

**Title: 10 Days Trip for Ethiopian History and Nature**

**Transportation: Drive and flight**

**Duration: 10 Days and 9 Nights**

**Accommodation: Hotels and Lodge**

**Group Size: 2-12 Pax**

### **DAILY ITINERARY**

#### **Day 1: Arrivals at Addis Ababa airport, Met by our staff transfer to Hotel**

After breakfast, drive to visit the National Museum, where you see the famous fossil Lucy, who is 3.2 million years old; visit the Ethnographic Museum, visit Entoto St. Mary Museum, St. Trinity Cathedral church, and Merkato market, the largest open-air market in Africa.

**Overnight Stay at Golden Tulip Hotel or Similar, Addis Ababa.**

#### **Day 2: Domestic Flight To Gondar And Proceed Driving To Sankaber**

Today, you will have your domestic flight to Gondar. Depart Gondar, and drive to Sankaber via Debarq where the park's entrance fee is paid, and obligatory staff are met. You will be dropped off at Buyit Ras for a 3-4 hours hike to Sankaber by which you will pass close to the escarpment edge. Nearing Sankaber, you will have beautiful views on both sides of the escarpment ridge and where you will likely see the endemic Gelada baboons.

**Overnight at Simien Lodge or Similar, Simien Mountains National Park.**

#### **Day 3: Simien Mountains National Park**

A further 24km from your lodge takes you to the Chennek campsite, passing through the Kurbet Metaya viewpoint (500m before the campsite). Once you pass Kurbet Metaya keep your eyes peeled for the Walia ibex. Continue 2km to one of the highest peaks in the Simien Massif: Mount Bwahit at 4,200m. Drive along the foothills through a valley crossed by

wild streams. The road then descends from the plateau passing through spectacular scenery. Look for the Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf.

**Overnight at Simien Lodge or Similar, Simien Mountains National Park.**

#### **Day 4: Drive back to Gondar**

After lunch we will visit Gondar, the first capital city with the reign of Fasilides. In Gondar, there are a dozen castles built by various emperors over the course of 236 years. The city seems more of European than African origin. In the afternoon, we visit Fasilades Palace, probably the most impressive of all the castles found in the area and the oldest one! We continue going to the Church of Debre Berhan Selassie (Light of the Trinity). The interior is decorated with beautiful frescos, cherubs and paintings. Debre Berhan Selassie is rumored to once have been the proposed final resting-place of the Ark of the Covenant of the Ethiopian Empire, which began in 1632.

**Overnight stay at Gondar Hills Resort or similar, Gondar.**

#### **Day 5: Fly to Lalibela and Visit the Rock-hewn churches**

The flight departs at 10:00 and takes approximately 30 minutes. The small town in the Lasta Mountains is world-famous for its unique rock churches chiseled into the red, soft tuff rock. The city is named after King Lalibela, who built numerous religious buildings here. The Rock-Hewn Ethiopian orthodox Christian churches of Lalibela, are one of the eighth wonders of the world. It's a collection of churches, some connected by fascinating internal channels, with hermit holes where people lived and died. The connecting walls are full of religious symbols. The city contains 11 monolithic churches that were built in the 12th century, some of which are beautifully painted inside. Visit the 1st and 2nd groups of the rock-hewn churches today.

**Overnight stay at Mezena Lodge or Similar, Lalibela.**

#### **Day 6: Excursion to Yemrehanna Kristos Church and visit the 3rd group in Lalibela**

Today, you leave Lalibela and head for another ancient rock-hewn church known as Yimrhane Kristos. The drive to Yemrehanna will also give you the opportunity to view the rural countryside and villages of the Ethiopian highlands. Visit Yemrehanna Kristos, which is one of Ethiopia's best-preserved late-Aksumite buildings, where few people reward themselves with a visit - and a reward it is. The church is different because it's built rather than excavated. Seeing the stepped exterior facade, created from alternating wood and stone layers, you'll understand why so many of Lalibela rock-hewn churches look like they do. Knowing that Yemrehanna Kristos may predate Lalibela's churches by up to 80 years, you have before you, a virtual blueprint of greatness. In the afternoon, drive back to Lalibela for lunch where you will then proceed to visit the remaining groups of the church. Finally, you will visit the most famous of all the churches - Bet Giyorgis, constructed in honor of the patron saint of Ethiopia - Saint George.

**Overnight stay at Mezena Lodge or Similar, Lalibela.**

#### **Day 7: Back to Addis Ababa and drive to Langano**

Morning, Transfer to Lalibela Airport for your return flight to Addis Ababa. Then, proceed driving to Lake Langano, where we will spend the night. you will chill out and relax by the lake. Swimming and kayaking on the lake are some of the possible activities that you can partake in.

