

# Amazing

## ETHIOPIA TOURS

### *Classic Ethiopia*

Ethiopia is famous for having the most unparalleled riches and historical legacy in Sub-Saharan Africa. Referring to the classic historic travel circuit followed to the south and east, one commonly visits 5 key destinations: Simien Mountains, Lalibela, Gondar, Bahir Dar and Tigray

### *Off the beaten path in Tigray*

Drive through some of the most lush areas of the country and the beautiful Gheralta mountains

### *Places to go*

Lalibela - Explore the ancient monolithic churches that have been so well preserved in this valley-hidden town

Simien Mountains - Walk through the spectacular mountain scenery, home to the gelada monkey

Lake Tana - See the unique monastery and the sources of the Blue Nile

Tigray - Home to the Queen of Sheba, and today many believe it is the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant

Blue Nile Gorge : drive through the spectacular Blue Nile gorge

# Historic and Omo Valley 23 days

## The Historic and Omo Valley Route 23 Days

The northern landscape was breathtaking; dramatic mountains and vast highland tablelands riven by deep gorges and rivers, expansive tracts of subsistence farming stretching to the horizon and on every terraced ledge that the steep hillsides would allow. As the heartland of the Ethiopian Orthodox church, the religious celebrations and architecture were like nothing we'd ever experienced; Axum, Gheralta and Lalibela are unique living shrines, true to a faith that has remained virtually unchanged since the earliest days of Christianity.

The Omo Valley, with its typical African environment, is mostly interesting because of the wide range of peoples that inhabit it, including the Mursi, Karo, Banna, Dizi, Hamer and Bodi. The Majanger, the Nuer, the Annuak and the Surmas are predominantly found in the western part of Ethiopia. You will visit the various Omo tribes, observing their animist way of life and witnessing authentic customs and traditions, such as the bull-jumping and body scarification of the Hamer, the bizarre lip ornamentation of the Mursi and the incredible banana leaf architecture of the Dorze, we felt as if we had entered an African world of an earlier time, the way of life still largely untouched by outside influences.

Lalibela - Explore the ancient monolithic churches that have been so well preserved in this valley-hidden town

Simien Mountains - Walk through the spectacular mountain scenery, home to the gelada monkey

Lake Tana- See the unique monastery and the sources of the Blue Nile

Tigray - Home to the Queen of Sheba, and today many believe it is the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant.

Dorze Tribes and Villages- The Dorze tribe were once warriors. They are famous for their cotton woven cloths and beehive huts.

Konso - Meet the people, take photographs and learn of a culture that has had very little outside influence

Turmi- Meet the tribes of Tsemay, Ari, Bena, Mursi, Bume, Karo, Geleb & Hamar people

Mago - Visit the Mursi highlands where the most illustrious of Ethiopia's unique tribes lives

## Key information

- 16 nights comfortable hotels, 6 nights basic hotel most with en suite facilities
- Travel by 4WD Toyota Land cruiser and coaster bus
- Off the beaten path in the Tigray region and Omo Valley
- Places visited: Addis Ababa, Bahirdar, Gondar, Simien Mountains, Axum, Gheralta, Lalibela, Harar, Dire Dawa and the Omo Valley

## What's not included

- Travel insurance
- Photo/Video fee of any festival/ceremony
- Tips
- Single accommodation (available on request)
- Visas or vaccinations

## What's included

- All accommodation/ Double or twin room basis
- Travel by coaster bus and 4WDs for the south
- All transport and listed activities
- One internal flight
- All transfer in and out
- All entrance fees
- All breakfasts
- English speaking guide services
- All government taxes

# Historic and Omo Valley 23 days



## Day 1 - Arrive In Addis Ababa And Transfer To Hotel And Visit The City's Highlights

### Addis Ababa

Founded in 1886 by Menelik II, Addis Ababa is located 2,500m above sea level in the Entoto mountain chain, where it enjoys an excellent year-round climate, with an average temperature of 25°C. It is a vibrant, developing city that is a pleasure to explore on foot, with wide avenues of jacaranda trees, interesting museums and one of the largest open-air markets in Africa.

Depending on the time of your arrival, it may be possible to fit in an afternoon guided tour of the city, taking in the Holy Trinity Cathedral, the National Museum, and the market.

