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**DFD-02-2011: Exploring the Historic Route****Duration= 15 days/ 14 nights****Route= Historic Route with Simien Mountains and Tigray Rock Hewn churches- Full drive****Transportation:- Bus**

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Month	Tour Dates	4-10pax	2-3pax	Single room supplement
<b>Jan</b>	Jan15-Jan29,2011; ( <i>Timket festival in Gondar</i> ) Jan30-Feb13,2011	USD 3,037	USD 3,885	USD 656
<b>Mar</b>	Mar23-Arp06,2011	USD 3,037	USD 3,885	USD 656
<b>Apr</b>	Apr10-Apr24,2011 ( <i>Palm Sunday festival in Axum</i> )	USD 2,704	USD 3,459	USD 584
<b>May</b>	May18-Jun01,2011	USD 2,704	USD 3,459	USD 584
<b>Jul</b>	Jul27-Aug10,2011	USD 2,842	USD 3,636	USD 614
<b>Sep</b>	Sep26-Oct10,2011 ( <i>Meskel festival in Addis Ababa</i> )	USD 2,842	USD 3,636	USD 614
<b>Nov</b>	Nov23,- Dec07,2011 ( <i>St Marry Axum Zion Festival in Axum</i> )	USD 2,956	USD 3,781	USD 639
<b>Dec</b>	Dec 11- Dec 25,2011	USD 2,956	USD 3,781	USD 639

## Itinerary

This well paced itinerary enables you discover almost all the historical attractions of the northern Ethiopia. It offers a relaxed visit of the churches of Lalibela- the major attraction.

As you drive from one spot to the other, you can also visit the attractive countryside and interact with the local people and see their way of life.

### Day 1 - Arrival

Arrive at Addis Ababa, be met by your guide at the air port and transfer-in to hotel.  
O/N - Global or similar (4\*)

### Day 2 - Addis - Debre Markos

Drive from Addis to Debre Markos visiting the remarkable Blue Nile Gorge that is comparable in scale with the American 'Grand Canyon', and the largest monastery in Ethiopia - Debre Libanos Monastery (13<sup>th</sup> Century AD) where you can visit the mosaics by the most famous Ethiopian Artist Afework Tekle.

O/N - Shebel Hotel (B,L,D)

### **Day 3 - Debre Markos - Bahir Dar**

In the morning, drive from Debre Markos to Bahir Dar and in the afternoon drive 32 km south of Bahir Dar to the remarkable Blue Nile Falls, and visit the cultural market of Bahir Dar. Late in the afternoon, drive 7 km to the Bezawit Hill to have a panoramic view of the town of Bahir Dar, Lake Tana and the outlet of River Nile from its source.

O/N - Tana or similar Hotel(B,L,D)

### **Day 4 - Bahir Dar - Gondar**

In the morning make a boat trip on Ethiopia's largest water body (Lake Tana - 3,600Km Sq) to visit the island monasteries of Ura Kidane Mihret (16<sup>th</sup> Century AD) and Azwa Mariam (16<sup>th</sup> Century AD). These monasteries are famous for their colorful murals and collection of manuscripts. After lunch, drive 185 Km North of Bahir Dar to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century capital of Ethiopia - Gondar.

O/N - Goha or similar Hotel(B,L,D)

### **Day 5 - Gondar**

Full day visit of Gondar which includes visiting the Imperial Castle Compound of Gondar (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the 'Bath of Emperor Fasiladas', the church of Quskuam Mariam (17<sup>th</sup> century AD), the residence of Empress Mintwab, and the church of Debre Birhan Sillassie which is famous for its wall and ceiling paintings.

O/N - Goha or similar Hotel(B,L,D)

### **Day 6 - Gondar - Simien Mountains NP**

Drive from Gondar to Debark (the headquarter of the Simien Mountain National Park), and after check-in to hotel at Debark drive 36 km farther to the Simien Mountains (UNESCO World Heritage Site) to visit the endemic mammal of Ethiopia - the Gelada Baboon, and the breathtaking scenery of the Simien Mountains.

O/N - Simien Lodge (B, L,D)

### **Day 7 - Simien Mountains NP- Axum**

Drive to Axum - the earliest Capital of Ethiopia, crossing the Tekezze Gorge.

O/N - Remhai or similar Hotel (B,L,D)

### **Day 8 - Axum**

Visit of Axum which is known for its huge stele cut from granite stones. The visit includes, the Archaeological museum of Axum, the famous stele park (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the church of St. Mary of Zion which is believed to be the last resting place of the original Ark of the Covenant, the palace and tomb of King Kaleb and Gebre Meskel (6<sup>th</sup> Century AD), and the ruin palace of the Queen of Sheba (9<sup>th</sup> Century BC).

O/N - Remahai or similar Hotel(B,L,D)

### **Day 9 - Axum - Adigrat**

Drive from Axum to Adigrat visiting the Yeha Temple (5<sup>th</sup> Century BC), and Debre Damo Monastery (5<sup>th</sup> Century AD), which is allowed only for male visitors and accessible only by using rope.

O/N - Hohoma or similar Hotel (B,L,D)

### **Day 10 - Adigrat - Mekelle**

Drive from Adigrat to Mekelle visiting the rock-hewn churches of Abreha Atsbeha (10<sup>th</sup> Century AD) and Wukro Cherqos (10<sup>th</sup> Century AD).

O/N - Axum or similar Hotel(B,L,D)

### **Day 11 - Mekelle - Lalibela**

Drive from Mekelle to Lalibela (home of the incredible hand carved 12<sup>th</sup> century rock churches of King Lalibela) through the scenic Wollo Mountains visiting the Amhara people.

O/N - Jerusalem or similar Hotel(B,L,D)

### **Day 12 - Lalibela**

Visit of the rock-hewn churches of King Lalibela, which are unofficially regarded as 'the eighth wonder of the world'. In the morning, visit six churches that are grouped as first group of churches and in the afternoon visit the second and the third group of churches of Lalibela. These churches are Ethiopia's top tourist attractions and are registered as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

O/N - Jerusalem or similar Hotel(B,L,D)

### **Day 13 - Lalibela**

In the morning, make a mule back ride to the hill top semi monolithic church of Asheton Mariam (13<sup>th</sup> Century AD). The peak of the hill offers a wonderful viewpoint to have a bird eye view of the surrounding area including the town of Lalibela, and in the afternoon enjoy a typical Ethiopian coffee ceremony.

O/N - Jerusalem or similar Hotel(B,L,D)

### **Day 14 - Lalibela - Dessie**

Drive from Lalibela to Dessie enjoying the breathtaking scenery of the Wollo Mountains.

O/N -Tossa or similar Pension (B, L, D)

### **Day 15 - Dessie - Addis**

Drive back to Addis. In the evening before departure, you will be invited a farewell dinner party at one of the best traditional restaurants in Addis where you taste variety of Ethiopian meals, and watch the folkloric dances of the Ethiopian people.

Departure (B,L,D)

**Price inclusive of:-**

- Accommodation on a twin room sharing basis
- All meals out of Addis, and only breakfast in Addis
- All entrance fees
- Airport Transfers
- Mule hire
- Boat rent at Lake Tana
- All ground transportations with fuel, and insurance
- Professional English speaking guide
- Portage fees
- All local guides
- Scouts

**Price exclusive of: -**

- International airfare
- Lunch and dinner in Addis
- Any alcoholic drinks
- Personal expense like souvenirs, laundry, etc
- Tips
- Any expense which is not stated in the 'Included List' above