

Ethiopia's Historic North and Omo Valley [14 Days / 13 Nights]

Itinerary

This excursion can also be added to the end of other tours that go to different parts of the country, such as the Omo Valley. This tour does not always have pre-scheduled departure dates. However, if flights and hotels are available we can guarantee a departure on the dates you request.

Day 01 Arrival - Addis Ababa

For morning arrivals, optional visit to the Ethnographic Museum, a great introduction to Ethiopian culture and history. If time allows, visit the Mercato, one of Africa's largest outdoor markets, and Trinity Cathedral, resting place of Emperor Haile Selassie.

Overnight Hotel - Addis Ababa

Day 02 Addis Ababa - Bahar Dar

Fly to Bahar Dar on Ethiopian Airlines. Visit the marketplace in Bahar Dar. Take a boat tour on Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, and tour ancient island monasteries.

Overnight Hotel - Bahar Dar

Day 03 Bahar Dar - Gondar

Drive through the countryside to Gondar. Tour the Royal Enclosure, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring five castles built by a succession of Ethiopian Kings beginning in the early 17th century. Having survived several wars, including air raids during World War 2, the castles are a testament to the resilience of this once mighty African Empire. Visit the church of Debre Birhan Selassie, famous for its religious art and especially its iconic ceiling depicting angels.

Overnight Hotel - Gondar

Day 04 Gondar - Lalibela

Fly to Lalibela on Ethiopian Airlines 700 kilometers north of Addis Ababa. Tour the magnificent rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This group of eleven monolithic and semi-monolithic structures were carved directly into the stone of the mountainside at least 800 years ago. This complex boasts the largest monolithic church in the world, a maze of passageways and tunnels, intricately carved reliefs, and fabulous examples of icon paintings.

Overnight Hotel - Lalibela

Day 05 Lalibela

For the morning you have two choices: Take a morning hike with mules to Mount Asheton, with its 13th century rock-hewn monastery and great views of the town; - OR - Drive to Yemrehanna Kristos, a beautiful church situated in a shallow cave that predates the churches of Lalibela. The drive to Yemrehanna will also give you the opportunity to view the rural countryside and villages of the Ethiopian highlands. Following either option above continue with tour of Lalibela's churches in the afternoon.

Overnight Hotel - Lalibela

Day 06 Lalibela - Axum

Fly to Axum on Ethiopian Airlines. Tour the ancient stelae fields, standing for 2000 years. Visit the new and impressive Archeological Museum. Visit other tombs and archeological sites as time permits.

Overnight Hotel - Axum

Day 07 Axum - Addis Ababa - Lake Langano

Fly to Addis Ababa and then drive to the Rift Valley Lake Langano. Relax at the Sabana Lodge. Lake Langano is safe for swimming.

Overnight Lodge - Lake Langano

Day 08 Lake Langano - Arba Minch

Drive to Arba Minch via Melka Kunture, a stone-age archeological site; Adadi Mariam, a 12th century rock-hewn church; and Tiya, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its mysterious stelae, thought to be grave markers, dating from the 12th century. Also visit a Dorze Village in the Guge Mountains. The Dorze are known for their tall, beehive-shaped bamboo houses. If the base becomes infested with termites, the entire house can be lifted and moved to another location.

Overnight Hotel - Arba Minch

Day 09 Arba Minch - Jinka

Take a boat trip on Lake Chamo and view some of the largest crocodiles in the world sunning on the banks of the lake. Hippopotami and birdlife are also abundant. Drive to Jinka visiting various peoples such as the Gamo and Derashe. Stop at Key Afar's weekly market (if on a Thursday) and wander among the various tribes such as the Benna and Ari that have gathered to barter their goods.

Overnight Lodge - Jinka

Day 10 Mago National Park Excursion

Early morning drive to the Mago National Park to visit the Mursi people. The Mursi women are known for the clay plates they insert into their lower lips. Time permitting, visit the Omo Valley Museum in Jinka.

Overnight Lodge - Jinka

Day 11 Jinka - Turmi

Drive to Turmi to visit the Hamar people who are well known for the scarring of their bodies, using clay to shape their hairstyles, and the unique practice of "bull-jumping" which every young man must accomplish prior to marriage. En route to Turmi, visit the Benna and Ari people.

