



Pictus Safaris Trip Report – Zakouma NP – March 2022

Abstract

Zakouma NP is now very much an open secret. For years, it was thought that the savanna reserves of Western and Central Africa could simply not hold a candle to the famous parks further east and south, but it is now clear that Zakouma is an exception to that rule. Boasting hugely impressive densities of both mammals and birdlife, particularly around Rigueik Pan, as well as some of the most consistently productive night drives on the continent, Zakouma is a superb example of conservation done right thanks to the stewardship of African Parks.

Our visit this year took us overland, a two day journey, from N'Djamena to Zakouma, an immersive (and comparatively affordable) experience taking our clients through central Chad. Zakouma did not disappoint, producing memorable sightings including eight serval, pale fox, wild cat and some of the best lion-viewing that Zakouma has offered in the past few seasons.

At a Glance

Dates	March 14 th – March 23 rd , 2022
Number of Clients	4
Countries Visited	Chad
Key Target(s)	Lion, Savanna Elephant, Pale Fox, Serval
Total Mammal Species Recorded	40
Total Bird Species Recorded	150



Itinerary

Day	Destination	Accommodation
March 14 th , 2022	N'Djamena, Chad	Radisson Blu
March 15 th , 2022	Mongo, Chad	Camping
March 16 th - March 21 st , 2022	Zakouma NP, Chad	Tinga Camp
March 22 nd , 2022	Mongo, Chad	Camping
March 23 rd , 2022	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire	Radisson Blu



Daily Report

Day 1 – N'Djamena, Chad

Our guests arrived into N'Djamena today, meeting their tour leader at the airport after negotiating the famously hectic arrivals process. Police registration formalities were completed whilst the guests relaxed at the hotel, enjoying views of **hippopotamus** as they grazed the banks of the Chari River. Hippos have historically been absent in Zakouma, although that seems to be changing now, so a tick from the hotel is always a great start! This afternoon a bit of gentle birding in the fierce heat broke up trips to the pool before a pre-tour briefing took place this evening.

Day 2 – Mongo, Chad

Our epic journey across Chad began in earnest this morning, taking us north-east to Massaguet, and then due east to N'Gousa, where the long journey south began. Things took a turn for the worse during the lunch stop when it became clear that the tour leader, Tom, had contracted malaria the previous week in Cote d'Ivoire. But, regardless, an excellent sighting of an Egyptian vulture was a real highlight, and we nabbed our first **striped ground squirrel** before we continued our journey.

The road was in extremely poor condition, hampering our progress a little, so we made the decision to set up camp near some stunning inselbergs about 100km shy of Mongo. As we pulled in to a good-looking spot, we got good views of about a dozen **rock hyrax** on the closest inselberg – they would treat us to a bit of a sing-song as we waited for dinner this evening. Dinner was a prolonged experience, but a bit of spotlighting from camp revealed our first two **red-fronted gazelle** trotting away. After a long day of travelling, our tents were welcome relief, despite a hefty windstorm only dying away at 2am.

Day 3 – Zakouma NP, Chad

Our wildlife-viewing began from camp at first light this morning, with our first **tantalus monkeys** of the trip feeding in the trees nearby. The rock hyraxes were once again clearly visible before we set out on much-improved roads, first to Mongo (where cold drinks and malaria treatment were gratefully received, and we spotted **olive baboon**) and then southwards to Zakouma. A full day of driving later, we arrived into the park. During the hour or so drive in our closed 4x4s, we picked up **kob, waterbuck, buffalo, giraffe, hartebeest, roan** and **common warthog**.

After a chance to settle in to Tinga Camp, we headed out on our first night drive in the dry-country immediately around camp. We very quickly nabbed **northern lesser galago, African civet, white-tailed mongoose, common duiker, common genet, rusty-spotted genet, bushbuck, African savanna hare**, plentiful northern giraffe, buffalo and a bucketful of nightjars, but the highlight of the drive was a stunning tom **serval** unsuccessfully hunting spur-winged geese at Machtour.

Day 4 – Zakouma NP, Chad

Our first full day in Zakouma began with a drive to the world-famous Rigueik Pan. This wetland area is normally set aside for Camp Nomade guests, only opening to Tinga guests when Camp Nomade guests choose to leave the area – but, as luck would have it, Nomade was empty throughout our stay and we would have unfettered access to Rigueik during our stay.



