

15 Days Tour of Ethiopia

Historic Route – Includes Southern Ethiopia

(Please see the activities of the day in green)

February 14th February 2019 - Arrival in Addis Ababa



Depart from home city and arrive in Addis Ababa. Upon arrival at Bole International Airport, you will be welcomed and assisted by a Jacaranda staff then transferred to your hotel.

The name of the city, in Amharic, means “new flower”. Founded in 1886 by Menelik II, it is located at 2,500 meters above sea level in one of the highest parts of the Entoto mountain chain (3,000 meters above sea level). It enjoys an excellent climate all year round, with an average temperature of 25°C. Addis Ababa is a pleasant city with wide avenues of jacaranda trees, interesting museums and one of the largest open air markets in Africa, known as the “Mercato”. It also has a good number of restaurants and discotheques.

Depending on your arrival time we shall have a half day city tour of Haile Selassie’s former palace which is now the home of the Ethnological Museum. An exhibit here represents the best of the arts and crafts of the country and gives an in-depth insight into the various peoples of Ethiopia.

Next is a visit to the National Museum, known to be the best museum in Africa, where cultural and archaeological relics, including a plaster cast of "Lucy," the 3.2 million-year-old Hominid, are displayed.

*Overnight stay at Jupiter International hotel (B, L, D)

February 15th: Flight Addis Ababa-Gondar (Morning Flight)



After breakfast, you will catch your flight to Gondar. Gondar was the first capital city of the Ethiopian empire, which began in 1632 with the reign of Fasilidas. In Gondar, there are a dozen castles built by various emperors over the course of 236 years. The city seems more European than African and also has Islamic influences. After lunch, we visit the church of Debre Berhan Selassie (Light of the Trinity), which is located at the summit of a hill and surrounded by fortified walls. The interior is decorated with beautiful frescos

*Overnight stay at Goha Hotel (B, L, D)

February 16th: Gondar



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After breakfast we will have a city tour of Gondar to visit the palaces, residences and baths of Fasilidas.

*Overnight stay: Goha Hotel. (B, L, D)

February 17th: Addis Ababa-Connect flight to Harar (Fly)

After lunch in Gondar, you shall catch your flight to Addis Ababa. Upon arrival you will connect your flight to Dire Dawa and then continue your drive to Harar.

*Overnight stay: Heritage Hotel. (B, L, D)

February 18th: Harar



Harar is unique within Ethiopia; the combination of countless mosques and shrines, busy market places, coffee-scented streets, crumbling walls and charming people - probably the most colorful in Ethiopia, remind one of a bygone era. It is more reminiscent of Fez in Morocco than it is of any other Ethiopian city. The main attraction of the Harar is the walled city of Jegol, which lies at the center of the city.

The whole day is dedicated to a city tour of Harar. You will get to visit the house where Poet Rimbaud lived. Harar was the poet's favorite city and he established quarters there in order to trade in arms destined for Emperor Menelik.

In the evening, you will see the renowned 'Hyena men'

*Overnight stay: Heritage hotel (B, L, D)

February 19th: Drive to Awash National Park (Drive- 326 km; approx. 5-6 hrs)



Today you drive to **Awash National Park**. Awash National Park is located 225 km east of Addis Ababa, the Park stretches 30km east to west and a little less from north to south. The terrain is mainly acacia woodland and grassland. The Park itself is traversed by a series of well-maintained tracks, which take in the most spectacular of the many scenic attractions. To the north at Filwoha lies the hot spring oasis in its groves of palm trees. It is reached by either one of two scenic tracks which start opposite the main gate on the far side of the road and bearing right, progress either along the floor of the Awash Falls lower Valley or along the top of the ridge. The Awash River gorge in the south of the park has some spectacular waterfalls near the park headquarters.

*Overnight stay: Awash Falls lodge (B, L, D)

February 20th: Drive to Bale Mountains (235Km)

In the morning you will drive to the **Bale Mountains National Park** where fertile land is cultivated by the Oromo people.

We shall arrive at Dinsho (Park Head Quarters) and in the afternoon you shall spot a few endemic birds then continue our drive to Goba for the night.

*Overnight stay: Wabi Shebelle (B, L, D)

February 21th: Bale Mountains-Sanettie Plateau-Bale Mountains (Drive- 60*2 km; approx 3-4 hrs)



After an early breakfast we shall drive through Harena forest and past Mount Tullu Deemtu, the second highest mountain in the country with an altitude of 4377 meters, to Sanetti Plateau. Here you may spot several endemic flora and fauna species including the illusive Ethiopian Wolf (Simien Fox) and indigenous plants like the giant Lobelia and giant heath.

