



Ethiopia Timket Festival: January 2012



Saturday January 14 , 2012

Arrive Addis Ababa

Upon arrival at Addis Ababa International airport, you will be met by a Dinknesh Ethiopia representative and transferred to your hotel.

Founded in 1886 by Emp. Menelik II, Addis Ababa is the capital of Ethiopia and the seat of the African Union (AU). Addis Ababa is the third highest capital in the world and one of the largest cities in Africa with a population well over 5 million. It is located at 2500 m above sea level at the foot of the highest peak of the Entoto Mountains (3200m above sea level) and enjoys an excellent climate all year round with an average temperature of 16 degrees Celsius. Addis Ababa is a pleasant city with wide avenues of Jacarandas, interesting museums, and one of the largest open-air markets in Africa, known as Merkato.

Overnight: Sheraton Hotel

Sunday January 15, 2012

This morning you will spend time at the **Ethnological Museum**: Located in the main campus of the Addis Ababa University by the Institute of Ethiopian Studies with the aim to preserve the country's historical and cultural heritages. It has complete collections that describe almost all the tribal groups in Ethiopia. Here you will have an overview of the history, culture and traditions of the people of Ethiopia. The collections include the nomadic tribal groups that are now living just as man's forefather lived thousands of years back.

This afternoon you will spend time at the **National Museum**: It comprises of many archaeological and historical findings including the famous complete hominid fossil remain of 'Lucy' locally known as 'Dinknesh' meaning wonderful.

Overnight: Sheraton Hotel

Monday January 16, 2012

Fly to Bahir Dar

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Bahir Dar. Bahir Dar rests on the shores of Lake Tana and is one of Ethiopia's prettiest cities with wide avenues, palms and jacarandas, and stunning lake views. For centuries, Bahir Dar has been a trading center for the region and the tankwa (traditional papyrus boats) can still be seen transporting goods across the lake.

After check in, you will head out on Lake Tana to the Zege Peninsula and its famous monasteries. While on board the private boat, keep an eye out for a variety of bird species and the traditional tankwa crossing the lake. After a short hike through local villages and coffee farms, you will reach the monastery of Ura Kidane Meret, home to an important collection of crosses and crowns dating back to the 16th century. The painted maqdas, colorful and well preserved, tell stories of the Ethiopian saints. The second monastery to be visited, Azwa Maryam, is a small and pleasant site with gardens and a humorous young priest. Then sail back to Bahir Dar for lunch in your hotel.

In the afternoon, you will depart on an excursion to the Blue Nile Falls. The Blue Nile Falls is considered as one of the most spectacular falls in Africa. When in full flood the falls are quite impressive at 400m wide and 45m high, however the river was recently dammed upstream and the river levels are now controlled. Considering this factor, the falls are still an interesting site with some great bird watching on the easy 30 min walk to the viewpoint. Hippos and crocodiles are occasionally spotted on the banks of the river, especially in the early morning and late afternoon hours. The road to and from the falls is packed gravel and can be rough and dusty.

Overnight: Kuriftu Resort and Spa

Tuesday January 17, 2012

Drive to Gondar

After breakfast you will depart on the three hour drive to Gondar. You will pass rural villages, cross mountain passes with stunning vistas and get the first glimpse of the impressive castles of Gondar. Often called Africa's Camelot, Gondar isn't far off the mark. With the castles of the Royal Enclosure, ornate churches, and resplendent bathing pools, it's easy to imagine Gondar in all of its glory as the capital of Ethiopia in the mid 1600s. King Fasiledes named Gondar capital in 1636 and by his death in 1667, Gondar's population had reached 65,000 and its wealth and beauty was well known throughout the land. Spend the day exploring the Royal Enclosure and its buildings, the nearby bath of King Fasiledes (where modern-day Timket ceremonies are performed), and the Debre Birhan Silasse Church with its 80 Ethiopian cherubs. After touring Gondar, you will return to the Goha Hotel in time to watch sunset from the pleasant patio. The Goha Hotel is simple, but comfortable, and offers an excellent location perched on one of the highest hills overlooking the city.

Overnight: Goha Hotel

Wednesday January 18, 2012

Fly to Lalibela

A morning flight will take you to Lalibela, known as Kingdom of the Rock where rock-hewn churches built in 12th century are found.

After check in, you will visit the first group of the churches, which represent the earthly Jerusalem. This group includes Bete Medhanialem (Savior church), Bete Miriam, Bete Denagel, Bete Meskal, Debra Sina, and Bete Golgotha.