## Day 2 - Drive To Addis To Debre Markos Via The Muga And The Blue Nile Gorge

### Debre Libanos and the Blue Nile Gorge

In the morning drive to the Blue Nile Gorge lying 210km. north of Addis Ababa that precipitates down by 1000 meters below the general elevation. The gorge has a splendor panorama and contrasting vegetation type to the surrounding Shewan plateau. On the way back to Addis, walk around and pause at the ruin of the so-called 'Portuguese Bridge', enjoy breath-taking scenery and cataracts of waterfalls created by Jemma river, see from close distance the endemic Gelada Baboon, visit the 13th c. Debre Libanos Monastery established by Abune (father) Tekle Haimanot, and the collections at the church museum. The interior of the church is adorned with beautiful stained glasses reflecting biblical history. The cave which is the integral part of the Monastery contains a spring whose water is considered holy and is the object of pilgrimages

## Day 3 - Drive To Bahirdar, Visit Bezawit Palace For A Scenic Outlook And Weito Village

### Debre Markos to Bahir Dar

Drive to Bahirdar through the farmland of the Gojjam region, the homeland of the Agaw people, who build neatly fenced compounds around their tall circular homesteads. In the afternoon we explore Bahir Dar, stopping at Bezawit Palace for a scenic outlook. We also visit Weito village to meet the local Amhara people, makers of papyrus boats and handicrafts.

## Day 4 - In Bahirdar Visit Nile Falls And Lake Tana Trip

### Visit Nile Falls and Lake Tana trip

Your day begins with an early morning flight to Bahir Dar on the shores of Lake Tana, one of the major headwaters of the Blue Nile. Perhaps Ethiopia's prettiest city, with stunning lake views from wide avenues lined with palm and jacaranda trees, Bahir Dar has been a regional trading center for centuries. Even today, traditional papyrus boats, or tankwa, can be seen transporting goods across the lake.

After dropping our bags at the hotel, we cruise across Lake Tana to visit two of the famed monasteries of the Zege Peninsula. While onboard our private boat, keep an eye out for local traders sailing their tankwas, as well as a wide variety of aquatic birds. After a short walk through a traditional village and a coffee farm, we reach the monastery of Ura Kidane Meret, home to an important collection of religious relics dating back to the 16th century. On the walls, colorful painted murals tell the stories of Ethiopian saints.

We then carry on to discover our second monastery, Azwa Maryam, set among pleasant gardens and overseen by an affable young priest. drive to south of Bahir Dar towards Tississat Falls, also known as Blue Nile Falls, 30km from the centre of town. We will take a five minute boat ride across the Nile to begin a 30 minute walk to our first viewpoint. From here, you will begin to understand the Amharic translation for these falls - 'the Water that Smokes'. After time to have a coffee with the locals in the shade, we will continue with the walk for a further one hour passing through quiet countryside. Setting out from Bahir Dar, we drive three hours along an asphalt roadway, passing through rural villages and across stunning mountain passes, until we catch our first glimpse of the remarkable castles of Gonder.

## Day 5 -Drive To Gondar Visit The Royal Compound

### Gonder, Africa's Camelot

Gondar became the Imperial Capital in 1632 and over the next 236 years many castles were built in the Royal Compound. The other places of interest include the Debre Birhan Trinity church with its truly magnificent roof and wall murals. Often called Africa's Camelot, Gondar retains much of its past glory as a center of imperial power. King Fasiledes named the city Ethiopia's capital in 1636, and by the time of his death three decades later, Gondar's wealth and beauty were renowned throughout the region. We spend the day exploring the castles of the Royal Enclosure, the bathing pools of Fasiledes (where ancient Timkat ceremonies are still performed), and the Debre Birhan Silassie Church, whose elaborate decor includes 80 ornate cherubs.

## Day 6 -Drive To Semien Mountaintd Visit Baboons And The Park

### Simen Mountain National park

We'll have an early breakfast this morning before driving 45 minutes into the Simien Mountains National Park, where we will begin our walks. It is a rough road from our hotel up into the mountains but the scenery more than makes up for it. The Semien Mountains National Park is a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and we will visit its exceptional natural beauty which includes superb scenery, endemic fauna and flora. Among other endemics it is here that the Gelada Baboon (bleeding heart Baboon) is found.

## Day 7 - Continue Visting The Simien Mountain

Simien Mountain National park - Gondar

Continue visting the park. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Ethiopia's main attractions, the mountain range is quiet and we are often the only ones out on the trails. While a wildlife viewing can never be guaranteed, one of the highlights of walking in this outstanding area is the chance to spot the endemic gelada monkeys. Often quietly appearing from over the hillside in huge numbers, the gelada monkeys are the last living species of the ancient grazing primates and are very relaxed in human company.

