

## DOSSIER: NETH – 20 Day Exploring Ethiopia

### Local Payment – USD 900

Payable in cash to the guide on departure. Only small denominations (\$50, \$20, \$10, \$5) notes printed after 2000 will be accepted.

### Countries Visited

Ethiopia

### Vehicle

Safari Vehicle

### Malaria

Malaria prophylactics are required throughout the route.

### Departure Point

8.00am from the Holiday Hotel, Haile Gebre Silasie Road Addis Ababa. Tel: +27 11 661 20 81 (no website available)

### End Point

Holiday Hotel, Haile Gebre Silasie Road Addis Ababa. Tel: +27 11 661 20 81 (no website available)

### What's included?

Meals as indicated on the itinerary, accommodation, registered guides, transport and selected activities as per itinerary.

### What's excluded?

All items of a personal nature, alcohol, snacks, souvenirs, tips and optional activities (see list for an indication of prices).

### Health

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies that you may have.

### Visas

Please note that these are your responsibility. Most nationalities require visas for East African countries. See Pre Departure Booklet for more information.

### Climate

The African sun is very strong. Please use a factor 30 sunscreen and wear a hat. You should drink at least 3 litres of water per day to avoid dehydration. East Africa experiences a very wet rainy season. Please bear this in mind during the summer months. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information.

### Currency and Banking

USD (United States Dollars) is the best currency for East Africa. Travellers Cheques can take a long time to change into cash and often incur unreasonable charges. Credit Cards cannot always be processed – especially in remote areas. USD Notes printed before 2000 (i.e. the old style notes) will not be accepted and many places will not accept USD100 notes, so make sure to bring lots of \$1, \$5 and \$10 notes for tips and craft markets. USD20 and USD50 notes are good to change in to local currency. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information on each country.

### Vaccinations

A Yellow Fever Certificate is required for this tour. Please see the Pre Departure Information booklet for detailed information on vaccinations in Africa.

### Onward Travel

Fly for Example to Nairobi and enjoy our Masai Mara & Gorillas tour or a Kilimanjaro Trek..

### Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport transfers – contact your travel agent to make these bookings.

### Arrival

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any problems such as forgotten luggage, misplaced bags or any unpredictable problems such as airline strikes or delayed flight arrival.

### Departure

Please book your flight to depart the day after the tour officially ends. This is to account for any delays that we may experience due to unpredictable road conditions.

**Note: All information is subject to change without prior notice. Travel times can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only.**

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES ON THIS ROUTE

Country	Area	Activity	Price Range
Ethiopia	Bahirdar	Fishing	Free of charge
Ethiopia	Bahirdar	Boat trip on Nile River	5 US\$ pp
Ethiopia	Bahirdar	Boat trip on Lake Tana	20 US\$ pp
Ethiopia	Gonder	Black Jews community Center	Small donation
Ethiopia	Semien Mountains	Mountain Biking	20 US\$ per day
Ethiopia	Semien Mountains	Mule riding + Muleteer	5 US\$ pp
Ethiopia	Lalibela	Coffee ceremony	5 US\$ pp
Ethiopia	Through out	Local house visit	5 US\$ per group
Ethiopia	Arba Minch	Hot Springs	8 US\$ pp
Ethiopia	Arba Minch	Boat trip on lake Chamo	20 US\$ pp
Ethiopia	Arba Minch	Fishing	negotiable
Ethiopia	Jinka	Jinka Museum	3 US\$ pp
Ethiopia	Turmi	Bull Jumping	12 US\$ pp
Ethiopia	Turmi	Tribal Dance	12 US\$ pp
Ethiopia	Omorate	Boat trip on Omo River	12 US\$ pp
Ethiopia	Throughout tour	Picture taking (tip to locals)	0.25 US\$ pp

### Note:

There are more optional activities being created every day – we have listed only the most popular. If there is something specific you would like to do then speak to your guide as they will be able to assist you. Please pre-book the scenic flight, or balloon trip in Serengeti with your guide on day of departure, these activities are subject to availability.

