

The Natural
Ethiopia



J a c a r a n d a T o u r s

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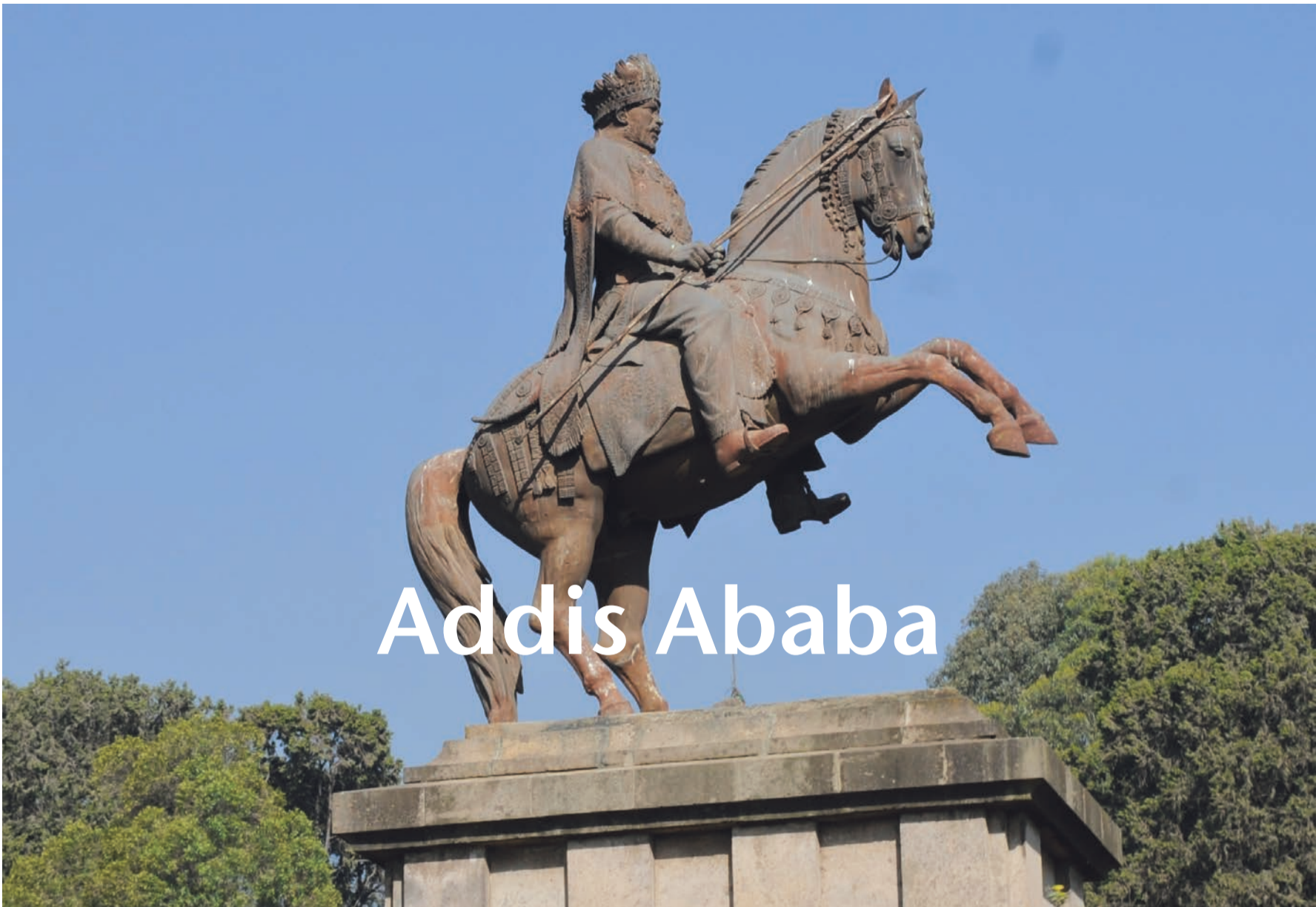
Jacaranda Tours

Jacaranda Tours is a private tour operator founded in 1998 with head office in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. With a great passion to Ethiopia, our team is committed to provide the best experience with utmost respect for the indigenous culture and environment.

We are proud that all our programs are designed to the interest of every individual traveler and with the help of our professional , dedicated and experienced staff , we arrange tours on history , culture, nature trekking, donkey ride, archeological tours, educational tour, flora & fauna safari , photography, special event tours, car rentals, camping gear rental and extension program to neighboring countries Kenya, Tanzania and mainly Djibouti. We also provide conference service, hotel reservation & flight booking.

For all our departures, we use modern vehicles with full option , experienced drivers and professional guides speaking English, French, Germany, Spanish, Italian & Russian. We believe the most memorable experiences are the unexpected ones and tries to turn every single incident to unforgettable memory and serve every traveler providing the opportunity to admire, learn and immerse themselves in the stunning beauty of the Natural Ethiopia.





Addis Ababa

With a growing population of more than 7 million, Addis Ababa also known as the Brussels of Africa, is the main political and economic capital of the country. The city was founded in 1896 by Emperor Menelik II and was named Addis Ababa (new flower) after seeing a new flower at the site of hot springs. The city which is the third biggest capital in the world is home for several international organizations including the Headquarters for the African Union and United Nations Economic commission for Africa making the city a forefront for international diplomacy in Africa.

City Tour of Addis

J/T 0030 Half Day

Visit the National Museum, Entoto Mountain and Shiro Meda market known for traditional weaving and textile

Full day city tour

J/T 0031

Visit the National Museum, Entto Mountain, Ethnological Museum, Trinity Cathedral Church, the biggest open air market, Merkato & Art Gallery.

Excursion from Addis

Addis Menagesha Forest

J/T0032

Full day

Tour type, scenery & bird watching

Covered with juniper trees dating back to 450 years this forest is well known for hosting several bird species and very peaceful environment. Full day with picnic lunch

Addis - Wonchi Lake

J/T0033

Full Day

Tour type: scenery & bird watching

Visit the volcanic Crater Lake which has magnificent view with unique bird species- Full day with picnic lunch

Addis – Debre Libanos church & Nile

Gorge

J/T0034

Tour type; historical, scenery & cultural

You visit Nile Gorge which is the most spectacular gorge in Ethiopia and Debre Libanos which is historical monastery. There is also a great chance to encounter Gelada Baboons.

Adadi Maryam and Tiya World Heritage site

J/T0035

Full Day

Tour type: historical, natural & cultural

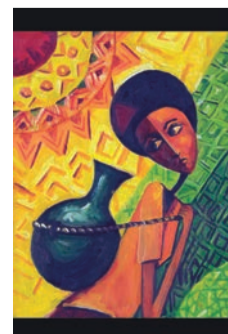
In the morning drive to Adadi Mariam stopping at Melka Kunture. Visit Tiya and head back to Addis

