

World Heritage and Adventure Tour through Ethiopia



This wonderful tour gives you the best impressions of Ethiopia. It starts in the capital Addis Ababa and brings you to some wonderful places like Lake Tana, the Blue Nile Falls, the castles of Gondar, and the rock hewn churches of Lalibela. More highlights of the tour will be a trekking trip on an altitude of 4000 m through the Simien Mountains National Park, visiting an active lava lake and getting to know the colorful tribes of Southern Ethiopia.

BARCLAY  **STENNER**
Luxury Safari Expeditions

18 days world heritage and adventure tour through Ethiopia (October 2019)
Addis Ababa - Bahir Dar - Gondar – Simien Nationalpark – Axum – Lalibela –
Danakil – Arbaminch – Turmi – Bale - Dire Dawa – Harar

Day 1 – Tuesday, October 8th, 2019

Arrival and city tour Addis Ababa

If you take the flight with Ethiopian Airlines, we will pick you up at Bole International Airport at 6 am in the morning and take you to the hotel for refreshing.

Discover the biggest city of Ethiopia and spend a full day in the capital. A visit to Merkato, the biggest open air market in Africa, is a must. After that, the local guide will take you to the next stop which will be the National Museum where you can visit Lucy, the oldest hominid found in Ethiopia, also called cradle of mankind. We will have lunch at Taitu Hotel, the oldest hotel of Addis Ababa. Also we will visit Selassie Church, the oldest coffee shop Tomoka and a pottery which is run by a women’s association. Spend the night at Radisson Blue Hotel or Sheraton Hotel.

Day 2 – Wednesday, October 9th, 2019

From Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar

Take the domestic flight with Ethiopian Airlines in the morning from Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar. Our local guide will pick you up at the airport and after a quick stop at the hotel we will head out by boat to the various islands of Lake Tana to visit different Ethiopian Orthodox Churches and Monasteries with beautiful wall paintings. The islands and peninsulas of Lake Tana collectively host more than 20 monastic churches, many of which were founded in the 14th century. On Zege peninsula we will visit the monasteries Ura Kidane Mihret and Bete Mariam. We will have the opportunity to talk to local priests as well as coffee farmers who are taking care of wild coffee plantations and will celebrate with us a traditional coffee ceremony. Spend the night at Kuriftu Lodge.

Day 3 – Thursday, October 10th, 2019

Bahir Dar and around

After a relaxed breakfast we will visit the Blue Nile Waterfalls. The Blue Nile has its spring in the mountains around Bahir Dar and flows through Lake Tana first towards Addis Ababa and then to the West towards Sudan where it combines with the White Nile to become the famous Nile River flowing through Egypt. The Blue Nile Falls are the biggest water falls in Ethiopia and also the short hike to the viewpoint is great. Don’t be shy and get close to the water in order to enjoy the spindrift of the water; it will cool you down on a hot day. Take as much time as you need at the falls and enjoy a cup of coffee.

In the afternoon we will explore the town of Bahir Dar a bit, walk along Lake Tana and visit a local market. Spend the night at Kuriftu Lodge.

Day 4 – Friday, October 11th, 2019

From Bahir Dar via Gondar to Simien Mountains National Park

Enjoy the landscape during the easy drive from Bahir Dar to Gondar. A relaxed start after breakfast is sufficient for this 3 hrs ride. In Gondar you will visit King Fasil’s Castle and Bath which was built in the 17th century. You will easily understand why Gondar has been called the Camelot of Ethiopia. A visit to Selassie Church is absolutely recommended. No other church has such beautiful and well preserved wall paintings that tell you a lot about Ethiopian Christianity. We continue our drive towards the Simien Mountains National Park. Spend the night at Limalimo Lodge.



