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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AAT-1128

ETHIOPIA CULTURAL TOUR TO THE OMO VALLEY & HARAR

Duration: 14 Days / 13 Nights



Tour Highlights:

- Explore the fascinating cultures of the indigenous tribes of the Omo Valley in a modern, air-conditioned 4WD
- Visit the Karo, the Dorze, the Hamar, the Woito, the Konso, the Mursi, the Arbore, the Tsemay and the Gelab people in their villages
- Visit the old city of Harar, World Heritage site
- Get to know the traditional lifestyle, colorful dresses and strange rituals, like inserting clay plates in their lower lips, amazing hairstyles, body-painting or scaring
- Come close to giant crocodiles and hippos on Lake Chamo
- Shop the stalls of Mercato, the largest open-air market in Africa
- Traditional Ethiopian farewell dinner with “coffee ceremony” and traditional dances of the different ethnic groups.

Travel date:

Every day departure with a minimum of two participants.

AAT-1128	ETHIOPIA CULTURAL TOUR TO THE OMO VALLEY & HARAR	14 Days / 13 Nights Surface
<p>Day 1: Arrival in Addis Ababa WELCOME TO ETHIOPIA. On arrival in Addis Ababa our representative will meet you at Bole International Airport. After transfer to your hotel an overview of the program will be given. The rest of the day visit historical sites in Addis Ababa including the National Archaeological Museum, where the 3,6 million year old skeletal remains of “Lucy” rest, which were discovered in 1974. Proceed to the Ethnological Museum at Addis Ababa University, the Holy Trinity Cathedral and Mount Entoto, which rises up to an altitude of 3200 meters and offers a panoramic view of the metropolis. Overnight in 4-star hotel.</p> <hr/> <p>Day 2: Drive to Harar, ca. 8 h After breakfast drive to Harar. You will be driving through the Hararghe Mountains and will see plenty of coffee and ‘chat’ fields. The region is well known in growing one of the best qualities of coffee in the world. We arrive in Harar early in the afternoon. In the evening go to one of the gates of the Harar wall to see the Hyena Man.</p> <div data-bbox="1024 618 1402 871" data-label="Image"> </div> <hr/> <div data-bbox="188 965 561 1243" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Day 3: In Harar After breakfast you will visit the city wall, the gates and the narrow streets lined with traditional Hareri Gagar houses and the colorful Muslim and Christian markets (known for basketry). After lunch visit the Hareri museum, the Rimbaud House, a fine traditional house dating from the period when the French poet Rimbaud lived in Harar. Finally visit the traditional Hareri houses within the famous walled city.</p> <hr/> <p>Day 4: Drive to Nazareth, ca. 7h After breakfast leave Harar and drive to Nazareth. You will be driving through the magnificent landscape of the Hararghe Mountains and the Ethiopian Rift Valley. En route you see many chat plantations and typical farming scenes.</p> <hr/> <p>Day 5: Drive to Arba Minch Drive to Arba Minch via Wolayta Sodo through lush green hills and valleys. This drive takes us along some of the Rift Valley Lakes and we will stop shortly at Lake Ziway, best known for its birdlife. We arrive late in the afternoon in Arba Minch. Arba Minch - meaning 'Forty Springs' in Amharic - takes its name from the bubbling streams that cover the forest and the flats of the town.</p> <div data-bbox="1024 1431 1402 1718" data-label="Image"> </div> <hr/> <p>Day 6: Doze Village, Lake Chamo After breakfast visit the Dorze tribe and their village, famed for their bee hive 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 or musa ensete). In the afternoon take a boat trip on Lake Chamo, where you can spot many hippos and a most spectacular concentration of giant crocodiles. The water birds are great and the scenery is truly unforgettable. Locals fish here in traditional boats for Nile Perch.</p>		

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**14 Days / 13 Nights
Surface**

Day 7: Drive Jinka

After breakfast drive to Konso where you visit the Konso people, known for colorful dresses and unusually engraved wooden statues, used as grave markers. Continue along impressive land terracing to the village of the Woito people, near the Woito river. On the way to Jinka stop at the Key Afer Market (Thursday is market day), a tribal market, where different ethnic groups gather to sell and buy their agricultural products.



Day 8: Jinka – Mursi - Jinka - Turmi

After breakfast leave Jinka and drive to the Mursi village to visit and appreciate the very attractive culture of the Mursi tribe. They are renowned for the strange custom followed by their women who, on reaching maturity, have their lower lips slit and circular clay discs inserted. Then drive back to Jinka and continue to Turmi through Dimeka to visit the Hamer people and their village. Turmi is a small town, which is the base to visit the Hamer village.

Day 9: In Turmi

After breakfast drive to Karo village and visit the Karo people in the afternoon visit the Hamar village. Hamars have remarkable hairstyles made from ochre, water and binding resin. They rub the mixture into their hair then twist the strands repeatedly to create coppery-colored locks. This is a sign of wealth and welfare. Hamars are considered to be masters of body decoration.



Day 10: Turmi—Omorate excursion – Turmi

Morning drive to Omorate to visit the Gelab (Dassanech) tribe inhabiting the riverbanks of the Omo River. Cross the Omo River in a small boat and walk fifteen minutes to their village. The Gelabs are also known for their body painting. In the afternoon drive back to Turmi.

Day 11: Turmi—Yabello

Drive to Yabello visiting the Arbore and the Tsemay people en-route. After lunch stop at Konso, continue to the region of the Oromo Borena and visit their village.

Day 12: Excursion to Chew bet

After breakfast drive to Chew bet and visit how Borena People extract salt locally. Borana are well known in cattle rearing. From their deep 'singing well' they carry water to their cattle by forming a long line of people and passing on the buckets while singing.

Day 13: Lake Awassa



Today we drive to Awassa over the beautiful Sidamo mountains and coffee plantations. On the way, we stop at Wenago to visit the Tutu Fella stele field – an unusual collection of carved stones. We then continue to Lake Awassa, which is surrounded by mountains and populated by countless species of birds.

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<p>Day 14: Drive to Addis Ababa Morning visit of the fish market in Awassa, where local people buy fish from the fisher men. Then drive back to Addis along the Great Rift Valley lakes. En route we stop on the viewing points of Lake Shala, Abyta and Langano. Evening fare well dinner party in a traditional Ethiopian restaurant with dances from the different ethnic Groups. Afterwards transfer to the airport for departure.</p>		
<p><u>PRICE</u></p> <p>Price per person (on the basis of 2 travellers) = US \$ 2,986</p> <p>Price per person (on the basis of 3 travellers) = US \$ 2,500</p> <p>Single room supplement = US \$ 285</p>		
<p>Price includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special qualified guide as well as mandatory local guide and scout fees in parks and villages - 4-star hotel in Addis Ababa and the best available hotels outside of Addis Ababa - All accommodation based on twin room occupancy - Meals in Addis, on bed and breakfast basis - Meals out of Addis, on full board basis - Farewell dinner in Addis to enjoy traditional Ethiopian food and music - All entrance fees at parks and villages - All transfers according to the itinerary - All ground transportation including insurance, fuel and all costs of the driver - Boat trip - A traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony at a convenient time in the program - Government taxes <p>Price doesn't include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International flights - Lunch and Dinner in Addis Ababa - Any kind of drinks, alcoholic or non-alcoholic - Video filming and photographing fees - Incidental meals, snacks and drinks - Tips and items of personal nature like laundry, souvenirs, etc. - All what is not included in the list above 		