

KATHARINA GOETZ SPECIAL LOWLAND GORILLAS TOUR

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY	LOCATION	ACCOMMODATION
Wed 01	Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR)	Oubangui Hotel
Thu 02	Dzangha Sangha National Park, CAR	Doli Lodge
Fri 03	Dzangha Sangha National Park, CAR	Doli Lodge
Sat 04	Dzangha Sangha National Park, CAR	Doli Lodge
Sun 05	Dzangha Sangha National Park, CAR	Doli Lodge
Mon 06	Dzangha Sangha National Park, CAR	Doli Lodge
Tue 07	Mbeli, Republic of Congo	Mbeli Camp
Wed 08	Mbeli, Republic of Congo	Mbeli Camp
Thu 09	Mbeli, Republic of Congo	Mbeli Camp
Fri 10	Mondika, Republic of Congo	Mondika Camp
Sat 11	Mondika, Republic of Congo	Mondika Camp
Sun 12	Bomassa, Republic of Congo	Bomassa Camp
Mon 13	Dzangha Sangha National Park, CAR	Doli Lodge
Tue 14	Bangui, CAR	Oubangui Hotel
Day 15	Depart	

The Tri-National Park of Central Africa basin includes the Dzangha Sangha National Park in Central African Republic, The Nouabale Ndoki National Park in Congo Republic and the Lobeke National park of Cameroon.

These parks are considered by connoisseurs as probably the most beautiful accessible rainforest areas in Africa and most probably on our planet earth.

The Dzangha Sangha National Park is inhabited by our BaAka (pygmy) friends, who have been assisting us develop a tourism programme which also suits their needs and does not compromise or threaten their own values.

The park is also home to prolific wildlife which can be viewed from platforms built overlooking clearings called baïs or salines. These animals include the forest elephants, lowland gorillas, buffaloes, sitatungas, bongos, warthogs, numerous monkeys, galagoes, leopards and an astonishing number of birds and other species.

The wildlife program begins at the Doli Lodge, a beautifully set 14 room lodge with an excellent cuisine and a romantic bar and restaurant, built on the banks of the River Sangha, a tributary of the Congo. The wooden bungalows are raised above the ground on stilts with rooms with en suite shower and toilet. Each bungalow has a fan and a terrace overlooking the river.

Adjacent to the Doli Lodge is an interesting information center which focuses on the national park and the conservation projects now being undertaken in association with the pygmies.

There is no other known place where you will have a higher probability of seeing bongos, sitatungas and habituated lowland gorillas all in one spot than in the Dzangha Sangha National Park.

Additionally, the BaAkas, with their special hospitality and friendliness charm you, as you learn to know them better and this adds some mystical impetus to the magical and unique destination.

Wednesday Day 01---Bangui, Capital City of Central African Republic; Oubangui Hotel

You will be met on arrival at Bangui airport by a dmAFRICA representative and transferred to the three stars rated Oubangui Hotel for one night room with dinner and breakfast. Our representative will meet with you at a suitable time for a briefing for the tour and to assist you in other information you may require.

Thursday Day 02---Private Flight Bangui to Bayanga and Dzangha Sangha National Park

After breakfast the dmAFRICA representative will transfer you to the airport for your private flight from Bangui to Bayanga, the regional airstrip for the Dzangha Sangha National Park. There is a short transfer to the Doli Lodge where you check in for a stay of 5 nights with arrangements for full board and activities.

After lunch there will be an escorted walk in the small village of Bayanga and a visit to the project office where the local researchers will give a short talk about the fundamental project and their conservation aims.

For the next twelve days you should be seeing game all the time as you will be living and moving amongst it at all times.

Friday Day 03 ----Doli Lodge, Dzangha Sangha National Park; Dzangha Bai

After breakfast you are escorted to Dzangha Bai. A *bai* is a natural forest clearing where a variety of forest animals come to feed on the rich mineral salts found in the soil. Observing from a treetops hide, you can expect to see forest elephants (daily average of 40-120 in the Bai!), bongos (the largest and heaviest forest antelope), sitatungas (swamp dwelling antelope), red river hogs and a wide variety of bird species. Today is your first taste of an exciting wildlife experience in the second largest rainforest in the world.

Saturday Day 04----Doli Lodge, Dzangha Sangha National Park; Bai Hokou

You are escorted to Bai Hokou Research Camp from where you start tracking the only habituated lowland gorillas from their sleeping points. This is currently the largest number of lowland habituated gorillas in the world! Very few people have the opportunity to track these gorillas.

Sunday Day 05----Doli Lodge, Dzangha Sangha National Park; activities with the BaAka.

Today you have a chance to mingle with the local pygmy tribe and to take part in some traditional net hunting in the forest. This is an amazing experience as you are taught the intricacies of living in the forest with a chance to also learn about medicinal plant gathering with the Ba'Aka women.

Monday Day 06---Doli Lodge, Dzangha Sangha National Park

Today is a free day for you simply to relax by the river, or try something new or even re engage with an activity which you have already enjoyed on the visit. The staff at the Doli Lodge will be pleased to assist you and perhaps suggest the following:-

- Visiting the magical saline at least once in the morning and once in the afternoon
- Lowland gorilla tracking

- Bird watching
- Dug-out pirogue rides along the Sangha river and its tributaries
- Net hunting with Ba'Akas
- Medicinal plants with Ba'Akas
- Ba'Aka dances

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Tuesday Day 07----Transfer Bayanga – Bomassa – Nouabale Ndoki National Park, Mbeli Camp

You leave by boat and travel south from Bayanga to the Republic of the Congo, coasting downstream through Lidjombo to Bomassa. Met upon arrival at Bomassa for the short drive to another tributary of the Congo and set off on the second part of the boat trip for Mbeli Camp. You arrive late into the afternoon and there is time to settle before dinner.