If we're lucky enough to find them, we'll take the time to sit with them for a while, just watching as the older ones groom one another and the young ones play. As we sit quietly with just our camera clicks for noise, the monkeys will often approach and sit close without any concern. Late in the afternoon drive to Gondar.

## Day 8- Drive Through The Stunning Tekeze Valley To Axum

Simien mountains to Axum

The road to Axum is a slow mountain road for much of the way with road work delays likely, but the scenery is just stunning! Founded between 200-700BC Axum was the seat of an Empire which extended across the Red Sea to Arabia. It traded with India and China, had its own alphabet and notation system, constructed great engineering works and dams and by the 4th century was recognised as one of the four great powers of the ancient world. Today Axum, considered to be the holiest city in Ethiopia, is visited by thousands of pilgrims each year. We plan to be there for the Maryam Tsion Festival which is scheduled for 29/30Nov (date not yet confirmed). At this time the city is bustling with pilgrims and the sights and ceremonies just have to be seen, to be believed.

## Day 9 -In Axum Visit The House The Ark Of The Covenant, The Original Tablets Of Moses

Axum

In the morning we will start a visit of Axum, now a rustic frontier town in Ethiopia's most northern region but once the country's capital. According to legend, Axum was home to the Queen of Sheba, and today many believe it is the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. As we explore this ancient place, we discover that its fascinating historical past is wrapped in a deeper sense of mystery around the events that may have unfolded here.

Our first stop is the complex at the church of St. Mary of Zion, which features an unexpected blend of ancient and modern architecture. While the oldest existing church was completed in 1665 by King Fasiledes (who also built Gonder), its foundations are likely from a temple build by King Ezana in the 4th century AD, or perhaps by King Kaleb two centuries later – making this the oldest Christian site in Africa. It is said that in the church's hidden and guarded chapel lies the Ark of the Covenant. In stark contrast, the new St. Mary of Zion church is a modern circular structure built by Emperor Haile Selassie in the 1960s. Beneath the cathedral is a museum housing many of Ethiopia's priceless relics.

The other highlight of our visit to Axum is the mysterious Stele Park, with its small but impressive Archaeological Museum of Axum. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Park contains more than 120 inscribed stone stele dating from the 4th century AD – some standing upright, others broken or partially buried. The tallest, at 25 meters, is the Obelisk of Axum, which was shipped to Italy in 1937 on the orders of Benito Mussolini. It was subsequently returned by the Italian government and re-erected in 2008.

In the afternoon we visit the ruined palace of King Kaleb and King Gebre Meskel (6th century AD), and what some believe was the residence of the legendary Queen of Sheba (9th century BC). Beneath Kaleb's palace, steep stone steps lead down to a series of underground galleries and chambers that some believe housed the imperial treasury. We can also explore the tombs of Kaleb and his son Gebre Meskel. Nearby is the Erana Stone – an important dedicatory stone from about 320 AD with an inscription in three languages: Sabaeen, Greek and Ge'ez, the earliest written Ethiopian language.

### Day 10- Drive To Gheralta And Visit The Impressive Pre-Axumite Temple Of Yeha

Axum to Gheralta

Built high into the cliff face, some of these churches are only accessible through climbing the vertical cliff, and yet they're still used by local Ethiopians of all ages. The views from inside the churches is extraordinary. The view as the sunsets behind the mountains and the sky illuminates in dark reds, yellows and oranges is the perfect end to your adventure.

Maryam Korkor is located on a high hill and involves a lengthy trek to reach its summit (approx, 1 and a half hours up, one hour down), but it's worth it for the marvellous view. Built into the cliff-face, Abune Yemata is known as the most difficult church to reach in Ethiopia and possibly in the world, involving a steep rock climb.

### Day 11 -Visit The Monastic Church Of Debre Mariam Korkor

Gheralta

In the morning hike up (opt.) the escarpment to the monastic church of Debre Mariam Korkor and continue around a narrow cliff path to a tiny rock church called Daniel's Prayer Room. What views! You can see forever, not only to the horizon but straight down the vertical cliffs to the valley below! Those who prefer can visit a more easily accessible rock-hewn church.

