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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AAT-1132

TREKKING IN WESTERN ETHIOPIA AMONG THE SURMA PEOPLE

Duration: 13 Days / 12 Nights



Tour Highlights:

- Trek to the villages of the fascinating indigenous tribes of Western Ethiopia
- Visit the Nuer, the Anuak, the Dizi, the Menit, the Gurage and the Oromo and their villages
- Explore the rich culture of the Surma people which are well known for their stick fighting events and the wearing of lip plates
- Get to know the traditional lifestyle, colorful dresses and strange rituals, amazing hair-styles, body-painting or scaring
- Enjoy indigenous forest, savannah as well as tea, coffee and spice plantations
- Shop the stalls of Mercato, the largest open-air market in Africa
- Traditional Ethiopian farewell dinner with “coffee ceremony” and traditional dances of different ethnic groups.

Travel date:

Every day departure with a minimum of two participants.

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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, Mercato market 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.

Day 2: Addis Ababa—Jimma

On the way to Jimma we will visit the Gurage and Oromo people and their villages. On the way we cross the magnificent Gibe Gorge and the Gibe River. After lunch stop in Walkite continue to Jimma through coffee and chat plantations. Jimma was the capital of the former Keffa province and is now inhabited by Oromo, Kefecho and Kulo people.



Day 3: Jimma—Mizan Teferi

Drive 240 km to Mizan Teferi through Ethiopian indigenous forest. The people living in this area are Kefecho, Yem and Bench tribes. This place is famous for coffee, tea and spice growing.

Day 4: Mizan Teferi—Maji

Continue driving further to the west to Maji (190 km) through the Bebek coffee plantation, Ethiopia's largest and oldest coffee plantation. On the way visit the Menit tribe. After crossing the Akobo River the countryside changes to African Savanna grass land. After lunch stop in Dimma we continue driving to Maji. On the way visit the Dizi tribal village. Camping at Maji (2400 m)



Day 5: Trekking in Maji

Morning walk through the beautiful country side for about 3 hours to the spectacular Maji Falls. Return to Maji and arrange the trekking stuff and packing animals for the next day in the Surma territory. Camping at Maji

Day 6: Trek from Maji to Adikas

Today you start the 6-7 hours trek to Adikas, a little town and the best place to visit the Dizi people. Camping at Adikas

Day 7: Trek from Adikas to Kibish

Trek for 6-8 hours to Kibish. The challenge today is to cross the Yeker Demose peak. Camping at Kibish



Day 8: Trekking in Kibish

If there is any Donga (Stick fighting of the Surma people) in the morning, you will attend it. Otherwise you walk around the Kibish village and visit more Surma villages (14 km round trip). The Surma people are renowned for the strange custom followed by their women who, on reaching maturity, have their lower lips slit and clay discs inserted. The Surma men are well known for their stick fighting. Players are usually

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unmarried men. The winner is carried to a group of girls who decide among themselves which of them will ask for his hand in marriage. Camping at Kibish



Day 9: Kibish - Tulgit

Walk through the hills of the Surma territory for about 4-5 hours on the way to Tulgit, where we will meet the vehicles. Camping at Tulgit

Day 10: Drive Tulgit—Gambela

On the way to the interesting town of Gambela you drive through more coffee plantations. Near Gambela visit the Nuer and Anuak people who have very interesting cultures and lifestyles and decorate their body with paintings and ornaments.



Day 11: In Gambella

Spend the day wandering around the villages of the Nuer and Anuak people. Get to know their way of life, cultures and traditions.



Day 12: Nekemte

Proceed by gravel road to Nekemte, for 7-8 hours, through the Kaffa and Wellega regions, famous for their good coffee. Lunch box on the way.

Day 13: Addis Ababa

After breakfast drive through the Oromo and Gurage region back to Addis. Evening fare well dinner in a traditional Ethiopian restaurant with dances from different ethnic groups. Then transfer to the airport for departure.

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<p><u>PRICE</u></p> <p>Price per person (on the basis of 2 travellers) = US \$ 2,970</p> <p>Price per person (on the basis of 3 travellers) = US \$ 2,520</p> <p>Single room supplement = US \$ 180</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 - All camping gear, trekking staff and packing animals - 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 - 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 		