

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

The Historic and Omo Valley Route 17 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

- 14 nights comfortable hotels, 2 nights basic hotel, most with en suite facilities
- Travel by mini or coaster bus, 4WD Toyota Land Cruiser
- Two internal flights
- Off the beaten path in the Tigray region
- Places visited: Addis Ababa, Bahirdar, Gondar, Simien Mountains, Lalibela, Awassa, Arbaminch, Dorze, Konso, Jinka, Mago, Karo, Turmi, Omorate

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 (4 pax in a car)
- All transport and listed activities
- Two internal flights /based on ET discount/
- All transfer in and out
- All entrance fees
- All breakfasts
- English speaking guide services
- All government taxes

Historic and Omo Valley 17



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. Overnight Nexus hotel

Day 2 - Fly To Diredawa, Visit The Market And Hyena Man

Dire Dawa – Harer – Hyena Man

After breakfast and checkout (leaving our large bags at the hotel), we transfer to Addis Ababa Airport for our flight east to Dire Dawa, Ethiopia's second largest city (pop. 310,000). Here we visit the Ethio-Djibouti railway station, with its distinctive colonial architecture, as well as the spice market, where Oromo and Afar people in traditional dress come to buy, sell, and exchange news.

Next we drive 55 km (34 mi) to the walled city of Harer, the historic Muslim capital of Ethiopia. Here we explore battlements and gateways dating back to medieval times, then browse the bustling market favored by shoppers from the Amhara, Oromo, and Adere (Hareri) cultures. We also visit the home of 19th-century poet Arthur Rimbaud, who came here from his native France hoping to make his fortune as a trader after he'd abandoned writing.

At dusk we gather by an ancient city gate to see one of Harer's most famous attractions: the "Hyena Man," who beckons seemingly wild hyenas out of the darkness, calls them by name, and hand-feeds them animal bones. It's an experience not soon forgotten. Overnight Wonderland hotel

Day 3 - Today We Will Visit Aweday Chat Market – Ethnological Museum Of Addis Ababa

Aweday Chat Market – Ethnological Museum of Addis Ababa

After breakfast we drive back to Dire Dawa for the return flight to Addis. En route, we stop in Aweday to visit the region's largest market for chat, a plant-based stimulant. Back in Addis, we enjoy lunch and then head to the Ethnological Museum, located on the scenic campus of Addis Ababa University, which houses fascinating collections of artifacts representing the country's key tribal groups. Our expert guide provides an overview of Ethiopian history and culture, including the traditions of nomadic tribal groups who live today as their ancestors did thousands of years ago. Overnight Nexus hotel

Day 4 - Fly To Bahirdar, 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. 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. Overnight Jacaranda hotel

Day 5 -Drive To Gondar Visit The Castles And Palaces

Gondar

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.

Often called Africa's Camelot, Gonder 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, Gonder'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. Overnight Goha hotel

Day 6 -Drive To Semien Mountain and 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. Overnight Simien Lodge

Day 7 - Continue Visting The Simien Mountain

Simen 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. Overnight Goha hotel

Day 8- Fly To Lalibela, The Home Of The Rock Hewn Churches

Lalibela's Rock-Hewn Churches

Fly 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.

These eleven structures are world-famous, having been built in the 12-13th century and carved out of single pieces of rock. Discover Biete Medhane Alem (House of the Saviour of the world), believed to be the world's largest monolithic church, before navigating through the system of trenches to arrive at Biete Ghiorgis (House of St. George), the most famous and isolated of all the structures. It's worth spending a day wandering through these amazing of rock and soaking up the heritage. Overnight Lalibela Lodge

Day 9 -In Lalibela, Take In The Panoramic Views From Sacred Asheton Maryam Church

Lalibela's Rock-Hewn Churches

It's an early start this morning to meet our mules and muleteers for an adventurous and authentic journey up the hillside to Asheton Maryam Church, 600m above Lalibela. The going is steep in places and we need to hang on, but it's great fun and the views across Lalibela and beyond are incredible. We'll ride for around an hour before dismounting and completing the rest of the 30 minute trail on foot.

In the afternoon, return to the temples at Lalibela and take the time to explore the second, and most famous, group of rock churches, including the Church of St George, or Bete Giyorgis. Overnight Lalibela Lodge

Day 10- Fly To Addis, Drive To Awassa Through Southern Ethiopia To The Rift Valley Lakes Region

Awassa

After a morning flight back to Addis Ababa, we board a motor coach to begin our six-hour journey through southern Ethiopia to the Rift Valley Lakes region. As we skirt the shores of lakes Shala, Abiata, and Langano, we'll take in extraordinary views while spotting aquatic birds and other wildlife. Overnight Haile Resort

Day 11 -Visit The Sidama People, Who Grow Enset – Also Called False Banana

Yabello

In the morning we set out on a journey of five to six hours (over asphalt roads) to Yabelo. As we drive southward, there are plenty of stops to take photos, enjoy a local lunch, and visit the Sidama people, who grow enset – also called false banana – one of Ethiopia's most important crops. Overnight Yabello lodge

Day 12 - Visit Elsod Crater, From Where Borena Men Extract Salt And Villages

Borena people

Morning visit for the Borena people and afternoon drive to Elsod crater, from where Borena men extract salt. Visit some of their villages. Overnight Yabello lodge

Day 13 - Drive To Turmi, Visit The Nomadic Borena Tribe, As Well As Konso Tribal Villages

Yabello - Turmi

After an early breakfast, we set out from Yabelo on a full day's drive, stopping to visit the nomadic Borena tribe, as well as Konso tribal villages. Our final destination is Turmi, the main community of the Hamar people who live in Ethiopia's famed Omo Valley. Once settled into our picturesque lodge for the evening, we attend an Evangadi, a traditional dance performed by the Hamar. Overnight Buska lodge

Day 14 - In Turmi Attend A Bull Jumping Ceremony

Hamer 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. Overnight Buska lodge

Day 15 - Drive To Jinka Via Keyafer Market And Ari People

Keyafer Market - Ari People

Today we will visit a local market where Hamer 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 Hamer 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. Overnight Jinka Resort

Day 16 - 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. Overnight Paradise lodge

Day 17 - 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 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.

Budgeting And Packing

Daily Schedule

Please be aware that most days involve around 8/9hrs on-the-go including sights/visits and activities, comfort and lunch breaks, photo stops and drive-time, however on one or two days this will extend out to 10+hrs.

Days will generally start between 7:30 - 8:30 and reach or return to our hotel between 16:00 - 17:00. However, the passing scene is always riveting, with varied scenery and sites, and lots of animals and people going about their daily lives.

Luggage

A medium sized wheelee bag (no more than 65/70ltrs capacity, measuring 130/132 linear cm) works well, but for ease of handling please keep baggage as light as possible (12 -14kg).

Accommodation

Hotels/Lodges - Twin/double rooms the norm. Hotels / Lodges anticipated are essentially Star**/**/*/*/*/*/*/*/*/*in Addis)/. In some remote places hotels is basic and simplistic.

Meals

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price : ~\$3 - 5

Dinner price: ~\$6 - 10

Beer price : ~\$0.5

Water price : ~\$0.5

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.

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.

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.

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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



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