### Day 12 - Drive To Mekele And Visit The Dramatic Church Of Michael Imba

Gheralta to Mekelle

Drive to Mekele and we will Visit the dramatic Church of Michael Imba, an early cruciform and semi-monolithic church that is typical of the churches found in the region

### Day 13 - Drive To Lalibela For The Rock Hewn Churches

Mekelle to Lalibela

A full day drive to Lalibela – a remote town situated high in the Lasta Mountains at more than 2,590 m (8,500 ft). In the afternoon we visit three clusters of remarkable rock-hewn churches in the nearby mountainsides. Carved out of massive red stone monoliths, the churches reach heights of more than 10 m (30 ft) and have intricately detailed interiors. Exploring their quiet courtyards and connecting tunnels and passages feels like we're journeying deep into Ethiopia's past. Lalibela flourished at the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries when King Lalibela built a series of rock-hewn churches and even a "Jordan River", calling his creation New Jerusalem. Today, Lalibela is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a remarkable living shrine. The construction and history of these churches will astound you, they are like no other.

### Day 14 - Full Day Visit In Lalibela

Lalibela

After breakfast, a 4hr hike (opt.,) to the church of Asheton Mariam which is located at 4,000m, high above the town. Those who don't fancy the hike will have a free morning to enjoy the many craft shops and markets close to the hotel, there's even a great Coffee Shop.

After lunch visit the 2nd group of churches that are located south of the "Jordan River". This group is comprised of Bet Emanuel, Bet Mercurios, Bet Abba Libanos and Bet Gabriel-Rafael. Each church is unique, all are superbly carved and most are decorated with well-preserved paintings.

### Day 15 - Full Day Visit In Lalibela

#### Lalibela

Visit the 1st group of six churches that lie in rock cradles, one behind the other: Bet Golgotha, Bet Mikael, Bet Mariam, Bet Meskel, Bet Danaghel and Bet Medhane Alem. Bet Medhane Alem, the largest, is built like a Greek temple and in one corner are three empty graves symbolically dug for the biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Iconic Bet Giyorgis, the most elegant and majestic of all the churches, lies isolated in the southwest part of the village on a sloping rock terrace. It can only be reached through a tunnel.

### Day 16 - Fly tot Addis and drive To Langano Via The Rift Valley And Crater Lakes

#### Langano Lake

orning fly to Addis and drive to Langano en route visit Beseka Lake. Continue driving throught the great Rift valley lakes, Langano and Abijatta-Shalla and the town of Awassa, the capital city of the southern region, which is very popular in fish market and its volcanic lake. The rift contains a marvelous series of lakes, which are teeming with fish and provide a habitat for hundreds of species of birds. On the way we pass 4 of the lakes. Awassa is located on the edge of Lake Awassa, surrounded by mountains.

### Day 17 - Drive To Arbaminch And We Will Visit A Dorze Tribal Village

#### Lake Langano to Arbaminch

Today, pass through one of the most colourful and scenic areas of Southern Ethiopia, a land that is inhabited by the Sidamo and Alaba tribes who were once nomads but are now farmers. Close to Arbaminch we will visit a Dorze tribal village. The Dorze were once warriors, but have turned to farming and weaving to earn a living.

### Day 18- Boat Trip On Lake Chamo To See The “Hippo Pool” And The “Crocodile Market”

#### Arbaminch

A wonderful morning boat trip on Lake Chamo to see the “Hippo Pool” and the “Crocodile Market”, where large numbers of Nile crocodiles gather to bask in the sun (some up to 6m in length). The afternoon is free time.

### Day 19 - Drive To Turmi Via Konso Village

#### Konso-Turmi

Today drive into the South Omo Valley. Our first stop will be the Konso village of Machekie. The Konso tribe are known for their terraced hill sides, fine woven materials and the carved totems which mark their grave sites.



### Day 20 - In Turmi Attend A Bull Jumping Ceremony Hmer Village and colorful ceremony

Today, if it is available we will attend a bull jumping ceremony. This exciting and colourful ceremony marks the rite of passage to manhood for young Hamar warriors. As the ceremonies are not tourist events, we can't guarantee if one will be happening during our stay. However so far, our luck has been in, with two visits - two ceremonies. Our daily schedule in Southern Ethiopia may change to suit the location and timing of a ceremony.

