

Ethiopia Overview

Tour the Historic Route of Ethiopia and Simien Mountains National Park

September 18 - 28, 2018

**Optional OMO Extension Tour:
Sept. 28 - Oct 4, 2018**

Activities: ancient history, age-old culture, breathtaking highland scenery, national parks, mountain trekking, waterfalls, castles, rock churches, archeology and so much more.

Duration: 11 Days

Transport: Surface & air

Operator: Grand Holidays Ethiopia Travel with Tour Escort for entire program including OMO Extension by Jason Travel, Inc.



Travel Cost

Main Ethiopia Tour: *

Group up to 12 persons..... **\$3,380
Group of max. 15 persons..... \$3,160
***If group falls under 12 persons, cost needs to be re-calculated.*
Single room supplement..... \$550

*Air to Addis Ababa and return separate.
International Airfare available at time of booking.
Air within Ethiopia not included.

OMO Extension Tour:

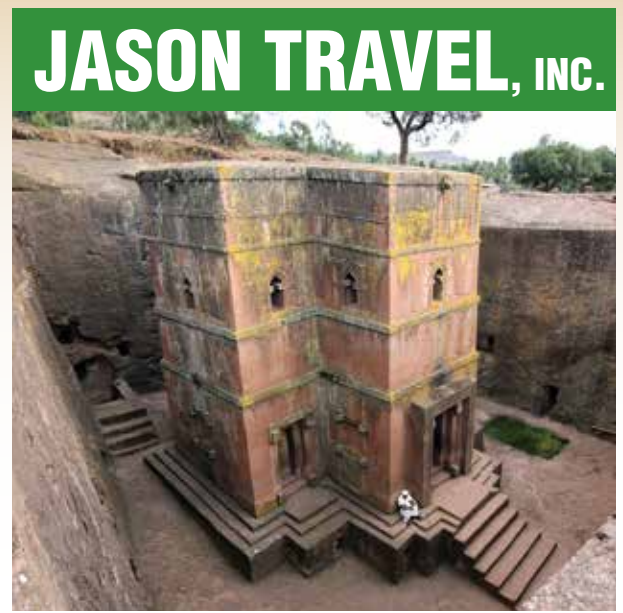
Group up 5-7 persons..... \$1830
Group of 8-10 persons..... \$1720
Single room supplement..... \$260

Payments:

Deposit to confirm participation on tour is \$500.
Final payment due 2 months prior to departure.
CST #1005510-50

Call Toll Free
877.388.9695
or **415.553.7711**

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Ethiopia Tour

September 18-19, 2018

Arrive Addis Ababa, Capital of Ethiopia. You will be welcomed and assisted by your tour guide and driver for the transfer to JUPITER HOTEL.

Addis Ababa, founded in 1886 by Menelik II, is situated at 2,500 meters (8000 ft) above sea level. It is the highest capital city in the world. The city enjoys an excellent climate all year round, with an average temperature of 25C (77F). With a multi-ethnic population of over 5 million, Addis Ababa is a pleasant city with wide avenues of jacarandas, interesting museums, and one of the largest markets in Africa.

September 20, 2018

Today enjoy a short one-hour flight to BAHIRDAR, a lovely lakeside resort on the shores of legendary LAKE TANA. We will take a boat cruise over Lake Tana to visit the ancient 14th century island monasteries of Lake Tana. The 37 islands of Lake Tana shelter twenty monasteries, surviving remnants of an old, contemplative tradition. Because of their isolation, they were used to store treasures and religious relics from all parts of the country. After having lunch at the hotel, we will drive to visit the majestic Blue Nile Falls, which plunges over a 45m-high face to form one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Africa. Walking to the fall through the beautiful river gorge on the ancient bridge from the 17th century, and meeting the local people is a great experience.

Accommodation: Avanti Blue Nile Resort

September 21, 2018

After breakfast start on a very scenic and informative drive to Gondar. You pass through many rural villages, affording glimpses of daily farming life. After check in to GOHA HOTEL and having lunch there, we will start a city tour. Gondar, founded by Emperor Fasiledas around 1635, is famous for its many medieval castles and the design and decoration of its churches, in particular, Debre Birhan Selassie represents a masterpiece of unique Ethiopian School of traditional art. There will be free time to walk around the city and visit the Open Air Market. Possible visit to the traditional priest school where young boys from all over Ethiopia come to learn the ancient wisdom.

September 22, 2018

Today we will visit the Royal Enclosure, a walled compound having 6 different castles built from 17th century by different kings who ruled at different times; See the pool of King

Fasilidas which still serves as a baptismal pool during Ethiopian Epiphany. Also visit the famous Deberberhan Selassie, whose inside is adorned with brilliant frescoes. In the evening have dinner with Gonder friends at “4 Sisters”, a vibrant Ethiopian Specialty Restaurant with music and song.

September 23, 2018

An exciting day will take us for a scenic drive into some of the highest points of Ethiopia. En route visit the “Felasha” (the Black Jewish) Village. It is believed that the “Felashas” settled here during the time of King Menelik I, the son of the legendary Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. Soon we enter the SIMIEN Mountains National Park – nothing will prepare you for the spectacular vistas where the rolling grassy plateau comes to an abrupt stop and sheer cliffs plunge almost vertically for 1,000 meters (3280 ft) to the plains below.