Addis – Debre Zeit & Sodere

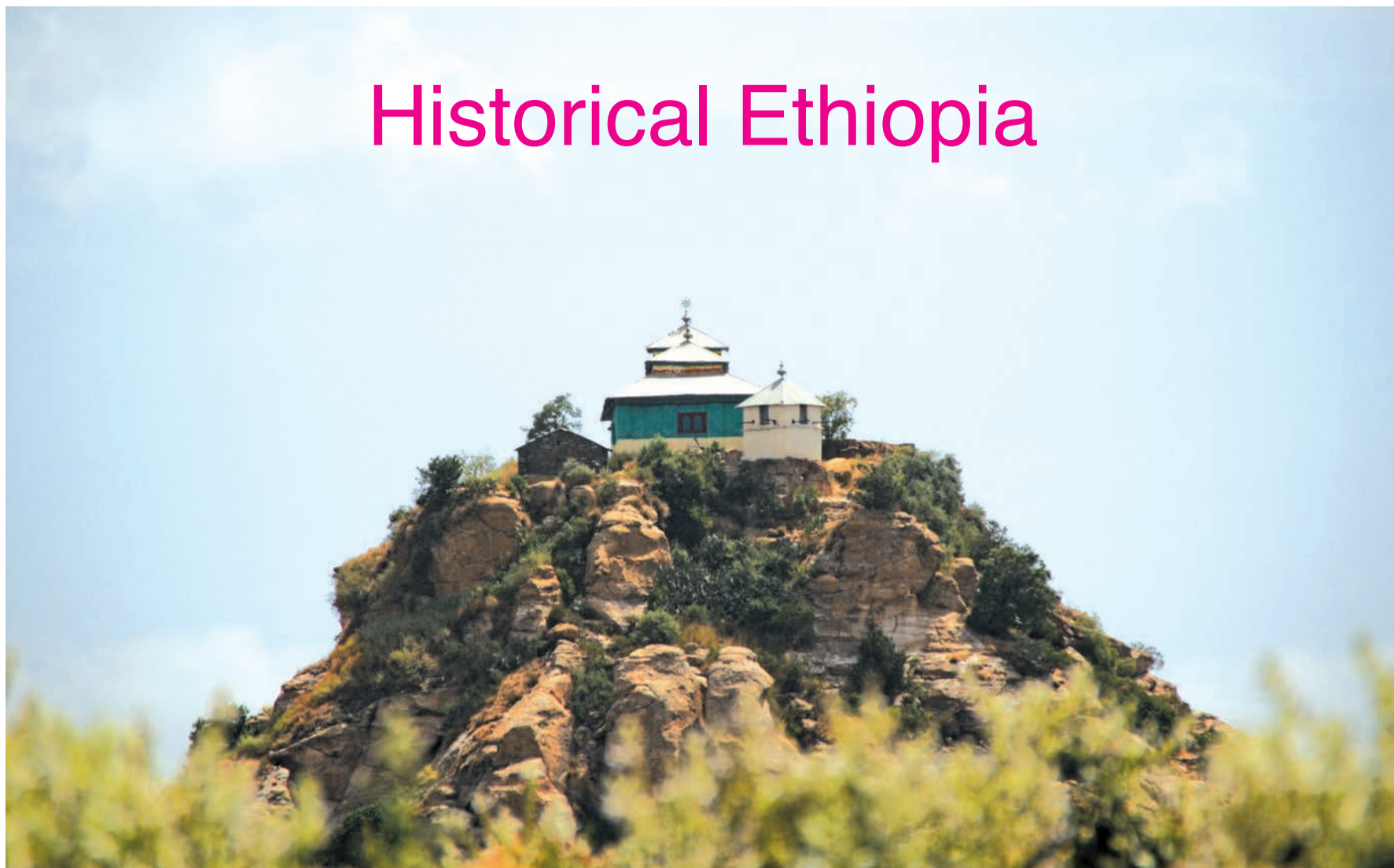
J/T0036

Tour type; scenery & Natural spa

Visit the rift valley lake with several bird species including the natural spa at Sodere.



Historical Ethiopia



Ethiopia's History and Heritage dates back to the beginning of human kind. It's a land of Christian civilization, archeological records, rock art dating back to 10,000 years providing precious glimpse to the stone Age's socio economic, religious and artistic life. The northern part witness the richness of the past stretching from the 3,000 years old history of Axum, the 12th century churches of Lalibela, the medieval castles of Gondar and the old monasteries on Lake Tana.

Axum - A trip back in time

Axum is a town of legends offering a glimpse to a truly remarkable past. It's littered with the ruins of palaces, underground tombs, mysterious monolithic steles which are the largest in the world and carved from single piece of granite. Axum which was the capital of the far reaching Axumite Kingdom is also the home for the last resting place of the Ark of the Covenant



Historic Route

J/T 0037

8days/7nights/Flight & Drive

Tour type: historical, cultural & scenery

Day 1 Arrival to Addis.

Day 2 Addis - Axum - fly. Visit the Stele, St. Mary of Zion, archeological sites ...

Day 3 Axum - Lalibela - fly. Visit the world's wonder and astonishing architecture of King Lalibela.

Day 4 Lalibela

Day 5 Lalibela - Gondar - fly. Visit the Cluster of castles, churches and the city

Day 6 Drive to Bahir Dar - drive Boat trip on Lake Tana

Day 7 Bahir Dar. Visit the Blue Nile Falls and beautiful sceneries.

Day 8 Bahir Dar - Addis - fly
City tour of Addis & Departure



Lalibela –the African Jerusalem

Lalibela, a medieval settlement in the Lasta area of Wallo is a site of 11 remarkable rock-hewn monolithic churches believed to have been built by King Lalibela in the late 12th century. These notable structures are carved inside and out from the volcanic rock in which they stand and are considered among the wonders of the world. Each building is structurally unique but all are beautifully carved and several of them decorated with fascinating paintings. Lalibela is known for the most impressive churches considered as a work of sculpture dedicated to the glory of God. It offers an experience of impressive and mysterious churches which are carved out of red volcanic tuff on which they stand. Some lying completely hidden in deep trenches and others standing in quarried caves, all are complex in architecture and super human in scale of workman ship and concept.



Gondar – the Royal capital of Ethiopia

A town which was once the royal capital of Ethiopia was founded by Emperor Fasilidas in 1636. The city famous for its many medieval castles was Ethiopia's capital until the reign of the would-be reforming Emperor Tewodros II. During its long years as a capital, the settlement emerged as one of the largest and most populous cities in the realm. The city was a great commercial Centre trading with rich lands south to the Blue Nile as well as Sudan to the west and the Red Sea port of Massawa to the North-east. Gondar is famous for its many medieval castles with unique design and decoration of its churches where the first of the castles was created by King Fasil. The city with Cluster of medieval castles which are all world heritages were once vigorous and vital Centre of religious learning and art.



Historic Route

J/T 0038

14 Days /13 Nights/By Car

Tour type historical , scenery & cultural

Day 1 Arrival to Addis. City tour O/n in a hotel

Day 2 Addis –Kombolcha. O/n in a hotel or Guest house
Depending on the day of arrival we visit the Sembete Market in where in this case we will have two nights in Kombolcha

Day 3 Kombolcha –Lalibela. Overnight stay in a hotel

Day 4 Lalibela
Visit the 8th wonder of the world and astonishing architect built by King Lalibela.

Day 5 Lalibela
Excursion by mule and foot to Asheten Maryam Church.

Day 6 Lalibela – Mekelle.
Visit the Palace of Emperor Yohannies. O/n in a hotel

Day 7 Mekelle –Axum.
On the way, visit the Debre Damo temple from the 5th century.

Day 8 Axum
Visit the stele, St.Mary of Zion and archeological sites.

Day 9 Axum – Semien Mountains National Park.
Visit the marvelous scenery of the mountain which is home for several endemic animals

Day 10 Semien Mountains National Park - Gondar. O/n in a hotel

Day 11 Gondar
Visit the Cluster of castles which are world heritages and built by Emperor Fasiladas and his descendants.

Day 12 Gondar- Bahir Dar Visit the biggest lake in Ethiopia, Lake Tana and several monasteries. (Optional route to Bahir Dar , Gondar – Gorgora & boat crossing on Lake Tana)

Day 13 Bahir Dar
Visit the Blue Nile Falls and beautiful sceneries.