Overnight Lodge - Turmi

Day 12 Murele Excursion

Drive to Murele and visit the Karo people, known for their elaborate body-painting. Also visit a village of the Dassanech people. Return to Turmi for the evening.

Overnight Lodge - Turmi

Day 13 Turmi - Konso

Drive to Konso, recently designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. A highland people, the

Konso are known for the ancient and intricate terraces that encircle their well-planned villages. *Overnight Lodge - Konso*

Day 14 Konso - Arba Minch - Addis Ababa

Drive from Konso to Arba Minch for flight to Addis Ababa. Enjoy a farewell dinner at a traditional Ethiopian restaurant featuring dancers and musicians representing some of the country's many ethnic groups. Transfer to airport for late night departure upon request.

Please inform us if additional hotel nights are needed.

AET-CO-16B:

Driving Tour of Historic North and Eastern Routes [17 days, 16 nights]

Itinerary

17 days driving northern and eastern route

Day 1: Arrive at Addis Ababa Airport and transfer to your hotel. Depending on time availability, we can do a tour of the city.

Day 2: Early morning breakfast and start driving at around 9Am. After about 110 kms drive, we will arrive at Debre Libanos Monastery. We will visit the monastery and the 14th century Portuguese bridge later have lunch in the hotel close to the monastery. We will then drive further north to Debre Markos. En route, we will stop at and the great Nile George and Bridges. Overnight at Debre Markos. Total driving distance is 325 kilometers / 250 miles.

Day 3: We will start with an early morning drive to Bahir Dar. We will arrive in Bahir Dar during lunch time and transfer to hotel. After a lunch by Lake Tana, we will do the Bahir Dar city tour including a visit to Bezawit Palace. Total driving distance is 200 kilometers / 140 miles.

Visitors should expect to see

- Colorful market with easy access to buy traditional baskets, pottery, handmade woven clothes, capes, scarves and etc
- The Woito village where the local people make the papyrus boat
- The MountBezawit where Emperor Haile Selassie's palace of is gracefully situated. It also provides a magnificent scenery

Day 4: After an early breakfast drive to the Water Falls of the Blue Nile which is 30kms from Bahir Dar. On arrival at the site, we will walk uphill for about 20-30 minutes to reach the best view point of the falls which is 45 meters deep and up to 400 meters wide during the rainy season of June, July, August and September. Depending on your interest we can descend to the base of the falls and climb back up the other side and cross the Nile by a papyrus boat which will take us about an hour. Afternoon, we will arrange a boat trip on Lake Tana known for its middle age island monasteries. Lake Tana is also the source of the Blue Nile and home for 37 islands. We will have the opportunity to visit the Zege peninsula for its famous 14th century monasteries of Ura Kidanemihret, Azewa Mariam and the island monastery of Kibran Gebriel (where only men are allowed) for their wonderful 16th century mural paintings, crowns, crosses and many old church treasures. Dinner and overnight in Bahir Dar.

Day 5: After an early breakfast, we will start our journey to Gondar. En route we will visit the Awramba Village and taste the Woreta famous honey. We will also have a chance to see the Fogera Plane farmland. We will arrive in Gondar late afternoon and will visit the Trinity Church before heading to our hotel for an overnight stay. Depending on your preference, we can attend a traditional dancing show in one of the local restaurants in Gondar.

Total driving distance is 200 kilometers / 140 miles.

Day 6: After an early breakfast, we will start our tour with the Medieval 16 century Gondar castles. The most famous buildings in this 16 century Royal Enclosure include Fasilides castle, [Iyasu's Palace](#), Dawit's Hall, a banqueting hall, stables, [Mentewab's Castle](#), a chancellery, library and three churches. After the visit to the Palace, we will start our road to Debark, the gate to the Semine Mountains. En route we will stop at different locations to visit the endemic Chilada Babbon and the scenic Semine gorge. Overnight at Debark.

Total driving distance is 125 kilometers / 80 miles.

Day 7: An early short trek to see the Semine Mountain massif in the morning followed by breakfast at Semine Hotel. We will then start driving to Axum passing the Lima Limo terrain. Overnight at Axum.

Total driving distance is 325 kilometers / 250 miles.

Day 8: We will start our visit to the famous historical sites of Axum such as the Archeological museum, the Zion Cathedral where the original Arc of the covenant is said to be found, the stele park where a single block of stones standing since the 3rd century. Later in the day, we will have an opportunity to visit the ruined palace and Bath of Queen of Sheba. Dinner and overnight stay at Yeha hotel.

