



2020 ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA

LAND OF ORIGINS

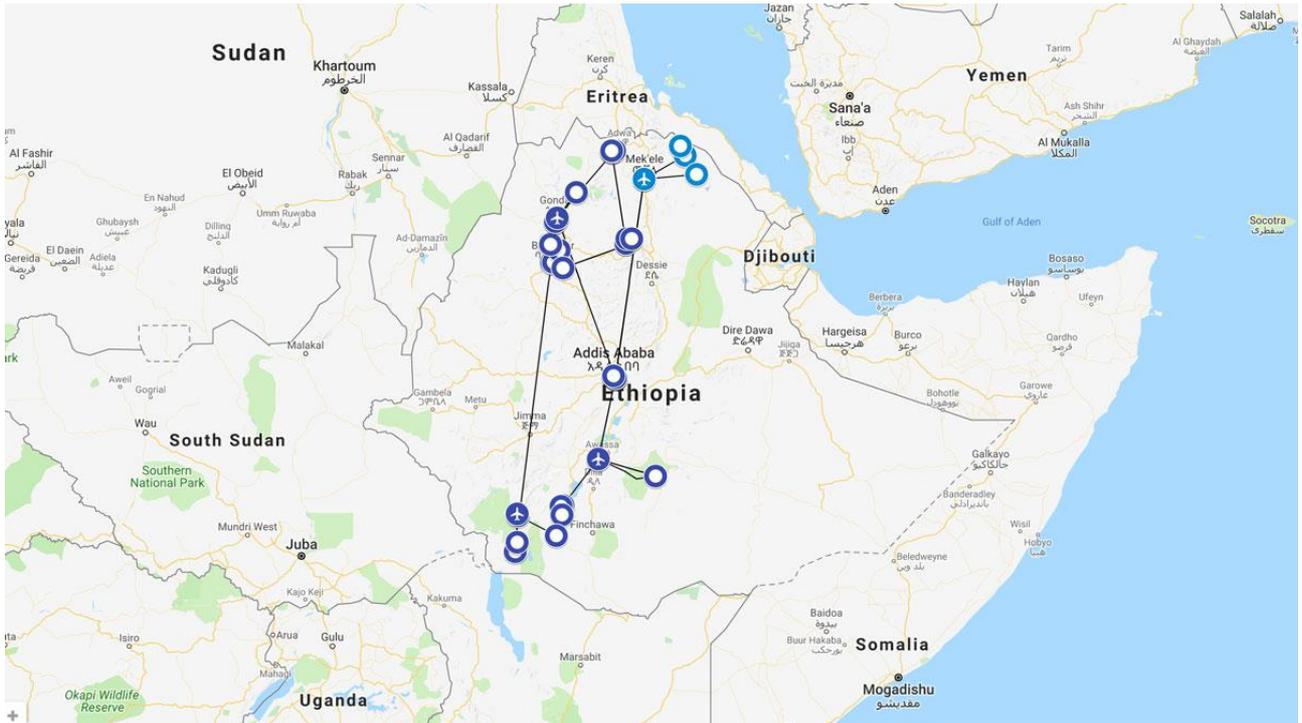
13 OCT – 02 NOV 2020 • 21 DAYS • 16 GUESTS

Archeological finds dating back over 3 million years, ancient cities with churches cut out of the rock face and bountiful wildlife, all combined with a colorful and diverse culture, make Ethiopia an incredibly unique destination. With lush highlands, stirring deserts, sweeping savannah, vast lakes and high plateaus, all host to an abundance of wildlife. Let us take you on an incredible journey from the majestic Simien mountains in the Northern Highlands, to the southern Omo Valley with its rich mosaic of ethnic tribes. Join us for the ultimate adventure to what is said to be the origin of mankind, the beautiful forgotten world of Ethiopia.

Visit the fortified city of Gondar, known as Africa's Camelot. Head to the Simien Mountains National Park with its spectacular jagged landscapes and plains of Giant Lobelias often called 'God's playground' due to its unique formations. Get close to endemic Ethiopian animals, including grass-grazing Gelada baboons, Walia ibex and the elusive 'Abyssinian fox' otherwise known as the Ethiopian wolf. Head south to Bahir Dar and the peaceful waters of Lake Tana; explore the scattered islands on this vast lake; visit hidden, ancient monasteries; enjoy the dance of White pelicans, Black-crowned cranes and hippopotamus bathing in the shallows, as fisherman gently paddle past in their traditional 'tankwa' papyrus boats. Venture to the small hillside town of Lalibela, one of the holiest towns in the heart of Ethiopia and visit the awe-inspiring rock-cut churches, their impressive architecture now a UNESCO world heritage site.