Day 14 Bahir Dar- Addis(Fly). City tour or Departure





Bahir Dar – the home of monasteries

The town which is home of Ethiopia's largest water body and the source of the Blue Nile Fall is located 540 Km from the capital. The city is unique for the thirty seven scattered islands in Lake Tana which are accessed by motor boats and Papyrus Canoes. The city is located at the southern shores of Lake Tana , with the spectacular Blue Nile Falls found , 32 Kilometers away from the city. The lake is home for several churches and monasteries dating from 17th century with beautiful murals , paintings , illustrative manuscripts, historic crowns and other treasures. On the islands of Dega Estifanos ,we find the Dek Stefanos church which has priceless collection of icons, manuscripts and mummified remains of several Ethiopian Emperors.

Awra Amba

An Ethiopian community of about 450 people was founded by Zumra Nuru. Located in 63 KM from Bahir Dar, Awra Amba is a unique settlement where everyone is equal among the community. Women have equal rights and responsibilities as men. Religion has no significance but believe in hard work and having good personality. The livelihood of the community is based on weaving. They have incredible social system where everyone is obliged to keep their surrounding clean, provide elders care, help new mothers and people in need. Awramba village can be visited while travelling between Bahir Dar & Gondar.



World Heritage sites - Historic North & Harar J/T/0039

11 days /10 nights/Flight & Drive

Tour type: History, culture & scenery

- Day 1** Arrival in Addis. O/n in a hotel
- Day 2** Fly to Axum. O/n in a hotel
- Day 3** Axum – Lalibela (Fly). O/n in a hotel
- Day 4** Lalibela. O/n in a hotel
- Day 5** Lalibela – Gondar (Fly). O/n in a hotel
- Day 6** Excursion to Semien Mountains. O/n in a hotel
- Day 7** Gondar – Bahir Dar – Drive . O/n in a hotel
- Day 8** Bahir Dar. O/n in a hotel
- Day 9** Bahir Dar – Addis. PM fly to Dire Dawa. O/n in a hotel
- Day 10** Visit Harar. O/n in a hotel
- Day 11** Fly back to Addis / Departure

Extension program to Tigray Churches J/T 0040

5 days/4 nights /Drive

Tour type historical , scenery & cultural

Day 1 Axum – Adigrat Visit he ancient temple of Yeha from the 5th century and the amazing monastery of Debre Damo

Day 2 Adigrat –Awzien
Visit the Negashi and Teka Tsfay rock churches, Mediah-nialem (Holy savior), St Peter church and Michael Mili-hanzgi.

Day 3 Awzien - Mekelle
Visit the Geralta churches, Abraha Weastbeha, Debretsiion Abune Abraham and Selasie Dugman

Day 4 Visit the Michael Barka, Michael Imba and DebReselam and head to Wikro churches.
O/n in a hotel at Mekelle

Day 5 Fly back to Addis/Departure



Harar

The old town of Harar came to formal existence since 1520. The town is exceptionally known for the erected encircling walls tightly embracing the town. The 87 mosques existing in Harar has made the city an important place for the Muslim community. The Poet Rimbaud has also spent some of his last years in Harar making the city the headquarters for his army. The town is also exceptionally known for handicrafts, exciting and rich market probably the most colorful in the country.

Harar and Awash National Parks

J/T 0041

4 days / 3 nights/Drive

Tour type; historical , scenery & cultural

Day 1 Addis – Awash National Park

Day 2 Awash – Harar

Day 3 Harar

Day 4 Harar- Addis (Fly)

Harar & Dire Dawa

J/T 0042

4 nights /3 days/flight & Drive

Tour type; historical , scenery & cultural

Day 1 Arrival in Addis . O/n stay in a hotel

Day 2 Fly to Dire Dawa. Explore the city and visit the Kefira Market. PM drive to Harar

Day3 Visit the Rimbaud house, museums, mosque, Jegol and the colorful market.

Day 4 Drive to Dire Dawa to fly back to Addis. End of the tour

**Ps note the trip to Harar and Dire Dawa can be combined with Historic route or any other program.



Awash National Park

Located at 150 Kms from Addis, the park covers 827 square kilometers. It extends down to where the Rift Valley flows into the Danakil plain on the edge of the desert. This park is crossed by the deep cutting path of the river Awash, a river with neither source nor outlet. The Fantale volcano where one can see the dark scar of the latest lava flow is an endless plain dotted with acacia trees and spurge making the park home for Antelopes, gazelles and about 400 species of birds.



Danakil Depression

Danakil is the deepest part of Ethiopia at 116 Mt below sea level. It stretches between the Red Sea and the foothills of the eastern slopes of Ethiopian plateau. The depression has marvellous pattern of volcanoes, its activity greatly contributing to the formation of the present Rift Valley system. The whole part of this natural wonder is inhabited by the Afar people, nomadic shepherds carrying salt in their caravans up to the Ethiopian Highlands.

Tigray Dallol Salt Lake & Tigray Rock Hewn Churches **J/T 0043**

10 days /9 nights/Flight & Drive

Tour type: historical , scenery & cultural

Day 1 Arrival in Addis . O/n in Hotel

Day 2 Addis – Laibela (fly). O/n in hotel

Day 3 Lalibela

Day 4 Drive to Mekelle. O/n in Hotel

Day 5 Drive to Hamadella. O/n camping

Day 6 Excursion to Dallol – Salt Lake. O/n camping

Day 7 Drive back to Mekelle . O/n in a Hotel

Day 8 Visit Tigray churches – O/n at Geralta

Day 9 Drive to Mekelle – Fly back to Addis

Day 10 City Tour & Departure

Erta-ale , Dallol Salt Lake and Tigray church **J/T0044**

11 days /10 nights/ Flight & Drive

Tour type: historical , scenery & cultural

Day 1 Arrival to Addis

Day 2 Addis – Awash

Day 3 Awash - Semera

Day 4 Semera – Afdera

Day 5 Ertale

Day 6 Kolsowad

Day 7 Hamadela

Day 8 Excursion to the Lake Salt

Day 9 Mekelle

Day 10 Excursion to the Tigray churches

Day 11 Fly back to Addis

Ps note , Erta-ale & Dallol salt lake can be combined with every historical site

Dallol & Tigray Churches **J/T0045 / Flight & Drive**

5 nights/6 days

Day 1 Arrival in Addis. O/n in a hotel

Day 2 Fly to Mekelle- Drive to Hamadella. O/n camping

Day 3 Excursion to Dallol.O/n camping

Day 4 Drive back to mekelle.

Day 5 Excursion to Tigray churches. O/n in a hotel

Day 6 Fly back to Addis. City tour & Departure

Tigray churches

J/T0046

4nights /5 days/ Flight& Drive

Tour type: historical , scenery & cultural

Day 1 Fly to Axum. Visit the surroundings. O/N - Axum.

Day 2 Drive to Adigrat visiting Yeha & Debre Damo Temple (men only) en route. O/N - Adigrat.

Day 3 Drive to Wukro visiting the Medhane Alem Adi Kasho Church in Takatisfie and the other Churches around Sinkata. O/N - Wukro.

Day 4 Visit Wukro Cherkos and drive to Mekele. O/N - Mekele.

Day 5 Morning visit Mekele market, Yohannes IV museum, Cheleket village and Church. Later fly back to Addis.

*Please note all programs can be done in a reverse way or can be combined with any attractions.