Day 9: By now you have got used to our morning drill(=), breakfast at 8am and start the day drive at 9am. We will drive to Mekele and en route will make time to visit Yeha Debre Damo Monastery, the oldest known Ethiopian church (4th century). We will also visit the Yeha "Temple of the moon" that dates back to pre-Christian times. On our drive to Mekele, we will make a stop at Abrha Atsbha and the Wukro churches. Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Mekele.

Total driving distance is 425 kilometers / 200 miles.

Day 10: the whole day is required to cover this distance. It is 250 kilometers / 315 miles but mostly a gravel road that is steep at times. For a considerable stretch, the winding road follows the Tekeze river basin. We will have a chance to visit the newly built electric Dam. We will have a lunch stop at Woldaya before heading to Lalibela. Overnight stay at Lalibela.

Day 11: We will start our visit with the first group of churches and the city itself. We hope to cover 6 of the 12 rock hewn churches in the morning tour. In the afternoon, we will visit the second group of churches. We will finish touring all the churches around 5PM and head back to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 12: We will have an early breakfast today around 7am and quickly start our drive to the two remaining churches of Lalibela that lie in the outskirts of the city – AsheteMariam church. After a tour of the church we will start our drive to Kombolcha. We will have lunch at Woldiya. En route, we will come across the Afar tribe with their herds of camels. We will arrive at Kombolcha around 5PM. Overnight at Kombolcha.

Total driving distance is 185 kilometers / 160 miles.

Day 13: Early morning visit to the Bati market (a very colorful open market for cattle's). After spending time in the market, we will start heading south east to Awash. En route we will continue

to see the Afar temporary villages and will spend time visiting their village and hats. Overnight at Awash, Genet Hotel.

Day 14: Awash National Park is the first national park in Ethiopia. It's known for its variety of birds and Guzzles. On rare occasions one can find lions and other animals as well. After a tour around the park, we will head further east to the town of Harar. Overnight stay in Harar.

Total driving distance is 125 kilometers / 85 miles.

Day 15: Harar is a labyrinth of small streets surrounded by old city walls. Our tour of Harar will include some of these as well as some of the traditional old houses of Harar. The main sights are:- the city walls and gateways, the Friday Mosque, the Museum, the Ras Makonnen House, The 16th century house of a famous French Poet -Rimbaud. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. In this evening after dinner there is a visit to the hyena man (the man who feeds the hyenas).

Day 16: Drive back to Addis. En route, we will make a stop in Debrezeith and have a refreshment in one of the hotels around the crater lakes. We will arrive in Addis Ababa in the evening. We stay overnight in the same hotel as before and have dinner in one of the many restaurants of the capital.

Total driving distance is 525 kilometers / 400 miles.

Day 17: On your final day of this 17-Day tour, you will visit the capital city of Addis Ababa. We will visit the Institute of Ethiopian Studies Ethnological museum that houses a unique collection of artifacts from the 80+ tribes of Ethiopia. You will also have the opportunity to visit Trinity Cathedral and Merkato. Along our way we will have the chance to see avenues, squares, obelisks and many places of interests and shopping. Early evening, we will have a coffee ceremony for you before your transfer to the airport for your flight back home.

AET-CO -07C

North and South Tribes [8 days / 7 nights]

Day 1 Arrive at Bole International Airport. One of our representatives will meet you and take you to Terminal 1 and fly with you to Arba minch with the connected flight, in Arba minch pick up by 4WD and drive to Jinka, Stop at Key Afar's weekly market (if on a Thursday) and wander among the various tribes such as the Benna and Ari that have gathered to barter their goods.

Over night Lodge in Jinka.

Day 2 Early morning drive to the Mago National Park to visit the Mursi people. The Mursi women are known for the clay plates they insert into their lower lips. Time permitting, visit the Omo Valley Museum in Jinka and in the afternoon drive to Turmi En route to Turmi, visit the Benna and Ari people

Overnight lodge - Turmi,

Day 3 Turmi visit the Hamar people who are well known for the scarring of their bodies, using clay to shape their hairstyles, and the unique practice of "bull-jumping" which every young man must accomplish prior to marriage, and in the after noon drive back to Arbaminch overnight in Arba minch paradise lodge

Day 4 In the morning, take a boat trip on Lake Chamo and view some of the largest crocodiles in the world sunning on the banks of the lake. Hippopotami and birdlife are also abundant and if there is a time before the flight, visit a Dorze Village in the Guge Mountains. The Dorze are known for their tall, beehive- shaped bamboo houses. If the base becomes infested with termites, the entire house can be lifted and moved to another location, in the afternoon fly back to Addis and overnight in Sherato Addis Hotel.

