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## AFRICAN ADVENTURE TOURS

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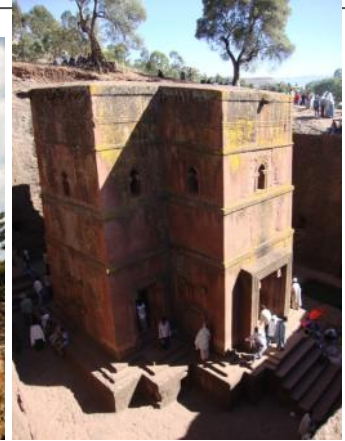
PO Box 59314

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**AAT-1114**

**EXPLORE ABYSSINIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE**

**Duration: 14 Days / 13 Nights**



### **Tour Highlights:**

- Domestic flights and Surface
- Walk the path of pilgrims to the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Visit the Castles of Gondar, also known as Africa's Camelot
- Boat trip to visit Lake Tana's ancient monasteries Ura Kidane Mehret and Azwa Maryam
- Visit the splendid vestiges of the fabled Queen of Sheba in Axum as well as the Muslim holy city of Harar
- Explore the dramatic nature of the Blue Nile & Tiss Isat Falls
- Shop the stalls of Merkato, the largest open-air market in Africa
- Enjoy the amazing landscape of the Simien Mountains National Park
- Traditional Ethiopian farewell dinner with "coffee ceremony"

### **Travel date:**

Every day departure with a minimum of two participants.

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<p><b>Day 1: Arrival in Addis Ababa</b>  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><b>Day 2 Fly - AXUM</b>  After early breakfast transfer to the airport to join your flight to Axum. On arrival you are transferred to your hotel. You then embark on a fascinating tour of the magnificent historical and archaeological sites of Axum. This extraordinary city marks the heart of ancient Ethiopia when the kingdom was the most powerful state between the Eastern Roman Empire and Persia. Continue to the Archaeological museum and the magnificent monolithic steles (obelisks), the tombs of King Kaleb and King Gebre Meskel, together with the ancient palace and bath of the legendary Queen of Sheba. You then drive to the 16<sup>th</sup> century cathedral of St Mary of Zion, the holiest church in Ethiopia and it is said, that within its sanctuary rests the original Ark of the Covenant. Both the churches and monasteries of Axum house richly endowed icons and crowns of ancient emperors. After your tour return to your hotel.</p>  <p><b>Day 3: Drive to Simien Mountain</b>  On this day you drive long but enjoy very beautiful and spectacular landscape along Tekeze Gorge and Simien Mountains. The road rises from 1400m through hairpin bends up the mountain side to 3100m in just 40 km! The drive up to Debarq showcases the immensely beautiful landscape of the Simien Mountains.</p>  <p><b>Day 4: Drive to Gondar</b>  Explore the park and experience the majestic and extraordinary scenery of the Simien Mountains National Park, an UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will see and be entertained by the endemic Gelada Baboons and the bone breaker giant Lammergeyer bird. The Simien Mountains National Park is one of the last unspoiled wildlife parks in Africa. Its stunning scenery rises and falls between 1,800 and 3,000m with its highest peak Ras Dashen reaching 4,620m. The dramatic landscape of the Simien Mountains is the result of massive seismic activity in the area about 40 million years ago. The mountains are home to three of Ethiopia's larger endemic mammals: the Walia ibex, the more common Gelada baboons and the rarely seen Ethiopian wolves. Afternoon drive to Gondar</p>  <p><b>Day 5: In Gondar</b>  Visit the Castles of Gondar which are included in the World Heritage List, the Royal Fasilides Bath and the church of Debre Birhan Selassie with its unique murals.</p>		