Bird Safari

J/T0047

17nights /18 days /Drive

Tour type: Bird Watching & scenery

Day 1 Arrive in Addis Ababa; afternoon to Geferssa Reservoir. Geferssa Reservoir is about an hour's drive at the western edge of Addis and a brief visit to the area serves as an introductory session to the birds of the country. While the reservoir itself is good Palaearctic and resident ducks that include Northern Pintail, Southern Pochard, Tufted, Yellow-billed and Black Ducks, Hottentot and Red-billed Teal, the surrounding grassland and woodlands hold endemic and near-endemic species such as Blue-winged Goose, Wattled Ibis, Rouget's Rail, Abyssinian Longclaw, Black-headed Siskin, and Brown-rumped Seedeater.

Day 2 Arrive in Addis continue to Debre Libanos. The magnificently scenic Debre Libanos is one of the best places one can visit within the radius of 100 kms. A good place for raptors a few endemic can also be seen including the White-billed Starling, Banded Barbet, Abyssinian Woodpecker, White-backed Tit and Abyssinian Oriole. Other such as Erckel's Francolin, Lammergeier, Black Eagle, Ruppell's, Lappet-faced and White-backed Vultures along with Tawny and Steppe Eagles can easily be seen in the area.

Day 3 A full day in Jemma Valley. Home to the range-restricted endemic Harwood's Francolin, one can comfortably see over 250 bird species in this valley that include a list of birds that are range restricted such as Erckel's Francolin, Red-billed Pytilia, Fox Kestrel, Black-faced Firefinch, White-throated Seedeater, Abyssinian Black Wheatear, Ruppell's Chat and White-billed Starling. O/n Debre Libanos.

Day 4 Drive to Debre Birhan; PM to Gemassa Gedel. Today the Ankober Serin is the priority species and Gemassa Gedel is a good place for this little known endemic bird of the country. Other



birds include Erckel's Francolin, Cinnamon-bracken Warbler, Alpine Chat, Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, Lammergeier, Black Eagle, White-billed Starling and Abyssinian Black Wheatear. O/n Debre Birhan.

Day 5 An early start to Melka Gebdu River area. Melka Gebdu River area is one of the known localities for the endemic Yellow-throated Seedeater. Other species in the area include Clapper-ton's Francolin, Half-collared Kingfisher, Eastern Grey Plantain-eater, Red-billed Pytilia and Little Weaver. O/n Ankober.

Day 6 Drive back to Addis Ababa.

Day 7 To Langan: spending most of the morning around Debre Zeit visiting Lakes Cheleklaka, Hora, and Chefe. Next stop before lunch will be at the Awash River crossing where the river enters Koka Dam. Lunch in Ziway and visit the fishing jetty at Lake Ziway where a productive couple of hours can be had and continue to Langan. Use the remaining day light hours to bird in the area. Birds expected to be seen on this day include African Pygmy Goose, Hottentot Teal, Southern Pochard, Maccoa and



White-backed Ducks, Lesser and African Jacanas, Black and Goliath Herons, Ruppell's and Vitelline-masked Weavers, Black-winged Lovebird, Banded Barbet, and Nubian Woodpecker.

Day 8 The Acacia woodlands of Langanano and the general area as well as parts of the Abiatta-Shalla National Park are to be visited in the morning. After lunch, drive to Wondo Genet, where the next two nights are spent. Banded Barbet, Black-winged Lovebird, Red, Yellow, Von der Decken's, African Grey, Hemprich's and Abyssinian Ground Hornbills, Grey-headed and Sulphur-breasted Bush-Shrikes, Beautiful, Marico and Variable Sunbirds, Temminck's and Three-banded Coursers are amongst the over 400 species of birds that are known to occur in the area.

Day 9 A full day birding around Wondo Genet. The remnant forest patches of Wondo Genet and their environs hold within them an attractive selection of both endemic and other forest specialists that are either difficult elsewhere or that are only known to occur in big forested distant areas away from the Rift Valley. These include the Abyssinian Woodpecker, Yellow-fronted Parrot, Abyssinian Oriole, White-cheeked Turaco, African Hill Babbler, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Spotted Creeper, Double-toothed and Banded Barbets, Grey and Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrikes, African Crowned and Ayer's Hawk Eagles, Thick-billed Raven, Half-collared Kingfisher, Brown Sawing Green-backed Twin-spot and White-rumped Babbler.

Day 10 Drive to the Bale Mountains via the Bale Mountains National Park HQ, Dinsho, stopping several times in route for highland specialities such as White-collared Pigeon, Botta's Wheatear, Erlanger's Lark, Black-winged and Spot-breasted Lapwings, Abyssinian Long-claw, Black-headed Siskin and, at Dinsho, we have the opportunity to see Abyssinian Catbird, Brown Woodland Warbler, White-backed Tit and Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk along with two endemic mammals; Mountain Nyala and Menelik's Bushbuck. The day ends in Goba where we stay for two nights.

Day 11 A day trip to Sannetti Plateau

Day 13 Leaving the Bale Mountains, we go through the Sannetti Plateau descending into the great Harenna Forest and then into the Evergreen broad-leaved forest at the foot of the Bale



a long list of localised NE African endemic that include the Philippa's and Somali Long-billed Crombecs, Three-streaked Tchagra, Red-naped Bush Shrike, Pringle's Puffback, Northern Grosbeak-Canary, Short-tailed Lark (close to Yabello), Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Shikra, Vulturine Guineafowl, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Temminck's and Somali Coursers, Bare-faced Go-away-Bird, Red-fronted, Black-throated, D'Arnaud's and Red-and-yellow Barbets, Spotted Palm Thrush, Pale Prinia, Yellow-vented Eremomela, Pygmy Batis, Taita Fiscal, Northern Grey Tit, Magpie Starling, Hunter's Sunbird, Purple Grenadier and Somali Golden-breasted Bunting.

Day 16 Yabello Area. Yabello is home to the two range restricted Ethiopian endemic; the Ethiopian Bush-Crow and the White-tailed swallow as well as many more much sought after birds of Ethiopia that include most of the birds seen on the previous day. But, here, unlike yesterday time is on our side and species such as the Short-tailed and Foxy Larks are easier to see.

Day 17 Drive to Awassa.

Day 18 Drive back to Addis

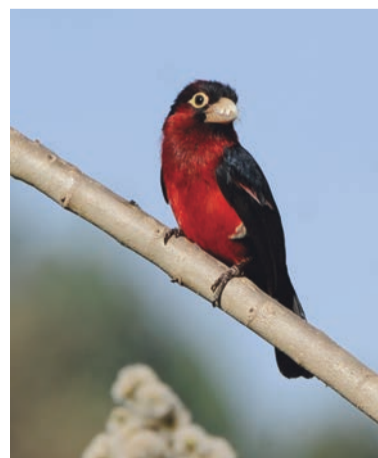


Mountains before finally getting into the remote lowlands of Bale and then Sidamo Provinces. Negelle is where we stay for the next two nights.

New birds we expect to see on this day include the Prince Ruspoli's Turaco, Shelly's Starling and White-crowned Starling

Day 14 The first target species of the day is the critically endangered Liben Lark and we shall visit the vast open area of Liben Plains which is surrounded by acacia thorn bush for this purpose. But that isn't the only bird we will encounter on our visit. Kori and Hartlaub's Bustards, Shelley's and White-crowned Starlings, Somali Short-toed Lark, Somali Crow, Shelley's Rufous Sparrow and Speke's Weaver, Black-chested Snake-Eagle and Grey Kestrel can also be seen on our visit today.

