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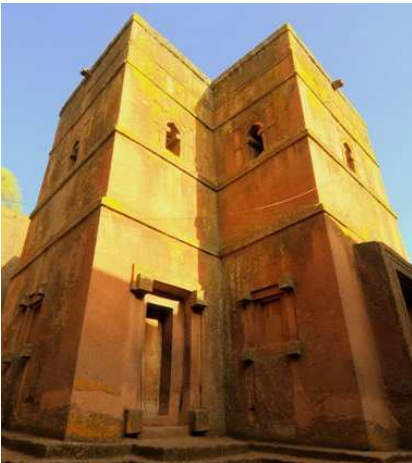
## AFRICAN ADVENTURE TOURS

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**AAT-1129**

### OMO VALLEY TRIBES, HISTORIC ROUTE & TREKKING IN SIMIEN MOUNTAINS

Duration: 25 Days / 24 Nights



#### Tour Highlights:

- Walk the path of pilgrims to the amazing rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Wander between the Castles of Gondar, which are known as Africa's Camelot
- Take a boat trip on Lake Tana to visit the ancient monastery Ura Kidane Mehret and Azwa Maryam
- Trek to the best viewing points of the Simien Mountains
- Explore the fascinating and strange cultures of the indigenous tribes of the Omo Valley in a modern, air-conditioned 4WD
- Get to know the traditional lifestyle, colorful dresses and strange rituals, like inserting clay plates in their lower lips, amazing hairstyles, body-painting or scaring
- Visit the splendid vestiges of the fabled Queen Sheba in Axum
- 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.

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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 Holy Trinity Cathedral, the colorful Mercato market 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 Wolayta Sodo. En route visit Gurage and their village. 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: Dorze Village & Lake Chamo**

In the morning visit the Dorze village, high in the mountains north of Arba Minch. The Dorze are well known as master weavers and live in interesting igloo-shaped houses. In the afternoon take a boat trip on Lake Chamo, and spot 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.



**Day 4: Drive to 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 (Thursday is market day), a tribal market, where different ethnic groups gather to sell and buy their agricultural products.


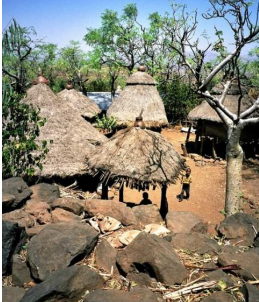

**Day 5: Jinka - Mursi - Jinka**





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 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. Camping in Turmi

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<p><b>Day 7: Turmi—Murulle excursion—Turmi</b> After breakfast drive to Murulle and visit the Karo people. The Karos are famous for tattooing, scaring and body painting. They reside by the side of the Omo River. After your visit drive back to Turmi. Camping in Turmi</p>		
<p><b>Day 8: Turmi—Omorate - excursion – Turmi</b> 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 also known for their body painting. In the afternoon drive back to Turmi. Camping in Turmi</p>		
	<p><b>Day 9: Turmi—Yabello</b> Drive to Yabello visiting the Arbore and the Tsema people en-route. After lunch stop at Konso, continue to the region of the Oromo Borena and visit their village. They 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><b>Day 10: Yabello—Yerga Alem</b> Drive from Yabello to Yerga Alem over the Sidamo mountains coffee plantation. Late in the afternoon visit the Hyenas around the loge.</p>		
<p><b>Day 11: Yerga Alem—Addis Ababa</b> Drive back to Addis along the Great Rift Valley lakes and visit the local fish market in Awassa. En route we stop on the viewing points of Lake Shala, Abyta and Langano. Overnight in 4-star hotel</p>		
<p><b>Day 12: Addis Ababa-Debre Markos, ca. 5 h</b> After breakfast drive to Debre Markos (ca. 100km). On the way see the famous teff growing area of the country. Visit the 13<sup>th</sup> C monastery of Debre Libanos and the 17<sup>th</sup> C Portuguese Bridge. Enroute stop to visit the Oromo tribal village. Further down, you will enjoy the fabulous Blue Nile Gorge. Similar to the Grand Canyon of the USA.</p>		
<p><b>Day 13: Debre Markos—Bahir Dar, ca. 5 h</b> The drive to Bahir Dar takes you over the Ethiopian Highland Plateau along several Amhara villages and lush farmlands. In the afternoon city tour of Bahir Dar including the colorful market, the Woito village where local people make papyrus boats and to Mount Bezawit, the best viewing point of Lake Tana and the Blue Nile River.</p>		
<p><b>Day 14: In Bahir Dar</b> Bahir Dar lies on the southern shore of Lake Tana. The lake is the source of the Blue Nile and the largest lake in Ethiopia. Thirty of its thirty-seven islands host churches and monasteries of considerable historical and cultural interest. After refreshment, take a boat trip on Lake Tana to visit two of the most accessible and representative monasteries, Ura Kidane Mehret and Azwa Maryam, which still serve their original function. In the afternoon, take the short walk to the best viewing point of the impressive Blue Nile Falls, locally known as Tiss Isat or 'Smoke of Fire'.</p>		