Day 5 Fly to BahirDar. Upon arrival have lunch and then make a boat trip to Lake Tana to visit the medieval-era island monasteries.

Overnight stay - Kuriftu Hotel Resort and spa

Day 6 After having breakfast drive to Gondar, 180km asphalt road via a scenic route and marvelous landscape and Visit the Royal Enclosure that is surrounded by high stone walls containing the 17th century palaces of King Fasiladas, King Iyasu and Queen Mentewab and different other buildings. Visit also Fasiladas' Bath, (that is filled with water for the important Timkat (epiphany) ceremony once a year), and then visit the rectangular Debre Brehan Selassie (Trinity at the Mount of Light) has a ceilings decorated with beautiful winged Angels.

Overnight stay - Goha Hotel

Day 7 Fly to Lalibela Lalibela Visit its rock-hewn church are thought, to date the 12th and 13th century during King Lalibela reign. The churches are remarkable since they are entirely freed from the rock, refined and concentrated in small land.

Overnight stay- Lal Hotel.

Day 8 Early in the morning, proceed to the air port for a return flight to Addis Ababa. Half day city tour of Addis. Fare well Dinner will be in traditional restaurant with cultural live music, depart to your country.

AET-H-4A

Ethiopia's Historic Route [5 Days / 4 Nights]

Day 01 Addis Ababa - Bahar Dar

Fly to Bahar Dar on Ethiopian Airlines. Visit the Marketplace in Bahar Dar. Take a boat tour on Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, and visit ancient island monasteries.

Overnight Hotel - Bahar Dar

Day 02 Bahar Dar - Gondar

Drive through the countryside to Gondar. Tour the Royal Enclosure, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring five castles built by a succession of Ethiopian Kings beginning in the early 17th century. Having survived several wars, including air raids during World War 2, the castles are a testament to the resilience of this once mighty African Empire. Visit the church of Debre Birhan Selassie, famous for its religious art and especially its iconic ceiling depicting angels.

Overnight Hotel - Gondar

Day 03 Gondar - Lalibela

Fly to Lalibela on Ethiopian Airlines. Tour the magnificent rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This group of eleven monolithic and semi-monolithic structures were carved directly into the stone of the mountainside at least 800 years ago. This complex boasts the largest monolithic church in the world, a maze of passageways and tunnels, intricately carved reliefs, and fabulous examples of icon paintings.

Overnight Hotel - Lalibela

Day 04 Lalibela - Axum

Fly to Axum on Ethiopian Airlines. Tour the ancient stela fields, standing for 2000 years. Visit the new and impressive Archeological Museum. Visit other tombs and archeological sites as time permits.

Overnight Hotel - Axum

Day 05 Axum - Addis Ababa

Fly to Addis Ababa on Ethiopian Airlines. Visit either the Ethnographic Museum or the National Museum, home of the 3.18 million year old skeleton "Lucy." Optional souvenir shopping in the afternoon. Farewell dinner at a traditional Ethiopian restaurant featuring dancers and musicians representing some of the country's many ethnic groups. Transfer to airport for late night departure upon request.

Ethiopia's Historic North and Simien Mountains [15 Days / 15 Nights]

Day 01 Arrival

Arrive at Bole International Airport. An Addis Ethiopia Tours representative will meet you and take you to your hotel.

Overnight Hotel - Addis Ababa

Day 02 Addis Ababa

Visit the Ethnographic Museum, a great introduction to Ethiopian culture and history. Visit the Mercato, one of Africa's largest outdoor markets, and Trinity Cathedral, resting place of Emperor Haile Selassie.

Overnight Hotel - Addis Ababa

Day 03 Addis Ababa - Bahar Dar

Fly to Bahar Dar on Ethiopian Airlines. Visit the marketplace in Bahar Dar. Take a boat tour on Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, and tour ancient island monasteries.