## DAY 1 ADDIS ABABA to BAHIR DAR

After a short briefing we drive to Bahir Dar, the road takes a winding route over the Ethiopian Plateau towards Debre Libanso for lunch. After eating we continue to our campsite at Bahir Dar. Bahir Dar is a large town on the edge of Ethiopia's largest lake, the deep blue Lake Tana. *Optional Activities: Lake Tana cruise. Blue Nile Falls*

<b>Meals:</b>	Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Tana Hotel camping grounds <a href="http://www.ghionhotel.com.et/tana.htm">www.ghionhotel.com.et/tana.htm</a>
<b>Facilities:</b>	Toilet, shower and internet
<b>Route:</b>	Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar ± 565km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 10hrs

The group will meet at the Holiday Hotel. After a short briefing we'll drive up northeast towards Bahir Dar, this route takes the tour on a winding road over the Ethiopian Plateau (2,800m above sea level). The landscape of the plateau is dotted with villages and colourful markets. Along the roadside, myriad of people move on foot carrying hand crafted goods (grain, tobacco, fruits and weaved cotton) to be sold at the market in the nearest village. After 105 Km we reach the famous medieval Monastery (church) of Debre Libanso, the Monastery was founded in the 13th century in a magnificent 700m – high canyon. The canyon has a stream that runs down tumbling over several waterfalls and past the new church, built by Haile Selassie in the 1950's, to its derelict predecessor. On the opposite side of the stream to the main church, is the cave where Tekle Haymanot prayed until his death (at 98yrs old), and is now maintained as a shrine. We'll stop here for a visit; the local priest will gladly bless visitors with holy water from the cave, that is provided you haven't eaten anything yet that day and we'll see some of the monks and nuns that live in the nearby caves. Then we're off again to Bahir Dar, crossing huge canyons, we come upon the curves of the Blue Nile Gorge. This magnificent Gorge is 1km deep and was once thought to be the deepest in Africa (a title now bestowed on the Fish River Canyon in Namibia). The gorge follows the river south of Lake Tana before it gushes out of Ethiopia to meet the White Nile at Khartoum in the Sudan. We pass through Dejen and we arrive to Debre Markos for lunch.

After lunch we drive to Bahir Dar (245 km). We drive through very beautiful landscape roads to Bahir Dar; the road is a newly constructed asphalt road. We arrive in Bahir Dar towards the evening and spend the night camping.

## DAY 2 BAHIR DAR

Bahir Dar is a large town on the edge of Lake Tana with a sticky tropical ambience, more similar to somewhere like Awassa in the Rift Valley. This is probably the most important commercial center today, with a population of 150, 000, it's the largest town in Ethiopia and the fastest growing as well.

The central market is one of the finest in the country and worth a few hours. You can pick up a goatskin injera, a holder used by herdsmen as a "picnic basket". There is a daily fish market on the shore of the lake about 500m from the Ghion Hotel. Here you can also see a great many papyrus tankwa boats, and a large numbers of pelicans.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast and Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Tana Hotel camping area <a href="http://www.ghionhotel.com.et/tana.htm">www.ghionhotel.com.et/tana.htm</a>
<b>Facilities:</b>	Toilet, Shower and Internet
<b>Route:</b>	Bahir Dar
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 4hr trip to Blue Nile Falls plus 4hrs on a boat

The Lake is the largest in Ethiopia (with a surface area of 3, 673km<sup>2</sup>) and is the source of the Blue Nile. This explains many links between Ethiopia and the ancient world.

About 30km after the river exits the Lake, the Blue Nile plunges over a 45m high, 100m wide rock face to form one of Africa's most spectacular waterfalls (known to the locals as Tis Abay, meaning 'Smoke of the Nile') giving rise to steam clouds and rainbows. Those who wish may descend to the base of the falls, climb back up the other side and cross the Nile in a papyrus boat (traditionally known as a "Tankwa") in order to return to the point of departure.

In the afternoon the tour embarks on a boat trip exploring Lake Tana and its islands. There are 37 islands on Lake Tana and 30 of them have churches and monasteries of considerable historical and cultural interest. We visit the monastery churches of Ura Kidane Mihret and Azoa Mariam.