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Day 5 – Saturday, October 12th, 2019

Simien Mountains National Park

We will enjoy the Simien Mountains National Park which is part of the UNESCO world nature heritage. The landscape is beautiful and inviting us to take a walk around the area to watch some of the endemic Gelada Baboons. Try to spot the mark on their chests that look like an hour-glass. Gelada Baboons are the only baboons in the world that have such a mark on their chest instead of the butt although it serves of course the same reason of attracting the female Geladas. The reason is that they are sitting all day to graze and eat so a mark on their butt would not be seen. We will pass by the river Koba onto the platform called Michotis. In the Gorge of Geech we will see one of the highest waterfalls of the park. Spend the night at Limalimo Lodge.



Day 6 – Sunday, October 13th, 2019

Simien Mountains National Park

We will drive deeper into the park to reach Immet Gogo, the most superb view point in the Simien Mountains National Park – we can guarantee you that you will be speechless! This peak is a good area to look for Lammergeyer as well. The more you get closer to Chenek, you should be able to spot another animal that is indigenous to this area: the massive Walia Ibex, a type of goat. Spend the night at Limalimo Lodge.



Day 7 – Monday, October 14th, 2019

From Simien Mountains via Gondar to Axum

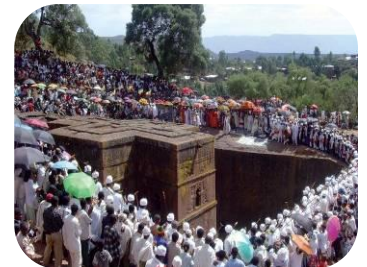
We are leaving the roof top of Africa and head back to Gondar where we will take the domestic flight with Ethiopian Airlines from Gondar to the ancient town of Axum all the way up North close to the border to Eritrea in the afternoon. Spend the night in Axum at Sabean International Hotel or Armah Hotel.



Day 8 – Tuesday, October 15th, 2019

Axum

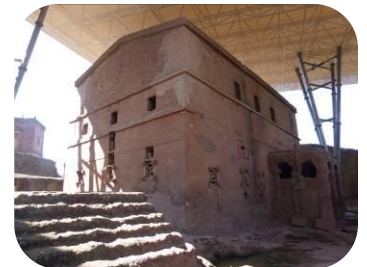
In the afternoon we will visit the former capital of the kingdom of Axum with its important churches, monuments, tombs and stelae. The town was founded around 2000 years ago. Legend says and all Ethiopians believe it passionately that the Holy Ark of the Covenant still resides in Axum in St. Mary of Zion Church. High civilization started to rise here as early as 400 BC and for close to 1,000 years, Axum dominated the lively trade between Africa and Asia and the kingdom numbered among the ancient world's greatest states. Spend the night in Axum at Sabean International Hotel or Armah Hotel.



Day 9 – Wednesday, October 16th, 2019

From Axum to Lalibela

You will take the domestic flight with Ethiopian Airlines from Axum to Lalibela before noon. In the afternoon we will visit the market and town of Lalibela. Spend the night at Sora Lodge or Mountain View Hotel.



Day 10 – Thursday, October 15th, 2019

Lalibela and around

Lalibela is famous for its eleven rock hewn churches that were built by King Lalibela in the 11th century. This town is very small and all of these churches can be reached on foot very easily. Our local guide will take care of you to show you the many hidden treasures that can be found while walking through these amazing monolithic churches that are also part of the World Heritage List. One restaurant should not be missed in Lalibela, the Ben Abeba restaurant which is located at the edge of the mountains providing the guests to look over a beautiful mountain range while enjoying the finest food that Lalibela has to offer. Spend the night at Sora Lodge or Mountain View Hotel.

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Day 11 – Friday, October 18th, 2019

From Lalibela to Danakil

Before noon we will take a private charter flight from Lalibela into Afar Region to Danakil Depression. Our private camp will be set up in Hamedela. Around Hamedela we will visit the salt lakes and experience the locals during their salt mining. Caravans with uncountable camels are transporting the salt out of the Danakil all the way to Mekele. We will pass by Ragad (Asebo), the place where the salts are mined. Observe the breaking of the salt from the ground, cutting into rectangular pieces and loading on camels. Spend the night camping in Hamedela.



