

TRACKS SAFARIS

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18 DAY ETHIOPIAN EXPLORER



Day 1 –Arrival + Addis

Be welcomed by your guide on arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight – Global or similar 4* Hotel

Day 2 –Addis – Bahir Dar

Fly from Addis to Bahir Dar and visit the Blue Nile Falls before lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy a boat trip on Ethiopia's largest water body - Lake Tana (3,600 Km Sq) to visit the island monasteries of Ura Kidane Mihret (14th Century AD) and Azwa Mariam (14th Century AD).

Overnight – Tana or similar Hotel

Day 3 –Bahir Dar – Gondar

Drive from Bahir Dar to Gondar - the 17th century capital of Ethiopia. In the afternoon, visit the Imperial Castle Compound of Gondar (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the 'Bath of Emperor Fasiladas', the church of Quskuam Mariam (17th century AD), the residence of Empress Mintwab, and the church of Debre Birhan Sillassie which is famous for its wall and ceiling paintings.

Overnight - Goha or similar Hotel

Day 4 –Gondar – Simien Mountains National Park

Drive from Gondar to Debark (the headquarter of the Simien Mountain National Park), and after check-in to hotel at Debark drive 36 km further to the Simien Mountains (UNESCO World Heritage Site) to visit the endemic mammal of Ethiopia - the Gelada Baboon, and the breath taking scenery of the Simien Mountains.

Overnight – Simien Lodge

Day 5 –Simien Mountains National Park – Axum

Drive to Axum - the earliest Capital of Ethiopia, crossing the Tekezze Gorge.

Overnight - Remhai or similar Hotel

Day 6 –Axum

This morning there is a sightseeing tour of Axum which includes visiting the Archaeological museum of Axum, the famous stele park (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the church of St. Mary of Zion which is believed to be the last resting place of the original Ark of the Covenant, the palace and tomb of King Kaleb and Gebre Meskel (6th Century AD), and the ruined palace of the Queen of Sheba (9th Century BC).

Overnight – Remahai or similar Hotel

Day 7 –Axum – Lalibela

In the morning, fly to Lalibela – home of the 12th century AD rock hewn churches of King Lalibela. An afternoon visit has been arranged to the second and the third group of churches of King Lalibela (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Overnight – Jerusalem or similar Hotel

Day 8 –Lalibela

In the morning, mule back ride to the hill top semi monolithic church of Asheton Mariam (13th century AD). The reward at the top of the hill is the stunning views and unforgettable scenery of the area. In the afternoon, visit the remaining second and the third group of the churches of Lalibela.

Overnight – Jerusalem or similar Hotel



Day 9 –Lalibela – Addis – Langano

Fly back to Addis and drive 200 km south of Addis to the Rift Valley region visiting the chains of Rift Valley Lakes of Ziway, Langano, Abiyatta and Shalla. Spot various birds at Lake Ziway, and enjoy swimming at Lake Langano.

Overnight – Sabana Beach Resort

Day 10 - Langano - Arba Minch

Drive 300 km south to Arba Minch the Alaba, the Wolita and the Dorze people on your way.

Overnight – Paradise Lodge

Day 11 - Arba Minch

This morning visit the Nech Sar National Park to see mammals like the Burchil's Zebra, Greater Kudu, and the endemic Swain's Hartebeest. In the afternoon, enjoy a boat trip on the Rift Valley Lake of Chamo to visit the 'Crocodile Market' where you can see the display of big African Crocodiles, hippos, and various low land water birds.

Overnight – Paradise Lodge

Day 12 - Arba Minch - Jinka

Drive from Arba Minch to Jinka and make a stop at Key Afer to visit the colourful weekly market where the Ari, the Tsemai, and the Benna people meet.

Overnight - Jinka Resort Hotel

Day 13 - Jinka - Mago National Park - Jinka

Make an excursion trip to Mago National Park. Visit the most famous people of the Omo Valley - the Mursi people, whose women are typically known for their clay lip plates they insert in their lower lips. Then, drive back to Jinka, and visit the cultural museum of the Omo people.

Overnight - Jinka Resort Hotel

Day 14 - Jinka – Dimeka Market - Turmi

Drive from Jinka to Dimeka to visit the weekly market of the Hamar people. Then, drive to Turmi and visit the cultural village of the Hamar people. The Hamar people are famous for their typical hair dressings which the women decorate with red soil and butter.

Overnight – Buska Lodge



Day 15 - Turmi - Omorate - Turmi

Make excursion trip to Omorate and cross the Omo River by boat to visit the Dasenech people who are known for their body scarification. In the afternoon, enjoy free time in Turmi.

Overnight – Buska Lodge

Day 16 - Turmi - Konso - Yabello

Drive from Turmi to Yabello visiting the Erbore and Konso people.

Overnight - Yabello Motel

Day 17 - Yabello - Awassa

Drive from Yabello to Awassa visiting the nomadic Borena people, and the Sidama people who are noted for their cultivation of False Banana (*Enset*). On your way visit the coffee plantations around Yirga Chefe where one of Ethiopia's most flavoured coffee beans grow. In the later afternoon, enjoy bird watching and the sunset over the Rift Valley Lake of Awassa.

Overnight - Wabe Shebele Hotel

Day 18 - Awassa - Addis

In the morning, drive to the shore of the lake and visit the 'Fish Market' at Lake Awassa. Then, drive 273 km north to Addis. In the afternoon, have a half-day city tour of Addis, which includes visits to the National Archaeological Museum, Merkato which is the largest open air market in Africa, and a drive to Mt. Entoto for a panoramic view of the capital.

In the evening before departure, you will be invited a farewell dinner party at one of the best traditional restaurants in Addis where you can enjoy the variety of Ethiopian meals and watch the folklore dances of the Ethiopian people.

After dinner you will be transferred to the airport for your international departure.

Price inclusive of:-

- Accommodation on a twin room sharing basis
- All meals out of Addis, and only breakfast in Addis
- All entrance fees
- All transfers and ground transportation
- Professional English speaking guide
- Portage fees, local guides and scout fees
- Boat hire on lake Chamo

Price exclusive of:-

- Lunch and dinner in Addis
- Any alcoholic drinks
- Personal expense like souvenirs, laundry and tips





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