Day 15 Drive from Negelle to Yabello. The long drive to Yabello bears more than a few abrupt stops that are full of pleasant surprises besides the lengthy planned stop at Dawa River for the African White-winged Dove and Juba Weaver. If wisely used this day can produce



Semien Mountains

The simien mountain massif is one of the major highlands of Africa, rising to the highest point in Ethiopia, Ras Dejen (4620m), which is the fourth highest peak in the continent. The park was formed mainly to protect the Walia Ibex, a type of wild goat, and over 1000 are said to live in the park. The park is also home for Gelada Baboon and the rare Simien fox. The Simien fox, although named after the mountains, is rarely seen by the visitor. It's reported that over 50 species of birds are found in the park. The national park has three botanical regions, the lower slopes, the alpe region and the higher lands. The lower slopes have been cultivated and grazed, while the alpine regions (up to 3600m) were forested, although much has now disappeared. The higher lands are mountain grasslands with fescue grasses as well as heathers, splendid Red Hot Pokers and Giant Lobelia. This natural event which took place million years ago created an extraordinary landscape, deep gorges and peaks providing the Semien Mountains the most magnificent view. The roads which are hardly possible to be crossed with 4WDs makes the Semien Mountains an ideal place for trekking. Here it's possible to trek for days encountering Gelada Baboons, Waliyas and the Semien fox (though with less frequency)



Semien Mountains Adventure
J/T 0048
13 days /12 nights/ Flight & Drive
Tour type: scenery, Historical & adventure

Day 1: Arrival to Addis. O/n in a hotel
Day 2 Addis – Gondar -Fly
Day 3 Gondar – Sankaber
Day 4 Sankaber – Geech
Day 5 Geech –Chenek
Day 6 Chenek – Ambiko
Day 7 Ras Dashen – Ambiko
Day 8 Ambiko – Arkuazoye
Day 9 Arkuazoye – Lamo
Day 10 Lamo – Hawaza
Day 11 Hawaza – Adi Arkay
Day 12 Adi –Arkay-Axum
Day 13 Axum – Addis- Fly

Ps contact for shorter routes and alternatives.



J/T 0049

9 days /8 nights/ Flight & Drive

Tour type: Historical & scenery

Day 1 Arrival in Addis

Day 2 Addis – Gondar (fly) – Drive to Debarq and trek to Sankaber

Day 3 Sankaber – Geech

Day 4 Geech – Chenek

Day 5 Chenek – Ambiko

Day 6 Excursion to Ras Dashen or for those not fit, trek around Ambiko

Day 7 Trek back to Chenek

Day 8 Trek to Aynameda- Drive to Gondar.

Day 9 Fly back to Addis/ Departure

Semien Mountains Adventure

J/T 0050

9 days /8 nights/Flight & Drive

Tour type: Historical & scenery

Day 1 Arrival in Addis

Day 2 Addis – Gondar (fly) – Drive to Debarq and trek to Sankaber

Day 3 Sankaber – Geech

Day 4 Geech – Chenek

Day 5 Chenek – Ambiko

Day 6 Excursion to Ras Dashen or for those not fit, trek around Ambiko

Day 7 Trek back to Chenek

Day 8 Trek to Aynameda- Drive to Gondar.

Day 9 Fly back to Addis/ Departure



Surma Trekking and Omo Valley

J/T 0051

22 days /21 nights/Drive

Tour type: historical , scenery & cultural

Day 1 Arrival to Addis. O/n in a hotel of optional *

Day 2 Addis – Jimma. O/n in a local hotel

Day 3 Jimma - Bebeka O/n in a guest house.

Day 4 Drive for Dizi people . O/n Camping

Day 5 Drive to Tulgit for Surma Villages. O/n Camping

Day 6 Kibish – for Surma People. O/n Camping

Day 7 Kibish – Maji . O/n Camping

Day 8 Maji – Adikal for Dizi and Zilmamo tribes.

O/n Camping

Day 9 Drive to Omo National Park , the richest park in wild life. O/n Camping

Day 10 Camp at Nuers'.

Day 11 Visit the Villages of Bume people. O/n Camping

Day 12 Crossing the Omo river to meet the Omo Mursi .

A car waiting on this side will pick us. O/n Camping

Day 13 Mursi tribes. O/n Camping at Mago NP

Day 14 Mago – Murulle. O/n Camping

Day 15 Murulle Turmi. O/n Camping

Day 16 Turmi O/n Camping

Day 17 Turmi – Konso. O/n in a hotel.

Day 18 Konso – Arbaminch. O/n in a hotel.

Day 19 Arbaminch

Day 20 Arbaminch –Langano. O/n in a hotel.

Day 21 Langano – Addis

Day 22 Departure



Surma Trekking

J/T 0052

11Days /10 nights

Tour type: historical , scenery & cultural

Day 1 Arrival to Addis. O/n in a hotel

Day 2 Addis – Jimma. O/n in a local hotel

Day 3 Jimma - Bebeka O/n in a guest house.

Day 4 Drive for Dizi people . O/n Camping

Day 5 Drive to Tulgit for Surma Villages. O/n Camping

Day 6 Kibish – for Surma People. O/n Camping

Day 7 Kibish - Tulgit. O/n Camping

Day 8 Tulgit –Tum

Day 9 Tum Tepi

Day 10 Tepi – Jimma

Day 11 Jimma – Addis.



NB. From Jimma we can continue to Arbaminch town and head to Omo Valley

Bale Mountains Trekking

J/T 0053

8 Days /7 Nights/Drive

Tour type: historical , scenery & cultural

Day 1 Arrival to Addis. O/n in a hotel of optional *

Day 2 Addis – Dinsho

Day 3 Start Trek to Fenchayaera, Wayh River and water falls.

Day 4 Fenchayaera – Wasama

Day 5 Wasama – Gebre Gurecha

Day 6 Gebre Gurecha – Doldomena

Day 7 Doldomena – Addis

Day 8 City Tour/Departure



Bale Mountains Trekking

J/T 0054

8 Days/7 Nights/Drive

Tour type: scenery, adventure & sportive

Day 1 Arrival to Addis. O/n in a hotel of optional *

Day 2 Addis – Bale National Park

Day 3 Start to trek to Mormora Mt.

Day 4 Trek to Wasama

Day 5 Climb Batu Mountain

Day 6 Cross the Senatti Plateau and drive to Goba.

Day 7 Goba – Addis

Day 8 Departure

The Bale Mountains

The Bale Mountains which lie over 2,470 Square Kilometers is home for various flora and fauna species. The park which comprises riverine plains, wood and bush land is the best place to see the endemic Abyssinian wolf, the Mountain Nyala and Menilek's bushbuck. The forest is home for different pig species, lions, leopard, spotted hyenas, African hunting dogs and others. It's also home for more than 16 endemic birds and interesting place for fishing

Bale National Park & Sof Omer Cave

J/T 0055

6 Days /5 Nights/Drive

Tour type: scenery, Historical, adventure & sportive

Day 1 Arrival to Addis. O/n in a hotel of optional *

Day 2 Addis – Bale National Park

Day 3 Search for Endemic flora and Fauna species.

Day 4 Excursion to Sof Omar cave. O/N at Goba

Day 5 Goba – Addis

Day 6 Departure



FISHING

Fishing is not widely exercised in Ethiopia so take this opportunity to fish with freedom. It's believed that more than 200 fish species is found in different lakes & rivers of Ethiopia. Some of the fish species include Nile Perch, Tiger fish, Brown & rainbow trout, Tilapia and several others.

