

DZANGA SANGHA, RCA PROPOSAL 6 DAYS.



2019

PROGRAM

1ST DAY

Departure from Bangui: We will transfer you by plane to Bayanga, just 50 min time!

Our contact in Bangui from will be waiting to look after of you helping with formalities until you leave to Bayanga .



Airplane landing in Bayanga .© Nuria Ortega

Bayanga has an airstrip consisting of a very good laterite runway of 1,4km length..
Welcome to Doli Lodge!



©Nuria Ortega



Comfortable room at Doli Lodge ©Nuria Ortega !



Cozy restaurant to relax enjoying the view of Sangha river and the fisherman. ©Nuria Ortega

After to have a rest and to get accommodated at **Doli Lodge**, you will be invited to make a **sundowner cruise** to Sangha and Moussapola River. Later at night we will plan your next days with you.



Training to his children to make a net. © Nuria Ortega

Mossapoula is worth the adjustment because it allows an interesting vision of an African forest: passing first, swampy, flood-prone forest and then penetrating into a vast open swamp, before plunging into the small, more closed raffia channels.

Embarquing on frail dugouts, built from single carved tree trunks, visitors must first become accustomed to the unstable comfort of these boats. . For those who are interested, they may taste the freshly collected raffia wine. With a little chance, taking a trip in one of these canoes, you have the opportunity to catch sight of pretty kingfishers, eagles and other birds.



Climbing to palm tree to collect raffia wine © Nuria Ortega



Discovering Bayanga from the Sangha river allows you to experience a completely different aspect of life in the rain forest. The skill of the canoe-men (piroguiers), standing upright at the stern of the boat, steering you across frequently strong currents, is impressive. If you like, just bargain with fishermen over the price of a good fish or simply enjoy the tranquillity.

2ND DAY

Gorilla Tracking:



Malui breastfeeding on of his twins.© Nuria Ortega



Makumba, king of the forest.© N.O



Twin trying to be a big guy! © Nuria Ortega

Mongambe or Bai Hokou shelters the camp for the gorilla habituation project. Visitors are transported 35 kms (to Bai Hokou) , 16 kms (to Mongambe) form the Welcome Center on a former logging road, which is straight until it reaches a Limbali forest. Walks in search of Western Lowland gorillas start from the campsite, it can take you between 15 min to 3 hours to find them. All forest activities are accompanied by trained guides who speak French and some also English.

3RD DAY

Dzanga Bai.



Forest elephant very close to the platform @Nuria Ortega

The trip from the Welcome Centre to the Forrest parking lot, by vehicle is 14 kms. Access to Dzanga Bai is then by foot, taking approximately 30 to 40 minutes. The path first follows a small, Sandy-bottomed stream-light shoes are recommended. After the crossing, the route follows elephant paths through a beautiful closed canopy forest until arriving at the bai. Small primates (guenons, and mangabeys) and birds are often encountered along the way. Visitors are asked to be silent. During this time, it is possible to develop and appreciation for the elephants astonishing ability to move discreetly through the forest. The trumpeting and various grunts of the elephants announce arrival at the bai. For observation purposes, a large viewing platform has been built at the edge. From the viewing platform, it is possible to observe the different mammals and birds-often-including large flocks of parrots that come to the clearing according to their own timetable. Because of its orientation, afternoon visits offer a much more appealing light for observation and photography.



Observation from the mirador. ©Nuria Ortega



Mirador in Dzanga Bai. © Nuria Ortega

4TH DAY

Net hunting and plant gathering with BaAka people.



BaAka women one the way to hunt. © Nuria Ortega



Putting the net to hunt. © Nuria Ortega

Immersion deeply in the forest with Baaka people. Net hunting and plant gathering.

Net Hunting: The Baaka villages of Mossapoula and Yandoumbé welcome visitors who wish to accompany them on net hunt. As this hunt is conducted in forests surrounding the villages, a vehicle drops off visitors and returns to pick them up at a designated location. The walk through the forest lasts 2 to 3 hours, led by a group of Aka men and women who conduct the hunt in their traditional fashion. The BaAka consumes the kill from the hunt.