Ura Kidane Mihret is the best known of the monasteries, founded in the 14th century and set within bleak stone walls. The church has an important collection of religious icons from the 16th to 18th centuries A.D. which include old crowns of Ethiopian Kings, ancient leather bound bibles and other treasures. Azoa Mariam is known for its paintings and we also have time to visit the small museum.

### DAY 3 BAHIR DAR to GONDER

In the morning we drive from Bahir Dar to Gonder, the tour arrives in the afternoon; here there'll be a tour of Gonder. Gonder is the most immediately impressive of Ethiopia's major cities, and was the first capital city of the Ethiopian Empire, which began in 1632 with the reign of Fasilidas.

In Gonder, there are a dozen castles built by various emperors over the course of 236 years. The city seems more European than African and also has Islamic influences. In the afternoon, we visit Fasilidas' castle, probably the most impressive of all the castles found in the area and the oldest one! Constructed in 1640 and re-stored some time in the mid-20th century.

Fasilidas castle is made of stone and shows a unique combination of Portuguese, Axumite and even Indian influences. The walls are decorated with a symbol similar to the Star of David, which became the emblem of the Ethiopian royal family after the Solomonic dynasty reclaimed the Throne in the 13th century.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast and Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Goha Hotel camping area <a href="http://www.ghionhotel.com.et/goha.htm">www.ghionhotel.com.et/goha.htm</a>
<b>Facilities:</b>	Toilet, shower and internet
<b>Route:</b>	Bahir Dar to Gonder ± 180km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 3hrs

We continue on to Quskuam Church and the Church Of Debre Berham Selassie ('Trinity of the Place of Light'). The original church was almost circular in shape, after a fire in 1707 it was restored to its circular form. The modern building is thought to have been built in the 18th century after a lightning strike, although no-one knows for sure. The interior of Debre Berham Selassie is decorated with beautiful frescos, cherubs and paintings. The much photographed ceiling, decorated with paintings of 80 cherubic faces. Debre Berham Selassie is rumored to once have been the proposed final resting-place of the Ark of the Covenant. Here the tour stays overnight in a Hotel.

### DAY 4 GONDER to SIMIEN MOUNTAINS

4 km after leaving Gonder on our way to the Simien Mountain National Park, we visit the Woleka village. This village of the Felasha (African Jews) is famous for their (poor) ceramics made in the Felasha tradition. All but one of the Felasha occupants was airlifted to Israel during the last famine. The Felasha woman who remains is also trying to emigrate to Israel.

Then we head off to the Simien Mountains, one of Africa's largest mountain ranges (Simien National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site). The road passes over mountainous areas of wild beauty, drawing close to the Simien Massif (in Amharic, Simien means north). In the park, many of the mountain peaks exceed 4,000 m (13123 ft); the highest is Ras Dejen, at 4,543 m (1905 ft) above sea level is the highest point in Ethiopia and the 4th highest in Africa.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast and Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Sankaber camping site (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Toilet
<b>Route:</b>	Gonder to Simien Mountains ± 140km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 5hrs

These mountains consist of volcanic masses that have been eroded away by centuries of rain. Today they have amethyst-colored peaks and deep gullies, which have been further deepened by rivers. The crevices play host to the Walya, the ibex of the Simien Mountains. We'll have a two-hour hike around the park and then stay over night in one of the hotels.

### DAY 5 SIMIEN MOUNTAINS to AXUM

The road passes over mountain regions of the National Park with all of its wild beauty, passing through the Limalimo Mountain, we traverse the Tekeze valley, with breath taking views all day we finally reach Axum. The legends narrated in the Kebra Nagast ('Book of Kings') recount how the city of Axum was as early as the 10th century B.C already the city in which the Queen of Sheba resided. It is recounted that the son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon brought the Ark of the Covenant to Axum and it remains there to this day, preserved in a sanctuary.

Famous long before the time of Christ, Axum was the capital of the long Axumite reign, one of the oldest African empires, and represented a crucial connecting-point between Africa and Asia for almost a thousand years. A visit is organized to the stelae: granite monoliths dating from pre-Christian times and decorated with symbolic engravings. In ancient times, there were seven large steles, now one of them is in Rome – Mussolini brought it there during Italy's occupation of Ethiopia.