Before even reaching Rigueik, the group bumped into their first **lion** of the trip – a lone male exhibiting the minimal mane that characterises populations west of the Nile – who was obliging in the relative cool of the morning. The pan itself also did not disappoint, with huge numbers of buffalo, **tiang**, waterbuck, roan, **Bohor reedbuck** and, in particular, northern giraffe. These ungulates are drawn to Rigueik by the plentiful grazing and abundance of freshwater and, in my opinions, ranks alongside Dzanga Bai as one of the most impressive single wildlife-watching locations on the continent. For birders, it has legendary status, such are the numbers of red-billed quelea, spur-winged geese, knob-billed duck, white-faced whistling duck and black-crowned cranes that congregate here.

As the thermometer breezed past 40 degrees, the group returned to camp for lunch, before heading out for an afternoon drive before spending a night fly-camping in the park. The afternoon drive revealed **oribi**, common duiker and the hugely obliging **elephant** bulls that loiter near the park headquarters, where there is a small waterhole, each day. After arriving at the fly-camp, a night drive revealed the usual bundle of civets, as well as another serval and the team's first **red-flanked duiker** and **spotted hyena**.

Day 5 – Zakouma NP, Chad

Taking advantage of Nomade standing empty, the group headed once more to Rigueik this morning. En route, another striped ground squirrel was picked up, as well as a skittish group of **banded mongoose**, **side-striped jackals** and a stunning Central African rock python. The highlight of the morning, though, was undoubtedly a dozing lioness suddenly springing into action to pursue a warthog, as well as a further two lionesses napping under a bush as the heat of the day built.

The afternoon drive produced multiple sightings of bull elephants, as well as the largest pride of lions recorded during our stay – three lionesses and six cubs. As the light of the afternoon was fading, an excellent view of a serval was recorded, as well as a white-tailed mongoose and several common genets. A night drive proper after dinner revealed two exceptionally obliging servals, a lone male lion scent-marking in front of the vehicle, three lionesses crossing the road directly in front of the group, and plenty more common genet, white-tailed mongoose, African civet and African savanna hare.

Day 6 – Zakouma NP, Chad

This morning the group headed to the local market. En route, good views were gained of side-striped jackal, as well as of three adolescent lions parading around without adult supervision. After an extremely hot but worthwhile visit to the market, we headed directly to Rigueik Pan, where the usual crowd of giraffe, buffalo and tiang were in attendance. En route, **patas monkey** were seen from afar, and three lions were spotted across two different sightings. A dramatic sighting of buffalo stampeding away through the dust was a real highlight, as was a colossal Nile monitor. Flocks of several thousand red-billed quelea were well-seen, although the legendary flocks of millions did evade us.

The night drive back to camp produced yet another serval, in addition to the usual civet, genet and white-tailed mongoose.

Day 7 – Zakouma NP, Chad

Today was earmarked as our elephant day! Zakouma is well-known for being home to a huge herd of savanna elephant, now over 600 strong, that has historically stuck together in the face of poaching pressure. As that pressure has faded, the herd has begun to splinter, and there are now far more lone bulls in the park than in previous years. The main herd itself has split into three groups, and are now much more



loose in their association with one another. That being said, on any given day the largest herd will likely still stand at several hundred strong – but it is amazing that several hundred elephants can be so difficult to find! Using co-ordinates from the park headquarters, we spent the entirety of the day patrolling the Salamat river, but our efforts ultimately left us with a sighting of just a single bull elephant. This being said, we also picked up a rich array of other wildlife, including patas monkey, gorgeous ostrich chicks, buffalo, two lions, and a laundry list of generic game. In the fading light, we got excellent views of several yellow-winged bats.

Our night drive this evening rewarded us with superb views of **pale fox**, in addition to serval, African civet, side-striped jackal. A **savanna shrew** was spotted under the steps of Tinga camp at dinner.

Day 8 – Zakouma NP, Chad

Our final full day began with a lengthy morning drive which offered excellent views of four tiny lion cubs and their mother, who had had her kob kill swiped by a male earlier that morning. A large herd of buffalo also offered excellent photographic opportunities.

Our final afternoon drive to the Rigueik area produced the, by now, familiar parade of buffalo, giraffe and more generic game, with the added bonus of several hundred great white pelicans as the sun set behind us. Our return to camp was hugely enjoyable, as we stumbled across a clan of spotted hyena mobbing a lioness, with impressive sound effects as the lioness fought back, in addition to another pale fox, a **wild cat** and many common genets.

After dinner, half a dozen civets were recorded, as well as a black-tailed white-tailed mongoose (as far as I know, this aberration is only commonly seen in Zakouma) and a beautifully calm savanna elephant bull.