Overnight: Mountain View Hotel

Thursday January 19, 2012

Lalibela (Eve of Timket festival)

In the morning, you will have a mule back ride to the 13th century monastery of Asheten Mariam built by King Neakuto L'eab who ruled the town after the death of King Lalibela.

In the afternoon you will have the opportunity to attend the colorful Eve of Timket / Epiphany festival in Lalibela.

Overnight: Mountain View Hotel

Friday January 20, 2012

Lalibela

In the morning you will once again attend the Timket festival at St. George church.

In the afternoon, visit the Second group of the churches representing the heavenly Jerusalem. In this group are the Bete Gabriel & Raphael, Bete Merquorios, Bete Emmanuel, and Bete Abba Libanos. Finally, visit the most interesting cross-shaped church of Bete Giorgis (St. George), which is said to be the symbolization of Noah's arc.

Overnight: Mountain View Hotel

Saturday January 21, 2012

Fly directly to Semera Airstrip, Hadar, by private charter plane

Cars await the arrival of your group to transfer you to the tented camp. Accommodation is basic but comfortable. You will have the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Mobile Tented Camp

Sunday January 22, 2012

Today you will spend the time meeting and talking to the field research team and facilitators that will be on the ground at this time. Dr Donald Johanson will guide you through all the details of the history and significance of the area.

Overnight: Mobile Tented Camp

Monday January 23 2012

This morning you will depart by private charter plane and return to Addis Ababa. On arrival in Addis you will depart on your homeward flight OR overnight for your onward Omo Valley extension.

Overnight: Sheraton Hotel

END MAIN TOUR/BEGIN EXTENSION

Tuesday January 24, 2012

Fly to Arbaminch

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Arba Minch. Upon arrival at Arba Minch, you will be transferred to your hotel.

In the afternoon, you will drive to Chench, the Village of Dorze people who are known for their weaving culture which is reflected in their beautiful cotton clothes, fences, and beehive shaped bamboo huts.

Overnight: Paradise Lodge

Wednesday January 25 2012

Drive to Turmi

Distance: 275 kms

Road condition: 90 kms of asphalted road, 185 kms of gravel road

Driving hour: 9-10 hours with visits, photo stop, and lunch

After breakfast, drive down to Turmi, the settlement of the people of Hamar. The women of the Hamar are known particularly for their striking, adorned thick plaits of ochre-colored hair hanging down in a heavy fringe, leather skirts decorated with cowries, a dozen or more copper bracelets fixed tightly around their arms.

The boys have also an interesting initiation ceremony called the Bull Jumping. We will determine if there is any bull jumping ceremony during this time, but will only be able to finalize the detail closer to the time.

On your way to Turmi, visit the people Erbore village.

Overnight: Buska Lodge

Thursday January 26, 2012

Turmi

Distance: 144 kms round trip

Road condition: gravel road

Driving hour: 7- 8 hours round trip with visits, photo stops, and lunch

In the morning, you will depart for Murulle, the village of Karo people, who are the tribe with the least in number of members and known for their body paintings they indulge before important ceremonies. The most striking thing about Karo people's symbolic and ornamental expressions is the painted body and face decorations. This is an elaborate process, which ranges from fine and elaborate details to rough, but striking paintings traced with the palms or fingers. The most beautiful expression is in the facial and chest paintings that combine white (chalk), black (charcoal), yellow, ochre, and red earth. They often

imitate the spotted plumage of a guinea fowl. Karo woman sacrifice their chests to beautify themselves. The complete scarification of a man's chest indicates that he has killed an enemy or a dangerous animal. The scars are cut with a knife or razor blade and ash is rubbed in to produce a raised effect. The wearing of a grey and ochre clay hair bun also indicates the killing of an enemy or a dangerous animal.

We also visit Dus, a typical settlement with open public meeting grounds and dancing place. The people living here have shelters called shuppa, where they pass the hottest hours of the day playing a Karo board game called Warre.

Drive back to Turmi and if possible visit the weekly market of the Hamar and Bena tribes at Dimeka.

Overnight: Buska Lodge

Friday January 27, 2012

Turmi

Today you will depart on trip to Omo Rate, which is found east of the Omo River, the sole feeder of Lake Turkana or Lake Rudolf. You will cross Omo River by a small boat and walk 20 minutes to the Gelab (Dasanech) tribal village. The Dasanech people are also known for their body painting and body scarification.

