

Local Payment – USD 450

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

7.00am 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

To explore Ethiopia fully combine this tour with the NETHN – Cultural tour to the Northern Tribes.

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 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.

Meals:	Dinner
Accommodation:	Camping: Bekele Mola Hotel Camping area (no website available)
Facilities:	Restaurant, Bar, Toilets and Shower, electricity 24 hours available
Route:	Addis Ababa to Arba Minch ± 505km
Travel time:	± 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 2 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 +- 1,070km² 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 seen 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.

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

DAY 3 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 their 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.

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

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

DAY 4 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 outskirts of the town. The Dasanech are also known as Galeb or Reshiat they were forced out of their 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.

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

DAY 5 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.

Meals:	Breakfast & Dinner
Accommodation:	Camping: Mago Campsite (no website available)
Facilities:	Toilet
Route:	Turmi to Mago National Park ± 201km
Travel time:	± 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 their 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 6 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.

Meals:	Breakfast & Dinner
Accommodation:	Camping: Bekele Mola camping area (no website available)
Facilities:	Restaurant, Bar, Toilets and Shower, electricity 24 hours available
Route:	Mago National Park to Arba Minch ± 245km
Travel time:	± 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 7 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 arrives 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 runs 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.

Meals:	Breakfast & Dinner
Accommodation:	Camping: Wabishebele Hotel campsite (no website available)
Facilities:	Restaurant, Toilet & Shower
Route:	Arba Minch to Awassa ± 280km
Travel time:	± 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 8 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.

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

DAY 9 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

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner
Accommodation: Camping: Bale National Park HQ (no website available)
Facilities: Toilet
Route: Dinsho to Sanetti ± 90km
Travel time: ± 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 10 DINSHO to ADDIS ABABA

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

Meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through AFTours
Route: Dinsho to Addis Ababa ± 400km
Travel time: ±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 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.