

**ENNEDI
WARDA CAMP
7 DAYS**



THE ENNEDI MASSIF (Unesco Heritage)

This is one of our favourite trips, a spectacular tour in Chad through remote and breathtaking landscapes: it sums up our ethos and takes you to places few western travellers have ever seen.

The Ennedi is a vast mountain range of sandstone sculpted by the slow erosion of time over millions of years to form magnificent rock formations.

Here we enter the land of Tubu, one of Africa's most traditional, and least known people. Our excellent local connections give us the rare opportunity to meet these rather shy and secretive people.

We are going to look for rock art, dating back thousands of years, and walk into the Guelta d'Archei, where Tubu bring their huge herds of camels to drink from the only waterhole for miles around, in the company of the last population of Saharan crocodiles.



Camp facilities

Semi permanent superior comfort tented camp,
8 tents:
7 single/double use tents
+ 1 bigger family tent.



Tent facilities

En suite bathroom with hot water shower.



Power

Solar power, backup generator.



Access

Flights: landing at Nisham natural Airstrip, from N'Djamena 3h20min.
Roads: 3 full days of transfer, 2 overnights in fly camps.



Activities

Game drives, walking safaris, bird watching, camel ride, hiking, cultural activities.



Open

From november to april, drier season (+on demand).



Location

In the hearth of Ennedi massif, Unesco World heritage since 2016.



Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

Day 7

**PRIVATE CHARTER FLIGHT
from N'DJAMENA to the
NISHAM NATURAL AIRSTRIP**

Transfer from the Hotel of N'Djamena to the international airport.
Private charter flight (3h) to Archei natural airstrip, then in a 20 mins drive, we get to the Warda Camp.

After a refreshing lunch and a short siesta, an easy and enjoyable hike on Tokou Area close to Warda is going to open the doors to this unique natural universe.

Dinner and overnight stay at Warda Camp.



Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

Day 7

**CHINEKEY ARCHES -
ALoba ARCH -
BAMENA REGION -
WARDA CAMP**

Crossing the spectacular region of Bamena: canyons, pinnacles and sandstone castles alternating with small sand dunes. Following the southern edge of the Massif we get to the stunning Aloba Arch, which, by its size, could shelter Notre-Dame-de-Paris: 120 meters high (394 feet), with a span of about 77 meters (253 feet), it is one of the most remarkable and the second highest natural arch in the World.

At the southernmost corner of Bamena region, there stands the sacred mountain Bideyat.

Dinner and overnight stay at Warda Camp.



Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

Day 7

NOHI - LABYRINTH - ARCHEI - WARDA CAMP

After breakfast, we set out and cross the wide and lush riverbed Wadi Nohi, running perpendicular to our direction. After a visit to the extraordinary painted rock art in cave site, we reach the Oyo Labyrinth, an entangled water-cut formation of sandstone curtains. Further along the Wadi Archeï (left bank), we reach its famous Guelta: a unique basin between vertical rock walls, where camels, by the hundreds, come to drink. Archeï is a permanent water spring filling a wide pool. It is home to an isolated population of crocodiles, which survived here for millennia. Today the region is chiefly used by semi-nomadic herders of camels and goats but occasionally also horses can be encountered. From here we head back to the camp by late afternoon. Dinner and overnight stay at Warda Camp.



The Ennedi Mountains

In the north-east of Chad stand the stunning Ennedi Mountains, a sandstone mountain range sculpted over millions of years by the erosion of time into fascinating, jagged rock formations. This is one of Chad's most beautiful areas: its natural arches, deep canyons and isolated waterholes make it a real joy to explore.

Ennedi is rich in rock art, its many examples can be found in shelters and under overhanging rocks. A book on prehistory throughout the Holocene.

Perhaps surprisingly, it is also rich in wildlife – species to be found here include gazelles, baboons and patas monkeys, as well as porcupines and honey badgers, and in remote parts leopards and cheetahs. The last lion was shot here in the 1940s – supposedly this was the last lion in the whole of the Sahara. A local legend has it that an unknown species, the 'Ennedi tiger' still survives, although no conclusive evidence has been found.

The Guelta d'Archei is home to one of the last surviving populations of Saharan crocodiles (*Crocodylus suchus*), living in a small waterhole, the only permanent source of water in the massif. Reduced to around 4 females now, with no younglings spotted in many years, the population might be doomed to extinction in the near future.

The Guelta is a truly magical part of the Ennedi, where Tubu nomads come with their camels for water. The sight of hundred camels drinking and bellowing in this isolated patch of water is one you are unlikely to forget.



Day 1

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Day 7

**BECHIKE - KERNEK -
BICHAGARA - FLY CAMP**

Today we leave the camp after breakfast, heading NW we travel through the wonderful landscape of Wadi Archei to reach the narrow Bechiké canyon: at the end of it a small Guelta provides water to the wild animals living here.

We are leaving the “tropical” Ennedi and enter its purely Saharan part, skirting its north-western edge up to the beautiful Tassilian region of Bichigara, where big sandy blocks of various rock formations separated by plains of dunes and lost dunes create a magnificent landscape of unique beauty.

This amazing scenery is going to be the location of our first fly camp. Dinner and overnight under the sky.



Ennedi Highlights

In July 2016, the Ennedi massif was inscribed by UNESCO as a world heritage site, in recognition of its natural formations and Rock Art spanning the entire Holocene period.

Ennedi is an ecological oasis, home to remarkable biodiversity, including over 525 plant species; 199 bird species on its migratory crossroads; a relic population of crocodiles; and mammals including Barbary sheep, Dorcas gazelle, striped hyaena and desert lynx, among others.

