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AAT-1122

ETHIOPIAN SOUTHERN OMO TRIBES AND SURMA REGION

Duration: 17 Days / 16 Nights



Tour Highlights:

- Explore the fascinating and strange cultures of the indigenous tribes of Ethiopia in a modern, air-conditioned 4WD.
- Visit the Gurage, the Oromo, the Menit, the Konso, the Woiito, the Hamer, the Karo, the Gelab, the Arbore, the Tsemay and the Oromo Borena in their villages
- Explore the rich culture of the Surma tribe, well known for their stick fighting
- Get to know the Mursi, where the women insert clay discs in their lower lips as a sign of beauty
- Get to know the traditional lifestyles, colorful dresses and strange rituals as well as amazing hairstyles, body-painting or scaring
- Enjoy indigenous forest and savannah as well as tea, coffee and spice plantations
- Shop the stalls of Merkato, the largest open-air market in Africa
- Traditional Ethiopian farewell dinner with “coffee ceremony” and traditional dances of different ethnic groups.

Travel date:

Every day departure with a minimum of two participants.

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Day 1: Arrival in Addis Ababa

On arrival our representative will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hote. An overview of the program will be given. The rest of the day visit historical sites in Addis Ababa, including the National Archeological Museum, where the 3.6 million year old remains of Lucy rest, whose skeletal remains were discovered in 1974. You will also visit the Ethnological Museum, the Holy Trinity Cathedral and Mount Entoto which rises up to an altitude of 3200meters and offers a panoramic view of the metropolis. Overnight 4-star hotel.

Day 2: Addis Ababa-Jimma

On the way to Jimma we will visit the Gurage and Oromo people and their villages. On the way we cross the magnificent Gibe Gorge and the Gibe River. After lunch stop in Walkite continue to Jimma through coffee and chat plantations. Jimma was the capital of the former Keffa province and is now inhabited by Oromo, Kefecho and Kulo people.

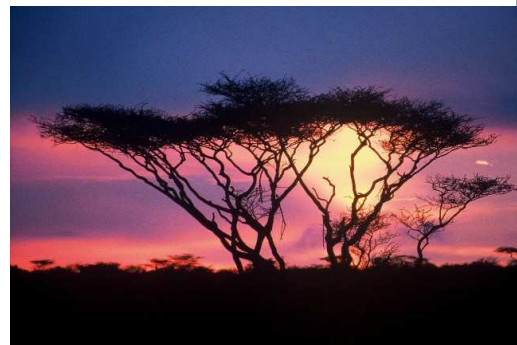


Day 3: Jimma-Mizan Teferi

Drive 240 km to Mizan Teferi through Ethiopian indigenous forest. The people living in this area are Kefecho, Yem and Bench tribes. This place is famous for coffee, tea and spice growing.

Day 4: Kibish

Continue driving further to the west to Kibish through the Bebeke coffee plantation - Ethiopia's largest and oldest coffee plantation. On the way visit the Menit tribe. After crossing the Akobo River we drive through African savannah grassland. After lunch stop in Dimma drive on to Tulgit and Kibish, which are small towns of the Surma people. The rest of the days walk around your campsite and visit the Surma people. Camping in Kibish







Day 5: In Kibish

If there is any Donga (Stick fighting of the Surma people) in the morning, you will attend it. Otherwise you walk around the Kibish village and visit more Surma villages (14 km round trip). The Surma people are renowned for the strange custom followed by their women who, on reaching maturity, have their lower lips slit and clay discs inserted. The Surma men are well known for their stick fighting. Players are usually unmarried men. The winner is carried away on a platform of poles to a group of girls waiting at the side of the arena who decide among themselves which of them will ask for his hand in marriage. Taking part in a stick fight is considered to be more important than winning it. Camping at Kibish



Day 6: Kibish - Mizan Teferi

Drive the same way back via the town of Dima to Bebeke, which lies near Mizan Teferi. Camping in Bebeke

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<p>Day 7: Mizan Teferi- Jimma Drive back 240 km to Jimma, along coffee, tea and spice plantations and dense forest.</p>		
<p>Day 8: Drive Arba Minch Drive through lush, green hills and valleys to Arba Minch via Cheda. Arba Minch - meaning 'Forty Springs' - takes its name from the bubbling streams that cover the forest and the flats of the town.</p>		
	<p>Day 9: Nech Sar National Park & Lake Chamo Early morning drive to Nech Sar National Park for game viewing and birding. 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 and the scenery is unforgettable. Locals fish here in traditional boats for Nile Perch.</p>	
<p>Day 10: Drive Jinka After breakfast 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 (only on Thursdays, which are market days), a tribal market, where different ethnic groups gather to sell and buy their agricultural products.</p>		
<p>Day 11: 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, who's women insert, similar to the Surma tribe, circular discs in their lower lips. Proceed to Mago National Park. After a picnic lunch, you will be driving to see big mammals and different species of birds. In the late afternoon drive back to Jinka.</p>		
<p>Day 12: Jinka—Turmi After breakfast drive to Turmi through Dimeka for the visit of the Hamar people and their village. Turmi is a small town, which is the base to visit the Hamar village. Hamers have remarkable hairstyles made 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. Hamers are considered to be masters of body decoration.</p>		
<p>Day 13: Turmi—Murulle excursion—Turmi After breakfast drive to Murule and visit the Karo people. The Karos are famous for tattooing, scaring and body painting. They reside by the side of the Omo River. Drive back to Turmi for camping.</p>		
<p>Day 14: Turmi—Omorate excursion – Turmi Morning drive to Omorate to visit the Gelab (Dassanech) tribe inhabiting the riverbanks of the Omo River. Cross the Omo River in a small boat and walk fifteen minutes to their village. The Gelabs are</p>		

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<p>also known for their body painting. In the afternoon drive back to Turmi for camping.</p>		
<p>Day 15: Turmi—Yabello Drive to Yabello visiting the Arbore and the Tsemay people en route. After lunch stop at Konso, continue to the Oromo Borena village. Oromo Borenas are well known in cattle rearing. From their deep ‘singing well’ they carry water to their cattle by forming a long line of people and passing on the buckets while singing.</p>		
	<p>Day 16: Yabello—Yerga Alem Drive from Yabello to Yerga Alem over a beautiful Sidamo mountains coffee plantation. Late afternoon visit of the Hyenas around the loge.</p>	
<p>Day 17: Yerga Alem—Addis Ababa, Departure Drive back to Addis along the Great Rift Valley lakes. Visit the fish market in Awassa, where locals buy fish from the fisher men. En route we stop on the viewing points of Lake Shala, Abyta and Langano. In the evening we have a fare well dinner in a traditional Ethiopian restaurant with dances from different ethnic groups. Afterwards transfer to the airport for flight home.</p>		
<p>PRICE Price per person (on the basis of 2 travellers) = US \$ 3.600 Price per person (on the basis of 3 travellers) = US \$ 2.940 Price per person (on the basis of 4 travellers) = US \$ 2.610 Single room supplement = US \$ 275</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 & cook to prepare the meals - 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 and visits in Addis Ababa using mini-bus according to the itinerary - All ground transportation including insurance, fuel and all costs of the driver - 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 		