### Day 21 - Drive To Jinka Via Keyafer Market And Ari People Keyafer Market - Ari People

Visit a local market where Hamar ladies can be seen, dressed in their traditional skin clothing and their distinctive ochre-coated braided hair style. These markets are a great opportunity to buy genuine tribal artifacts. The Hamar are fine looking people, both men and women taking great pride in their appearance, shaving and coloring their hair, oiling their bodies and decorating themselves with beads and bracelets. After lunch drive to Jinka, where we will visit an Ari tribal community.

### Day 22 - Drive To Mago National Park For Mursi Mursi - Arbaminch

This morning we will visit the Mursi tribe in the Mago National Park. The Mursi are the most infamous of the Omo tribes because of their practice of inserting clay plates into the lower lips of their women. Our guide will explain the various cultural aspects of the tribe and you will be able to take photographs and interact with the people.

### Day 23 - In The Morning Drive To Addis And Transfer To Airport For Departure Addis Ababa-Departure

On arrival in Addis, check into your hotel. This will either be on day room basis or overnight depending on your international flight times. This evening, we will arrange for a farewell dinner in a restaurant with Ethiopian music and dance, or in a good city centre restaurant.



## Why Travelling To Ethiopia?

Ethiopia really is an African land like no other. The only African country that has never been colonised, Ethiopia is also unusual for its rich Orthodox Christian heritage, which was maintained even when all its neighbors embraced Islam in the seventh century. Ethiopia is famous for having the most unparalleled riches and historical legacy in Sub-Saharan Africa. Referring to the classic historic travel circuit followed to the south and east, one commonly visits 5 key destinations: Axum, Lalibela, Gondar, Bahir Dar and Harar.

Travelling south, our days focused more on wildlife and tribal communities as we followed the huge East African Rift Valley through the lush lakes region and onto the dry low-lying plains of the South Omo Valley. As we continue visiting the various Omo tribes, observing their animist way of life and witnessing authentic customs and traditions, such as the bull-jumping and body scarification of the Hamar, the bizarre lip ornamentation of the Mursi and the incredible banana leaf architecture of the Dorze, we felt as if we had entered an African world of an earlier time, the way of life still largely untouched by outside influences



## Trip Information

### Climate

Ethiopia is generally pleasant and warm, but varies with altitude. The long rains usually arrive mid- June to early September and the short rains between mid-February and April although this pattern has been completely erratic in recent times. Anticipate sunshine most days, generally all day, with comfortably warm temperatures in the north, but in the South it can get rather hot (30s+), especially for the 2 to 3 days when we are in the south. Nights can be cool in the north, even cold in a couple of places, so a jacket and set of thermals should be taken. The Danakil Depression is one of the hottest places on Earth so please come prepared. Our trips to the Danakil run from Oct – Feb as this is the cooler time of year but this can still mean daytime temperatures up to and around 40C. Night time temperatures in the Danakil are in the 20s (C) and rainfall is very rare. Harar and Mekele will be cooler, but the vast majority of this trip is likely to be very hot.

Daytime temperatures are mainly warm and comfortable but early morning and evenings in the highlands can be cold. We recommend layers and a thick jumper or fleece, plus a lightweight wind/waterproof jacket. A hat is essential. Take swimwear if you plan to use the hotel's pools. Comfortable, good walking shoes with ankle support are strongly recommended as well as comfortable sandals. Walks and Hikes: While most walks are not difficult, a couple are only suitable for those who enjoy scrambling and have a good head for heights. When there are longer more technical walks we try offer an alternative activity as well.

Time difference to GMT: +3

Plugs : 2 Pin Round

Religion : Christian and Islam

Language: Amharic, English

Energy: Ethiopia uses 220 volts and 50HZ

It is best to bring your own round, two-prong adapter and transfer if necessary.



## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### 4WDs, Bus, Boat, Flight

We will use a private bus charter for the northern loop Addis to Lalibela, a domestic flight as stated in the itinerary and 4WD Land Cruisers for the offroads. Roads can be tar sealed or shingle (dusty), sometimes bumpy and slow due to road works and/or rain damage, although most of the time a reasonable pace can be maintained. Both 4WDs and the bus will be air-conditioned.

Air Transportation: The National carrier is Ethiopian Airlines [www.ethiopianairlines.com](http://www.ethiopianairlines.com) which has extensive domestic flight network flying to several destinations including the popular tourist destination Axum, Lalibela, Gonder, Bahir Dar, Mekelle, Dere Dawa, Arba Minch, Jimma

### Currency

The Local currency is an Ethiopian Birr, made up of 100 Cents, Visitors may import an unlimited amount of foreign currency, but they need declaration to the customs authority upon arrival.