Day 9 – Mongo, Chad

We sadly had to say goodbye to Zakouma this morning, and we recorded a number of species, including two elephants on our drive out. A full day of driving took us well beyond Mongo today.

Day 10 – N'Djamena, Chad

A final full day on the road returned the group to N'Djamena where the tour ended.

Mammal List – 40 species

Species	Scientific Name	Location(s)*
<i>Carnivora – 12 species</i>		
African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	ZNP
Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	ZNP
Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>	ZNP
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	ZNP
Rusty-Spotted Genet	<i>Genetta maculata</i>	ZNP
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	ZNP
White-Tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	ZNP
Serval	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>	ZNP



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Side-Striped Jackal	<i>Lupulella adusta</i>	ZNP
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	ZNP
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	ZNP
Pale Fox	<i>Vulpes pallida</i>	ZNP
Cetartiodactyla – 14 species		
(Lelwel) Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	ZNP
Red-Flanked Duiker	<i>Cephalophus rufilatus</i>	ZNP
Topi (Tiang)	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>	ZNP
Red-Fronted Gazelle	<i>Eudorcas rufifrons</i>	M, ZNP
Northern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	ZNP
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	NDJ
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	ZNP
(Defassa) Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	ZNP
(Buffon's) Kob	<i>Kobus kob</i>	ZNP
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	M, ZNP
Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>	ZNP
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	ZNP
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	ZNP
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	ZNP
Chiroptera – 5 species		
Ansorge's Wrinkle-Lipped Bat	<i>Chaerephon ansorgei</i>	ZNP
Little Free-Tailed Bat	<i>Chaerephon pumilus</i>	ZNP
Yellow-Winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>	ZNP
Common Bent-Wing Bat	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	ZNP
Rendall's Serotine	<i>Neoromicia rendalli</i>	ZNP
Eulipotyphla – 1 species		
Savanna Shrew	<i>Crocidura fulvastra</i>	ZNP
Hyracoidea – 1 species		
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	M
Lagomorpha – 1 species		
African Savanna Hare	<i>Lepus victoriae</i>	ZNP
Primates – 4 species		
Tantalus Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus tantalus</i>	M, ZNP
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>	ZNP
Northern Lesser Galago	<i>Galago senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	ZNP
Proboscidea – 1 species		
African Savanna Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	ZNP
Rodentia – 1 species		
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	M, ZNP

*NDJ – N'Djamena, M – Mongo, ZNP – Zakouma NP

Bird List – 150 species

Species	Scientific Name	Location(s)*
Accipitriformes – 22 species		
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	ZNP
Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufipennis</i>	M, ZNP



Scissor-Tailed Kite	<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	M
Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>	ZNP
Brown Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	M, ZNP
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	ZNP
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	ZNP
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	ZNP
Black-Winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	M, ZNP
White-Backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	NDJ, M, ZNP
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	ZNP
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>	M
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	ZNP
Long-Crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	M, ZNP
Dark-Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	ZNP
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	ZNP
Yellow-Billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	NDJ, M, ZNP
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	ZNP
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	M
Gymnogene	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	M, ZNP
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	M, ZNP
Lappet-Faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	ZNP
Anseriformes – 6 species		
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	ZNP
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	ZNP
White-Faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	ZNP
Spur-Winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	ZNP
African Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	ZNP
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	ZNP
Bucerotiformes – 6 species		
Northern Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>	M, ZNP
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	M, ZNP
Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	M, ZNP
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>	M
Red-Billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	M, ZNP
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	M, ZNP
Caprimulgiformes – 6 species		
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	ZNP
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	ZNP
Long-Tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>	ZNP
Plain Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus inornatus</i>	ZNP
Standard-Winged Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus longipennis</i>	ZNP
African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	ZNP
Charadriiformes – 14 species		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	NDJ, ZNP
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Spotted Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	ZNP
Senegal Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	NDJ
Black-Winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	ZNP
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	ZNP
Black-Winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	NDJ, ZNP