From the valleys and escarpments of the Northern Highlands, head south via Addis Ababa to the Great Rift Valley, overnighing on the shores of one of Ethiopia's most beautiful lakes, Lake Awassa. Drive south through the countryside dotted with ethnic dwellings and nomadic tribes, into the heart of the Omo Valley and visit the towns of Jinka, Turmi and Konso. Witness the diverse tribal cultures of this region, one of the few places in the world where you can still find indigenous people that have had minimal influence from the outside world. Arba Minch is known for the Dorze people, famed for their huge beehive shaped huts and weaving skills, Jinka is where we find the Hamar people, recognizable by their, muddy ochre-tinted hair. Around Turmi live the cattle-herding Dassanech tribe and the Mursi tribe, whose women wear clay plates in their lower lips or ear lobes and unique head dresses. From the ethnic heartland head north to Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia's most scenic park at an altitude of 600m-4000m (1800ft-12000ft), with one of the highest numbers of endemic animal species in the world. Keeping a watch for the Mountain Nyala, Giant Mole rats and the elusive Bale monkeys. An unmissable adventure into a forgotten world.

Take a journey to one of the lowest places on earth on our *Pre-extension to The Danakil Depression*. Home to the Afar people, a semi-nomadic group who 'mine' salt by hand in one of the toughest, driest and hottest places on earth. Climb the Erta Ale Volcano to see the bubbling, hissing, steaming lava. At Dallol, wander in awe at the outlandish active geysers and surreal acid lakes, with boiling gases and rich minerals creating a kaleidoscope of psychedelic colors. Explore salt canyons with crusty towers and pinnacles and the mythical Lake Afrera at 100m (300ft) below sea-level. Finally, head out to the salt flats and watch the caravan of camels, donkeys and mules transporting salt 'mined' by the Afar people. Said to be one of the most visually stunning places in the world, an epic and rewarding adventure unlike any other.



[CLICK TO VIEW IN GOOGLE MAPS](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the indigenous tribes of the Omo Valley.
- Journey through the Simien and Bale Mountains.
- Enjoy diverse and unique landscapes.
- See bountiful wildlife including Gelada baboons, Ethiopian wolf, Walia ibex, Giant Mole rats, Mountain nyala, Black-crowned cranes and hippopotamus.
- Travel to Lalibela with its gravity defying churches carved into the rock face.
- Meet many ethnic tribal groups throughout the country
- Enjoy authentic meals and an evening in a traditional Ethiopian home.
- Travel to the ends of the earth to the Danakil Depression to see the camel caravans transporting hand-mined salt.



ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DANAKIL – DESERT, LAVA, SALT & CAMELS

10-14 OCT 2020 - 05 DAYS – 16 GUESTS

Day 01 Oct 10	Arrive in Addis Ababa
Day 02 Oct 11	Fly Addis Ababa to Mekele / Hamed Ella
Day 03 Oct 12	Dallol Depression
Day 04 Oct 13	Erta Ale Volcano
Day 05 Oct 14	Travel to Mekele / Fly Addis Ababa / Start Main Expedition

LAND OF ORIGINS

13 OCT – 02 NOV 2020 - 21 DAYS – 16 GUESTS

Day 01 Oct 13	Depart home en route to Ethiopia
Day 02 Oct 14	Arrive in Addis Ababa
Day 03 Oct 15	Fly to Awassa / Bale Mountains
Day 04 Oct 16	Bale Mountains
Day 05 Oct 17	Flight to Arbaminch / Dorze Village
Day 06 Oct 18	Boat on Lake Chamo / Konso Village
Day 07 Oct 19	Mursi Village / Drive to Turmi
Day 08 Oct 20	Karo Village / Dimeka Market
Day 09 Oct 21	Hamer Village / Drive to Jinka / Fly Bahir Dar
Day 10 Oct 22	Lake Tana Monasteries / Blue Nile Falls
Day 11 Oct 23	Drive to Lalibela / Awramba and Amhara Villages
Day 12-13 Oct 24-25	Explore Lalibela
Day 14 Oct 26	Fly Lalibela to Axum / Axum visit
Day 15 Oct 27	Fly to Gondar / Gondar Visit
Day 16 Oct 28	Drive to Simien Mountains National Park
Day 17-18 Oct 29-30	Explore Simien Mountains
Day 19 Oct 31	Drive to Gondor / Fly to Addis Ababa
Day 20 Nov 01	Fly home or continue to Seychelles (arriving same day)
Day 21 Nov 02	Arrive home



