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AFRICAN ADVENTURE TOURS

Phone: +251 911 98 27 18

+251 115 52 43 54

Fax: +251 115 52 47 73

info@african-adventure-tours.com

www.african-adventure-tours.com

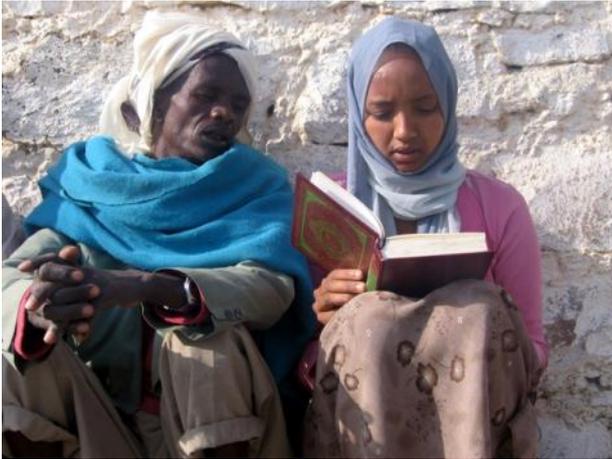
PO Box 59314

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AAT-1134

MUSLIM SHEIK HUSSEIN VILLAGE IN BALE MOUNTAINS

Duration: 9 Days / 8 Nights



Tour Highlights:

- Experience Ethiopia's Muslim roots, unchanged for hundreds of years
- Visit, like many other pilgrims, the holy Muslim cave system in Sof Omar, where each year the colorful Sheik Hussein Festival takes place
- Visit Harar, which is, with its over hundred mosques and shrines, an important Muslim centre
- Experience the traditional lifestyle and rich culture of the Muslim people in Ethiopia
- Traditional Ethiopian farewell dinner with "coffee ceremony"
- Best accommodations available in Ethiopia

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, the Grand Anuar Mosque 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: Drive to Bale Mountains

Full day's drive to Bale Mountains National Park, traveling through the southeast part of Ethiopia, where fertile land is cultivated by the Muslim Oromo people. We arrive at the park headquarters in Dinsho in the afternoon, in time for a walk around to see endemic mammals like Menelik's Bushbucks and Mountain Nyalas. Birds like Blue-winged Goose, Spot-breasted Lapwing, Abyssinian Long Claw, Wattled Ibis, Black-headed Siskin, Rouget's Rail and many more can be seen, too.



Day 3: Sof-Omer Caves

Drive to Sof-Omer to visit the large cave system. It is one of the world's most spectacular and extensive underground systems and at the same time an Islamic holy place. The intermittent river, which sources from the Bale Mountains National Park, penetrates the caves all year round. Overnight camping



Day 4: Sheik Hussein

After breakfast drive to the holy, Islamic village Sheik Hussein. Nine centuries ago, a Muslim from the Hadramut, Sheikh Hussein, is believed to have landed on the shoreline of the Indian Ocean and to have followed the great river, the Webi Shebelli, from its mouth to its headwaters. Here he settled and preached Islam and performed many miracles. He died in the Bale mountains. His tomb became a shrine, around which a village formed. A number of Muslim pilgrims visit this place at the time of 'Idd Al Fatr, a colorful Muslim festival celebrated in the Bale Mountains in November. Overnight camping

Day 5: Drive to Goba

Drive from Sof Omer to Goba. Goba is a town inhabited by Muslim Bali-Oromo people. This region is part of the Bale Mountain Range, and receives, being part of the Ethiopian highland, high annual rainfall.



Day 6: Drive to Nazareth

Leave Bale Mountains and drive to Nazareth. En route visit the Muslim Arsi people. Arsi is another mountain region, and home of many Ethiopian long distance runners. Within the African Rift Valley lays Nazareth. The weather here is considerably hotter than in the Bale and Arsi Mountains.

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<p>Day 7: Drive to the holy city of Harar On the way to Harar we stop at Awash National Park before proceeding to the 16th century, walled city. It is the 4th holiest Islamic cities in the world, with more than 103 mosques and shrines. You will be also driving through the Hararghe Mountains, where you will see plenty of coffee and 'chat' fields. The region is known for growing one of the best coffees in the world. We arrive in Harar early in the afternoon.</p>		
	<p>Day 8: In Harar Visit the colorful Muslim and Christian markets (known for basketry), shrines, the museum, the famous Grand Mosque of Harar and traditional Hararie houses, situated within the famous walled city. In the evening visit the hyena man feeding wild hyenas in a bizarre spectacle.</p>	
<p>Day 9: Drive to Addis Drive back to Addis Ababa. Souvenir shopping and in the evening fare well dinner party, with dances from different ethnic groups, in a traditional Ethiopian restaurant. Afterwards transfer to the airport for flight home.</p>		
<p><u>PRICE</u></p> <p>Price per person (on the basis of 2 travellers) = US \$ 1,990</p> <p>Price per person (on the basis of 3 travellers) = US \$ 1,650</p> <p>Single room supplement = US \$ 160</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 sites, churches, parks and villages - All transfers and visits in Addis Ababa using mini-bus according to the itinerary - All ground transportation including insurance, fuel and all costs of the driver - 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 		