
DFD-05-2011: The Best of Ethiopia**Duration= 18 days/17nights****Route = Historic route and Omo valley tribes****Transportation:- Bus in the north and 4x4 vehicles in the south**

Month	Tour Dates	4-10pax	2-3pax	Single room supplement
Jan	Jan 2 – Jan 20,2011 Christmas (Gena) festival in Lalibela and Timket festival in Addis Ababa	USD 4,308	USD 5,021	USD 712
Mar	Mar20 – Apr06, 2011	USD 4,308	USD 5,021	USD 712
May	May01- May18,2011	USD 3,835	USD 4,470	USD 634
Jun	Jun12-Jun29,2011	USD 3,835	USD 4,470	USD 634
Jul	Jul10-Jul27, 2011	USD 4,032	USD 4,699	USD 667
Aug	Aug14-Aug31,2011	USD 4,032	USD 4,699	USD 667
Sep	Sep 26-Oct13,2011 (Meskel festival in Addis Ababa)	USD 4,032	USD 4,699	USD 667
Oct	Oct 23- Nov09,2011	USD 4,193	USD 4,887	USD 693
Nov	Nov25- Dec12,2011 (St Marry Axum Zion Festival in Axum)	USD 4,193	USD 4,887	USD 693

Domestic airfare (subject to change)**USD 190 per person if flying with Ethiopian airlines in the International flight****USD 542 per person if flying with other carrier in the International flight**

Itinerary

Day 1 –Arrival + Addis

Be welcomed by your guide on arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, and transfer in to your hotel.

O/N – Global or similar 4* Hotel

Day 2 –Addis – Bahir Dar

Fly from Addis to Bahir Dar and visit the Blue Nile Falls before lunch. In the afternoon, have a boat trip on Ethiopia's largest water body - Lake Tana (3,600 Km Sq) to visit the island monasteries of Ura Kidane Mihret (14th Century AD) and Azwa Mariam (14th Century AD).

O/N – Tana or similar Hotel

Day 3 –Bahir Dar – Gondar

Drive from Bahir Dar to Gondar - the 17th century capital of Ethiopia. In the afternoon, visit the Imperial Castle Compound of Gondar (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the 'Bath of Emperor Fasiladas', the church of Quskuam Mariam (17th 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 4 –Gondar – Simein Mountains National Park

Drive from Gondar to Debarq (the headquarter of the Simien Mountain National Park), and after check-in to hotel at Debarq 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 5 –Simein Mountains National Park – Axum

Drive to Axum - the earliest Capital of Ethiopia, crossing the Tekezze Gorge.
O/N - Remhai or similar Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 6 –Axum

Have a sightseeing tour of Axum which includes visiting 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 (6th Century AD), and the ruin palace of the Queen of Sheba (9th Century BC).
O/N – Remahai or similar Hotel

Day 7 –Axum – Lalibela

In the morning, fly to Lalibela – home of the 12th century AD rock hewn churches of King Lalibela. And in the afternoon, visit the second and the third group of churches of King Lalibela (UNESCO World Heritage Site).
O/N – Jerusalem or similar Hotel

Day 8 –Lalibela

In the morning, mule back ride to the hill top semi monolithic church of Asheton Mariam (13th century AD). Getting to the top of the hill rewards with great and unforgettable scenery of the area. In the afternoon, visit the remaining second and the third group of the churches of Lalibela.
O/N – Jerusalem or similar Hotel

Day 9 –Lalibela – Addis – Langano

Fly back to Addis and drive 200 km south of Addis to the Rift Valley region visiting the chains of Rift Valley Lakes of Ziway, Langano, Abiyatta and Shalla. Spot various birds at Lake Ziway, and enjoy swimming at Lake Langano.
O/N – Sabana Beach Resort

Day 10 - Langano - Arba Minch

Drive 300 km south to Arba Minch the Alaba, the Wolita and the Dorze people on your way.
O/N – Paradise Lodge

Day 11 - Arba Minch

Morning visit of the Nech Sar National Park to see mammals like the Burchil's Zebra, Greater Kudu, and the endemic Swain's Hartebeest. In the afternoon, have a remarkable boat trip on the Rift Valley Lake of Chamo to visit the 'Crocodile Market' where you can visit display of big African Crocodiles, hippos, and various low land water birds.
O/N – Paradise Lodge

Day 12 - Arba Minch - Key Afer Market - Jinka

Drive from Arba Minch to Jinka and make a stop at Key Afer to visit the colorful weekly market where the Ari, the Tsemai, and the Benna people meet.

O/N - Jinka Resort Hotel

Day 13 - Jinka - Mago National Park - Jinka

Make an excursion trip to Mago National Park. Visit the most famous people of the Omo Valley - the Mursi people, whose women are typically known for their clay lip plates they insert in their lower lips. Then, drive back to Jinka, and visit the cultural museum of the Omo people.

O/N - Jinka Resort Hotel

Day 14 - Jinka – Dimeka Market - Turmi

Drive from Jinka to Dimeka to visit the weekly market of the Hamar people. Then, drive to Turmi for Overnight. Around Turmi, visit the cultural village of the Hamar people. The Hamar people are famous for their typical hair dressings which the women decorate with red soil and butter.

O/N – Buska Lodge

Day 15 - Turmi - Omorate - Turmi

Make excursion trip to Omorate, cross the Omo River by boat, to visit the Dasenech people who are known for their body scarification. In the afternoon, have a leisure time in Turmi.

O/N – Buska Lodge

Day 16 - Turmi - Konso - Yabello

Drive from Turmi to Yabello visiting the Erbore people and the Konso people.

O/N - Yabello Motel

Day 17 - Yabello - Awassa

Drive from Yabello to Awassa visiting the nomadic Borena people, and the Sidama people who are noted for their cultivation of False Banana (*Enset*). On your way visit the coffee plantations around Yirga Chefe where one of Ethiopia's most flavored coffee beans grow. In the later afternoon, enjoy bird watching and the sun set over the Rift Valley Lake of Awassa.

O/N - Wabe Shebele Hotel

Day 18 - Awassa - Addis

In the morning, drive to the shore of the lake and visit the 'Fish Market' at Lake Awassa. Then, drive 273 km north to Addis. In the afternoon, have a half-day city tour of Addis, which includes visiting the National Archaeological Museum, Merkato - the largest open air market in Africa, and driving to Mt. Entoto for the panoramic view of the capital.

In the evening before departure, you will be invited a fare well 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

Price inclusive of:-

- Accommodation on a twin room sharing basis
- All meals out of Addis, and only breakfast in Addis
- All entrance fees
- All transfer in and out services

- All ground transportation
- Professional English speaking guide
- Portage fees
- All local guides
- Scout fees
- Boat hire on lake Chamo
- Government tax

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