PRE-EXTENSION ITINERARY

DANAKIL – DESERT, LAVA, SALT & CAMELS

Please note that this Pre-extension will truly take you to the center of the Earth, so be prepared for the extremes, this is not for the faint-hearted and you need to be mentally and physically prepared to participate in this extension. You can expect basic facilities, remote locations, energetic hikes, hot days and cold nights.

Day 01. Oct 10, 2020 – Arrive in Addis Ababa

Arrive into Addis Ababa the sprawling capital of Ethiopia and transfer to your hotel. Check-in at the *Sheraton Addis* situated on a hilltop overlooking the city and National Palace. The hotel is a sanctuary of Ethiopian grandeur, with a landscape of vibrant greens and colorful wildflowers as far as the eye can see. Take a swim or unwind with a soothing massage before meeting your Expedition Leaders and the rest of the group for 'Welcome' cocktails and dinner before retiring for the evening in preparation for your adventure.

Overnight: *Sheraton Addis* (D)

Day 02. Oct 11, 2020 – Fly Addis Ababa to Mekele / Hamed Ella

After an early breakfast take a short flight to Mekele and continue by road to Hamed Ella, on the way passing through the beautiful Tigre villages and the escarpment of the Afar depression, known as the cradle of mankind. Much of the area is over 100m below sea level and has been described as the lowest, remotest and one of the most unique places on earth, an exceptional and spectacular place to visit. Watch the camel caravans all loaded with salt bars trudging across the baked sand to the highlands as you travel through to the small village of Hamed Ella. Spend the afternoon observing daily life and customs in the village, your home for the next two nights. Enjoy dinner under the stars before retiring to your tent and getting some well-earned rest.

Overnight: *Tents camping* (B, L, D)

Day 03. Oct 12, 2020 – Dallol Depression

Early in the morning set off to witness the gorgeous landscape of Dallol. Along your travels see the Afar tribesman seemly appear from nowhere and pass the ever-present camel caravans transporting their wares. Watch the landscape change as you travel through to the natural phenomena of the Dallol sulfur springs and the multi-colored jagged rock formations and contorted sulphurous mounds with the salt and mineral deposits creating unique and breathtaking scenery. After visiting Dallol, drive back to the Salt Lake and see the Afar and Tigre men cutting salt bars and arranging them for one of the many camel caravans to the highlands of Ethiopia. Visit an Afar village and experience local life before returning to camp to share the stories of your amazing day over dinner.

Overnight: *Tents - camping* (B, L, D)

Day 04. Oct 13, 2020 – Erta Ale Volcano

One of Danakil's greatest spectacles is Erta Ale, 'smoking mountain' and the lowest park of the Danakil Depression. At 116metres below sea level this is our next stop and one of the most extraordinary experiences. Travel by 4x4 across the breathtaking landscape with the salt flats, sand dunes, crystal and mineral deposits, dry caked mud and saline lakes and pass through the Afar villages of Kusrewad and Dodom. Arrive to the black lava fields surrounding this magnificent volcano, and the most spectacular and longest existing lava lake on Earth. After the sun has set hike to the peak of the volcano for breathtaking views and witness the incredible power and spectacle of the 24hour bubbling lava lake.

Overnight: *Tents - camping* (B, L, D)

Day 05. Oct 14, 2020 - Travel to Mekele / Fly Addis Ababa / start of Main Expedition

After spending an extraordinary night on the volcano descend and head to Dodom for breakfast before driving back to Mekele for your flight back to Addis Ababa to meet the rest of the group for the beginning of the main expedition. **(B)**



ITINERARY

ETHIOPIA – LAND OF ORIGINS

Day 01. Oct 13, 2020 – Depart home en route to Ethiopia

Depart your home and journey to Ethiopia, arriving into Addis Ababa international airport. We highly recommend arriving at least a day before the expedition departure, so you can acclimatize, are well rested and most importantly, don't miss the trip. We can assist you with making a booking for additional hotel nights at the 5* *Sheraton Addis Hotel*

