

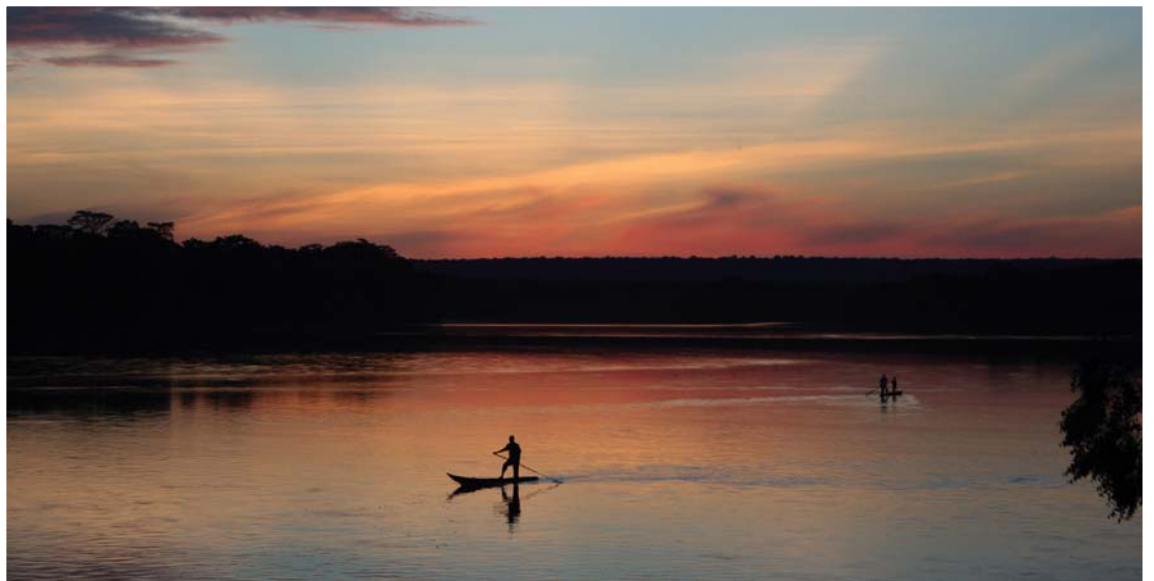


6 DAY/5 NIGHT DZANGA-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (OCT. 2018)

THIS SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE IS OPEN TO 8 PEOPLE IN OCTOBER 2018. IT WILL PROCEED WITH A MINIMUM OF SIX PEOPLE. DATES TO BE DETERMINED, BUT OUR DAY 01 WILL COINCIDE WITH KENYA AIRWAYS ARRIVAL INTO BANGUI ON SUNDAYS AT 08:45 AM. THE TOUR LEADER IS MTTZ DIRECTOR LESLIE NEVISON.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

- >> **Nairobi – Bangui:** departs NBO 07:35
arrives BGF 08:45
- >> **Bangui – Nairobi:** departs BGF 15:05
stops in Entebbe 19:40 arrives NBO 21:40



The tropical forests of the Congo Basin comprise the world's largest rainforests after those of the Amazon Basin. They are among the last of their kind on the planet. Sectors of these forests are protected as national parks in the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo and Cameroon. This small group tour includes one of these remote parks, and arguably the most interesting, Dzanga-Ndoki in the Central African Republic. It is home to western lowland gorillas, forest elephants and buffaloes, bongo and sitatunga antelopes, giant forest and red river hogs, leopards, African grey parrots and many different monkey species.

It is increasingly difficult even now to find travel destinations where — to use an adage — the journey truly is the destination. But this best describes the trip to Dzanga-Ndoki. To meet the gorilla silverback Makumba and his family, success stories of science's habituation efforts, is to understand that we are now inextricably wrapped up in their fate. Tourism is the best answer to ensuring their survival.

MTT • CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | 6 DAY/5 NIGHT GUIDED TOUR OF DZANGA-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK (OCT. 2018)
www.MTTSafaris.com >> leslie@MTTSafaris.com >> 00 260 962 831 707

The Congo Basin forests are the ancestral homes of Ba'Aka pygmies, traditionally hunters and gatherers, and cornerstones of today's tourism programs because without their knowledge of the forest and its wildlife the gorilla habituation programs wouldn't exist. The Central African Republic is one of the best places to experience the Ba'Aka. Every time we enter the forest we are escorted by a Ba'Aka guide. We accompany the Ba'Aka on a traditional "net hunt" for small game such as duiker. At the same time, we collect edible, functional and medicinal roots, leaves and fruit.

To spend time in Dzanga-Ndoki is to accept that we are paying for the privilege, only a few of us at a time, to experience a unique wildlife opportunity and not for the five-star luxuries our per diem can provide elsewhere on the continent.