Plant Gathering: The Aka women accompany visitors in the forest, to the places where they harvest different plants products. Depending on the season and the



Fertility Tree ©Nuria Ortega

interests of visitors, the types of medicinal or dietary plants to look for may vary. Nonetheless, the women never return without bringing back the products that interest them and that are available at the moment. This activity generally does not exceed two hours. We just to mix both activities.

Music and Dance of the BaAka



BaAka women dancing traditional dance. © Nuria Ortega

The essence of the BaAka culture, that has been preserved over the millennia, is mainly expressed in music and dance, serving to maintain their bonds with their gods, spirits and ancestors. Language could not fulfil this task so well as it was exposed to many changes: instead of developing their own language the BaAka often used the same language as their neighbours who were of Bantu origin. This facilitated their link to the outside world and to other groups of the population, but also caused many modifications in language whenever the neighbours changed. Music and dance, however, have always been an expression of genuine BaAka feelings and imagination.



One of the coutume of BaAka is mark their face and sharpen their teeth. © Nuria Ortega

Each singer and percussionist choose his or her own rhythm resulting in a wonderful array of harmony. This universe of movement, rhythm and sound is very difficult to describe, you have to experience it for real.

5TH DAY

Ramble across the Rainforest in the Company of a Group of Monkeys. Agile mangabeys are medium sized monkeys (males 7-12kg, females 5-7kg) which very much live up to their generic name by their vibrant nature. They are mostly ground-dwelling, and feed on a diverse array of fruits, seeds, stems, mushrooms, eggs, insects, crustaceans, and even certain mammals. The group which habituation started in 2004, can be observed at leisure at distances of under 10m whilst their active hands rummage through leaf litter in search of insects, investigating and extracting all that is possibly edible from holes in trees, digging up mushrooms, storing seeds in their cheek pouches, and grooming their companions.



Mangabey trying to cross the river without to get wet. © Miguel Bellosta

The group followed at Bai Hokou is of an exceptional size, numbering more than 200 individuals, ranging in an area covering many km², and focused around the bai system. The habituation process allows this otherwise secretive and relatively unknown species to be easily observed in the dense vegetation



Bongos looking at curious to the tourists. © Nuria Ortega

A very interesting **bais encountering** many animals during walk which can last from 3 to 4 hours, including many stops for observation. The varied landscape of the clearings and the types of forest are of particular interest. Circuits may include, after Bai Hokou. Ngubunga Bai, Bakulangu Bai (the name evokes the giant turaco) then the two Mosokpo Bais (“mud” in the Aka language) Mongole Bai (the name of a tree) or Dibwe Bai (“rock” in Aka) . Near Mosokpo and Hokoun Bai it is posible to see how elephants modify their enviroment.

6TH DAY

Morning: Hiking waterfall and trekking. At this day you will take by boat to hike to a waterfall where you can have an unforgettable shower! The way to arrive there, will take you to the spectacular prime rainforest. Also you can climb to the top of the falls to see the canopy of the forest. If you are lucky maybe you can encounter the Rare Grey -necked Rock fowl.



Refresing in the cold water after a beautiful walk in the primary foret. © Nuria Ortega

Bayanga village: Bayanga is the administrative seat of the Reserve and the Dzanga Sangha Project. Here is also found, in an isolated location on the banks of river, the [Doli Lodge](#), which is the starting point for all tourist activities.



Bayanga is a village that has grown since the 70s after the installation of an industrial sawmill. Originally it was a fishing village that by 1901 was already charted on German colonial maps. Today Bayanga is home to approximately 4000 residents who for the most part live in wooden houses with roofs topped with palm tree leaves. Apart from the early inhabitants of fishermen and pygmies, the population is composed of migrants from others parts of the country, attracted by employment opportunities. Until 2004, the sawmill employed approximately 350 people and almost 200 people are actually employed by the Reserve. With the advent of the modern working world, its purchasing power and working tools (electricity, data-processing, cars, motorbikes), Bayanga has lost parts of its traditional lifestyle.



Bayanga Market © Nuria Ortega



Sending meat at Bayanga market. © Nuria Ortega



If you need to go to the hairdresser is no problem in Bayanga © Nuria Ortega

Price proposal 6 days ,8 people: 17. 000 euros (**2.125 euros/person**) . Price includes transfers to and from Bangui, welcome in Bangui, message portē, accommodation full board and all activities. (Visa not included, you should pay that directly at Bangui airport)