Main Fishing spots

Lake Ziway

Lake Awassa

Bale Mountain – Web river

Bahir Dar – Lake Tana

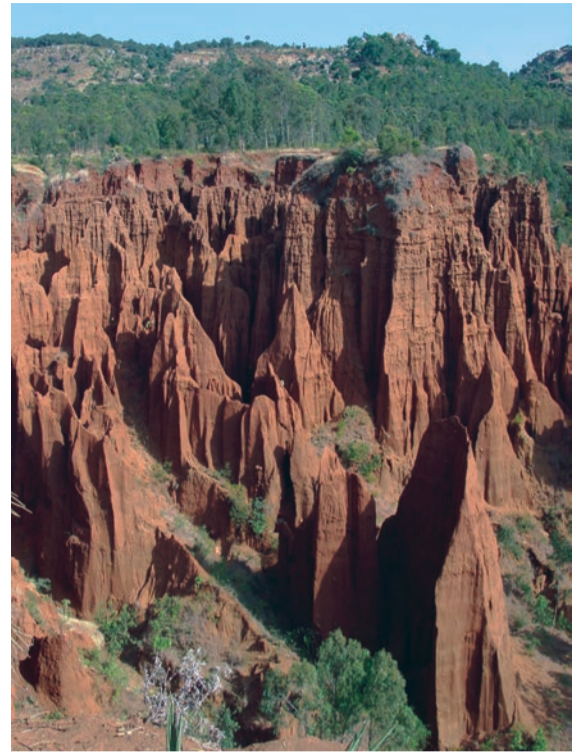


The Great Rift Valley

Ethiopia has several amazing geographical features and the Great Rift Valley is among the stunning ones. The Rift Valley which is more than 9000 km long and stretching from Jordan to Mozambique was created by the rifting of the great continental masses of Africa and Arabia. In the southern part of Ethiopian Highlands where the Rift Valley splits into two, we find a giant tear of the earth's surface linked with chain of Lakes. This region also boasts several National parks and forests which are among the last natural ones left in the world.

Dorze People

Located in about 35 Kms from Arbaminch at Guge Mountains, the Dorze people are Omotic people famous for their beehive shaped huts which can go as high as 12 meters and lasting for more than 80 years. These people are also famous for cotton weavers and beautiful garden made from false banana, which is the staple food in the region.



Rift Valley Lakes
J/T 0056
7 Days / 6 Nights / Drive
Tour type: scenery & cultural

Day 1 Arrival to Addis. O/n in a hotel of optional *
Day 2 Addis Arbaminch
Day 3 Boat trip on Lake Chamo & Nech Sar National park
Day 4 Dorze village – Langanu
Day 5 Addis / Departure

Rift Valley Program OR
J/T0057
4nights /5 Days/Drive
Tour type: scenery & cultural & Natural

Day 1 Arrival in Addis
Day 2 Fly to Arbaminch. Pm Boat Trip on Lake Chamo
Day 3 AM visit the NechSar National Park. PM crocodile farm and the small town of Arbaminch.
Day 4 Visiting the Dorze Village, Drive to Langanu .
Day 5 Drive back to Addis.

Omo & Rift Valley
J/T 0058
8 nights /7 days/Drive
Tour type: scenery & cultural

Day 1 Arrival to Addis. O/n in a hotel of optional *
Day 2 Addis – Arbaminch
Passing the beautiful scenery we spend the night in a Hotel at Arbaminch
Day 3 Arba Minch –Jinka
Am Boat trip on Lake Chamo . Crossing the soft rolling hills with dark red soil and plentiful crops, we spend the night at Jinka Resort.
Day 4 Jinka – Excursion to the Mursi Tribe – Drive to Turmi
We visit the Mursi village, famous for expanding their lower lips using disks. O/n in an organized campsite in the park.
Day 5 Turmi
We visit the Hammar tribe which are the most dignified and beautiful people in the Omo basin. O/n in a camp site or simple lodge
Day 6 Turmi – Arbaminch
Passing few tribes & Konso villages on the way, we spend the night in Arbaminch
Day 7 Arba Minch – Langanu
Day 8 Langanu – Addis/ Departure

Note: Flights are available from Addis to Arbaminch twice a week so all programs to the Omo and Rift valley can be amended accordingly

Nech Sar national park

The park which is found at 510 km south of Addis near the town of Arba Minch is located between Lakes Abaya and Chamo. The National park is shelter for over 104 small, medium, and larger species of mammals, 351 species of birds and 1000 species of vascular plants. In addition to its beautiful and natural scenery. the park is home for several mammals including : Swayne's Hartebeest (endemic), Burchett zebra, Grant's gazelle, greater kudu, waterbuck, Guenther's dik-dik, bushbuck, jackal, spotted hyena, leopard, lion, cheetah serval-cat, honey badger, gureza-Colobus, vervet monkey, olive-baboon, wild dog, Anubis Baboon and caracal

In addition, the park is well known for its good populations of the giant Nile crocodile. Lake Chamo is the only site in the world to see the unique giant Nile crocodile population with herds of hippopotamus and congregation of waterfowls. The very well known crocodile market, where hundredth of giant Nile crocodile seen on the shore of lake Chamo , the Nech-Sar plains, the bridge of heaven , the Arba-Minch ground water forest, the forty springs and the two grate Rift Valley Lakes Lake Abaya & Chamo makes the region very attractive and worth a visit.



Lower Omo Valley

Following the southwest of the capital, we find the lower Omo valley which is one of Africa's last unspoiled wilderness regions. Unlike any other place, the lower Omo valley has the largest diversity of ethnically different groups in Ethiopia and Africa hence still now the culture and people of this region are focus of study for their incredible diversity. The entire Omo region is inhabited by ethno-cultural groups pertaining to two important linguistic lines ;Nilo-Saharan and Afro-Asiatic. The Nilo-Saharan linguistic line includes Bume, Mursi , and Surma while the Afro-Asiatic line is comprised of Karo, Banna, Bashada, Hammar, and Dizi . The main ethnic groups in the Lower Omo Region includes, Dorze , Konso, Tsemai, Erbo, Hammar, Benna, Geleb, Karo, Bume, Mursi, Ari and Surma.

The Mursi Tribe

The Mursi people are Nilo-Saharan agro-pastoralist originated from the larger Surma group. They occupy the land between the Omo and the Mago rivers neighboring with Surma to the West, Ari to the East, the Karo and Kwegu to the south and the Bodi to the North. The tribe is well known for the lip plates worn by girls and women, piercing the bottom lips stretching to fit the plates. The tribe is also known for cultural ritual like Donga.

The Karo Tribe

With a settlement at the east bank of the Omo River, the Karo tribe has a population not more than 1500. They neighbor with the Hammer to the south east, the Benna to the East, the Mursi to the North and the Nyangatom to the west. The Karo people speak Omotic language and their settlement is divided mainly to three; Dus , Korcho and Labuk. These people are masters at symbolic and ornamental expressions painted in the body and face. The most beautiful decoration is the facial and chest paintings that combine white chalk, black charcoal, yellow ochre, and red earth. They often imitate the spotted plumage of a Guinea fowl. Karo woman scarify their chests to beautify themselves and the complete scarification of a man's chest indicates that he has killed an enemy or a dangerous animal. The scars are cut with a knife or razor blade and ash is rubbed to produce a raised effect

The Hammer Tribe

The Hammers live among the bush covered hills on the eastern side of the Omo Valley. They are agro-pastoralists with total population over 35,000 and place themselves between the Hamatic and Nilotic people. They are neighbors with Geleb to the North, Banna and Bashada to the east, Erbo and Tsemai to the south east and to the west Bume and Karo. The tribe is very much known for unique rituals such as Bull jumping. This ceremony is intended as a right of passage for a young man who is to be married. He, while nude, is required to leap across the backs of several bulls to prove his worth where the more bulls he jump the more worthy he is.