Day 02. Oct 14, 2020 - Arrive Addis Ababa

Arrive into Addis Ababa the sprawling capital of Ethiopia. Founded in 1886 by Emp. Menelik II, Addis Ababa is the capital of Ethiopia and is the third highest capital in the world and one of the largest cities in Africa. The city is located at 2500m above sea level and based at the foot of the highest peak of the Entoto Mountain chain (3200m above sea level). Addis Ababa is a unique city with wide avenues of Jacarandas, interesting museums and one of the largest open-air markets in Africa, known as Merkato. Check-in at the Sheraton Addis and relax and enjoy plunging views of the National Palace and the spectacular landscape surrounding the hotel. Take a swim or unwind with a massage before meeting your Expedition Leaders and the rest of the group for 'Welcome' cocktails and dinner before retiring for the evening in preparation for your adventure.

Overnight: *Sheraton (D)*

Day 03. Oct 15, 2020 – Fly to Awassa / Bale Mountains

After a leisurely breakfast take a short flight to Awassa, located at the banks of one of the rift valley lakes. From Awassa take a scenic drive to Bale Mountains National park your base for the next 2 days. With over 2,150 square kilometers it is home to one of the highest numbers of endemic animal species found in any terrestrial habitat in the world. En route stop at Dinsho, the headquarters of the National Park. From here you will have the best opportunity to spot the Mountain Nyala, Menelik Bush buck warthogs, and some of the many different birds like the Abyssinian cat bird, Abyssinian long eared owl and white backed black tit. Bale Mountains hosts a very impressive list of Ethiopia's endemic birds, with more than 26% of Ethiopia's endemic species found in this picturesque area. Continue your travels higher up the mountain pass through juniper woodland before entering the vast moorlands of the Bale Mountains and checking in at the Bale Mountains wilderness lodge in the heart of the National Park. Surrounded by the Haremma Forest, its idyllic location makes this the perfect base for exploring the incredible wildlife and diverse landscapes of Bale Mountains National Park.

Overnight: *Bale Mountains Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 04, Oct 16, 2020 – Bale Mountains

Early morning, ascend the Bale massif onto the Sanetti Plateau, situated between 3800m- 4377m above sea level. This site is a bird area of immense importance, supporting seven globally threatened species and nearly all of Ethiopia's Highland biome species. The Sanetti Plateau is where we hope to see the elusive Ethiopian Wolf, the plateau's most celebrated resident. Watch these vibrantly colored animals, exhibiting their hunting prowess while pouncing on Giant Mole-rats also endemic to Ethiopia. Head deeper into the Haremma Forest, known for its mammals, amphibians and birds, including many endemic species. This remarkable forest is the largest intact forest block in Ethiopia and the largest protected Afro-alpine forest on the continent. It still supports populations of the only surviving forest-dwelling African Wild Dogs. The descent through this breathtakingly beautiful moss-draped forest is a photographers and naturalists dream.

Overnight: *Bale Mountains Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 05. Oct 17, 2020 – Fly to Arbaminch / Dorze Village

After breakfast, drive to Robe via the Sennette Plateau, keeping an eye out for some last sightings of the Ethiopian wolf, and the many bird populations including Ruddy Shelduck, Golden Eagle, Red-billed Cough, Black Stork, Wattled Ibis, Chestnut-naped, Moorland Francolins and the Rouget's Rail, as well as the endemic Blue-winged Goose and Spot-breasted Lapwing and Thekla Lark. Migratory flocks of Red-throated Pipit, Abyssinian Long claw, Red-breasted Wheatear, dumpy Moorland Chat and vast flocks of endemic Ethiopian Siskin can all be found here. After bidding farewell to the wildlife of the Bale Mountains, board our private charter flight to Arbaminch, situated at the bank of the two rift valley lakes, Lake Chamo and Lake Abaya. After a very scenic flight travel from Arbaminch to Chencha to visit the Dorze village. The Dorze people are known for their weaving culture which is reflected in their beautiful cotton clothes, fences and beehive shaped bamboo huts.