Overnight Hotel - Bahar Dar

Day 04 Bahar Dar - Gondar

Drive through the countryside to Gondar. Tour the Royal Enclosure, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring five castles built by a succession of Ethiopian Kings beginning in the early 17th century. Having survived several wars, including air raids during World War 2, the castles are a testament to the resilience of this once mighty African Empire. Visit the church of Debre Birhan Selassie, famous for its religious art and especially its iconic ceiling depicting angels.

Overnight Hotel - Gondar

Day 05 Gondar - Sankabar (3,250m)

Morning departure to Debark (100 kms from Gondar), where the headquarters of Simien Mountains National Park is located. Meet the Scout, Mountain Guide, and others on the trekking team. Continue driving to Sankabar (31 kms from Debark) and the first camp site of the National Park. On this drive you will gain your first impression of the scale and beauty of this highland region, possibly spotting wildlife such as the endemic Gelada Baboons and the "bone breaker" bird Lammergeyer. Camp at Sankabar (3200m.)

Overnight Camping

Day 06 Trekking Simien Mountains National Park

Trek Sankaber - Geech (3,600m elevation) which will take between 5-7 hours. After one and half hours, see the Jinnbar River and falls which you will cross later in the day. After crossing the

river, ascend for about 2 hours to Geech. The scenery is wonderful and a herd of Gelada Baboons can be seen on the journey. Camp at Geech (3600m.)
Overnight Camping

Day 07 Trekking Simien Mountains National Park

Trek Geech - Imet Gogo- Geech. Trek to some of the best view points in the National Park. Imet Gogo boasts spectacular views in every direction. Possible wildlife sightings on this 4 -5 hour trek include the Simien Wolf, the Walia Ibex, and Klipspringers.
Overnight Camping

Day 08 Trekking Simien Mountains National Park

Trek Geech - Chenek (3,620m elevation); trek along the 4,000 meter breathtaking Enatye escarpment before descending to Chenek. Walia Ibex and Gelada Baboons are routinely spotted.
Overnight Camping

Day 09 Trekking Simien Mountains National Park

Trek to Ambiquo campsite (3,200m) approximately 9 hours via Mt. Buhit (4,430m); cross the Mesheha River before reaching Ambiquo.
Overnight Camping

Day 10 Trekking Simien Mountains National Park

Trek Ambiquo - Ras Dashen - Ambiquo; early morning departure to the summit of Ras Dashen, at 4,543 meters, Africa's fourth highest peak. Trek up the Valley from your campsite to the small village of Mizma. From here, a steep climb brings you to an impressive amphitheater made up of three major buttresses of expanded rock. It is then an easy scramble to the summit. To reach the Summit can take up to 6 hrs. Return to Ambiquo camp for overnight.
Overnight Camping

Day 11 Trekking Simien Mountains National Park

Trek Ambiquo - Chenek; return to Chenek, bypassing Mt. Buhit on the return.
Overnight Camping

Day 12 Simien Mountains National Park - Axum

Take a scenic drive to Axum, capital of the ancient Axumite Empire and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Frequent stops at viewpoints along the way. Arrive in Axum late afternoon.
Overnight Hotel - Axum

Day 13 Axum

Tour the ancient stela fields, standing for 2000 years. Visit the new and impressive Archeological Museum. Visit other tombs and archeological sites as time permits.

Overnight Hotel - Axum

Day 14 Axum - Lalibela

Fly to Lalibela on Ethiopian Airlines 700 kilometers north of Addis Ababa. Tour the magnificent rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This group of eleven monolithic and semi-monolithic structures were carved directly into the stone of the mountainside at least 800 years ago. This complex boasts the largest monolithic church in the world, a maze of passageways and tunnels, intricately carved reliefs, and fabulous examples of icon paintings.

Overnight Hotel - Lalibela

Day 15 Lalibela

For the morning we have two choices: Take a morning hike with mules to Mount Asheton, with its 13th century rock-hewn monastery and great views of the town; - OR - Drive to Yemrehanna Kristos, a beautiful church situated in a shallow cave that predates the churches of Lalibela. The drive to Yemrehanna will also give you the opportunity to view the rural countryside and villages of the Ethiopian highlands. Following either option above continue with tour of Lalibela's churches in the afternoon.