We'll also visit the museum, next to the church of Tsion Maryam, build by Haile Selassie's wife and contains the crowns of past Kings, ancient crosses and the supposed Ark of the Covenant. There is also a visit to the church of Tsion Maryam (St Mary of Zion), which contains the crowns of Ethiopian kings and other treasures, although entrance is forbidden to women. Then at night the tour stay's in one of the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Camping: Yeha Hotel, Camping area [www.ghionhotel.com.et/yeha.htm](http://www.ghionhotel.com.et/yeha.htm)  
**Facilities:** Toilets & shower  
**Route:** Simien Mountains to Axum ±260 km  
**Travel time:** ± 8hrs

### DAY 6 AXUM to MEKELE

By way of a beautiful panoramic roads, we drive to Yeha, the ruined city of Yeha dates back 2,700yrs. The cities most antiquity is a well-preserved 12m-high stone temple that is thought to be over 2, 500yrs old. Nobody knows what religion was practiced in the temple, but appearances suggest links with the pagan faith of the Sabaeen civilization of South Arabia. A little further along the road we find the monastery of Debre Damo, the oldest church in Ethiopia (dating from the Axumite epoch). Only men are allowed to visit the church and it is necessary to climb up to it with the aid of a rope. From the 8th to the 15th century, in this region, hundreds of rock-hewn churches were carved and constructed out of one rock. Many of the churches are carved directly into the cliff walls of the 'Ambas': typical Ethiopian mountains with flat tops and almost vertical sides. Along the way, we visit some of the churches. Then its onward to Mekele for dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Camping: Axum Hotel camping area [www.axumhotels.com](http://www.axumhotels.com)  
**Facilities:** Toilets, shower and internet.  
**Route:** Axum to Mekele ±240 km  
**Travel time:** ± 7hrs

Mekele is situated in a hill-ringed basin at roughly 2,000m, and is the capital of Tigray. This is a large city where flash modern mix with rustic stone architecture, a true city of contrast. The city does not have the history of alto of other smaller towns, and there is know mention of it in the old scripture or in the old maps of the area.

Mekele owes its success over the years to Emperor Yohannis IV, who believed he was conceived in the area. Yohanni IV founded a few church's in the area during the early yrs of his reign. The Emperor built a large castle in 1882-84 to be his home in the latter yrs of him regin.

Mekele was in 1970 still considered a small rustic town, with a population of only 20,000, and didn't even feature among the top ten towns in the 1984 census. Now Mekele is the 5th largest town in the country, with a population of over 130, 000.

### DAY 7 MEKELE to LALIBELA

The whole day is required to cover this distance. The unpaved road climbs several times to heights of about 3,000 m and descends into valleys where powerful rivers run. The landscape is dry, but visually splendid. For a considerable stretch, the winding road follows the spectacular canyon of the river Tekeze, one of the principal rivers of Ethiopia. Just before Lalibela, is the beautiful rock hewn church of Genete Mariam. Afterwards we arrive to Lalibela in the evening; dinner and overnight in a hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Camping: Roha Hotel, Camping area [www.ghionhotel.com.et/roha.htm](http://www.ghionhotel.com.et/roha.htm)  
**Facilities:** Toilets, shower and internet  
**Route:** Mekele to Lalibala ± 360 km  
**Travel time:** ± 9hrs

### DAY 8 LALIBELA

This strange city in the mountains of Lasts is located at 2,600 m above sea level. Roha, as it was known back in the 10th century to the mid 13th century and was the capital of the Zagwe dynasty. Its modern name comes from the most famous of the Zagwe rulers, the 12th century King Lalibela.