*Overnight stay at Wabi Shebelle (B, L, D)

February 22nd: Drive Langano (128km)

In the morning you shall continue your drive to Langano.

The Lake Langano area considered to be a popular resort area with splendid beach dotted with acacia trees, pinkish volcanic water ideal for swimming.

Time permitting; you will visit the twin lakes in Lake Abiata-Shalla National Park, famous for flocks of flamingos and great white pelicans.

Overnight stay in Sabanna Beach resort. (B, L, D)

February 23rd: Drive Arbaminch (220Km)



Upon arrival, **you will visit the Dorze tribe and their village** (Drive – 30 km), famed for their beehive shaped houses and their weaving skills. Weaving is a primary profession for many Dorze. They are also farmers, who prevent soil erosion by ingenious terracing of the mountainsides. Around their huts they have their own little garden with vegetables, spices, tobacco and Enset (false-banana).

Overnight stay at: Paradise Lodge (B, L, D)

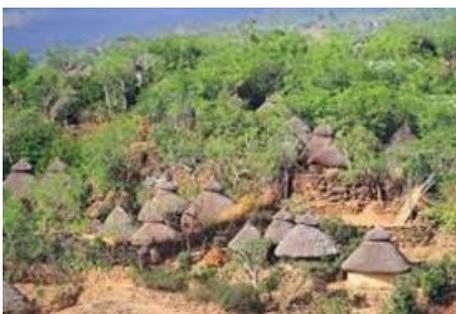
February 24th: Arbaminch.



After having breakfast we shall have a boat trip on Lake Chamo where one can spot Hippos and giant crocodile. And also **we will be visiting the National Park.**

Overnight stay at Paradise Lodge (B, L, D)

February 25th: Arbaminch- Konso-Jinka (290km; approx. 7hr)



We will continue to Jinka, through the lands of the Tsemay and Benna people. Along the way, **we shall visit Konso village tribal village**, who managed to develop a highly specialized agriculture economy and, in the process, one of Africa's most fascinating culture.

Overnight Eco-Omo lodge (B, L, D)

February 26th: Jinka-Mursi-Turmi(160 km, approx. 2hrs drive)



Jinka is the nearest town set in the hills above Mago National Park. **The excursion will escort you to see widespread custom of half naked Mursi women**, the insertion of wooden and terra-cotta discs into the ear lobes, the split and stretching of their lower lips to make room for similar discs. Though these 'lip plates' may appear bizarre to outsiders, the Mursi regard them as signs of beauty. Generally speaking, the larger the lip plate the more desirable the wearer. After lunch we will drive to Turmi. On our way we will **visit the Dimeka Market**, which is one of the most colorful markets in the area and is visited by many tribes, including Hammer, Benna and Karo

Overnight stay at: Buska Lodge. (B, L, D)

February 27th: Turmi - Karo (Drive- 140 km; approximately 3Hrs) Arbaminch (443 km approx. 7 hrs drive) Addis Ababa



On this day we **will drive to Koricho**, a settlement for the Karo ethnic groups, perhaps the most beautiful, with its lofty views over the Omo River and traditional Karo dwelling. They are experts in body painting, using clay and locally available vegetable pigments to trace fantastic pattern on each face, chest, arm and leg. Karo men also sculpt and shave their hair into extravagant shapes topped off with several ostrich feathers. You continue your drive to Arbaminch where you will catch your flight to Addis Ababa.

You will have a farewell dinner in a traditional restaurant being dropped to Bole International Airport by a Jacaranda staff to catch your flight home. (BLD)

COST Sharing a double twin room is £2,895.00 per person covers all inclusive of everything in Ethiopia including internal flights for full 15 days on trip SINGLE SUPPLEMENT is £795. Excludes international flights

Domestic Flights included in the above package price \$267 USD if clients use ET for international flight (ticket number starting with 071) \$687 USD if Clients use other airlines for the international sector

The price includes: Full board Accommodation, one bottle of water with each meal all entrance fees, local guide fees, scout, boat fees, village fees, all transfers and ground transportation and government tax.

The price does not include: Visa fee, Porter fee, and other personal expense and international flights

The trip will be conducted by an English speaking guide(tour leader) and a local guide in each location.