Overnight Hotel - Lalibela

Day 16 Lalibela - Addis Ababa

Fly to Addis Ababa. Visit the National Museum, home of the 3 million year old skeleton "Lucy." Optional souvenir shopping. Enjoy a farewell dinner at a traditional Ethiopian restaurant featuring dancers and musicians representing some of the country's many ethnic groups. Transfer to airport for late night departure upon request.

The historic route by surface and Air 11 Days/10 Nights

Day 01: Sightseeing of Addis Ababa

Arrival at Bole International Airport. Warm reception by IETT guide and driver and Transfer to hotel for check-in. City tour of Addis Ababa including the panoramic view point Entoto Mountain, Merkato, said to be Africa's largest market of its kind, and the National Museum (home of Lucy, hominid skeleton dating back 3.2 million years) and the ethnographic museums. Overnight in Addis Ababa.

Day 02: Addis Ababa - Axum

in the morning, fly Addis to Axum and full day visiting the sites in Axum. Sites to visit include the famous obelisks, the Queen of Sheba's Bath (which supplies water to Axum year-round), King Bazen's tomb, and the Queen of Sheba's Palace. You will also visit the St. Mary of Zion church, where the Ark of the Covenant is kept, according to local Ethiopian tradition. Men only are allowed to enter the old church. Unfortunately, no one (except one specially chosen guardian monk) is allowed to enter the chapel where the Ark is kept. Overnight in Axum

Day 03: Axum - Yeha - Debre Damo - Axum

After breakfast, drive to visit the ruins of Yeha, dating from the 8th to 5th centuries BC, and thought to be the capital of Ethiopian civilization before Axum. Afterwards, visit the Debre Damo monastery, where the men climb up a 15-m rope to enter the uphill situated monastery. Return to Axum for overnight.

Day 04: Axum - Lalibela

Fly Axum to Lalibela, the most famous of all of the Ethiopian historical sites. After lunch, begin to explore the 11 rock-hewn churches of the remarkable king Lalibela, visiting the Northwestern Cluster of churches - Bet Medhane Alem, Bet Maryam, Bet Meskel, Bet Danaghel, Bet Mikael & Bet Golgotha. Overnight in Lalibela

Day 05: Lalibela

In the morning, visit the Southeastern Cluster of churches – Bet Gabriel-Rufael, Bet Merkorios, Bet Amanual, and Bet Abba Libanos. Finally, visit the most famous of all the churches – Bet Giyorgis, a huge monolith in the shape of a cross, and constructed in honor of St. George, the patron saint of Ethiopia. After lunch, take an afternoon trip to visit the church of Yimrehanne Kristos. The most popular of the churches outside of Lalibela, this church is built in the late-Axumite style, with layers of wood and granite, set in the entrance to a large cavern. Overnight in Lalibela

Day 06: Lalibela - Gondar

Fly to Gondar and explore the sites of Gondar, including a visit to the Royal Enclosure, with six castles and several other buildings. Additionally, visit Fasilidas's Pool, still used for Timket celebrations today, Debre Birhan Selassie church, with the most famous ceiling in Ethiopia and Kuskuum, a former palace in a partial state of ruin overlooking the city of Gondar.

Overnight in Gondar

Day 07: excursion to Simien mountains national park

early in the morning, depart for the stunning Simien Mountains National Park. The jagged mountains and deep valleys lend spectacular views to these mountains, home to many of the endemic animal species of Ethiopia including the gelada baboon (guaranteed to be seen) as well as the rare Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf. The afternoon will be available for relaxing trek in the most dramatic sceneries of the park including Gingar Rver falls and Wolkafit mountain chain. Overnight in Gondar.

Day 08: Gondar to Bahir Dar - Lake Tana

After breakfast, drive to Bahirdar through the beautiful countryside scenery of Fogera and Gojam to arrive at Bahirdar around lunchtime. In the afternoon, you will have a boat cruise over Lake Tana to visit the ancient island monasteries of Lake Tana. The monasteries are famous for their typical Ethiopian religious paintings, illuminated manuscripts, and other ancient church treasures. The monasteries that you are going to visit this afternoon include Kibran Gebriel, Ura Kidanemihret and Azua Mariam.

Day 09: Lake Tana monasteries and Blue Nile Fall

After breakfast, drive 35 Km. to visit the majestic Blue Nile Falls. After having lunch and taking a little rest, drive to Bezawit Hill where you can see the summer residence of Emperor Hailesillasie I, from outside. This is also the best wiewpoint to wander the suset on Lake Tana and to see the outlet of Blue Nile River.