The extraordinary history of human occupation dating back to the Neolithic period is recorded through a multitude of preserved archaeological sites, consisting of engravings, rock paintings, pre-Islamic cemeteries and iron age old villages.

This ancient landscape remains an important resource for two semi-nomadic groups in need of pastures and water for their livestock.

Tremendous opportunity exists to transform the conservation of this life-giving landscape to support people and wildlife.

Through engagement with the local population, delivery of effective management, infrastructure, law enforcement, and reintroduction of several significant species, the irreplaceable cultural and natural value of this Eden will be restored.

Fauna and Flora

Straddling the Sahelian and the Saharan areas of North-eastern Chad, Ennedi Massif is a water-rich desert landscape thanks to the presence of large ephemeral streams and semi-permanent water pools.

The Massif consists of an immense plateaus composed of highly permeable sedimentary rock resting on a granite base.

This vast water reservoir gives life to the desert, enabling Ennedi to support an astonishing diversity of species.

Over 525 species of flora have been listed so far, including several endemic species.

The Gueltas, or semi-permanent water pools, are home to numerous fish.

Bird life in the Massif is highly diversified, as the area is a migratory crossroads providing a habitat for at least 199 listed species on their transcontinental movements.

Ennedi has long been a refuge for Saharan wildlife, with species such as addax, oryx, cheetah, ostrich, Dama and Leptocere gazelles among others present in large numbers until the mid-20th century.

While poaching and conflict almost eradicated some of these species, an exceptional wildlife presence remains: Barbary sheep, Dorcas gazelle, striped hyaena, baboon, patas monkey, caracal (desert lynx) and ratel (honey badger).

Remarkably, a small relic population of crocodiles (*Crocodylus suchus*) survives in the Archei Guelta, the last known representatives of this species throughout the Sahara.

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

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Day 7

BICHAGARA - ANOA - AJOUS REGION - FLY CAMP

Now in a less inhabited region, we discover natural shelters containing well preserved and highly artistic rock paintings, witness of an era when Sahara was greener.

Looking out for the most propitious passages, we reach the isolated, small oasis of Anoa, an unexpected spark of life.

The salt lake of Ajous is going to be our final stage for the day.

Dinner and overnight under the sky.



Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

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Day 5

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AJOUS - ABAYKE - WARDA CAMP

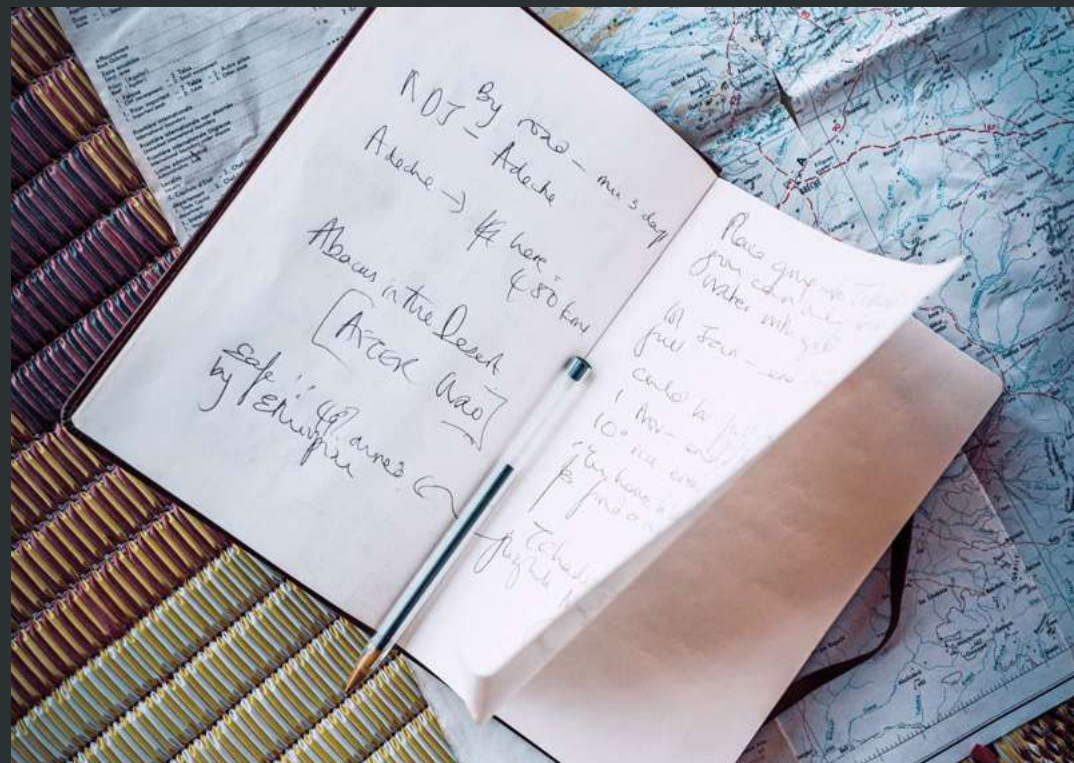
We have reached the apex of the Northern horn of the Ennedi now, and we start to make our way southward, leaving the mountains behind us, travelling outside the massif, in a much more arid environment back to Warda Camp. On the way back, with an enjoyable hike we are going to explore Abayke, a rare landscape pearl. Overnight stay at Warda Camp.



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Day 4
Day 5
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NISHAM - NDJAMENA

On this morning, we can enjoy our final breakfast in the Sahara Desert, having seen a part of the world that is little known, let alone travelled. Following breakfast, we are going to drive to Nisham airstrip for a private charter flight to Ndjamena International Airport, then transfer to the Hotel. Dinner and overnight stay at the Hotel.





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