The Surma

The Surma live on the western bank of the Omo River along the Western edge of Omo National park. They are from the Nilo-Saharan linguistic group and the largest from the Surmic family which includes the Mursi, the Chai, the Tirma and the Bale. They are neighbors with Sudan in the west, Mursi and Bodi in the East , the Bume in the south & Majangir in their north. They are estimated not to be more than fifty thousand. They are agro-pastoralist known for Lip plate and the cultural ritual, Donga stick fight. This is a ceremony in which the Surma tribe performs a fierce stick fighting as an initiation for young men to become adult and marry. Like their neighbors the Surma people are also famous for body paintings.

The Bume –Nyangatom

The Bume are located at the immediate south of the Omo National Park. They are neighbors with the Kwegu and the Mursi in the North, the Karo & the Hammar in the east, the Dassanetch in the South and the Topossa of the Sudan in the west. The Bume are categorized as the Nilo-Saharan language speakers with estimated population of eight to nine thousand people. The ancestors of the Nyangatom along with the Topossa are believed to have originated from the present day Northeast Uganda and believed to have maintained strong ties to this day. The Bumes are Agro-pastoralists cultivating mainly sorghum and maize along the western bank of the Omo River.



Omo National Park

Located in the west bank of the Omo River this park is less known but still wild and home to large variety of animals which are abundantly seen. The park provides a big opportunity to experience wild life in Ethiopia , trekking and visiting the Nilotic origin Surma tribe.

Surma & Omo National Park

J/T 0059

10 Days / 9 nights/Drive

Tour type: scenery , cultural & Wildlife

Day 1 Arrival to Addis. O/n in a hotel of optional *

Day 2 Addis – Jimma. O/n in a local hotel

Day 3 Jimma - Bebek O/n in a guest house.

Day 4 Dizi people- Tulgit for Surma Tribe. O/n Camping.

Day 5 Drive to Omo National Park.O/n Camping

Day 6 Explore the park.O/n camping

Day 7 Drive to Kibish

Day 8 Drive to Mizan Teferi

Day 9 Mizan -Jimma

Day 10 Jimma - Addis

**From Jimma we can continue to Arbaminch town and head to Omo Valley and note the itinerary is flexible for amendment.

Omo valley

J/T 0060

10 days / 9nights/ Drive

Tour type: scenery , cultural & wildlife

Day 1 Arrival to Addis. O/n in a hotel of optional *

Day 2 Addis – Awassa. Visit lake Awassa.O/n in a hotel

Day 3 Awassa - Arbaminch .O/n in a hotel

Day 4 Arba Minch – Jinka. O/n in a hotel

Day 5 Jinka – Excursion to the Mursi Tribe .O/n in a hotel.

Day 6 Jinka – Turmi. Visit the Hammer Tribe.

O/n camp site or lodge

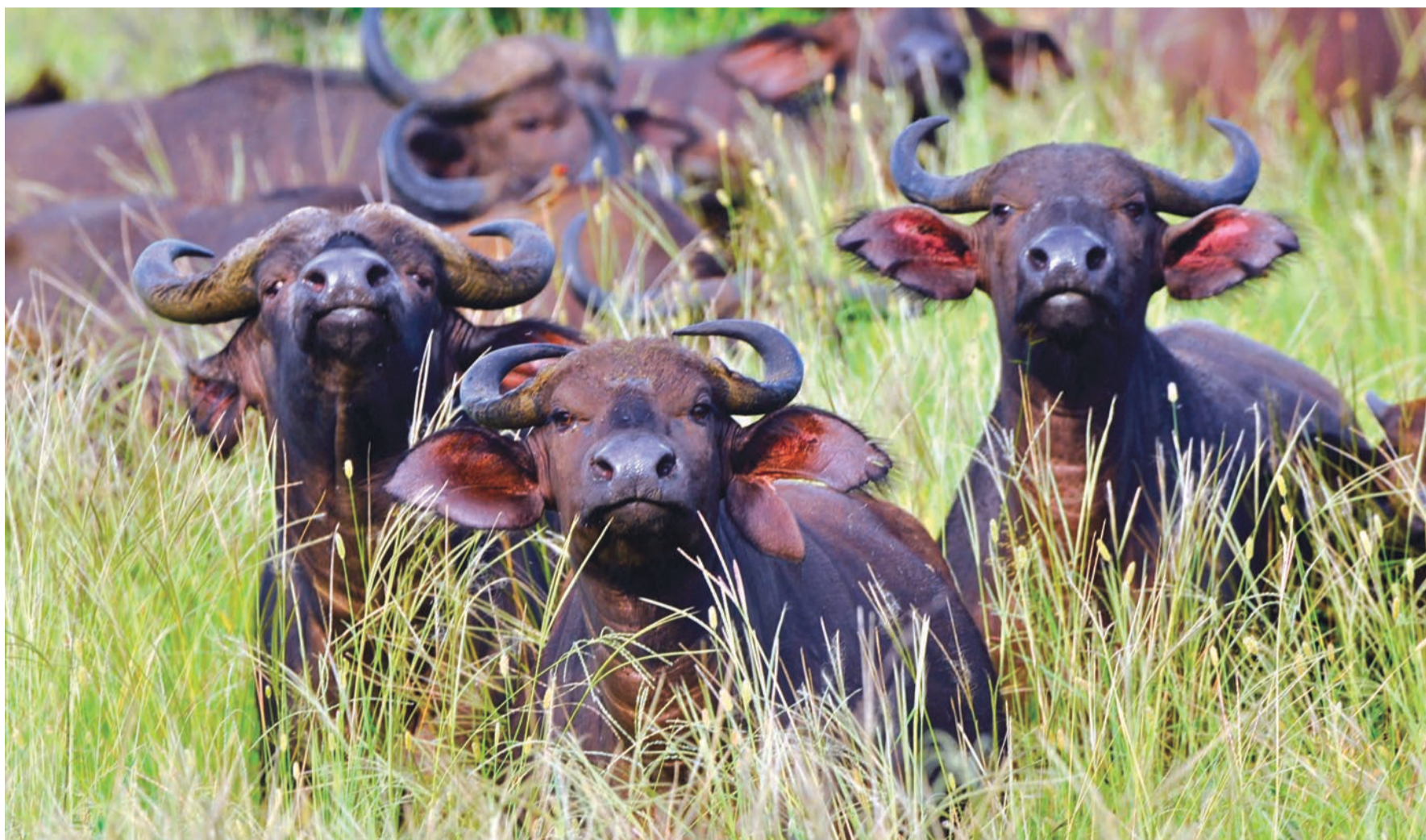
Day 7 Visit the Karo tribe.

Day 8 Turmi – Arbaminch Or Konso .O/n in a hotel

Day 9 Dorze village– Langano. O/n in a hotel

Day 10 Langano – Addis/Departure

**Ps note this trip can be done in shorter days and also can be combined with flight.



Epiphany

Celebrated on the 19th of every January (20th on leap year), it's among the biggest religious festival in Ethiopia. Timkat celebrates the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. During the ceremony of Timkat, the Tabot, a model of the Ark of the Covenant which is present on every Ethiopian altar is covered in rich cloth and brought on the head of the priest. The Tabot which is rarely seen by the laity represents the manifestation of Jesus as a Messiah when he came to the Jordan for Baptism.

On the eve of Timkat, the sacred tabot, a tablet of wood or stone is taken from each church and carried on by priest to the central place where the grand ceremony takes place. After several ceremonies the Tabot is returned to its consecrated resting place with more colorful ceremony. By noon on Timkat day a large crowd assemble at the ritual site and the Holy ark is escorted back to its church in colorful procession.

Suggested place to celebrate Timkat is Gondar & Addis Ababa.



