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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AAT-1130

TREKKING IN THE SIMIEN MOUNTAINS

Duration: 13 Days / 12 Nights



Tour Highlights:

- Climb Mount Buhit and Mount Ras Dashen, Africa's fourth highest peak
- Enjoy dramatic landscapes, high peaks, gigantic drops and wide valleys wildlife of the Simien Mountains, known as 'The roof of Africa'
- See endemic Gelada Baboons grazing on the mountainsides, giant Lammergeyer roaring around or Walia Ibexes on the steep cliffs
- Visit the Castles of Gondar, which are also known as Africa's Camelot
- Shop the stalls of Mercato, the largest open-air market in Africa
- Traditional Ethiopian farewell dinner with "coffee ceremony"

Travel date:

Every day departure with a minimum of two participants.

AAT-1130	TREKKING IN THE SIMIEN MOUNTAINS	13 Days / 12 Nights Flight / Surface
<p>Day 1: Arrival in Addis Ababa WELCOME TO ETHIOPIA. On arrival in Addis Ababa our representative will meet you at the 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, the Mercato market, 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: Fly Gondar After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Gondar. Visit the castles and churches built by emperor Fassiledes and his descendants, also known as Africa’s Camelot. Later proceed to the fascinating Debre Birhan Selassie Church - one of the World’s heritage sights. Its walls and ceilings are decorated with scenes of biblical lore and medieval history.</p>  <hr/> <p>Day 3: In Sankaber In the morning drive to Debarq, ca. 100 km from Gondar. After we pick up our local guide we drive on to Sankaber, the first campsite of the park. Walk around enjoying endemic Gelada Baboons and the bone breaker giant bird Lammergeyer. Camping at Sankaber (3200m)</p> <hr/> <p>Day 4: Sankaber - Geech We start our trekking, accompanied by a cook, muleteers and mules who carry the equipment. The walk to Geech takes about 5-6 hours and brings us to the Jinnbar Falls. After crossing the river we ascend for about two hours to Geech through giant Lobelia trees. The scenery is wonderful and herds of the endemic Gelada Baboons can be seen on the way. Camping at Geech (3600m)</p> <hr/> <p>Day 5: Geech – Imetegogo – Geech This day we walk to the best viewing points of the National Park. Imetegogo enables you to look 360° to all directions. After a short break continue to Seha, the other terrific viewpoint. After picnic lunch we continue to the last viewpoint, Quedadit and return to the campsite afterwards. The walk takes about 4-5 h and is not hard. If we are lucky we might see mammals like the Simien Wolf, Walia Ibex and Klipspringers. Camping at Geech</p>  <hr/> <p>Day 6: Geech—Chenek We trek 6-7 h to Chenek through giant Lobelia trees, where a lot of wildlife can be seen. After picnic lunch walk on the edge of the Enatye escarpment (4000m), which offers an other breathtaking view. Finally we descend to Chenek, the best place to see the endemic Walia Ibex and more Gelada Baboons. Overnight camping at Chenek (3600m)</p> <hr/> <p>Day 7: Chenek—Ambiquo We walk 7-8 h to Ambiquo climbing the Buhit (4430m) peak, the 2nd highest next to Ras Dashen. After refreshment at the summit we descend towards Chero Laba and cross the Mesheha River. We spend the night in Ambiquo, before the big day on Ras Dashen. Camping at Ambiquo (3200m)</p>		

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<p>Day 8: Ambiquo - Ras Dashen - Ambiquo Pre dawn start towards mount Ras Dashen (4543m), the most challenging day of the trek. We head up the valley to the small village of Mizma, from where we climb steeply upwards, eventually reaching an impressive amphitheatre made up of three major buttresses of expanded rock. One of them is our goal, Ras Dashen. It is then an easy scramble to the summit of Ras Dashen, which is Africa's fourth highest peak. After taking in the impressive view descend back to Ambiquo for camping. The whole round trek takes about 8 -10 hours.</p>		
		<p>Day 9: Ambiquo - Sona After the strenuous day on Ras Dashen the scenic way to Sona is fairly easy. It is another great day to take in some more incredible views of mount Wali Kend and Mount Silky in a distance. Camping in Sona</p>
<p>Day 10: Sona - Mekarebia From Sona we descend for about 2 hours and cross a river, where we stop for a swim and for washing some clothes. Overnight camping in Mekarebia</p>		
<p>Day 11: Mekarebia - Mulit On the way to Mulit we stop again for a swim in a river. In the afternoon we ascend for 2 hours before reaching Mulit. Camping in Mulit</p>		
<p>Day 12: Mulit – Aderkay, Drive Gondar Trek ca. 2 hours from Mulit to Adi Arkai, meet the vehicles and drive to Gondar. Rest of the day at free use.</p>		
<p>Day 13: Fly to Addis, Departure After breakfast fly to Addis Ababa. Rest of the day use for last 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>		

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<p><u>PRICE</u></p> <p>Price per person (on the basis of 2 travellers) = US \$ 2,880</p> <p>Price per person (on the basis of 3 travellers) = US \$ 2,460</p> <p>Single room supplement = US \$ 175</p> <p>Plus domestic flights ca. US \$ 150</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 accommodation 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 - 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, incidental meals and snacks - Video filming and photographing fees - Tips and items of personal nature like laundry, souvenirs, etc . - All what is not included in the list above 		