Overnight: *Haile Resort Arbaminch* (B, L, D)

Day 06. Oct 18, 2020 – Boat on Lake Chamo / Konso Village

After breakfast take a morning boat tour on Lake Chamo, the southernmost Rift Valley Lake of Ethiopia. See giant Crocodiles lazing on the banks of the lake and get an up close and personal view of these massive and magnificent creatures at what is locally called the 'Crocodile Market'. Spot Hippos breaking the surface of the water and the many lowland water birds like the African Fish Eagle, Great White Pelicans and Egrets skimming the water. Watch local fisherman in their traditional boats. After the boat trip head to a Konso village for lunch, a registered UNESCO World Heritage site. The Konso villages are characterized by extensive dry-stone terraces. The walled towns and settlements are located on high plains or hill summits selected for their strategic and defensive advantage and the locals wear colourful hand woven cotton clothes. After an exhilarating day enjoy a relaxing dinner at our Eco Lodge in Jinka before retiring for the night.

Overnight: *Eco Omo Lodge* (B, L, D)

Day 07. Oct 19, 2020 – Mursi Village / Drive to Turmi

Today head to a Mursi village. The Mursi people undergo various rites of passage, educational and disciplinary processes. Lip plates are a well know aspect of the Mursi culture and they are probably the last groups in Africa amongst whom it is still normal for women to wear large pottery, wooden discs, or 'plates' in their lower lips. Girls' lips are pierced on reaching maturity and it is said that the larger the clay plate the more the woman is worth before she gets married. The men of the Mursi use white paint to decorate their bodies and faces.

In the afternoon, drive to Turmi and visit the local market where you will get your first glimpse of the Hamar people - one of the most celebrated tribes of the Omo valley. Experience the energy and life of a traditional market place as the local tribes trade their wares.

Overnight: *Buska Lodge* (B, L, D)

Day 08. Oct 20, 2020 – Karo Village / Dimeka market

Karo Village is one of the smallest tribes in the region famous for their elaborate body painting, they use coloured ochre, white chalk, yellow rock, charcoal and pulverised iron ore, all of the colours made from natural resources found locally. It is not unusual for the Karo women to scarify their chests to beautify themselves. The complete scarification of a man's chest indicates that he has killed an enemy or dangerous animal, the scars are cut with a knife or razor blade and ash is rubbed in to produce the raised effect you will see.

Return back to Buska lodge for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, head out to the Dimeka market, one of the most atmospheric and liveliest markets in Ethiopia. With an abundance of unique crafts, jewelry, woodcarvings, masks and pottery from the Hamar and Benna Tribes. Take a stroll through the market and feel the energy and vibrancy and purchase some very unique souvenirs.

Overnight: *Buska Lodge* (B, L, D)

Day 09. Oct 21, 2020 – Hamer Village / Drive to Jinka / Fly Bahir Dar

After breakfast visit the nearby Hamer village, situated along the east banks of the Omo River. Hamer women are known for their thick plaits of ochre-coloured hair and heavy fringes and the men are famous for the initiation ceremony of jumping over bulls, which you may be lucky enough to see.

After a hearty lunch in Jinka, fly to Bahir Dar (via Addis Ababa) the third largest city in Ethiopia. With beautiful views across Lake Tana and palm trees lining the streets it is often hailed as the Ethiopian

Riviera. Enjoy a scrumptious dinner in this picturesque place, before retiring for the night in preparation for the next adventure.

Overnight: *Kuriftu Resort* (B, L, D)

Day 10. Oct 22, 2020 – Lake Tana Monasteries / Blue Nile Falls

Lake Tana, the largest lake in Ethiopia, is situated just north of Bahir Dar and is where the famous Blue Nile starts its long journey to Khartoum and on to the Mediterranean. This morning take a boat ride across the lake to the Zege Peninsula to see the incredible birdlife and watch the traditional tankwa (reed boats) sail by. Back on dry land take a stroll through villages and coffee farms before reaching the monastery of Ura Kidane Meret, home to a significant collection of crosses and crowns dating back to the 16th century. The magnificent painted magdas, both colourful and well-preserved, tell the stories of the Ethiopian saints. Our second monastery of the morning is Azwa Maryam, a smaller and charming monastery with beautiful gardens and humorous young priest to guide us. After a morning at the monasteries spend the afternoon at one of the most spectacular falls in Africa, the Blue Nile falls. These impressive falls can be as wide as 400m and 45m high during the full floods. Keep an eye out for Hippos and Crocodiles idling on the banks close by as you make your way to a spectacular view point overlooking this magnificent natural creation.