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Black-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	ZNP
Egyptian Plover	<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>	ZNP
Bronze-Winged Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>	ZNP
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	NDJ
Spur-Winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	NDJ
Black-Headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>	ZNP
Ciconiiformes – 6 species		
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	NDJ, ZNP
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	ZNP
African Woollyneck	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>	ZNP
Saddle-Billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Marabou	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>	ZNP
Yellow-Billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	ZNP
Columbiformes – 8 species		
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	NDJ, M, ZNP
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	ZNP
African Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>	ZNP
Red-Eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	ZNP
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	ZNP
Black-Billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>	ZNP
Coraciiformes – 9 species		
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>	M, ZNP
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	ZNP
Grey-Headed Kingfisher	<i>Halycon leucocephala</i>	M
White-Throated Bee-Eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	ZNP
Red-Throated Bee-Eater	<i>Merops bulocki</i>	M, ZNP
Northern Carmine Bee-Eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>	M, ZNP
Little Bee-Eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	M, ZNP
African Green Bee-Eater	<i>Merops viridissimus</i>	M, ZNP
Cuculiformes – 3 species		
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	M
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>	M
Falconiformes – 5 species		
Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>	ZNP
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>	ZNP
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	M
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	M, ZNP
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	ZNP
Galliformes – 1 species		
Helmeted Guinea fowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	M, ZNP
Gruiformes – 1 species		
Black-Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	ZNP
Otidiformes – 1 species		
Black-Bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>	ZNP
Passeriformes – 36 species		
Cut-Throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	ZNP
White-Billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>	M



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Yellow-Billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	ZNP
Rufous-Tailed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	ZNP
Scarlet-Chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	ZNP
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	NDJ, M, ZNP
White-Rumped Seedeater	<i>Crithagra leucopygia</i>	ZNP
Yellow-Fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	M
Fork-Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	M, ZNP
Black-Rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>	M, ZNP
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucostreptis caerulescens</i>	ZNP
Ethiopian Swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>	ZNP
Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	ZNP
Red-Billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	ZNP
Long-Tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotonis caudatus</i>	M, ZNP
Greater Blue-Eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	M, ZNP
Lesser Blue-Eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>	ZNP
Black-Headed Gonolek	<i>Laniarius erythrogaster</i>	ZNP
Red-Backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	ZNP
Grey-Backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>	ZNP
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	M
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	ZNP
Northern Grey-Headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	NDJ, M, ZNP
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	ZNP
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	M, ZNP
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>	NDJ
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	ZNP
Green-Winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>	ZNP
Red-Billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	M, ZNP
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	ZNP
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	ZNP
Black-Crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>	ZNP
African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	ZNP
Red-Cheeked Cordon-Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	ZNP
Northern Yellow White-Eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	ZNP
<i>Pelecaniiformes – 16 species</i>		
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Black-Headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	ZNP
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	ZNP
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Green-Backed Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	ZNP
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Black-Crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	ZNP
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	ZNP
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	M, ZNP
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	ZNP



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Piciformes – 3 species		
Fine-Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>	ZNP
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>	M
Yellow-Fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	ZNP
Psittaciformes – 1 species		
Rose-Ringed Parakeet	<i>Alexandrinus krameri</i>	ZNP
Pteroclitiformes – 1 species		
Four-Banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>	ZNP
Strigiformes – 2 species		
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>	ZNP
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>	M
Struthioniformes – 1 species		
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	ZNP
Suliformes – 2 species		
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	NDJ
Long-Tailed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	NDJ, ZNP

*NDJ – N'Djamena, M – Mongo, ZNP – Zakouma NP

Reptile List – 5 species

Species	Scientific Name	Location(s)*
Crocodylia – 1 species		
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>	ZNP
Squamata – 4 species		
Common Agama	<i>Agama agama</i>	NDJ, ZNP
House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus angulatus</i>	ZNP
Central African Rock Python	<i>Python sebae</i>	ZNP
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	ZNP

*NDJ – N'Djamena, M – Mongo, ZNP – Zakouma NP

Misses

Very rarely can anyone come away from Zakouma disappointed. Whilst the famous flocks of red-billed quelea did not reach the millions, and the main herd of elephants eluded us, we came away with hugely memorable sightings of pale fox, serval (for which there is surely nowhere better), wild cat and much more.

There are plenty of species we could have encountered that we didn't, including caracal, striped hyena, aardvark, honey badger, leopard and cheetah, but it would be unrealistic to expect to get these in a six-night stay – although all apart from aardvark and leopard were seen during our stay by guides and other groups. There will always be misses in Zakouma, because there is simply so much to see!



Contact Details

Pictus Safaris can be contacted by email at contact@pictus-safaris.com or via our website at www.pictus-safaris.com. We are a tour operator specialising in small-group and private departures across Africa, with 2022 destinations including Niokolo-Koba NP, Senegal, Lomako FR, DRC and the Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau.

We will be running multiple private and small-group departures to Zakouma in 2023 – spaces are limited.