It contains 11 monolithic churches that were built in the 12th century and are carved out of the pink granite rock; they have been classified as one of the wonders of the world. Each church has a unique architectural style; all are superbly carved and most of them are decorated with well-preserved paintings. The entire city may be described as a sculpture dedicated to the glory of God. Legend has it that King Lalibela was instructed by angles to build the replica of a rock city he saw in a vision, other stories say he was in exile in Jerusalem and was inspired to create the 'new' Jerusalem in Roha. The day is dedicated to visiting the churches and exploring the city itself. Tonight we have dinner and stay in the same hotel as the previous night.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Camping: Roha Hotel camping area [www.ghionhotel.com.et/roha.htm](http://www.ghionhotel.com.et/roha.htm)  
**Facilities:** Toilets, showers, telephones& internet  
**Route:** Lalibela  
**Travel time:** N/A

### DAY 9 LALIBELA to KOMBOLCHA

The road runs through villages, cultivated plains and small passes. Here, we are close to the land occupied by the Afar shepherds, a Semi-nomadic people who live mainly in the deserts of Danakil depression. We encounter them on the road with their caravans of camels. Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Kombolcha.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast and Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Tekele Hotel camping area (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Toilet & Shower
<b>Route:</b>	Lalibela to Kombolcha ± 325 km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 8hrs

### DAY 10 KOMBOLCHA to ADDIS ABABA

The road crosses the Ethiopian plateaux, with its vast expanses of cultivated fields. In Senbete, on Sundays, there is an interesting market where the Afar, Oromo and Amhara peoples meet. We arrive in Addis Ababa in the evening.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Jupiter Hotel (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Kombolcha to Addis Ababa ± 375 km
<b>Route:</b>	± 8hrs

### DAY 11 ADDIS ABABA to ARBA MINCH

It's an early start as we leave Addis Ababa and begin the adventure of Omo Valley in 4x4 vehicles. We pass by the Rift Valley lakes before arriving into Arba Minch. This town is the largest in southern Ethiopia; it is situated among green hills that offer grand views over the Rift Valley Lakes of Abaya and Chamo. Tonight we have dinner in the Soma Restaurant, famous for its fresh fish dishes.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast & Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Bekele Mola Hotel Camping area (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Restaurant, Bar, Toilets and Shower, electricity 24 hours available
<b>Route:</b>	Addis Ababa to Arba Minch ± 505km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 9-10hrs

Addis Ababa is the former capital of Gamo-Gofa Province, yet it retains a small town character, most likely due to the fact that it is really two small towns. The larger down town area of Sikela, more bustling commercial and residential center, while uptown Shecha is more government buildings, hotels. The two are separated by 4km of tar road.

### DAY 12 ARBA MINCH

In the morning we take a relaxing yet very rewarding boat trip on Lake Chamo, which although much smaller, is much bluer in colour, and populated by a substantial number of crocodiles and hippos. Abaya is the largest of the Rift Valley lakes +-1,070 km<sup>2</sup> and has a rusty appearance resulting from ferrous hydroxide suspended in the water.

Later in the afternoon we visit the Nechisar National Park, which is one of the most beautiful parks in Africa. Established in 1974 and set in the Rift Valley at an altitude of 1,100 – 1,650m, the park not only covers the easterly Nechisar(white grass) plains is named after, but also a large part of the two lakes and the mountainous “bridge of God” that lies between the two lakes. On the open Nechisar plains is the best viewing spot to see large game, most commonly of which is Burchell's zebra which are regularly see in herds of 100 or more and Grant's gazelle, although rare there are also ±100 Swayne's hartebeest. Lion, cheetah and even African Wild dog are present, but you'd be extremely lucky to see them.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast & Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Bekele Mola Hotel Camping area (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Restaurant, Bar, Toilets and Shower, electricity 24 hours available
<b>Route:</b>	Arba Minch
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 6hrs (Round trip in National Park)

### DAY 13 ARBA MINCH to TURMI

The road continues into the savannah, running alongside the “Mountains of Men”, the road then rises up the Karkerte Mountains (providing splendid panoramic views) until it reaches the soft, terraced hills of Konso, here we visit a Konso village on the southern extensions of the highlands to meet the locals who are excellent farmers. The Konso are also noted for there unusual practice of sculpting eerie wooden statues to mark the graves of their dead. Should the Chief of Konso be in residence, we may be granted an audience with him. Then we continue our route through the savannah and on to Turmi where the tour will spend the night.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast & Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Dinknesh Lodge and Camping site (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Restaurant, toilet and shower
<b>Route:</b>	Arba Minch to Turmi ± 260km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 7hrs

Although small in size Turmi is an important transport hub and best known for its Monday market, possibly the most important in Hamer country. There are a few small and unspoilt Hamer villages within a 2km radius of Turmi town.