### Time and calendar

Ethiopia is in GMT +3 hours' time Zone, and follows the unique Julian calendar which is seven years and eight months behind the Gregorian calendar, consists of thirteen month, the twelve months consists of 30 days each and the last (13th Month) will have 5 or 6 days during leap year, The New Year fall on the 11th of September.

### When to come

Ethiopia can be visited all round the year, but for some special route like the south west Ethiopia and Danakil (Dallol) depression contact us to know the detail.

### Accommodation

Addis Ababa has two 5 star hotels- the Hilton and the Sheraton (Luxury collection) and a growing number of tourist class hotels. Standards vary outside the capital, but apart from some remote areas where camping is unavoidable it is generally possible to get relatively clean rooms with en suite toilet and shower. Hotels / Lodges anticipated are essentially Star\*\*/\*\*/\*\*\*\*/(\*\*\*\*\*) in Addis). In some remote places hotels is basic and simplistic.

## Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

Clients must ensure that they are aware of all relevant passport and visa requirements and that they allow adequate time to obtain them. Please note that many Ethiopian immigration require that passports are valid for six months beyond the period of the Client's stay. Requirements can change and it is the Clients' responsibility to ensure that they comply with current passport, visa and health requirements and take all necessary documents with them to gain access to any country or region which forms part of the tour. The Client will be solely responsible for any cost, loss or damage which he or the Company incurs as a result of a failure to obtain all necessary passports, visas and/or vaccinations.

### **Visa**

Visa is required for all visitors to Ethiopia and they can get from Ethiopian Diplomatic Mission abroad ,Visitors from the countries listed below can obtain visa on arrival at Bole International Airport (Addis Ababa): Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic, Kuwait, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, and US.

For a single entry visa you can apply via the e-visa website: <https://www.evisa.gov.et> . You will need to print a copy of your evisa approval letter and present this with your passport at immigration upon your arrival. The approval letter will take a minimum of 3 days to be processed so we strongly advise for you to apply within plenty of time before your departure. You will be permitted to stay within Ethiopia for upto 30 days or upto 90 days depending on which single entry visa you request. We strongly recommend for you to read the Help section on the e-visa website before applying.

### **Insurance**

Insurance that provides cover for emergency repatriation in case of a medical emergency is compulsory for all tours. You should be aware that due to some of the areas visited and some of the activities included on certain of our trips some standard insurance policies may not always provide adequate cover. As such we strongly recommend that you purchase a policy that adequately covers your trip.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

### ETHIOPIA Restriction Detail

Date: 02 December 2020

Ethiopia entry requirement in relation to COVID-19 Pandemic:

- All passengers traveling to Ethiopia MUST present a negative RT PCR test certificate for COVID-19 before boarding a flight. The certificate validity shouldn't exceed 120 hours on arrival from the date sample is given.
- Children less than or equal to 10 years of age are exempted from the RT PCR test certificate requirement.
- There shall be no COVID-19 test to be done on arrival at Addis Ababa.
- A Rapid diagnostic test (RDT antibody test) will not be accepted for this purpose
- The above requirement does not apply to transit passengers.
- All Diplomatic and Service (including United Nations and African Union) passport holders, including their immediate families, are advised but not required to have a certificate of negative PCR-COVID-19 test before arrival to Ethiopia. However, anyone (diplomatic and service passport holder including their immediate families) who come to Ethiopia without negative PCR COVID-19 test result, is required to stay in quarantine for fourteen (14) days at home.



## General Information

### Registration

Program contracts and service agreements become valid upon Amazing Ethiopia Tours' confirmation of the booking by letter, fax, e-mail or telephone. A deposit of 30% of the total cost is requested at the time of confirmation. The remainder of the total cost is payable 30 days before the beginning date of the tour. If complete payment has not been received, Amazing Ethiopia Tours is not obligated to accept the client or conduct the tour unless prior arrangements have been made.

### Cancellation

The Client may cancel the booking at any time provided that the cancellation is communicated to the Company in writing. Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below calculated from the day when written notice is received by the Company. The more notice that the Company receives, the less the Company will charge the Client. However, in addition to the charges shown below many air tickets have no refund value whatsoever and, therefore, airlines may impose 100% cancellation charges.