Day 10: Bahir Dar-Blue Nile Gorge-Debre Libanos

Drive to Debre Libanos. There will be stops at Goha, Tsion, Chancho and Dejen. In the afternoon you will pass through the Great Blue Nile Gorge. The Blue Nile Gorge is a majestic and enormous river gorge and it is one of the most captivating gorges in Africa. It has a magnificent, alluring physical feature and natural beauty. After an hour driving you will reach Debre Libanos and stay here overnight in the Ethio-German Park Hotel, which is situated on the edge of a cliff, near the famous Portuguese bridge.

Debre Libanos is an important monastic center for Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity. The monastery you can visit here was founded by the renowned 13th century mystic, Saint Teklehaimanot. There is a small cave near the church where he is said to have stood for seven years on one leg, until the other wasted away and dropped off.

Day 11: Debre Libanos - Addis Ababa -Departure

In the morning you can have a walk around the lodge and visit the Portuguese bridge and the small waterfall behind the lodge, ending up in the Jemma River Gorge, one of the biggest tributaries of the Blue Nile River. Depending on the season you will find more or less water in the fall. Then you will start driving back to Addis. As you pass through the Sululta plain, you can see Black winged plovers, Wattled Ibis, Blue winged geese, common cranes and wheat ears.

In the evening/afternoon, farewell party with cultural dinner and traditional special buffet and local drinks to experience Ethiopia's cultural meals and drinks. After farewell party, transfer to Bole international airport for international departure. End of Tour

Upon request the above tour program can be modified, differently rearranged, combined with other itineraries and can be shorten or extended to suit your interest, time, and budget. Please contact us for further details.

AET-LALTRE-7A

Trekking around Lalibela 8Days/7Night

Day 01: Arrive - Addis Ababa

Arrive in Addis Ababa. Afternoon city tour of Addis Ababa which include the national museum, ethnographic museum and Merkato.

O/N: hotel

Day 02: Addis Ababa - Lalibela (2500m)

In the morning, fly to Lalibela. The rest of the day, visit the first group of rock-hewn churches from 1200 AD.

O/N: hotel.

Day 03: Lalibela –Merebarbu (3500m)

In the morning visit the second group of rock-hewn churches. In the afternoon, trek to Merebarbu enroute visitng Asheten Mariam monastery church from the 13th century.

O/N: camping at Merebarbu.

Day 04: Merebarbu - Wedebye (3700m)

Start the 4 hours trekking from Merebarbu to Wedebye (3600 to 3800).

O/N: Camping at Wedebye .

Day 05: Wedebye-Abune Yosef (3900m)

Continue the trek for ~4 hours to Abune Yosef (4130). En route enjoying the stunning view covered by afro alpine types of vegetations you will have the chance to spot endemic mammals like Gelada Baboon and Simen Fox.

O/N: Camping at Abune Yosef.

Day 06: Abune Yosef-Degosach-Yimrhane Kirstos

From Abune Yosef, the third highest pick in the Ethiopia, we will trek on the plateaus of Degosach en route visiting different villages. At Yimrhane Kirstos, you will visit the 12th Century built up cave church which is very famous for its unique style of architecture, construction and interior decorations.

O/N: camping at Yimrha.

Day 07: Yimrha-Arbatu Ensesa-Lalibela

In the morning, walk down hill to visit Arbatu Ensesa, a rock-hewn church from the 4th century AD. At the same point, meet your driver for the drive to Lalibela en-route visiting Bilbala Cherkos.

O/N: hotel.

Day 08: Lalibela-Addis Ababa-Departure

Fly back to Addis Ababa. In the afternoon, city tour of Addis Ababa and preparation for the flight back home. End of tour.

AET-SMTRE-7B

Semien Mountain Trekking Air and Surface [9 Days / 8 Nights]

Day 01: Arrival at Bole International Airport. Reception by IETT guide and driver transfer to hotel for check-in. City tour of Addis Ababa including the panoramic view point Entoto Mountain, Merkato, said to be Africa's largest market of its kind, and the National Museum (home of Lucy, hominid skeleton dating back 3.2 million years) and the ethnographic museums.. Overnight in Addis Ababa.