Maskal “ The finding of the True Cross”

Maskal, which means “Cross” is another important religious festival that has been celebrated in the country for over 1,600 years . It's celebrated to commemorate the discovery of the cross upon which Jesus was crucified and founded by Empress Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great. According to Sources, the original event took place on 19 March, AD 326, but currently it's celebrated on 27 September.

Many of the rites observed throughout the festival are said to be directly connected to the legend of Empress Helena.

On the eve of Maskal, tall ranches are tied together with yellow daisies popularly called Maskal flowers placed at the top.

The ranches are gathered together in front of a huge mass , deacons, quires and the Patriarch of the Christian churches and ignited. This symbolizes the action of the Empress who lit incense and prayed for help when no one would show her the Holy sepulcher. Where the smoke drifted, she dug and found three crosses among which the one is the True Cross.



Genna – Ethiopian Christmas

Ethiopian Christmas also known as Genna and Lidet is celebrated on every January 7 (Jan 8 on Leap year). The day is celebrated among all Christians with colorful dresses, traditional food and drinks. All Churches give service all night through with the mass attending the service. In the country side though these days less frequently exercised, there is an indigenous sport named Genna, similar to hockey played among teams trying to pass into opponents territory. This celebration can be witnessed in combination with any attraction but the fact that January 7 is the birth of King Lalibela, it's celebrated more colorfully at the Rock hewn churches of Lalibela where the ceremony takes place in ancient churches carved from solid Volcanic rock.



The Great Run

The Great Ethiopian Run is an event organized annually in November, at the capital city Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, home for several worlds' greatest long distance athletes. Since the first race took place in 2001, it has become the biggest race event on the African continent, with over 25,000 participants annually. The Great Run is a great experience and opportunity for people of any age to mingle with world famous athletes.



Religious Celebration Dates

- January 7 Ethiopian Christmas
- January 19 Epiphany
- January 29 St Mary's Day
- April 4 Palm Sunday
- April 24 Easter Day
- July 26th – St Gabriel – Kulubi
- September 27- Maskal or the finding of the True Cross(celebration takes place on the eve, the 26th of September)
- November 30- St Mary of Zion
- December 28th – St Gabriel's Day Kulubi

*Please note dates change on leap year and according to the Ethiopian Orthodox calendar.

Ethiopian Coffee

Ancient legend tells the story of Kaldi, an Ethiopian herder believed to be the first to discover the mythical properties of coffee. He was so amazed at the dancing of his goats after they had eaten some berries from nearby shrubs where he decided to try some of the ripe red cherries for himself. The pleasant stimulating effect they produced led him to share the discovery with local monks. Coffee quickly evolved into ceremonial religious drinks keeping the monks awake during their long hours of prayers. It takes 3-5 years of perfect combination of sun, shade and rain before an Arabica coffee shrub produces its first mature cherries which contain the two green seeds which we know and value as coffee beans.

Jimma Coffee Tour

J/T 0061

3 nights /4 days/Drive

Tour type : Scenery, cultural & Nature

Day 1 Arrival in Addis . O/n stay in a hotel

Day 2 Addis Jimma (drive or flight).

O/n stay in a hotel

Day 3 Drive to Coffee plantation

Day 4 Drive or fly back to Addis

East Ethiopia Coffee Tour

J/T0062

6 nights /7 days/Drive

Tour type : scenery, culture & Nature

Day 1 Arrival in Addis

Day 2 Addis – Goba

Day 3 Goba- Dollomean

Day 4 Goba- Yirgalem

Day 5 Yirgalem

Day 6 Excursion to Gololcha coffee garden

Day 7 Drive to Langano

Day 8 Drive back to Addis/Departure



Djibouti

Djibouti lies in northeast Africa on the Gulf of Aden at the southern entrance to the Red Sea. It borders Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia. Known initially as French Somaliland and then as French Territory of Afars and Issas, Djibouti gained independence on June 27, 1977. Djibouti was acquired by France between 1843 and 1886 through treaties with the Somali sultans. The city is small, arid, and sparsely populated and mainly important because of the capital city's port. The city is hot and dry all year round, especially during summers. The average temperature varies from 23° to 29°C in January and from 31° to 41°C in July. Though less developed on tourism there are several attractions in Djibouti like Lake Abbe, which is a salt lake situated on the Ethiopia-Djibouti border and a chain of six connected lakes in Africa. Lake Assal, also known as Bahr al Assal is another popular tourist attraction in Djibouti. It is located to the west of Djibouti city. The place is well known for its rich marine life. The salt density of Lake Assal is 35 to 40 cm thick making Djibouti a well known salt reserve. Tadjoura, another tourist attraction is one of the oldest towns in Djibouti with possibilities of fishing, swimming and diving at the Red sea.

J/T0063

Lake Assal & Sable Blanc

4 days /3 nights/ Flight & Drive

Tour type : adventure, scenery & nature

Day 1 Addis – Djibouti Or Arrival in Djibouti . O/n in a hotel

Day 2 Drive to Tadjoura, on the way visit the lake Assal, the largest natural salt lake . O/n stay at Tadjoura

Day 3 Boat to Sable Blanc- Relax on the red sea beach with magnificent coral and fish species

Day 4 Drive back or Boat to Djibouti / departure

Lake Abe, Lake Asal and Sable Blanc

J/T0064

5 days /4 nights/ Flight & Drive

Tour type : adventure, scenery & nature

Day 1 Arrival in Djibouti

Day 2 Drive to Lake Abe an active volcano. O/n camping

Day 3 Drive to Lake Assal- Tadjoura

Day 4 Relax at Sable Blanc

Day 5 Drive or Boat to Djibouti/ Departure

*** Whale sharks are abundantly seen at Sable Blanc from end of January to Mid February with an exciting opportunity to swim with them in the Red sea.



General Tips

Climate

Ethiopia has two main climate seasons, the dry season from October – May and the wet season from June to mid September.

Topography

Ethiopia is a central Plateau varying in height between 1800 and 3000 mt with several mountains exceeding 4000.

Language

Ethiopia is a multi ethnic state with 83 languages and more than 200 dialects. The main languages are Amharic, Oromiya & Tigraya. English is also widely used .

Time

Ethiopia is in the GMT +3 hours Zone. It follows the Julian calendar which consists of twelve months of 30 days and the 13th month with 6 days

Electric Supply

Ethiopia uses 220 Volts and mainly the round plugs.

Currency

The local currency is called Birr made up of coins for 50, 5, 10, & 1 Birr and notes for 1, 5, 10, 50 & 100 Birr. Most restaurants and hotels in Addis Ababa accept credit cards.

Internet

Most Hotels and towns have internet service

Airport

The Bole international airport which is the newest airport is located on less than 10 kilometers from the city Centre. There are two terminals, No 1 Serving domestic sectors & East African Countries, No 2 Serving several carriers linking the world. Currently there are no airport taxes as it's included in all ticket prices.

Visa

Apart from Nationals of Kenya , all visitors to Ethiopia are required to have an entry visa and a 6 month valid passport. Also clients having combined trip with neighboring countries and need to enter Addis Ababa again need to make sure they have double entry visa.

However Visa upon arrival is allowed for several countries paying \$20 so before travelling, please request for current information.

Customs

Items for personal consumption including 2 litre of alcohol & 200 cigarettes can be imported free of tax. Travellers with professional camera need to ask for advise before travelling.

Currency

Travelers can import any amount of foreign currency but should be declared before leaving the terminal and should be changed at authorized banks and hotels.

Calendar

The Ethiopian calendar has 12 months of 30 days each and 6 days of the 13th month. The calendar is 7 years behind the western time. Ethiopia also has a different time system counting to 12 hrs system.

Dress Code

Ethiopia is a free country interms of dressing however it's mandatory to take off shoes and dress properly while entering in churches.



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