

Ethiopia 2017



Ethiopia 2017 Proposed Itinerary

Addis Ababa – Lalibela – Danakil Depression – Mekele – Bahir Dar – Addis Ababa

Day	Overnight	Itinerary
05/01	Addis: Overnight: Addis	Arrive in Addis. Optional city tour depending on arrival time.
06/01	Lalibela: Overnight: Lalibela	ET 160 ADD 08:05 LLI 09:05 Day spent exploring Lalibela taking in the atmosphere on the eve of Ethiopia's Christmas. During Ethiopian Christmas in Lalibela, the holiest town in Ethiopia, thousands of People gather to attend the festival. On Christmas eve pilgrims pack into the churches shoulder to shoulder and crowd the surrounding hills. To begin the Mass, priests chant and rattle sistras, palm-size instruments from Old Testament times, and the celebration continues throughout the night. 
07/01	Lalibela: Overnight: Lalibela	A day in Lalibela to explore the surrounding area or to relax after the night before.
08/01	Mekele: Overnight: Mekele	Drive from Lalibela to Mekele The journey from Lalibela to Mekele takes around 8 hours and gives you the opportunity to experience Ethiopian towns and villages on route.
09/01	Danakil: Hamedela Overnight: Camping	Begin Danakil Depression tour from Mekele Drive to Hamedela via Berhale. The Danakil Depression can be said to 'begin' here. It is one of the most inhospitable regions of the world, but is nonetheless spectacular, full of eye-catching colours, as in the sulphur springs. The desert has several points lying more than 100 meters (328 ft) below sea level. You pass through a small town of Berhale where the camel caravans stop before they proceed to the northern highlands. En route you see many long caravans going to the salt mines and others coming out of the Danakil with their salt loaded camels. (3-4 hrs drive) Camp at Hamedela. 

<p>10/01</p>	<p>Danakil: Dodom</p> <p>Overnight: Camping</p>	<p>We start early, shortly after a 06:30 breakfast, and drive to Dodom at the base of Erta Ale. This may be one of the worst road in the world. The 80 km distance may take about 6 hrs passing through changing landscape of solidified lava, rock, sand and the occasional palm lined oasis. You pass several small hamlets scattered here and there in this desert land, before reaching Dodom. You will trek from Dodom to Erta Ale which takes about 3 hrs. Early dinner around 17:00 and trek up to Ert Ale at 20:00. Camels transport all the camping materials and some food, sleeping materials, mattresses and water, to the rim of the volcano, where we spend the night watching the dramatic action of the boiling lava. Erta Ale ranks one of the most alluring and physically challenging natural attractions anywhere in Ethiopia. It is a shield volcano with a base diameter of 30 km and 1km square caldera at its summit. Erta Ale contains the world’s only permanent lava lake and you will spend an unforgettable night on the top of the mountain.</p> 
<p>11/01</p>	<p>Danakil: Hamedela</p> <p>Overnight: Camping</p>	<p>Early morning you will rise with the sun with time to walk around pits and craters. The main pit-crater, 200 m deep and 350 m across, is sub-circular and three storied. The smaller southern pit is 65 m wide and about 100 m deep. You will leave around 7:00 to head back to Dodom for breakfast. You will reach latest at 10:30 am at the camp, time to relax. After drive to reach Hamadela, better village with a total population about 500 people. Overnight camping at Hamedela.</p>
<p>12/01</p>	<p>Mekele</p> <p>Overnight: Geralta Lodge</p>	<p>Morning driving tour to Ragad (Asebo), the place where the salts are mined. Observe the breaking of the salt from the ground, cutting in to rectangular pieces and loading on camels. You drive ahead to Dallol and visit the difference landscape formed by volcanic activity, Dallol + Lake Assal + camel caravans. Excursion to Dallol (116 meter below sea level, one of the lowest places in the world) colourful salts mining, visit Lake Assal, follow up camel caravans and walk with the Afar people. Drive back to Hamedela and proceed to Mekele.</p> <p>Drive Mekele - Geralta Lodge</p> <p>In the heart of Tigray, the northern region of Ethiopia, lies the Gheralta Lodge near Hawzen town. This is a beautiful peaceful place to spend the night, with outstanding views across the Gheralta area and surrounding Mountains.</p> 

13/01	Tigray Churches Overnight: Aksum	Drive Gheralta Lodge - Aksum Gheralta area, with its unique chain of mountains, is the home of the rock churches, some famous for their architecture, ancient paintings and manuscripts and others known for their magnificent view. For the adventurous there will be a visit to Abuna Yamata Guh, a church cut into the cliff face and reached by following a breath taking path up the mountainside.	
14/01	Bahir Dar Overnight: Bahir Dar	Flight Aksum - Gondar ET123 11:15/12:45 Transfer to Bahir Dar via Gondar. There will be an option to stay one night in Gondar.	
15/01		<p>Time will be spent with the staff and students at the New Day Children's Centre. There are a number of activities that we can do while we are there. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping the teachers improve their lesson planning and developing their teaching skills. • Developing teaching resources to be used with the students. • Helping the cooks prepare meals. • Improving the facilities at the Centre. • Painting the centre. • Fund raising. <p>During our time in Bahir Dar there will be opportunities to visit the Blue Nile Falls, the churches on Lake Tana and an early morning hippo adventure.</p>	
16/01			
17/01			
18/01			
19/01			
20/01			
21/01			
22/01			
23/01	Addis	Return to Addis either by land or air.	

Included:

All accommodation with breakfast
All domestic travel – flights and ground transport
All entrance costs
All guide services
All meals with non-alcoholic beverages and water while in the Danakil Depression.

Cost:

£1700 excluding international flights

(Please note that this is an indicative price and while subject to change is unlikely to change considerably).