Day 02: Fly Addis to Gondar; continue driving from Gondar to Sankober, stopping in Debarke to handle National Park fees, etc. You will start your trek around Buyit Ras for a 3-4 hour hike to Sankober, which passes close to the escarpment edge. Nearing Sankober, you will have beautiful views on both sides of the escarpment ridge and where you will likely see the endemic Gelada baboons. In Sankober, you will be met with your supplies. Overnight camping or lodge.

Day 03: From Sankober, depart into a valley, through which the Wazla (or Koba) River runs. (This river is often dry). Coming out of the valley you will have views of the Jinbar River waterfalls falling into the Geech Abyss. Continuing along, you will cross the Jinbar River and ascend into the village of Geech. Total trekking time: 4-5 hours

Day 04: After an early breakfast, depart from Geech to the peak of Imet Gogo at 3926m. Here you'll have spectacular views over the lowlands – one of the highlights of the trip. As you continue to Chenek, you will pass Korbete Metia, a solid rock wall which opens up exposing beautiful views over the lowlands and the escarpment. This is also a good place for spotting lammergeyers. Overnight camping in Chenek. Total trekking time: 7 – 9 hours

Day 05: From Chenek, continue east up a valley to Mt. Bwahit, overlooking the camp from where you just came. After crossing the Bwahit Pass, you come to a viewpoint offering wonderful views of the Mesheha River Valley as well your first glimpse of Ras Dashen. From here, the path descends, passes through the village of Chiro Leba, and finally leads to the Mesheha River. Across the river, you climb back up the valley to the village of Ambikwa. Overnight camping in Ambikwa. Total trekking time: 6-8 hours

Day 06: Starting early, you will continue up the valley to the village of Mizma, after which you will have a steep ascent to a ridge crest overlooking a large valley. The path then follows along the side of the valley, straight at Ras Dashen. You will eventually reach a point where you will see three distinct buttresses. The buttress on the left is the summit of Ras Dashen. A pile of rocks at the top of the buttress marks the summit. After your successful arrival at the highest point in Ethiopia, you return to Ambikwa for overnight. Total trekking time: 8-10 hours

Day 07: Today you return back to Chenek for overnight camping. Total trekking time: 6-8 hours

Day 08: Today you will be transported out of the park, returning to Gondar. overnight in Gondar (tourist standard hotel)

Day 9: Take a flight from Gondar to Addis Ababa, In the evening, farewell party with cultural dinner and traditional special buffet and local drinks to experience Ethiopia's cultural meals and drinks. After farewell party transfer to airport for international departure. End of the Tour.

Upon request the above tour program can be modified, differently rearranged, combined with other itineraries and can be shorten or extended to suit your interest, time, and budget. Please contact us for further details.

AET-AH-4

Awash National Park and Harar: 5 Days / 4 Nights

Day 1 Addis Ababa - Awash National Park

Drive to Awash National Park via the Rift Valley Lake of Bishoftu near Debre Zeit. Take an evening game drive in Awash National Park and visit an area frequented by hyenas.

Overnight Lodge - Awash National Park

Day 2 Awash National Park - Harar

Morning departure from Awash for Harar, stopping at Dire Dawa for lunch. Visit nearby cave where prehistoric paintings have been discovered. Continue to Harar. In the evening see the "Hyena Man" feeding the hyenas that gather nightly outside the town.

Overnight Hotel - Harar

Day 3 Harar

Stroll through the 16th century walled city of Harar, the fourth most important city in the Islamic World. See the home of Arthur Rimbaud, renowned French poet who worked and lived in Harar as a "gun-runner" during the 19th century. Visit the National and Harari museums; the house of Ras Mekonnen (father of Haile Selassie); and a traditional Harari home.

Overnight Hotel - Harar

Day 4 Harar - Dire Dawe

Visit the colorful Islamic market. Take an excursion to visit homes in the cliff-side village of Koremi. Visit the market in Hajifaj (Monday and Friday only.) Continue to Dire Dawe.

Overnight Hotel - Dire Dawe

Day 5 Dire Dawe - Addis Ababa

Drive to Addis Ababa. Optional souvenir shopping if time permits. Enjoy a Farewell dinner at a traditional Ethiopian restaurant featuring dancers and musicians representing some of the country's many ethnic groups. Transfer to airport for late night departure upon request.