Game and birdlife was extremely plentiful and interesting. Zakouma fully lives up to its reputation, with the trip being very well organized, and can be highly recommended."



## Itinerary

### **DAY 1: Wednesday, 08 April 2020**

Arrive in the capital of Chad, N'djaména, and transfer to **Hilton Hotel**.

The capital and the largest city of Chad, N'djaména is a port city on the Chari River. Overnight stay at Hilton Hotel including breakfast.

### **DAY 2: Thursday, 09 April 2020**

Transfer from Hilton Hotel to airport for charter flight to Zakouma National Park. From the airstrip in Zakouma, you will be transferred to **Tinga Camp** (15 minute drive). Tinga is idyllically located on the Tinga River. The camp and chalets are very rustic, but comfortable. There is a fully equipped restaurant and bar. We will have our own private vehicle for enjoying game drives. Walking safaris are also available along the banks of the Tinga River, close to camp.

### **DAYS 3 - 9: Friday, 10 April – Thursday, 16 April**

For the next 7 days, explore the many treasures of Zakouma from your base at Tinga Camp



### **DAY 10: Friday, 17 April**

Charter flight from Zakouma National Park to N'djaména to connect with your international flight back home.

## THE STORY BEHIND ZAKOUMA NATIONAL PARK

Zakouma National Park in Chad is one of Africa's most remarkable stories of transformation. Between 2002 to 2010, 95% of the parks' elephants were poached – almost 4,000 were slaughtered for their ivory, and poachers would often take out multiple family units at the same time. Not only were they destroying the parks wildlife, they were wreaking havoc on local people too. In 2010, African Parks, on invitation by the Chadian Government, signed a long-term agreement to manage Zakouma and stop the bloodshed.

Thanks to their efforts and effective community work, only 24 known elephants have been lost to poaching since 2010. Along with providing law enforcement, African Parks built 'Elephant Schools' for local communities, helping more than 1,500 children get an education. With law enforced and security reclaimed, tourists began to visit, delivering needed revenue back to the park and local communities.

With peace restored to the region, something miraculous happened. Elephants were able to be elephants once again, and for the first time in years, they began to breed and raise their young. In early 2018, 103 calves under the age of three were counted. In 2011, one was counted. The elephant population has now surpassed 559 individuals and is on the rise for the first time in a decade. The story of Zakouma is of a park rising from the ashes and becoming an unlikely tale of redemption, for people and animals alike.

Greater Zakouma Ecosystem covers an expansive 30,693 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 7,692 km<sup>2</sup> includes Zakouma National Park (3,049 km<sup>2</sup>) and Siniaka Mania Faunal Reserve (4,643 km<sup>2</sup>). Both of these protected areas fall under the direct management of African Parks. This ecosystem, which is situated just south of the Sahara Desert and above the fertile rainforest regions, comprises of critical conservation areas for key species in Central Africa.

Zakouma was declared a national park in 1963 by Presidential Decree, giving it the highest form of protection available under the laws of Chad. Within two years of taking over management, African parks entirely halted elephant poaching within the extended elephant range. The elephant population now exceeds 550 individuals.

Other species in the park are also increasing in number, including the kordofan giraffe (of which 50% of their global population is found in Zakouma), roan antelope and Lelwel's hartebeest. The park's buffalo population, reduced to about 220 animals in 1986, numbers over 10,000 today.

### WILDLIFE

As an important source of water, in a harsh environment, for animal species in the region, Zakouma attracts amazing wildlife. The dry season is particularly good for game viewing because this attracts wildlife that migrates out of the park during the wet season. Some of the wildlife you can encounter: **Predators** – Lion, leopard, cheetah, spotted hyena and wild dog. Other smaller species include, civet, serval, caracal, jackal,...

**Herbivores** – Elephant, Kordofan giraffe, Central African Savannah buffalo, Western greater kudu, tiang, roan antelope,...

**Threatened Species** – Elephants, black crowned crane, black breasted barbet

**Bird Species** – Zakouma is a valuable stop-over and breeding ground for birds. A total of 388 bird species reside in the park

**2020 LAND ARRANGEMENTS:**      **\$6,895.00 Per person sharing**  
**\$ 600.00 Single Supplement**

**Safari operates with a minimum 6 people, maximum of 8 travelers**

**PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Transfer airport/ Hilton hotel/ airport
- 1 night accommodation at Hilton Hotel N'djaména including breakfast
- Charter flights - N'djaména → Zakouma and Zakouma → N'djaména
- Park guides and park entry fees
- 8 nights accommodation at Tinga Camp, in en suite refurbished rooms, all meals included
- Services of Alan McSmith as host,
- The group will have a private game drive vehicle

**PACKAGE PRICE EXCLUDES:**

- International flights and taxes
- Meals not stated
- Drinks
- Tips, laundry , items not specified and services not specified
- Visas, travel insurance and health requirements etc.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:**

It is compulsory for all guests travelling with Wild Frontiers to have travel insurance.

**VISA INFORMATION:**

A visa is required for most travellers to Chad. Visa applications, costs and relevant documentation are the responsibility of the traveler (please refer to <https://chad.travisa.com/> for more information). An invitation letter will be provided by Zakouma National Park once your booking is confirmed and we have received the passport information of each traveler.

**HEALTH INFORMATION:**

A yellow fever certificate is required to enter Chad and you will be asked to present it on arrival. Zakouma is a malaria area and all visitors are advised to take the appropriate prophylaxis prescribed by their doctor. It is difficult to bring aerosol insect repellents into Chad, so we suggest guests bring an insect repellent in cream form. Make sure you cover up with long sleeve shirts, trousers and closed shoes in the evenings. Tsetse flies can be a problem along certain parts of the heavily wooded Salamat River and in the south of the park. While they have a nasty bite, they are generally harmless.

**WEATHER/ CLIMATE:**

Although climate varies from north to south, the climate is predominantly extremely hot and dry. In the region of Zakouma National Park the hot, dry season is March, April and May. Average minimum temperature range for the month of April is from 21 – 24°C. Average maximum temperature range for April is 34°C – 38°C, but temperatures can climb to 40°C and above. It's advised to take precautions and come prepared for the warm climate so that you enjoy your stay.

## PHOTOGRAPHY:

Photography is not allowed in public places in Chad and particularly in the airport. The police are on the lookout for cameras so please keep all camera equipment & phones in your bags when travelling through the airport. Special permission has been given in Zakouma National Park. However we advise all guests to respect the law and local communities by not taking photos when visiting a village or market while in N'Djamena or around Zakouma.

## ADDITIONAL LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

African Parks, Zakouma National Park - <https://www.african-parks.org/the-parks/zakouma>

Visa Details - <https://chad.travisa.com/>

Weather information - <http://www.climatestotravel.com/climate/chad>