### DAY 14 TURMI to OMORATE to TURMI

Today the tour drives through the savannah along tracks that are barely visible, passing through a vast meadowland with shrubs and umbelifers ("umbrella" acacia trees). As we pass over the Omo River nothing in Ethiopia or modern Africa prepares you for South Omo. This area is filled with extraordinary cultural integrity, where the people weren't even aware that such a thing as Ethiopia existed until 50yrs ago. Omorate lies on the eastern bank of the Omo River and is almost totally isolated from the rest of Ethiopia.

The main attraction is the Dasanech Villages on the out skirts of the town. The Dasanech are also known as Galeb or Reshiat they were forced out of there homeland in a region called Nyupe, to the west of Turkana, by the expansionist wars of Turkana in the 18th century. They now cover a large territory of the western banks of the Omo all the way south to Lake Turkana. Here we'll encounter the Galeb people in the countryside, and go into the villages, after which we head back to Omorate to look at the local wild life on the banks of the river. The tour then returns to Turmi for the evening to rest before tomorrow's adventure.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast & Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Dinknesh Lodge and Camping site (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Restaurant, toilet and shower
<b>Route:</b>	Turmi – Omorate - Turmi
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 5hrs

### DAY 15 TURMI to MAGO NATIONAL PARK

Today the tour continues northwest up towards Murulle, where we can visit the Karo tribes of Kolcho and Dus. We then continue to Mago National Park, from here on there is no real track to speak of any more. Instead we travel through the savannah in a typically African landscape. Here we'll frequently be running into herds of Oryx and gazelle and surrounded by huge trees, this is the land of the Karo tribe and it is possible to meet with them along the river.

We continue the drive north to Mago National Park. Mago National Park was proclaimed in the 1960's and is bisected by the Mago River, which flows into the Omo on the southern boundary. After about 2 hours of rough road we arrive at the camp site where we spend the night in tents.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast & Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Mago Campsite (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Toilet
<b>Route:</b>	Turmi to Mago National Park ± 201km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 9hrs

The campsite is in a beautiful clearing among towering trees, which provide shade, and near the river Neri. We'll visit the Mursi village situated close by, the Mursi are most notably known for there custom in which the women slowly expand their lower lips using disks that gradually get larger and larger. These are people who farm the land and breed livestock; they live in almost complete isolation from the rest of the world. We then return to the camp site. There are not that many animals visible during the day in the park, but by night we are surrounded by thousands of sounds, among which is the trumpeting of elephants.

### DAY 16 MAGO NATIONAL PARK to ARBA MINCH

The tour leaves Mago National Park on the return journey towards to the northeast, passing though the Konso villages. We will have a very brief stop over in Jinka and then continue towards Key Afer, here we will visit the Ari and Bana tribes and you can have lunch in one of the local hotels or restaurants. Then it's back on the road and towards in the evening we will arrive to Arba Minch.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast & Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Bekele Mola camping area (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Restaurant, Bar, Toilets and Shower, electricity 24 hours available
<b>Route:</b>	Mago National Park to Arba Minch ± 245km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 11hrs

The Ari are the largest tribe in the southern Omo, with territory's extending from the northern borders of Mago National Park into the highlands around Jinka and Key Afer, and further still to the north. In the 1984 census they were numbered at about 100,000 souls, and are considerably larger today. As with the Hamar, the Ari speak a south Omotic language, which is divided into ten distinct regional dialects. Both tribes are mixed farmers who grow various grains, keep livestock, and produce excellent honey.

### DAY 17 ARBA MINCH to AWASSA

This morning we return to the road that leads back up the Rift Valley. On route the tour cross through fertile lands that have been planted with bananas, cereals and tobacco. All kinds of fruit and weaved goods are sold along the roadside. On the way we'll stop off in Chencha and visit a Dorze village. The Dorze people are renowned cotton weavers, and their tall beehiveshaped huts are the most distinctive in Africa, these remarkable huts can measure up to 6 meters tall, and are constructed entirely from organic material. These dome structures are extremely durable; one would last a lifetime.