**Overnight stay at Hara Langano Eco Lodge or similar, Langano.**

#### **Day 8: Drive to Bale Mountain National Park**

We drive to Dinsho, which is the gateway to the fabled Bale Mountains, which reach an altitude of around 4 500 meters (more than 14 000 feet). Here we spend two days birding varied habitats for such sought-after species as Abyssinian Owl, Cape (Mackinder's) Eagle-Owl (the most massive of three subspecies), African Wood Owl, Wattled Ibis, Chestnut-naped Francolin, Moorland Francolin, Wattled Crane, Red-billed Cough, White-backed Black Tit, Abyssinian Catbird, African Emerald Cuckoo, Abyssinian

Crimsonwing, and, with luck, Golden Eagle, as well as a long list of other birds. Interesting mammals here are mountain nyala, klipspringer, Menelik's bushbuck, Bohor reedbuck, and others. The days in this area are also a botanical treat, with vegetation ranging from *Hagenia*-dominated forest to giant *Erica* woods to high-altitude moorlands, sometimes with fabulous giant lobelias. In the adjacent Harenna Forest, it might be possible to spot some star birds like Brown Parisoma, Ayers's Hawk-Eagle, African Emerald Cuckoo, Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, Rüppell's Robin-Chat, White-browed Robin-Chat, Abyssinian Crimsonwing, and Slender-billed Starling, or even a flock of migrating European Bee-eaters.

**Overnight stay at Bale mountains Lodge or similar, Bale Mountain National park.**

#### **Day 9: Excursion to Sanetti Plateau and Harenna Forest**

In the morning, you will have breakfast and drive to the Sanetti Plateau (altitude of 4000 meters, with Afro-alpine Moorland, beautiful wild alpine scenery) and then Drive to the south of the Park lies a 1200m (3700 ft) escarpment, below which is one of the largest and most extensive forests remaining in Ethiopia, the Harenna Forest. The slope of the southern escarpment falls rapidly from the tree line at 3200m to around 2000m within a distance of only 8 km, producing a rapid and spectacular change in landscape, habitat, and species composition. The Bale Mountain Lodge is located beside a clear mountain stream, within a natural forest clearing beneath the escarpment, and enjoys breathtaking views of the mountains and the surrounding forest. Here rare Bale Monkeys inhabit the trees and the birdlife is spectacular. Wild coffee is harvested to the south of the lodge and delicious Bale honey is obtained by the local people from hives placed high within the canopy. Here is also found 3% of Africa's remaining bamboo forest. Harenna is truly a magical place in which to relax or to explore.

**Overnight stay at Bale mountains Lodge or similar, Bale Mountain National park.**

#### **Day 10: Drive back to Addis Ababa**

Drive back to Addis Ababa via Lake Koka and Lake Ziway. You go shopping in Addis Ababa. Then you will go to the Yod Abyssinia Traditional restaurant for a farewell dinner party. From the restaurant, you will go to the airport and the tour ends.

***END OF TOUR!***

## QUOTATION DISPLAY

NET RATE PER PERSON IN USD							
VEHICLE	MINIBUS			COASTER BUS			
GROUP SIZE	1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12
<b>Bed &amp; Breakfast Basis</b>	<b>5566</b>	<b>3518</b>	<b>2793</b>	<b>2789</b>	<b>2609</b>	<b>2538</b>	<b>2460</b>
<b>Full Board Basis</b>	<b>5806</b>	<b>3818</b>	<b>3093</b>	<b>3089</b>	<b>2909</b>	<b>2838</b>	<b>2760</b>

### INCLUDED:

- ADD-GDQ, GDQ-LLI, and LLI-ADD internal flights as of international flight with Ethiopian Airlines; unless extra **USD 147.00 per pax** if the international flight is with other airlines;
- 9 Nights Hotel Accommodation on a Shared Room Extra **USD 466.00 per person** for Single Room Supplement);
- All meals from lunch day 1 to dinner day 10: you would save USD 240 per person if you prefer bed and breakfast only.
- Professional English Speaking Wildlife and birding Guide;
- All fuel costs as required by itinerary;
- All entrance fees;
- Airport Transfers;
- Local Guide and scout fees;
- Bottled mineral water in the vehicle (2 lt per day);
- Government tax associated with the trip.

### NOT INCLUDED:

- Day Use on the last day in Addis Ababa;
- FOC Leader;
- International Airfare;
- Alcoholic Expenses;
- Any Photography and Video fees;
- And what is NOT included on the "Included" List.