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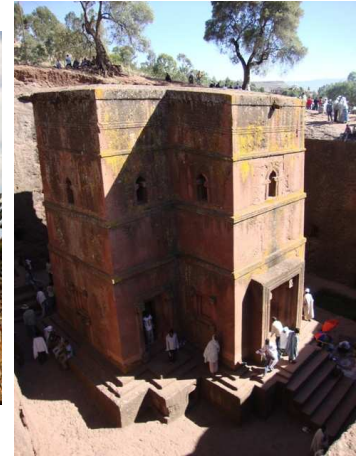
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AAT-1120

SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA OMO VALLEY, GONDAR & LALIBELA

Duration: 12 Days / 11 Nights



Tour Highlights:

- Explore the fascinating cultures of the indigenous tribes of the Omo Valley in a modern, air-conditioned 4WD
- Visit the Gurage, the Dorze, the Woito, the Hamar, the Arbore, the Konso and the Mursi people in their villages
- Get to know the traditional lifestyle, colorful dresses and strange rituals, like inserting clay disks in their lower lips, amazing hairstyles, body-painting or scaring
- Come close to giant crocodiles and hippos on Lake Chamo
- Visit the Castles of Gondar, which are known as Africa's Camelot
- Walk the path of pilgrims to the amazing rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Shop the stalls of Merkato, the largest open-air market in Africa
- Traditional Ethiopian farewell dinner with "coffee ceremony" and traditional dances of the 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 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 Arba Minch

Drive to Arba Minch via Hosahena, about 460 km south of Addis Ababa. This drive will take you along the scenic farmlands of the Gurage people with views of the lush green hills and valleys. You arrive late in the afternoon. Arba Minch - meaning 'Forty Springs' in Amharic - takes its name from the bubbling streams that cover the forest and the flats of the town.



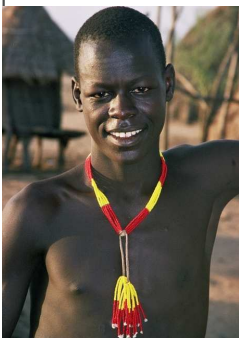
Day 3: Doze Village & Lake Chamo

After breakfast visit the Dorze tribe and their village, famed for their bee hive shaped houses and their weaving skills. Weaving is a primary profession for many Dorze. They are also farmers, who prevent soil erosion by ingenious terracing of the mountainsides. Around their huts they have their own little garden with vegetables, spices, tobacco and enset (false-banana or musa ensete). In the afternoon take a boat trip on Lake Chamo, where you can spot many hippos and spectacular concentrations of giant crocodiles. The water birds are great the scenery is truly unforgettable. Locals fish here in traditional boats for Nile Perch.



Day 4: Drive Jinka

Drive to Konso where you visit the Konso people, known for colorful dresses and unusually engraved wooden statues, used as grave markers. Continue along impressive land terracing to the village of the Woito people, near the Woito river. On the way to Jinka stop at the Key Afer Market (Thursday is market day), a tribal market, where different ethnic groups gather to sell and buy their agricultural products.



Day 5: Jinka—Mursi—Jinka

After breakfast leave Jinka and drive to the Mursi village to visit and appreciate the very attractive culture of the Mursi tribe. They are renowned for the strange custom followed by their women who, on reaching maturity, have their lower lips slit and circular clay discs inserted. Proceed to Mago National Park. After a picnic lunch, you will drive to see big mammals and different species of birds. In the late afternoon drive back to Jinka.

Day 6: Jinka—Turmi

After breakfast drive to Turmi through Dimeka to visit the Hamar people and their village. Turmi is a small town, which is the base to visit the Hamar village. Hamars have remarkable hairstyles made

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from ochre, water and binding resin. They rub the mixture into their hair then twist the strands repeatedly to create coppery-colored locks. This is a sign of wealth and welfare. Hamars are considered to be masters of body decoration.



Day 7: Drive Arba Minch

Drive back to Arba Minch. On the way visit the Cushitic speaking Arbore people and their villages. The Arbore people adorn themselves with beads and aluminum jewelry.

Day 8: Drive Addis Ababa

Early morning drive back to Addis Ababa. En route you will enjoy the breathtaking natural beauty of southern Ethiopia. Proceed to Addis Ababa. Overnight in 4-star hotel.

Day 9: Fly Gondar

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flight to Gondar. The town was founded in 1636 by emperor Fassiledes and is set in a landscape of incomparable beauty. It was the royal capital of Ethiopia. Visit the castles and churches built by emperor Fassiledes and his descendants, also known as Africa's Camelot. Later proceed to 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.



Day 10: Fly Lalibela

After breakfast fly to Lalibela. 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.

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.



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<p>Day 11: In Lalibela 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>		
<p>Day 12: Fly to Addis Ababa, departure After breakfast you check in to the airport for your flight to Addis Ababa. The rest of the day visit historical sites in Addis Ababa. 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><u>PRICE</u></p> <p>Price per person (on the basis of 2 travellers) = US \$ 2.370 Price per person (on the basis of 3 travellers) = US \$ 2.000 Price per person (on the basis of 4 travellers) = US \$ 1.787 Single room supplement = US \$ 260 Plus domestic flights = US \$ 230 (only if the roundtrip international flight is with Ethiopian Airlines) otherwise = US \$ 500</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 - Boat trip - 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 		