ITINERARY

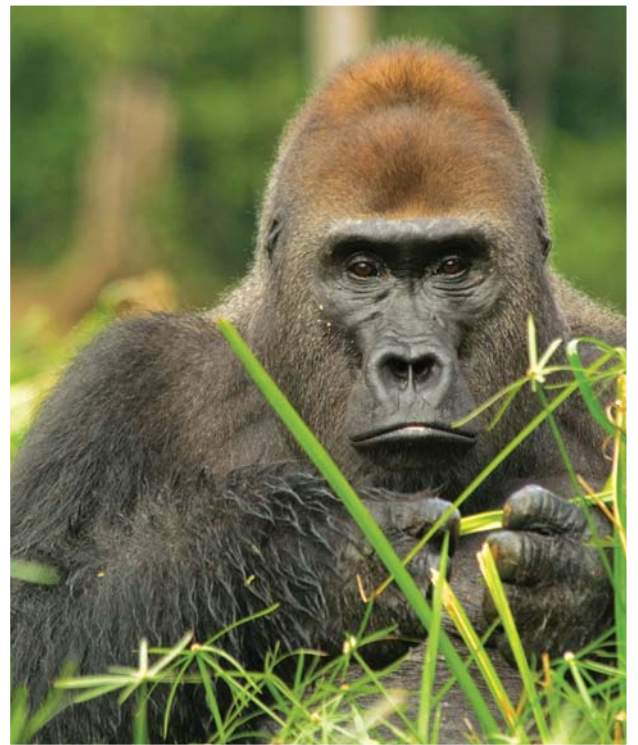
DAY 01 // BANGUI – BAYANGA

Fly to Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, with the other tour participants on Kenya Airways from Nairobi, a 4x weekly flight, arriving 10 a.m. We are met at the airport and transferred immediately to our charter flight to Bayanga village. From the Bayanga airstrip it is a short ride to Sangha Lodge. Time permitting, we venture out to see the only habituated Black bellied pangolin in the world, followed by a short afternoon sundowner cruise on the Sangha River. Sangha Lodge offers rustic comfort in this remote area. Private chalets all have views of the Sangha River. Sangha Lodge owners, Rod and Tamar Cassidy, are committed conservationists, who make knowledgeable and entertaining company for our stay in the CAR. In recent years, they have rescued many pangolins from the local bushmeat trade which they have released again to the wild.



DAY 02 // BAI HOUKOU: DZANGA-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

It's a 06:30 am start for a one ½ hour drive, depending upon track conditions, to the research camp called Bai Houkou inside Dzanga-Ndoki National Park. From here we trek to the habituated Western lowland gorilla family under the patronage of silverback Makumba. The gorillas can be one hour walk from the camp or several hours. Alternatively, Dzanga-Ndoki National Park has a second habituated gorilla group who we may see. We return to Sangha Lodge in time for sun downers on the deck overlooking the river.





DAY 03 // DZANGA BAI: DZANGA-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

It's another 06:30 a.m. start for the one-hour drive into the park to a trail head from where we hike 45 minutes to forest clearing called Dzanga Bai. Here there is a viewing platform where we remain with a picnic lunch to observe the elephant spectacle unique to anywhere else on the continent. During the day, we might see 75 – 100 elephants in the clearing. They come to mine for minerals in the bai's saline water. From the height of the viewing platform, we can observe a wide range of elephant behaviors as families collect, greet each other and depart; babies play and young males play-fight. We might also see sitatunga antelopes; bongo antelopes; giant forest hogs; red river hogs; forest buffaloes, various monkey species, and flocks of African Grey parrots at the bai. We depart the viewing platform before 16:00 to return to the vehicle and Sangha Lodge.

DAY 04 // BA'AKA CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Today, we accompany Ba'Aka hunters and gatherers. The Ba'Aka are a Central African indigenous people often referred to as



pygmies. This is our opportunity to take part in traditional net hunting. This hunt is not a contrived activity for our benefit. Please be aware that an animal might be caught and killed while we observe. We will also learn about Ba'Aka life in the forest, such as medicinal plant collecting by Ba'Aka women. It is also possible that we arrange Ba'Aka dancing at the lodge later in the day.

DAY 05 // RIVER ACTIVITIES & HIKING

We travel up the Sangha River to hike to a series of beautiful waterfalls. The route to the falls is through pristine rainforest. Climbing to the top of the falls provides a spectacular view over the forest canopy. For birders, there is the good possibility of sighting the rare and endangered Grey-necked Rock fowl. Tonight, we undertake a night walk near the lodge when we hope to see nocturnal animals such as Potto, Thomas's galago, the Tree pangolin, the African palm civet, Frazer's eagle owl, and the Vermiculated fishing owl.



DAY 06 // DEPARTURE BANGUI – NAIROBI

After breakfast, we transfer to the Bayanga airstrip for our charter flight to Bangui from where we transfer immediately to Kenya Airways departure for Nairobi.

— END OF SAFARI SERVICES —

