

# Amazing

## ETHIOPIA TOURS

### *The roof of Africa*

the Simien Mountains National Park covers 179 square kilometers of highland area at an average elevation of 3,300 meters. Ras Dashen, at 4,620 meters the highest peak in Ethiopia, stands adjacent to the park.

### *Off the beaten path in Simien Mts-*

Places visited: Sankaber, geech, Chenek, Buhahit, Gondar and Addis Ababa

### *Summer Time on Mountain*

Simien Mountains National Park is also known for its endemic walia ibex, a very large mountain goat of which only about 60 survive today. Other specifically Ethiopian animals live in the park, including the Abyssinia wolf and the gelada baboon.

### *UNESCO world heritage site*

The Simien escarpments, which are often compared to the Grand Canyon in the United States of America, have been adopted by Unesco as a World Heritage Site

# Walking and Trekking

Twenty kilometers north-east of Gondar, the Simien Mountains National Park covers 179 square kilometers of highland area at an average elevation of 3,300 meters. Ras Dashen, at 4,620 meters the highest peak in Ethiopia, stands adjacent to the park. The Simien escarpments, which are often compared to the Grand Canyon in the United States of America, have been adopted by Unesco as a World Heritage Site.

The variation in shape and size of the ambas is quite stunning, and the region includes many summits over 13,000 feet, culminating in Ras Dashen, which at 14,901 feet is the 3rd highest peak in Africa. Simien Mountains National Park is also known for its endemic walia ibex, a very large mountain goat of which only about 60 survive today. Other specifically Ethiopian animals live in the park, including the Abyssinia wolf and the gelada baboon.

## Key information

- 3 nights comfortable hotels, most with en suite facilities, 3 nights camping
- Travel by mini or coaster bus
- Two internal flights
- Off the beaten path in the Simien mountains
- Places visited: Sankaber, geech, Chenek, Gondar and Addis Ababa

## What's included

- 6 breakfasts, 7 Lunch and 7 Dinner
- All accommodation twin/ double basis as stated in the program
- All transport and listed activities,
- Tour guide throughout
- All camping materials
- All entrance fees
- Cook for the camping days
- Tour leader free of Charge for 10+1 group
- All government tax
- All domestic flight

## What's not included

- Travel insurance
- Single accommodation (available on request)
- Visas or vaccinations
- activities not mentioned in the itinerary

# Simien Mountain 7 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. Overnight Swiss Inn Nexus hotel

## Day 2 - Fly To Gondar And Drive To The Semien Mountains To Reach To Sankaber 3230m

### Gondar - Sankaber

Fly to Gondar and drive to the Semien Mountains National Park via Debarke the gateway to the park and continue driving to reach to Sankaber 3230masl through a beautiful scenery and Ahmara people and villages, the base for hiking in the Simien Mountains. The range lies north of Gondar and many of the peaks rise above 4,000m with the highest being Mount Ras Dashen at 4,543m. The mountains are criss-crossed with tracks made by the local people travelling from village to village or moving their animals to fresh pastures.

The combination of these tracks and the spectacular scenery make for excellent walking. We start our trek with a walk to our first camp Sankaber. The campsite is a great spot for sunset, there is a toilet block. Today's five-and-a-half kilometre walk is expected to take around two-and-a-half hours with 100 metres of ascent and 30 metres of descent. 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 Camping

## Day 3 - Trek Sankaber - Geech

### Geech

We trek today to Geech camp via Sankaber, with the possibility of seeing baboons and red-hot poker plants en route. The gelada baboon is endemic to Ethiopia and has adapted to living on the nearly vertical cliff faces. We may also see the Jinbar river waterfalls today that plummet into Geech Abyss. The Abyss is a vast canyon cut into the main wall of the escarpment. Overnight Camping

#### Day 4 - Hike To The Viewpoint Of Imet Gogo 3926m

Imet Gogo 3926m

Today hike to the viewpoint of Imet Gogo (3,926m). From the viewpoint there are spectacular views of the lowlands and across the Simien range with rock spires and mesas prominent. Keep a close look out for the elusive simien fox. It's misnamed as it is not really a fox but a member of the dog family restricted to Ethiopia. Today's optional 10 kilometre circular walk is expected to take around four hours. Overnight Camping

#### Day 5 -Trek To Chenek Camp Via Inatye 4,070m

Chenek 3600m - Inatye 4,070m

Trek to Chenek camp on a good trail via Inatye (4,070m) and along the escarpment. This exciting walk traverses the Jinbar river and provides us with fantastic views. You may like to take the opportunity to freshen-up in the nearby stream south of camp. The campsite set among Giant Lobelia is basic with toilets and cold water showers available. Today's 13 kilometre walk is expected to take around eight hours with 810 metres of ascent and 770 metres of descent. Overnight Camping

#### Day 6 - Trek To Bwahit 4200m

Chenek - Bwahit-Gondar

Today we trek to a spectacular viewpoint 4,200m of Bwahit and drive to the roadhead where our vehicle will be waiting. From there drive to Gondar passing by Chenek 3,620 m. We have an early start this morning for our trek. Today's four kilometre walk is expected to take around four hours. Overnight Goha Hotel

#### Day 7 - In The Morning Transfer To Airport To Fly To Addis

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.

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

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.



## 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.

AMAZING ETHIOPIA TOURS



## 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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www.amazingethiopia.com