#### **Cancellation charges apply as follows:**

-Cancellations of confirmed bookings received more than 30 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation penalty of US \$500 per person.

-Cancellations received between 30 and 15 days prior to departure will be subject to a penalty of 50% of the total tour rate.

-Cancellations received under 15 days prior to departure will be subject to forfeiture of the entire tour rate.

### Local Laws

All participants in tours operated by the Company are expected to obey the laws and regulations of the country and any failure to do so will relieve the Company of all obligations that it may otherwise have under the Contract.

- “Amazing Ethiopia Tours” is the trading name of Amazing Ethiopia , a private company head office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Registration No. 487/97
- Office Address :Bole Medhanealem, Redwan Bldg #202

### Travel and cancellation insurance

Travel Insurance is mandatory for all clients whilst on a holiday organised by the Company. Clients together with their personal property including baggage are at all times solely at their own risk. Clients are wholly responsible for arranging their own insurance. Clients not taking out the Company's specially arranged travel/cancellation insurance are responsible for ensuring that they have alternative personal travel insurance with protection for the full duration of the holiday in respect of at least medical expenses, injury, death, repatriation, cancellation and curtailment with adequate and appropriate cover.

Clients making their own arrangements should ensure that there are no clauses limiting or excluding protection for the type of activities included in their holiday. Clients should satisfy themselves that all travel insurance purchased meets their particular requirements and should arrange supplementary insurance if need be. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance you purchase provides adequate cover. We do not check insurance policies and cannot be liable for any expenses incurred as a result of your not having adequate, appropriate or valid insurance cover.

### **If we cancel your holiday**

The Company reserves the right to cancel a holiday in any circumstances but will not cancel a holiday less than 8 weeks before the start of the holiday except for force majeure, or the client's failure to make all payments (including the final balance and any surcharge) when due. If we have to cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible. If there is time to do so before departure and the cancellation does not result from your failure to pay, we will offer you the option of purchasing another available holiday from the Company (paying or receiving a refund in respect of any difference in price) or receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us.

We regret we cannot meet any visa, vaccination or similar costs in the event of any change or cancellation by us. Similarly, as you are advised only to book fully flexible flights, we cannot pay any cancellation, amendment of other charges you may incur in relation to any flights which you have to change or cancel as a result of the cancellation of your holiday.

### **Age, Fitness and Participation**

All Clients are expected to satisfy themselves prior to booking that they are fit and able to complete the itinerary of their chosen tour as described in the Company's websites and written through e mails with clients. No unaccompanied minors (i.e. those under 18 years of age) can be accepted on tours operated by the Company, however children of 15 or more may travel provided that they are accompanied by a parent or a guardian who accepts full responsibility for them and subject, in all cases, to the ultimate discretion of the Company.

Clients agree to accept the authority and decisions of the Company's employees, tour leaders, and agents whilst on tour with the Company. If in the opinion of such person, the health or conduct of a Client before or after the departure appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable or happy progress of the tour, the Client may be excluded from all or part of the tour, in which case all monies paid will be forfeited and the Company will not be liable to pay any compensation whatsoever to such Client.





## Weather

– Anticipate sunshine most days, generally all day, with comfortably warm temperatures in the north, but in the South it can get rather hot (30s+), especially for the 2 to 3 days when we are in the south. Nights can be cool in the north, even cold in a couple of places, so a jacket and set of thermals should be taken.

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Daytime temperatures are mainly warm and comfortable but early morning and evenings in the highlands can be cold. We recommend layers and a thick jumper or fleece, plus a lightweight wind/waterproof jacket. A hat is essential. Take swimwear if you plan to use the hotel's pools. Comfortable, good walking shoes with ankle support are strongly recommended as well as comfortable sandals.

## Clothing

Visitors should take light, summer clothes for the day time and something warm for the evenings, like a sweater or jacket. The temperature drops quite rapidly towards sunset. Simian or Bale Mountains trekkers should bring warm clothes and water proofs for unexpected seasonal rains.

Dress is conservative – Women should not show bare knees or shoulders, so no singlets/sleeveless tops or pants/skirts shorter than mid-calf. Men, no bare chests and as wearing shorts is considered odd, stick to longs and ¾ pants or long shorts at the very least. Generally light weight pants/skirts and t-shirts are the order of the day, with a set of warm layer-up clothing and jacket for the cooler mountain locations.