Accommodation: Simien Lodge, Buyit Ras

September 24, 2018

Either early this morning (or the evening before), you will have a chance to explore “Sanakabar”, part of the Simien National Park. Today we drive through other scenic areas of the park, have lunch “under a tree”, past the Tekeze River Gorge, before reaching the lowlands and AXUM.

Accommodation: Sabean Hotel

September 25, 2018

Exploring AXUM, the birthplace of Ethiopian Civilization, is mesmerizing. By the 1st Century, Axum was a major trading center for exotic goods from Egypt, Rome, Nubia, Greece, Syria and India. The “Holy Arc of the Covenant” was brought here before the destruction of the Temple, and AXUM is reputed to be the 2nd Jerusalem.

Our visit will include the Stele Square, Kaleba Tombs, the 4th Century Christian inscription of King Ezana. Queen Sheba’s Palace, the Archaeological Museum and the Tsion Marian Church, where the original Ark of the Covenant is housed. The afternoon will feature the pre-Christian Temple of Yeha.

Accommodation: Sabean Hotel Axum

September 26, 2018

Today a short flight will take us to the “Rome” of Ethiopia, LALIBELA. A deep admiration for the technical savvy of King Lalibela who, in a vision, was told by God to carve these impressive Churches out of the rocky plateau. These have been ACTIVE Christian Shrines for over 800 years, the Spiritual Center of the Country. The monolithic

Churches were carved out of 2,600 sq. meters of natural Rock in the 12th century.

Overnight at the delightful TIKAL VILLAGE with lovely bungalows overlooking the valley. A charming Coffee Ceremony will be offered at a local house, the traditional way of welcoming a guest.

Late this afternoon, attend DEMERA, the eve of MESKEL, one of the Ethiopian Orthodox Religion’s most colorful Festival. The faithful will come to share the blessing and dance and sing around a bonfire. This ceremony is performed colorfully by priests and deacons with drums and sitras.

September 27, 2018

This morning will be an absolute treat! Enjoy a mule ride and walk to the top of ASHETEN MARIAM MONASTERY, a lovely place, hewn into the side of a rock, with a spectacular vista over parts of Lalibela and the flats below. The return will be over dramatic highland scenery.

After lunch you will witness amazing architecture with impressive frescoes by visiting the various Churches. You will also visit the Lalibela Meskel Kibra Elementary School – an insight into the free Educational System.

September 28, 2018

It’s farewell to Lalibela. A short flight will bring you back to Addis. Upon arrival enjoy a sightseeing tour of this metropolis with a drive up to Mount Entoto, where the Empress had her private spa – with a view, and felt that their Capital should be moved to where it sits today.

The tour will end at Hotel Jupiter where day rooms will be available for participants departing tonight, and overnight rooms for the OMO Tour Members.

The highlight this evening is a FAREWELL DINNER for all with typical Ethiopian Entertainment. Independent departures for main tour participants later tonight.

OMO Extension Tour

Visiting the various Tribes

September 28, 2018

After farewell dinner overnight at JUPITER HOTEL.

September 29, 2018

Depart Addis with private Mini-Coach and English-speaking guide for an amazing 6-day exploration of the OMO VALLEY, featuring the many tribes with their varied

cultural lives. You will be smitten by the scenic landscape and some of the Rift Valley’s most beautiful lakes, like Lake Langano, Lake Zway and many others.

Arrive at LANGANO and check into the beautiful lakeside SABANA LODGE. Enjoy a trek in the Accesia Forest.

September 30, 2018

Today you will visit many tribal villages like the Welayta at SODO and ALABA at TEMBARO. In the afternoon the DORZE people at CHENCHA will astound you. These renowned cotton weavers dwell in beehive shaped, bamboo woven structures – amongst the most distinctive abodes anywhere in Africa.

Accommodation: Arbaminch’s Paradise Lodge

October 1, 2018

Another day of exploring will include visits to the KONSO people, the lovely country-side featuring their unique terracing. You will also stop by the TSEMAY at Weito River, the BENNA at Keyafer and the ARI at KAKO VILLAGE before coming upon the MURSI – a distinctive group of pastoralists. Their women wear circular clay lip-plates – the larger they are able to wear – the higher their marital worth.

Accommodation: Eco-Omo Lodge, Jinka

October 2, 2018

Today – you will get to know BENA VILLAGE, before visiting the HAMER people, wearing distinctive body decorations. You will be thrilled to witness the famous “Evangadi” dances.

Accommodation: Buska Lodge Of Turmi

October 3, 2018

As we start driving back to Arbaminch, we will meet the people at ERBORE and enjoy an extensive boat ride over LAKE CHAMO, featuring a very varied wildlife of large African crocodiles, Hippos and aquatic birds like the Kingfisher and African Fish Eagle

Accommodation: Paradise Lodge

October 4, 2018

It is our last day of meeting the varied people of the OMO VALLEY. In the Hosana Region you are visiting the GURAGE VILLAGES. At TIYA, you will marvel at some of the highest standing STELAE, dating from the 12th to 14th Century, believed to be grave markers.

Return to ADDIS and the JUPITER HOTEL where, depending on your flight schedule, a day room can be made available prior to your transfer to the airport and your flight home.

End of OMO Extension tour.