



Birders Rest

Brisbane, Queensland
Birding, Wildlife &
Photography
Tours Far & Wide

Detlef Davies
PO Box 3108, Warner 4500,
Queensland, Australia
(+61) 414041207
detlefdavies@yahoo.com

BIRDERS REST FAR & WIDE offers a new tour for 2021 to:



CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC

An opportunity to visit this very special lodge in the extensive central African rainforest is thanks to our friend the late Hugh Buck who had worked hard to try and get a group together each year since 2016. It was always a challenge to get enough people to make it viable and this has yet to happen. 2019 has so far given us double devastation with the loss of my dear wife, Carol, from MND in March, and then the loss of Hugh himself from a heart attack in April.

I hope that this tour will go ahead in memory and dedication to them both. I was attracted to the destination for various reasons but not least by Hugh's own description of it as follows, describing the Central African Republic as:

'a fascinating off the beaten track destination for adventurous travellers. Situated as it is in the very centre of Africa, it is bordered by potentially lawless areas of Sudan in the north and east, by peaceful Cameroon in the west and by the limitless Congo rainforests of Zaire in the south. This is Africa in its raw form, almost completely un-commercialised or changed by modern tourism and most outside influences, and it is to the once again peaceful southern part of the country that this adventure takes us.'

The Congo rainforests are one of the largest tracts of unspoiled wilderness left in the world and remain a safe sanctuary for many of Africa's most evocative and sought after animals, a huge treasure trove of spectacular and rarely seen birds and a host of other creatures. Formerly largely inaccessible, for a variety of reasons, the creation of the superbly situated and appointed Sangha Lodge, deep in the Dzanga Sangha National Park, now offers dedicated travellers the chance to see for themselves some of these remarkable creatures.'

SANGHA LODGE has provided the following information:

PRIVATE PACKAGES FROM BANGUI

From 2018 the Lodge has offered packages for various periods and a number of pre-arranged activities within the Dzanga Sangha National Park, beginning at Bangui International Airport, the package including an hour's flight by charter plane to Bayanga, the nearest settlement to the Lodge. The plan is to arrive in Bangui without needing to leave the airport before boarding the charter plane. The Lodge also accommodates free independent travellers.

Set periods for groups vary from the shortest – 5 nights, 6 days, to the longest – 14 nights, 15 days. The package I have chosen is the most popular, 7 nights, 8 days.

7 NIGHTS, 8 DAYS VIA BANGUI – (provisionally) Sun 2nd to Sun 9th MAY 2021

Estimated price per person sharing, in Euros:

2 Pax	3 Pax	4 Pax	5 Pax	6 Pax	7 Pax	Single supplement
€ 7 816	€ 6 137	€ 5 633	€ 5 062	€ 4 682	€ 4 602	€ 350

On Kenya Airways arrival is best Sunday – Sunday or Wednesday – Wednesday regional flights.

Activities included in the package:

- 1 Gorilla tracking permit
- 1 Mangabey tracking permit
- 1 Bai walk per person
- 1 Dzanga Bai visit per person
- 1 Day's Net hunting and Ba'Aka (pygmy) activities
- 1 Sunset cruise
- 1 Night walk
- 1 Palm wine tour
- 1 Hike to the Valley of the Giants OR to the Waterfall and Picathartes site (Rockfowl)

and also provides some time for relaxation.



PACKAGE DETAILS

All Packages include the following:

- Relevant number of night's accommodation at Sangha Lodge on a full board basis (including breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- All vehicle hire and landed costs while at Sangha Lodge.
- Park entrance fees for the activities included in the selected Option.
- Charter flights to and from Bangui.
- Meet and greet and airport assistance in Bangui.

All packages exclude the following:

- International flights including those between Nairobi and Bangui
- Accommodation and transfers in Bangui, if needed.
- Any park activities not specified as included in the elected Option.
- All drinks except bottled water.

Kindly note:

- Single supplements are based on availability of accommodation.
- Whilst we trust that the prices from 01 July 2019 onwards will remain fixed, Sangha Lodge reserves the right to alter the rates should any significant changes occur to costs such as fuel prices and park fees.
- The lodge can sleep 14 guests, currently the ideal load for the plane is 1000 kgs. Thus, both from an activity and charter flight perspective 8 pax is optimal, though 10 pax is possible, with luggage restrictions.
- A maximum of 3 persons are allowed for the gorilla tracking activity, and guests will be grouped accordingly.
- Should guests wish to alter their preferred activities, this can only be done once at the lodge, and would depend on availability. Altering of adding activities may result in additional costs, which the guests will be required to pay in cash at the lodge.
- No credit card payment facilities are available at the lodge, we only accept Euros or Central African Franc.

Private groups requiring packages that include or exclude certain activities, require additional guides or have special needs other than those provided in the pricing above, are quoted on request and can be accommodated throughout.

ACCESSIBILITY AND FLIGHTS

Our method of access to Bangui is via Kenya Airlines, as it provides the only flights that would not require an overnight stay in Bangui, as guests take a 1-hour charter flight directly to Bayanga followed by a 20-minute drive to the lodge. The group will meet in Nairobi.

Other airlines would require an overnight in Bangui, but provide additional options for accessing the region. Out of interest, particularly if you are continuing your adventure somewhere other than Nairobi, key flights available out of Bangui include the following:

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FROM BANGUI (BGF)

TO	AIRLINE	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DURATION	SCHEDULE	STOPS
Nairobi (NBO)	Kenya Airways	14:45	20:00	03h 15	Sun, Wed	Direct
“	“	10:55	16:10	03h 15	Mon	Direct
“	“	15:50	21:40	04h 35	Fri	1-Stop
Paris (CDG)	Air France	07:35	05:40	11h 05	Tue	1-Stop
Casablanca	Royal Air Maroc	08:50	14:55	06h 05	Mon	Direct
“	“	08:25	14:30	06h 05	Wed, Sat	Direct
Douala (DLA)	Asky Airlines	07:50	09:35	01h 45	Mon, Fri	Direct
Entebbe (EBB)	Kenya Airways	15:15	19:50	02h 35	Fri	Direct

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

There are alternative ways of accessing or leaving the region (for example) by a longer charter flight from Yaounde in Cameroon, a long boat ride from Ouesso in the Republic of Congo or a shorter one from Libongo in Cameroon, or by road through Cameroon. Although potentially exciting and

adventurous, travelling this way produces risks of delay, numerous controls and checkpoints and unexpected additional costs.

Our tour will run from Nairobi to Bangui and then by charter plane, the cost of which is included in the prices given; these in turn depend on everyone being on board.

NOTE:

I am acting as agent and organiser for this visit to Sangha Lodge. For those interested in coming I will have a booking form and will provide Terms and Conditions.

By way of promotion of this tour I recommend that you look at this link:

https://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/Attraction_Review-g1746087-d479990-Reviews-Dzanga_Sangha_Reserve-Bayanga_Sangha_Mbaere_Prefecture.html

The Central African Republic has at times not had a good reputation for safety, although, as usual in poorer countries, any danger is more prevalent in the cities where we will not be lingering. The comments by the travellers who have contributed to Trip Advisor will hopefully reassure you that where we are going is as peaceful a place as any other forest lodge.

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