Overnight: *Kuriftu Resort* (B, L, D)

Day 11. Oct 23, 2020 – Drive to Lalibela / Awramba & Amhara Villages

After a hearty breakfast travel to Lalibela visiting several Amhara villages along the way, including Awramba village. This significant and unique village was founded by Zumra Nuru in 1998. The community consists of about 400 members who live together with a common goal of solving socioeconomic problems through helping one another in an environment of egalitarianism. Children get access to primary education in a school run by members of the community itself. Women have equal rights as men and there is no distinction in divisions of labor between male and their female counterparts. All people in the community have no religion setting them aside from most communities in Ethiopia. The village is unique not only for its attitudes toward gender, religion and education, but for the social security it provides its members in need. They have an established literacy campaign for adults, a library and a preschool. Despite living in a culture which practices early marriage, the people of Awra Amba have decided girls should not marry until reaching the age of 18, and boys above 22.

Overnight: *Maribela Hotel* (B, L, D)

Day 12. Oct 24, 2020 – Explore Lalibela

Today explore the rock hewn churches of Lalibela. Lalibela is said to be one of the most important religious and historical sites in all of Africa and the Christian world. Ethiopia was the first country to adopt Christianity as a state religion and the Ethiopian Orthodox religious practices root lies in Judaism. There are no less than 200 churches in the Lasta Region of Lalibela, some hidden in enormous caves, these brilliant feats of engineering and architecture are often referred to as the "Eighth wonder of the world". The churches are said to have been constructed during King Lalibela's reign during the 12th and 13th centuries when Lalibela (then known as Roha) was the capital of the Zagwe dynasty. Many different theories exist on how they were built and by whom, including angels and the Knights Templar. Legend has it that King Lalibela was exiled in Jerusalem and returned to Ethiopia to build a new Jerusalem. From the oldest of the churches, dedicated to the Virgin Mary to the most beautiful and perfect church with its interior dominated by depictions of Saint George killing the dragon. Visit some of the most unique churches with elaborately carved details on the piers, capitals, arches, remarkable reliefs and early Christian Art rarely seen anywhere else.

Overnight: *Maribela Hotel* (B, L, D)

Day 13. Oct 25, 2020 – Explore Lalibela

After breakfast, take a trip to Yimrehane Christos church located 42km from Lalibela on the foothill of the highest mountain in the Lasta Massif. See the magnificent church of Yimrehane Christos who is credited with the construction of a stone church built in the Axumite style. The church was built in a large northeast-facing cave on the west side of Mount Abuna Yosef. The entrance of the cave is closed by a modern wall, built in the 1980s to replace the old one. The building is notable for its resemblance to the ancient church on Debre Damo, with walls that show a similar horizontal pattern of inset beams and projecting stonework with wooden quoins, door and window-frames that are essentially Axumite in style. The church's interior

decorations make Yimrehane Kristos the most elaborate of all known ancient Ethiopian churches. Mural paintings high on the nave walls are considered the oldest surviving mural paintings in Ethiopia. This afternoon be a guest at a local household in Lalibela to experience Ethiopia's unique traditional cuisine and cooking traditions. Try your hand at cooking some of the local dishes in an authentic Ethiopian kitchen.

Overnight: *Maribela Hotel* (B, L, D)

Day 14. Oct 26, 2020 – Fly Lalibela to Axum / Axum visit

After breakfast transfer to the airport and fly to your next stop, Axum. This simple frontier town is in fact a city of great importance, as it was the ancient capital of Ethiopia. According to local legend, Axum was home to Queen Sheba and is the current resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. Explore this ancient city and its diverse history with a visit to the Archaeological museum of Axum, with its priceless relics and the Cathedral of St. Mary of Zion with its unique architectural style. See the ruin palace and tomb of King Kaleb and King Gebre Meskel, as well as the residence of the legendary Queen of Sheba at the 'Stele field' during this full day of exploration.

Overnight: *Sabeen Hotel* (B, L, D)

Day 15. Oct 27, 2020 – Fly to Gondar / Gondar Visit

Your next stop is Gondar. 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 afternoon exploring the Royal Enclosure and its buildings, the nearby bath of King Fasiledes (where modern-day Timkat ceremonies are performed). Surrounded by a 300-foot-long wall, the fortress is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The oldest and most impressive structure is the two-story palace of Emperor Fasilidas, built of solid basalt stones. Visit the library of Emperor Yohannes I, the House of Song where royal ceremonies took place, the elegant reception and banquet hall of Emperor Bakaffa and the palace of the king's wife.

Finish the day at the Church of Debre Birhan Selassie, an imposing structure with its harmony of brightly coloured ceilings, completely covered with intricately painted angels.