Day 12 – Saturday, October 19th, 2019

From Danakil to Arbaminch

The area around Hamedela is one of the most inhospitable regions of the world, but is nonetheless spectacular, full of eye-catching colours, as in the sulphur springs. The desert has several points lying more than 100 m below sea level. In the early morning you drive ahead to Dallol and visit the different landscapes formed by volcanic activity, Dallol and Lake Assal. Dallol lies 116 m.b.s.l and feels like walking on the moon.



We will then take a private charter flight from Hamedela all the way to Arbaminch, the entrance town of the South Omo Valley. Enjoy the view from the top on the two lakes around Arbaminch as well as Nechisar National Park. In the afternoon, you will drive from Arbaminch to the close by village called Chench, the village of the Dorze people. In the Dorze village you will get the possibility to experience the traditional way of life of the Dorze people including special food, different architecture (bamboo elephant houses), weaving, a coffee ceremony, traditional alcohol, and you can take part in traditional dances yourself (it's a lot of fun and a few shots of Arake before help to get ready). Don't be shy and shake your booty to the Dorze rhythms. Mondays is also market day in Chench.



We drive back to Arbaminch and spend the night at Paradise Lodge.



Day 13 – Sunday, October 20th, 2019

From Arbaminch to Turmi (Murale)

Take the private charter flight from Arbaminch to Turmi. In the early evening you can visit a village of the Hamar people around Turmi. They are one of the most known tribes in Southern Ethiopia and amount to about 40,000 people. They inhabit the territory east of the Omo River and have villages around Turmi and Dimeka. Tourists visit the Hammer hoping to see a traditional leaping ceremony, which is the jumping over bulls, an initiation ceremony for young men. The Hammer are cattle herders and practice agriculture. Very colorful bracelets and beads are worn in their hair and around their waists and arms. The practice of body modification is used by cutting themselves and packing the wound with ash and charcoal.



Some of the women wear circular wedge necklaces indicating that they are married. If you are lucky an initiation ceremony for a young Hammer man takes place. The traditional bull jumping is a rite of passage for men coming of age. The event last three days and involves only castrated cattle. The man must jump over a line of usually seven bulls four times completely nude without falling. If this task is complete, the man joins the ranks of the Maza. Maza are men that have successfully completed the bull jumping event. During this ceremony, the women of the tribe provoke the maza to whip them on their bare backs. This is extremely painful and causes severe scarring on the women. The scars are a symbol of devotion to the men and are encouraged by the tribe. Night dancing called evangadi is also a Hammer tradition and very worth experiencing.



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During your tour through the South Omo Valley we will find out whether celebrations like the bull jumping ceremony or the evangadi dance take place. Although chances are usually good to see at least one of the ceremonies, these events cannot be guaranteed. Spend the night in Turmi at Buska Lodge.

Day 14 – Monday, October 21st, 2019

Turmi and around and flight to Bale

In the morning, you will drive closer to the Omo River to visit the very friendly Karo tribe. The Karo is a small tribe with an estimated population between 1,000 and 3,000. They live along the east banks of the Omo River and practice flood retreat cultivation. The crops that are grown by them are sorghum, maize and beans. Like many of the tribes in the Omo, they paint their bodies and faces with white chalk to prepare for a ceremony. The chalk is mixed with yellow rock, red iron ore and charcoal to make its color. Face masks are worn at times and they have clay hair buns with feathers in them. Red clay mixed with butter is put into their hair and clothing is made from animal skin. The women scar their chest believing it makes them beautiful. The men's scars represent that an enemy or dangerous animal has been killed. They also wear clay hair buns which symbolize a kill. A man in the tribe can have as many wives as he wants, but must be able to afford them. Most men will only marry two or three.