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<p><b>Day 15: Drive to Gondar</b> On the 180 km long drive to Gondar you experience a typical Ethiopian-African landscape - wide grazing land, hilly mountains and numerous farmlands. 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>		
<p><b>Day 16: Drive to Simien Mountains</b> After early breakfast we drive from Gondar to Debarq, the head quarter of the Simien Mountain National Park. A scout and a local guide will accompany us. Then we continue driving to Sankaber, the first campsite of the National Park. On this drive you will get a first impression of the scale and beauty of this highland region, the extraordinary scenery, enjoying the endemic Gelada Baboons and giant Lammergeyer roaring around. Camping at Sankaber (3200 m)</p>		
	<p><b>Day 17: Sankaber—Geech</b> Today we arrange all the trekking staff including muleteers and mules for the transport of the camping gear. We walk for 5-6 h from Sankaber to Geech. We cross the Jinnbar River and see the Jinnbar falls, always walking through Giant Lobelias. The scenery is wonderful and herds of the endemic Gelada Baboons can be seen grazing on the mountainsides. Camping at Geech (3600m)</p>	
<p><b>Day 18: Geech – Imetegogo – Geech</b> 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>		
	<p><b>Day 19: Geech—Chenek</b> 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 for camping. (3600m)</p>	
<p><b>Day 20: Around Chenek</b> This day you will be wandering around Chenek. This site of Chenek has the best view from all camp sites and it is also the best spot to observe Walia Ibex and more Gelada Baboons. Camping at Chenek</p>		
<p><b>Day 21: Drive to Axum, ca. 7h</b> The drive to Axum is probably the most spectacular drive in Ethiopia. The road descends from 3100 meters through hairpin bends down the Simien Mountains to 1400 meters in just 40kms! You will arrive in Axum in the afternoon.</p>		

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<p><b>Day 22: In Axum</b>  Visit the historical and archaeological sites of Axum. The ancient city marks the location of the heart of ancient Ethiopia, when the kingdom of Axum was the most powerful state between the eastern Roman empire and Persia. The archaeological and historical attractions in Axum include: the archaeological museum, the magnificent monolithic steles and obelisks, the tombs of King Kaleb and King Gebre Meskal, the legendary bath of Queen Sheba and the ruins of her palace. The 16th century cathedral St. Mary of Zion, the holiest church in Ethiopia is said to host the original Ark of the Covenant. The churches and monasteries of Axum are richly endowed with icons and historical crowns of ancient emperors.</p> 		
<p><b>Day 23: Fly Lalibela</b>  Transfer to the airport for the short flight 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.</p>  <p>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> <p>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>		
<p><b>Day 24: In Lalibela:</b>  After breakfast take a mule ride to the 13<sup>th</sup> century rock hewn monastery of Asheten Maryam. The church is situated on the top of a mountain at an altitude of 3150 metres. The roundtrip takes about 4 hours. We return to Lalibela for lunch. In the afternoon, visit the other groups of rock churches. Bet Giyorgis, the most elegant church, lies somewhat isolated in the southwest 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, comprise of Bet Emanuel, Bet Mercurios, Bet Abba Libanos and Bet Gabriel-Rufa'el.</p> 		
<p><b>Day 25: Fly to Addis Ababa, Departure</b>  After breakfast fly to Addis Ababa. Souvenir shopping and in the evening fare well dinner party, with dances from different ethnic groups, in a traditional Ethiopian restaurant. Afterwards transfer to the airport for flight home.</p>		

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<p><b><u>PRICE</u></b></p> <p><b>Price per person (on the basis of 2 travellers) = US \$ 5.000</b>  <b>Price per person (on the basis of 3 travellers) = US \$ 4.356</b>  <b>Price per person (on the basis of 4 travellers) = US \$ 3.953</b>  <b>Single room supplement = US \$ 400</b>  <b>Plus domestic flights ca. US \$ 150 (only if the roundtrip international flight is with Ethiopian Airlines) otherwise ca. US \$ 350</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>- All camping gear and cook during the camping</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 and visits in Addis Ababa using mini-bus according to the itinerary</li> <li>- All ground transportation including insurance, fuel and all costs of the driver</li> <li>- Boat trip</li> <li>- 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> </ul>		