Overnight: Mbeli Camp – a basic camp with 4 bungalows (two beds per bungalow). No electricity, bush shower and long drop toilet.

Wednesday Day 8 & Thursday Day 09----Nouabale Ndoki National Park, Mbeli Camp

Throughout the next 2 days you experience the Nouabale Ndoki National Park, which has remained relatively untouched by tourism and is certainly exempt from the trappings of our “civilized” lives and demands. Apart from a few tourists and researchers there is no human habitation within the park and little in the peripheral villages.

The National Geographic Society has observed that the park may have the largest concentration of wildlife in the whole of Africa. The most prominent species are primates, which include all three species of Colobus monkeys (black, white and red), lowland gorillas, chimpanzees and moustached guenon monkeys.

There are over 300 species of bird, including some spectacular parrots, some very large eagles and some rather unattractive and aggressive vultures.

Some mammal species are almost unique, including the rare African Forest Elephant, dwarf forest buffaloes, leopards, bongos and blue duikers.

On a forty minutes walk from Mbeli Camp to Mbeli Bai you observe the various wildlife hides located in the treetops. Mbeli Bai is several hundred metres in length covering an area of approximately 12 hectares; for this reason animals vary in proximity and both binoculars/spotting scopes/zoom lenses are useful. Primate researchers will explain to you their various projects and give you an insight into their latest work and discoveries.

Overnight at Mbeli Camp

Friday Day 10---- Transfer from Mbeli to Mondika

You leave Mbeli Camp early in the morning headed for Mondika, in another part of the park and an area well-known for its gorillas. There is a late afternoon rainforest walk.

Overnight at Mondika Camp.

Saturday Day 11---- Gorilla tracking at Mondika

You have the opportunity to spend the whole day tracking lowland Gorillas.

Overnight at Mondika camp.

Sunday Day 12----Transfer from Mondika to Bomassa.

Depart Mondika after breakfast headed for Bomassa where you arrive in the afternoon for a Bai walk and a pygmy village visit.

Overnight at Bomassa Camp.

Monday Day 13----Transfer from Bomassa to Bayanga. Doli Lodge, Dzangha Sangha National Park

Return boat trip along the tributaries of the Congo to the Doli Lodge and a chance to return to some more normal creature comforts.

Tuesday Day 14----Private Flight from Bayanga to Bangui

Spend the morning relaxing until the private flight arrives for your return journey to Bangui. On arrival you are met by the dmAFRICA representative and transferred to the Oubangui Hotel.

The rest of the day is at leisure. The hotel has a pleasant location on the banks of the river.

Wednesday Day 15---Sightseeing of Bangui and Departure.

There is a guided sightseeing and souvenir shopping tour of Bangui, the capital town of the Central African Republic. After dinner you are transferred to the airport for your ongoing arrangements or continue with other arrangements made for you by dmAFRICA.

PRICING AND GENERAL INFORMATION

QUOTATION €8995 PER PERSON BASED ON TWO PERSONS TRAVELLING TOGETHER AND FOLLOWING THE ITINERARY SHOWN ABOVE AND ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS:-

Included:-

- Ground transportation on 4x4 jeeps driver, fuel and toll.
- All boat transfers Bayanga – Bomassa – Mbeli – Bomassa - Bayanga
- Private Flight Bangui – Bayanga and return Bayanga – Bangui.
- All park entry fees and visits.
- Activities with the BaAka folk (Net hunting & medicinal plants)
- 1 excursion to Dzanga-Bai
- 1 gorilla tracking permit Bai Hokou
- 1 gorilla tracking permit Mondika
- 1 mangabey tracking permit
- 2 excursions Mbeli bai
- Accommodation Bangui, Bayanga and Bomassa
- Full board throughout.
- Local guide.
- English speaking tour guide; German speaking available based on six persons or more.
- Mineral water and fruits while driving.

Not Included

- International flights
- Visas
- Laundry
- Tips
- Drinks
- Airport taxes
- 2nd gorilla tracking permit Bai Hokou 150 EUR till December 2011 thereafter 230 EUR
- 2nd excursion to Dzanga Bai 70 EUR

Visa:

Visas are required: Multiple entry visa for Central Africa Republic single entry visa Congo Republic.

Airport Taxes:

International departure taxes, 10,000 CFA.

Language

French and the local language Sango are the national languages and are widely spoken along with local tribal languages.

Money

The local currency is the West African CFA franc (US\$1= 450 CFA; €1= 650 CFA). Our tour leaders will help you with currency exchange. The use of credit cards is very limited and ATM cash machines are only available in Bangui and Berberati and will accept only Visa cards.

Health

Malaria is endemic. You must consult your doctor before you travel to ensure that you are prescribed the correct type of mefloquine and malarone tablet protection. For visits to the national park you must be free from influenza and coughs

Yellow fever immunization is obligatory and we recommend immunization against hepatitis and meningitis.

You should consult with your medical practitioner prior to any visit to this region

Water

We recommend drinking only bottled water throughout your stay.

Time Difference

Central African Republic and the Republic of the Congo are on GMT +1

Electricity

220v with 2 or 3 pin sockets. A European adaptor is required.

DM Africa in the Central African Republic

We have a branch office located in the diplomatic quarter of Bangui. Our staff provides airport and local services and speak English and French. Commercial matters are managed by the Head office in Douala, Cameroon.

You should contact sales@dmafrica.com in the first instance

May we also suggest ?

If you are an intrepid explorer and very adventurous here are a couple of things you may wish to include

- When in camp try the palm wine and local beer

Try the staple diet of rice, fermented cassava and bananas

Read *“The Central African Republic; the Continent’s Hidden Heart”* a social study by Thomas E. O’Toole