Overnight: Buska Lodge

Saturday January 28, 2012

Turmi – KeyAfer – Jinka (KeyAfer Market if possible)

Distance: 132 kms

Road condition: gravel road

Driving hour: 6-7 hrs including photo stops

This day will be omitted if the market day does not correspond with the day of the visit. After breakfast, drive to Jinka with stop at KeyAfer to visit the weekly market of the Ari, Benna, and Tsemai tribes. Further drive to Jinka where you will overnight.

Overnight: Jinka Resort or Omo Eco Lodge

Sunday January 29, 2012

Jinka – Mursi – Konso

This morning you will depart 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 onwards to Konso.

Overnight: Kanta Lodge

Monday January 30, 2012

Konso – Arbaminch

In the morning you will visit the Konso village. The Konso people are known for their beautiful rock-terraces and the erection of wooden totems on their graves. Then you will drive to Arbaminch to visit the Gammo, Derashe, and Gidolle villages.

In the afternoon, you will have a remarkable boat ride on the southernmost Rift Valley Lake of Ethiopia – Lake Chamo. The boat trip on Lake Chamo is among the best anywhere in Ethiopia. One can spot many Hippos and the world's most spectacular concentrations of Giant Crocodiles (It is locally known as "Crocodile Market"). The water birds are great and the scenery is truly unforgettable. You will also watch various lowland water birds like the African Fish Eagle, Great White Pelicans, and Egrets amongst others.

Overnight: Paradise Lodge

Tuesday January 31, 2012

Fly back to Addis Ababa

This morning you will be transferred to the airport and fly back to Addis Ababa. The rest of the day will be at leisure for you to fit in any last minute shopping.

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

Transfer to the airport for your departure OR Overnight in Sheraton Hotel for those departing in the morning.

END OF SERVICE

Cost for the Main Tour

Price per person	USD 4,309.00 per person
Single Supplement	USD 975.00 per single person
Domestic Airfare Addis Ababa – Bahir Dar Gondar – Lalibela	USD 425.00 per person (subject to change)
Private Charter Flights 12-seater Caravan 208B Lalibela – Semera – Addis Ababa	USD 1,005.00 per person (subject to change)
MAIN TOUR TRAVEL TOTAL per person	<u>USD \$5,739.00*</u>

Price includes:

- Accommodation in twin/double rooms
- Breakfast in Addis Ababa
- Full Board for all onward arrangements after Addis Ababa
- All entrance fees
- Professional experienced English speaking guide service throughout the trip
- Local guide fees
- Boat hire in lake Tana
- Scout fees
- All ground transportation (using 4x4 vehicle for Semera-Hadar-Semera and 22 seat bus in Bahir Dar, Gondar, and Lalibela) 2008 model or newer
- All airport transfers
- Bottled mineral water service in the vehicle
- Government tax associated with the trip

Price excludes:

- International airfare
- Alcoholic drinks
- Lunch and dinner in Addis Ababa
- Tips
- Other personal nature costs like telephone, laundry, shopping, etc

Cost for the Extension

Price per person	USD 2508.00 per person
Single Supplement	USD 245.00 per single person
Private Charter Flights 12-seater Caravan 208B Addis Ababa – Arbaminch – Addis Ababa	USD 850.00 per person (subject to change)
TOTAL FOR EXTENSION	<u>USD \$3,358.00</u>

Price includes:

- Accommodation in twin/double room
- Breakfast in Addis Ababa
- Full Board for all onward arrangements after Addis Ababa
- All entrance fees
- Professional experienced English speaking guide service throughout the trip
- Local guide fees
- Boat hire in lake Chamo
- Scout fees
- All ground transportation using 4x4 vehicle (2008 and above model)
- All airport transfers
- Bottled mineral water service in the vehicle
- Government tax associated with the trip

Price excludes:

- International airfare
- Alcoholic drinks
- Lunch and dinner in Addis Ababa
- Tips
- Other personal nature costs like telephone, laundry, shopping, etc

TOTAL FOR MAIN TOUR	\$5,739*
TOTAL FOR EXTENSION	3,358
<u>TOTAL FOR FULL TOUR</u>	<u>\$9,097*</u>

*Does not include charitable contribution to the ASU Foundation for a New American University on behalf of the Institute of Human Origins of \$2,500 per person and a charitable contribution to African Ceremonies of \$2,500 per person. The ASU Foundation for a New American University is a separate nonprofit organization that exists to benefit ASU. Your gift may be considered a charitable contribution. Please consult with your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of charitable contributions.