In the early afternoon, you will take a private charter flight from the close by village called Murale to Bale Mountains National Park.

You will land in Goba and continue by car to drive through the Bale National Park. This area is famous for lots of mountain Nyalas, which are indigenous to the Bale Mountains. They will be easily spotted from the road side along with gazelles and plenty of warthogs. The Mountain Nyala was the last of the great African antelopes to become known to science. Still today very little is known about its habits or the full extent of its range. It was first collected by Major Ivor Buxton in 1908 and at that time seemed to be fairly widespread throughout the Arsi and Bale regions in south eastern Ethiopia. Large numbers of them lived at very high altitudes, between 3,000 and 4,000 m, in the mountain forests where it was cold and wet much of the time, until the pressure of the human population destroyed vast tracts of their forest habitat. There are white markings on the legs and two white spots on the face, a white chevron between the eyes. Nyala are similar to Greater Kudu but can be distinguished by the single spiral horns and the absence of clear white stripes on the body. Spend the night at Bale Mountains Lodge.

Day 15 – Tuesday, October 22nd, 2019

Bale Mountains National Park

After breakfast you will drive on the top of the Sanetti Plateau with an average elevation of 4,000 m. Walk around, enjoy the view and try to spot the Ethiopian Wolf. The Ethiopian Wolf, Simien Fox or also Simien Jackal is listed as endangered (EN) and stands on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It will be quite windy and cold up there, so take a warm jacket. Spend another night at the Bale Mountains Lodge.

Day 16 – Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019

From Bale via Dire Dawa to Harar

Take the private charter flight from Goba to Dire Dawa and continue by car to the close by town called Harar. In the evening you will have the opportunity to take part in one of the biggest adventures that Harar has to offer: feeding wild hyenas from very close by. Don't be shy and learn more about Harar's tradition of feeding hyenas in front of its city gates. Spend the night at a Cultural Harari Guesthouse.



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Day 17 – Thursday, October 24th, 2019

From Harar to Addis Ababa

You have a bit of time to explore the old town of Harar before you take the private charter flight from Dire Dawa back to Addis Ababa. Use the time in the afternoon to relax in the hotel, do last minute shopping or visit a social project. Spend the night at Radisson Blue Hotel or Sheraton Hotel.

Day 18 – Friday, October 25th, 2019

Addis Ababa and departure

We will drop you at Bole International Airport so that you can catch your international flight back home. The tour ends here.



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This offer includes:

- Accommodation in high class hotels in twin or double rooms
- Full Board except first and last nights in Addis Ababa
- English speaking tour coordinator and guides
- Transport in a Toyota Landcruiser and Van in all specific locations including English speaking driver and fuel
- Private charter flights as mentioned above including flight and landing permits. Private Charter flights are necessary for this kind of itinerary because it is the only opportunity to reach all destinations in time.
 - Lalibela – Danakil (Hamedela)
 - Danakil (Hamedela) – Arbaminch
 - Arbaminch – Turmi (Murale)
 - Turmi (Murale) - Goba (Bale Mountains)
 - Goba (Bale Mountains) – Dire Dawa
 - Dire Dawa – Addis Ababa
- Domestic flights with Ethiopian Airlines
 - Addis Ababa – Bahir Dar
 - Gondar – Axum
 - Axum - Lalibela
- All Entrances and fees for all tourist attractions described above
- All costs for logistics and security
- Governmental tax

This offer does NOT include:

- International flight to Ethiopia
- Costs for visa, vaccinations, travel insurance
- Personal expenditures for gifts, laundry, phone calls, photo fees, tip etc.
- Everything else that is not mentioned above



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A: Addis Ababa
 E: Axum
 I: Turmi

B: Bahir Dar
 F: Lalibela
 J: Bale Mountains

C: Gondar
 G: Danakil
 K: Dire Dawa

D: Simien Mountains
 H: Arbaminch
 L: Harar