Overnight: *Mayleko Lodge* (B, L, D)

Day 16. Oct 28, 2020 – Drive to Simien Mountains National Park

This morning travel to Sankaber, passing rural villages and crossing mountain passes with stunning vistas. The spectacular highlands of the Simien Mountains National Park are a haven for endemic and endangered wildlife species, with the magnificent Waliya Ibex and incredible Gelada Baboon amongst the most famous. These verdant moorlands encompass the largest single area of Afro-alpine habitat in the world, forming "an island of mountains in a sea of lowlands", truly a photographer's dream destination. Spend the afternoon on guided walks through the breathtaking scenery to spot large troops of the endemic Gelada baboon and to view the incredible flora and fauna that surrounds you. Geladas roost on the massive cliffs that dominate the park, but spend their days hunched over the grasses that form the bulk of their diet. Despite sporting massive canines (the largest in proportion to body size of any mammal), Geladas are non-aggressive and with patience you may find yourself in amongst a troop of Geladas as they concentrate on foraging. You may even be treated to a formidable lip-flip (the imposing grimace put on by Geladas to reveal their impressive upper jaw and canines), but more likely you will be completely ignored as they go about their daily business. Geladas are extremely vocal, being able to pronounce all nouns and five of our seven vowels. Younger animals are active and playful, and you will no doubt be well entertained by their antics.

Overnight: *Limalimo Lodge* (B, L, D)

Day 17-18. Oct 29-30, 2020 – Explore Simien Mountains National Park

The next two days will be spent exploring the legendary Simien Mountains and its unique inhabitants. The landscape in the area is remarkably picturesque with panoramic vistas overlooking the deep gorges of the Escarpment. Seeking the endemic Gelada baboon, Walya Ibex and other wildlife while enjoying the great scenery. Amidst the beautiful alpine meadows punctuated with Giant Lobelias and flowering "red hot pokers" (Kniphofia's), you will find yourself surrounded by massive troops of extremely well habituated and photogenic Gelada Baboons. Deeper in the park, scan the steepest cliffs and highest

peaks for the endemic Walia Ibex, an impressive member of the goat family that has been seen by very few wildlife enthusiasts.

The Simien Mountains will also provide you with further chances for encountering Ethiopian Wolf, as well as Klipspringer, Guereza Colobus, Rock Hyrax and two endemic rat species. The mountains are also home to 16 bird species endemic to Eritrea and Ethiopia, as well as an important population of the rare and beautiful Bearded Vulture that can frequently be seen gliding along the cliffs.

Overnight: *Limalimo Lodge* (B, L, D)

Day 19. Oct 31, 2020 – Drive to Gondar / Fly to Addis Ababa

After a final visit to the Simien Mountains National park, drive back to Gondar to visit the former village of the Felasha (African Jews), who have now migrated to Israel, before transferring to the airport to fly to Addis Ababa. In Addis Ababa visit Mount Entoto, the highest peak in Addis with an altitude of 3,200 meters and the birth place of Emperor Menelik, the founder of Addis, before a special farewell dinner in a traditional restaurant where you get to enjoy delicious Ethiopian cuisine whilst watching a traditional dance.

Overnight: *Sheraton* (B, L, D)

Day 20. Nov 01, 2020 – Fly home / OR fly to Mahe for the Seychelles Expedition combo

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your departure home OR continue on to the Seychelles for your next adventure. Those departing for Mahe will depart the hotel early morning for their 3hr flight to Mahe. (B)

Day 21. Nov 02, 2020 – Arrive home

PLEASE NOTE

WHAT TO EXPECT

All *Wild Earth Expeditions* are very active, and participants need to be in good general health. For most activities on this trip a moderate to good level of fitness is required. This is an incredible expedition to an amazing country in which we really cherry-picked fantastic highlights. You will be traveling a lot and it is a busy expedition as we crisscross the country. The distances that you travel are vast and the transportation necessary to cover the terrain is mostly in jeeps, but also buses and smaller vehicles. The roads and tracks can be bumpy, making progress slow and the journeys not always comfortable.

Accommodations will range from very nice 5* hotels and gorgeous lodges, to simple camps and tents on the Pre-Extension. Food throughout the expedition will be varied with some simple meals whilst camping on the Pre, to elaborate meals whilst staying at the wonderful lodges and hotels on the main trip. All meals will either be where we overnigh, or at local restaurants, or en route when traveling.