## Walks and Hikes

While most walks are not difficult, a couple are only suitable for those who enjoy scrambling and have a good head for heights. When there are longer more technical walks we try offer an alternative activity as well.

## Foreign Exchange

Local currency : Ethiopian Birr ETB

Travellers Cheques : Very difficult to exchange and are not recommended.

Credit Card Acceptance : Accepted in most of the hotels in major towns. Limited in the banks

ATM Availability : Available in most of the major towns. In the remote areas it is very Limited. Ask your tour guide the availability

Where To Exchange : Recommended Currency For Exchange

It is advisable to take your spending money in Sterling, Euros or US Dollars cash (high denomination notes usually get better exchange rates). Please note that any pre- 1999 or torn US Dollar bills will not be accepted in Ethiopia. Please keep any receipts as you may be able to change back any unused local currency.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

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## Equipment

A hat and sun cream are essential throughout the trip. A torch can be useful in the case of power outages.

For the walking in the Simien Mountains and Lalibela, a pair of good walking shoes/boots are essential and walking pole(s) if you use these regularly.

A filter water bottle is very useful on this trip to ensure you have access to clean drinking water at all times.

## Food

The Ethiopian national dish consists of Enjera, a flat, circular pancake of fermented made from an endemic grain seed called teff, served with different kinds of cooked meats, vegetables and different sauce, The sauces are generally spiced with berbere, a blend of herbs and spices (including hot peppers) that gives Ethiopian food its characteristic taste. Vegetarians should try "fasting food" (for devout Ethiopian Orthodox Christians fast days make up more than half the year), a colorful spread of salads and vegetables devoid of all meat and animal products.

Usually One eats national dishes with the right hand (water for washing is usually brought to the table before the food is served).

Addis Ababa now boasts of a wide variety of restaurants traditional, Italian, Far East and western, and at hotels in tourist sites European style foods are always available. If you are travelling to remote areas and camping, such as the Omo Valley and parts of southern Ethiopia, our company provide professional cook with first class cooking materials it is also advisable to inform your interest of food during booking.

# Booking Guideline

## **1- Check availability**

Go online to check availability, you can get this on the 'Trip Status' in the Price section above or contact us by phone or email.

## **2- Complete your booking**

When you're ready to book, complete the online booking form or send an email stating which program you choose.

## **3- Deposit**

Once you send your confirmation of the tour by email or online form, we will send you the invoice and detailed information for payment.

Please note that the following are not included in the cost of the tour

Visas & Travel Insurance: Visas will always be nationality dependent but travel insurance is mandatory

Tips: Always optional but some guidance will be given in the pre-departure information documents

International Flights: Please ask us for an obligation-free quote for flights which originate in your home country

Beverages & any costs of a personal nature: This will include items such as laundry and souvenirs

# List of World Heritage Sites in Ethiopia

## Axum

The ruins of the city of Aksum, dating from the 1st to the 13th century, mark the heart of ancient Ethiopia and what was the “most powerful state between the Eastern Roman Empire and Persia”. It includes monolithic obelisks, giant stelae, royal tombs, and ruins of former castles.



## Fasil Ghebbi

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## Harar Jugol, the Fortified Town

The city is on a plateau and surrounded by gorges and savanna. It contains 82 mosques, 102 shrines, and unique interior design in the townhouses. Harar is said to be the fourth-holiest city of Islam.



## Konso Cultural Landscape

The site features 55 kilometres (34 mi) of stonewalled terraces and fortified settlements in the Konso highlands of Ethiopia.



## Lower Valley of the Awash

Palaentological findings from at least four million years ago, such as Lucy, give evidence of human evolution.



## Lower Valley of the Omo

Palaentological findings from at least four million years ago, such as Lucy, give evidence of human evolution.



## Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela

The site contains twelve medieval rock hewn churches from the 13th century.



## Simien National Park

The eroded Ethiopian plateau comprises jagged mountain peaks, deep valleys, and sharp precipices dropping about 1,500 m (4,900 ft).[11] The decrease of the Walia Ibex, bushbuck, and bushpig populations, as well as an increase of the human population in the park prompted the World Heritage Committee to place it on their List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996.



## Tiya

The archaeological site contains 36 monuments, which includes 32 carved stelae covered with symbols hard to decrypt.



# ETHIOPIA A TIMELESS TREASURE



NEED SOME HELP?  
Speak to one of our travel consultants:

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