In the afternoon the tour arrive at Awassa, this large city is located on the edge of Lake Awassa, at an altitude of 1,685m and about 275km south of Addis Ababa. The lake is the smallest of the Rift Valley lakes. Set in an ancient volcanic caldera, the lake has no outlets, yet remains fresh with an abundance of both fish and bird life. Lake Awassa is surrounded by stunning mountains and lush fringing vegetation. There is also a beautiful dyke that run's along the lake close to town , built to prevent flooding when the lake rises, which is perfect for walk's, to stretch those legs and go bird watching.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast & Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Wabishebele Hotel campsite (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Restaurant, Toilet & Shower
<b>Route:</b>	Arba Minch to Awassa ± 280km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 7 - 8hrs

Birds in the area included the fish eagle, silvery-cheeked hornbill, grey kestrel, several types of weavers and much more. There are also hippos present in the lake which can be seen from a boat. The city itself has a great open market, Monday and Thursday, as well as a daily fish market on the lakeshore. This is also a good place to go to the bank to change traveler's checks and \$US.

### DAY 18 AWASSA to DINSHO

The tour now heads out east towards Dinsho, the route taken passes through immense fields of wheat, barley and high-altitude meadows. This is a particularly lush green landscape, especially in October and November. The local Ormo people, move from one village to the next on small horses, carrying various goods of grain and weaved cotton. We arrive in the evening, have dinner and camp the night.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast & Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Bale National Park HQ (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Toilet
<b>Route:</b>	Awassa to Dinsho ± 195km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 7 - 8hrs

### DAY 19 DINSHO

Dinsho is our gate way to the Bale Mountains National Park. the park encompasses the higher reaches of the Bale range, including Mt Tullo Deemtu, at 4,377m is the second highest peak in Ethiopia. The main attractions are the wild alpine scenery, especially the 4,000m-high Senetti Plateau as well as the Simien wolves. The road across the Senetti Plateau is reportedly the highest all weather road in Africa. We'll spend the day exploring the park and meeting some of the locals

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast & Dinner
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Camping: Bale National Park HQ (no website available)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Toilet
<b>Route:</b>	Dinsho to Sanetti ± 90km
<b>Travel time:</b>	± 6 – 7hrs

There are many protected mammals in the park, including the Nyala, the kudu, gazelles and the rare wolves of the Simien mountains. The day is dedicated to visiting the park, with the option to go on short treks or horse riding. Then the tour returns to camp for dinner.

### Day 20 DINSHO to ADDIS ABABA – TOUR ENDS

The tour heads back up north for the drive to Addis Ababa. Your tour ends here.

<b>Meals:</b>	Breakfast
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through Nomad
<b>Route:</b>	Dinsho to Addis Ababa ± 400km
<b>Travel time:</b>	±10hrs

**TOUR ENDS** - You can book an additional night at the Holiday Hotel (no website available). This needs to be pre-booked through your travel agent or AFTours.

**TIPPING ON TOUR** - East Africa: In general tipping in restaurants is expected and is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and, feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides. It is expected to tip Porters and Car-guards etc. Ask your guides how much is appropriate in local currency.

Our guides do work hard, but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. Our Crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty. The recommended amount is between USD1-2 per person, per day, per crewmember.

The best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. So if you have 3-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 3 envelopes are used and each crewmembers name written on one. Place what you feel is fair in to each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserve a tip, please, do not tip them.

### THANK YOU FOR TRAVELLING WITH ADVENTURE FANTASY TOURS (AFTours)

Please send any feedback to [admin@overlandtravel.com](mailto:admin@overlandtravel.com) We really appreciate it and will use the information to improve and maintain our service levels.

*Accommodation providers are subject to change without notice, the accommodation listed in this dossier is our preferred supplier, but sometimes due to availability, we are unable to make use of the property listed in this dossier. If we cannot use the accommodation provider as listed we will substitute another property of similar standards, however, en-suite facilities are not always guaranteed.*