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<p><b>Day 6 : Drive to Bahir Dar</b>  Drive to Bahir Dar, where you'll experience typical Ethiopian scenery of wide grazing land and hilly mountains. Bahir Dar is a small town on the southern shore of Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile and the largest lake in Ethiopia. There are thirty-seven islands on the lake; thirty have churches and monasteries of considerable historical and cultural interest. After lunchen joy a relaxing we boat trip on Lake Tana to visit ancient monasteries. We will visit two of the most accessible and representative of the monasteries, Ura Kidane Mehret and Azwa Maryam, still serving their original function.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Day 7: Blue Nile &amp; Lake Tana</b>  An exhilarating day to visit the impressive Blue Nile Falls, locally known as Tis Isat or 'Smoke of Fire'. You reach the falls via the small town of Tis Abay, where you leave the vehicle and walk for approximately 20-30 minutes to reach the best viewing point of the falls. Drive back to Bahir Dar town for lunch and afternoon make a city tour of Bahir Dar.</p> <div data-bbox="863 781 1350 1084" data-label="Image"> </div> <hr/> <p><b>Day 8: Drive to Lalibela</b>  After breakfast drive to Lalibela via the china street; it magnificent landscape. The town of Lalibela, lies among the Lasta Mountains at 2630 m above sea level and remains until today a place of pilgrim and devotion for Ethiopian Christians. The construction of the eleven rock-hewn churches is attributed to king Lalibela of the Zagwe Dynasty. Some of the 12th century churches are monolithic, carved from a sloping mass of red volcanic scoria underlaid by dark grey basalt and interconnected by a maze of tunnels and passages with openings to hermit caves and catacombs. Some are of the basilica type, having archaic features and imitating architectural elements from earlier periods, yet they differ in design and style. Two are decorated with interesting wall paintings and carved figures. The Lalibela churches are included in the World Heritage List since 1978.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Day 9 In Lalibela</b>  Afternoon visit of the first group of six churches which lie in rock cradles one behind the other: Bet Golgotha, Bet Mika'el, Bet Maryam, Bet Meskel, Bet Danaghel and Bet Medhane Alem. Bet Medhane Alem, the largest one, is built like a Greek temple and its stone floor is so polished by the countless numbers of visitors that it reflects shafts of light from apertures in the walls high above. In a corner are three empty graves symbolically dug for biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Day 10: In Lalibela</b>  After breakfast drive to Nakuto Le'Abe Monastery. King Nakuto Le'Abe abdicated his throne in 1270 AD and went to this cave to lead a hermit's life. The cave, sitting on the edge of a steep cliff, has ever since become a monastery. It houses one of the most interesting collections of ancient crosses, illuminated manuscripts and other icons some of which are attributed to its founder Nakuto Le'Abe. Afternoon visit of the other groups of rock churches of Lalibela. Bet Giyorgis, possibly the most elegant of all the Lalibela churches, lies somewhat isolated in the south-west part of the village on a sloping rock terrace. It can only be reached through a tunnel. The group of four, south of the Jordan River, consists of Bet Emanuel, Bet Mercurios, Bet Abba Libanos and Bet Gabriel-Rufa'el.</p>		

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<p><b>Day 11: Fly to Addis Ababa</b> After breakfast you check in to the airport for your flight to Addis Ababa. The remaining of the day visit the Ethnographic Museum. Overnight 4* hotel</p> <p><b>Day 12: Fly to Dire Dawa and Drive to Harer</b> After breakfast transfer to the airport and flight to Dire Dawa, the second largest city of Ethiopia. Upon arrival drive 55 km to the walled city of Harar. Visit the city wall, the gates and the narrow streets, lined with traditional Harari Gagar houses</p> <p><b>Day 13: In Harer</b> After breakfast visit the colorful Muslim and Christian markets (known for basketry). After lunch visit the Hareri museum and the Rimbaud House, a fine traditional house dating from the period when the French poet Rimbaud lived in Harar. Finally visit the traditional Hareri house. As evening falls local men attract wild hyenas to the city in a bizarre spectacle as they feed the scavengers.</p> <p><b>Day 14: Fly to Addis, Departure</b> After breakfast drive to Dire Dawa where you will have a short stay, then fly to Addis Ababa. En route we stop at the town of Awaday to see the biggest chat market of the country. Chat a stimulant leaf which people chew to be exited. Souvenir shopping and in the evening fare well dinner party, with dances from the different ethnic groups, in a traditional Ethiopian restaurant. Afterwards transfer to the airport for flight home.</p>		
<p><b>PRICE</b>  <b>Price per person (on the basis of 2 travellers) = US \$ 3,400</b>  <b>Price per person (on the basis of 3 travellers) = US \$ 2,985</b>  <b>Single room supplement = US \$ 400</b>  <b>Plus domestic flights = US \$ 280</b></p>		
<p><b>Price includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special qualified guide as well as mandatory local guide and scout fees in parks and villages</li> <li>- 4-star hotel in Addis Ababa and the best available hotels outside of Addis Ababa</li> <li>- All accommodation based on twin room occupancy</li> <li>- Meals in Addis, on bed and breakfast basis</li> <li>- Meals out of Addis, on full board basis</li> <li>- Farewell dinner in Addis to enjoy traditional Ethiopian food and music</li> <li>- All entrance fees at sites, churches, parks and villages</li> <li>- All transfers according to the itinerary</li> <li>- All ground transportation including insurance, fuel and all costs of the driver</li> <li>- Boat trip on Lake Tana</li> <li>- A traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony at a convenient time in the program</li> <li>- Government taxes</li> </ul> <p><b>Price doesn't include</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International flights</li> <li>- Lunch and Dinner in Addis Ababa</li> <li>- Any kind of drinks, alcoholic or non-alcoholic</li> <li>- Video filming and photographing fees</li> <li>- Incidental meals, snacks and drinks</li> <li>- Tips and items of personal nature like laundry, souvenirs, etc .</li> <li>- All what is not included in the list above</li> </ul>		