



Fasiledes Castle, Gondar © Shutterstock



Gelada monkey, Simien Mountains © Shutterstock



Mursi woman © Steve Turner



Hamar women © Anne-Marie Zambelli

HISTORICAL ETHIOPIA

9 days/8 nights
From \$5708 per person twin share*
Departs daily ex Addis Ababa

*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

INCLUSIONS

All airport transfers, ground transportation and tours as per itinerary in air conditioned minibus, accommodation on twin share basis, all meals (B&B only in Addis Ababa), entrance fees, park fees, services of local English speaking guide. Internal flights with Ethiopian Airlines and applicable taxes.

EXCLUSIONS

Video/camera fees, all drinks, laundry, gratuities and items of personal nature.

With an ancient Christian heritage, Ethiopia is a land of history and legend with a civilisation dating back thousands of years. It is also a country with breathtaking scenery, from towering mountains to vast Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile. This tour uncovers the archaeological wonders of the northern route, including the giant stelae and tombs at Axum, reputed to have been the residence of the Queen of Sheba, the medieval castles at Gondar and the famous rock-hewn churches at Lalibela. This highland region is generally above 1,200m (Addis Ababa is 2,326m), so the climate is very pleasant, although nights can be cold. October to May is the dry season and the most popular time to visit.

Day 1 Addis Ababa

Arrive Addis Ababa and transfer to the Golden Tulip Hotel. Time permitting, optional visit to the National Museum with its many archaeological treasures, including the 3.2 million year old hominid fossil "Lucy". Overnight at the Golden Tulip Hotel.

Day 2 Bahir Dar

Fly to Bahir Dar. Afternoon boat trip on Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile where local fishermen still use traditional papyrus boats. Visit mysterious island monasteries such as the Ura Kidane Mehret with its beautiful frescoes. Overnight at Avanti Blue Nile Resort. BLD

Days 3/4 Gondar

Drive to Gondar, sometimes called "the Camelot of Africa". This once imperial city is known for its medieval castles and churches. Visit the castle complex of Fasiledes and the 16th century church of Debre Birhan Selassie. Next day, enjoy an excursion into the Simien Mountains National Park with optional walk if time allows. This is "The Roof of Africa", with peaks rising up to 4620m, the fourth highest in Africa. Overnight at Mayleko Lodge. BLD

Day 5 Axum

Fly to Axum. Visit the stelae field, the 6th century tomb of King Kaleb, the ruins of the Queen of Sheba's palace, the church of St Mary of Zion and the outside of the chapel said to contain the Ark of the Covenant. Overnight at Sabeen International Hotel. BLD

Days 6/7 Lalibela

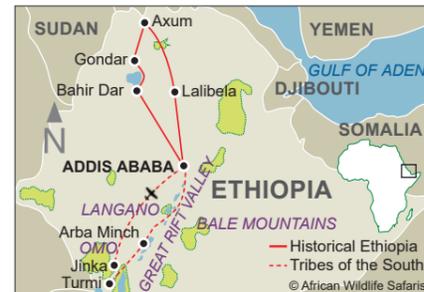
Fly to Lalibela, built in the 12th century it is also known as "Africa's Petra". This holy city is still a place of pilgrimage and the churches remain in use today. Spend the next 2 days exploring Lalibela's churches carved from rock called "the eighth wonder of the world". Overnight at Mountain View Hotel. BLD

Day 8 Addis Ababa

Transfer to airport for flight back to Addis Ababa. Remainder of day at leisure. Overnight at the Golden Tulip Hotel. B

Day 9 Tour ends

Transfer to the airport. Tour ends Addis Ababa. B



St George's Church in Lalibela © Shutterstock

TRIBES OF THE SOUTH

8 days/7 nights
From \$5860 per person twin share*
Departs daily ex Addis Ababa

*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

INCLUSIONS

All airport transfers, ground transportation and tours as per itinerary in air conditioned minibus or 4WD, accommodation on twin share basis, all meals (B&B only in Addis Ababa), entrance fees, park fees, services of local English speaking guide. Internal flights with Ethiopian Airlines and applicable taxes.

EXCLUSIONS

Video/camera fees, all drinks, laundry, gratuities and items of personal nature.

Ethiopia is renowned for its fascinating tribal peoples who continue to follow ancient and traditional lifestyles, each with their own rich culture, customs, religious beliefs and body decoration. This tour visits the Omo Valley in southern Ethiopia which is home to fascinating tribes like the Mursi, whose women wear terracotta plates in their lower lips, the Tsemay, famous for their "bull jumping" ceremonies, and the Konso, with their intricate funerary traditions.

This itinerary can be combined with our "Historical Ethiopia" tour (page 150).



Karo tribe of the Omo River © Anne-Marie Zambelli

Day 1 Addis Ababa

Arrival transfer to the Golden Tulip Hotel which offers 90 modern ensuite rooms, a restaurant, bar and gym in the heart of Addis Ababa's vibrant business district.

Day 2 Arba Minch

Fly to Arba Minch, and check into Paradise Lodge, which offers comfortably furnished guest chalets, a restaurant, bar, pool and spa. Arba Minch means "forty springs", as there are various natural springs found in the area. After settling in, enjoy a boat ride on Lake Chamo and visit the so called "crocodile market", which is not actually a market, but a place where large numbers of crocodiles and pelicans gather. BLD

Days 3/4 Turmi

Drive to Turmi (125 km) via Konso, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its terraced hillsides and intricately carved totems, which locals use to decorate graves. This destination is a spectacular example of living cultural tradition that stretches back over 400 years. On Day 4, venture to Murulle to meet the lively Karo tribe, whose people use ornate face and body art, elaborate headdresses and scarification to emphasise beauty and status. In the afternoon, travel to Omoratte to enjoy interactions with the Geleb (Dassenech), pastoralists who celebrate a woman's upcoming marriage with a long, drawn out ceremony where the entire tribe is invited to dress up in their finest clothing, dance and feast on slaughtered cattle. Overnight at the cheerful, well-designed Buska Lodge or similar. BLD

Days 5/6 Jinka

Drive to Jinka, stopping to interact with the Tsemay, agro-pastoralists whose young boys partake in a curious rite of passage known as "bull jumping". On Day 6, enter Mago National Park to visit the fascinating Mursi, who live in low-slung straw huts. Mursi women are well known for wearing clay plates in their lower lips and earlobes. The larger the lip plate, the greater a woman's value is when she is married. Mursi men are famed for their elaborate hairstyles and fierce dispositions, taking part in ritualistic battles that can last for days. Your accommodation is at the unique Eco-Omo Lodge, which features 20

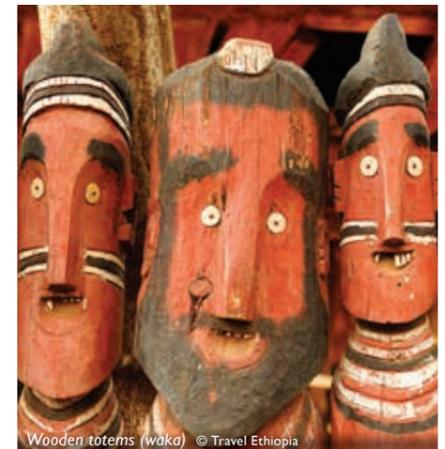
safari-style tented suites set close to the edge of the Neri River. BLD

Day 7 Addis Ababa

This morning transfer to the airport and fly to Addis Ababa. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight at the Golden Tulip Hotel. B

Day 8 Tour ends

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight. B



Wooden totems (waka) © Travel Ethiopia



Tribal beauties © Anne-Marie Zambelli