For the *Pre-extension* a good level of fitness and health is needed, as this will truly take you to the center of the Earth, so you need to be prepared for the extremes, this is not for the faint-hearted and you need to be mentally and physically prepared to participate in this Pre-extension, as you can expect basic facilities, remote locations, energetic hikes, very hot days with strong sun and cool nights.

Detailed Pre-Departure information will be sent to you 4 months prior to the expedition. Your expedition will be led by 2 Wild Earth Expeditions leaders, including a naturalist, a local Lead guide staying with us throughout the expedition and the best, most experienced local guides.

ITINERARY & WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

Wild Earth Expeditions will make every reasonable effort to operate this expedition as advertised, but alterations may occur, mainly due to flight-time changes or weather. We will discuss our planned itinerary daily with our local expert guides and will always chose the best available option. Accommodations and arranged tours are subject to change or cancellation at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond *Wild Earth Expeditions* control.

Although we have reported honestly and accurately about wildlife sightings and experiences, we would like to point out that we are working in the wilderness and despite all of our good intentions and utmost preparation, Mother Nature may not cooperate with us. We believe that with good planning and a realistic approach, you will have a successful time witnessing the natural behavior of the wildlife we have set out to see.



COST & INFO

ETHIOPIA – LAND OF ORIGINS

Double Occupancy: USD \$13,990 per person sharing
Single Supplement Surcharge: USD \$4,280 per person

PRE EXTENSION – DANAKIL-DESERT, LAVA, SALT & CAMELS

Double Occupancy : USD \$4,270 per person sharing
Single Supplement Surcharge: USD \$620 per person

INCLUDED

All accommodations in twin/double share rooms/tents as outlined in the itinerary; All group meals; Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions; Soft drinks, drinking water, tea and filter coffee during lunch/dinner at all hotels; Bottled or potable water in rooms and while on tour; All group transfers and baggage handling; All tours and excursions as outlined in the itinerary; Exclusive services of English speaking professional guides and naturalists; Services of 2 *Wild Earth Expedition* Leaders, All gratuities to porters, guides, drivers, resort- and wait staff; Government-, Service- and Room taxes. All Entrance- and National park fees; Complimentary photos and videos of the trip and Photo tips in the field; Donations to local conservation projects.

NOT INCLUDED

All international and domestic airfares (**please note all domestic flights must be booked through Wild Earth Expeditions* Passport and visa fees (\$52 for a single entry visa valid 30days); Immunization costs; Individual airport transfers, meals and baggage handling outside the group travel itinerary; Mandatory Travel insurance; Excess baggage charges; Personal items, such as laundry, any alcoholic beverages or bar charges (unless specified above), Wi-Fi/internet, camera fees; Tips for your 2 Wild Earth Leaders and non-group services; Any sudden increase in price, due to currency fluctuations, a steep hike in fuel cost, change in government tax policy or for any reason beyond the control of *Wild Earth Expeditions*, will be adjusted with the final invoice 4 months prior to the expedition.

SINGLE OCCUPANCY

We only have limited single spaces available and single occupancy rates apply. If you are wanting to share accommodations, a roommate will be assigned, and double occupancy rates apply. If we cannot pair you with a roommate, the single supplement applies.

EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS

Any additional hotel nights at the Addis Ababa Sheraton cost USD\$440 (twin beds) or USD\$417 (double) including breakfast and hotel taxes.

FLIGHTS & BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Please note that flight schedules and airfares are only released 11months prior to the end of the expedition date, so right now we are basing our trip schedule and airfares on 2019, which are subject to change until ticketed.

Flights into Addis are available via most European cities, Singapore, Hong Kong, Chicago and the Emirates. Ethiopian Airlines is the main carrier from these destinations co-sharing with many of the major airlines. It is recommended that you book your international flights into Addis Ababa with Ethiopian Airlines as they will then be able to offer a discounted rate for your domestic group flights within the expedition. There are no Business Class seats available on any domestic routes, only Economy class.

The current flight cost is USD\$1153 per person for all domestic flights with Ethiopian Airlines on the main expedition, unless you book your international flight with Ethiopian Airlines, then it is reduced to USD\$594 per person, plus an additional \$796 for our private charter flight from Bale to Arbaminch. The cost for the *Pre-extension* flights is USD\$484 per person.

The luggage allowance on domestic flights is 20kg check-in luggage and 7kg carry-on luggage. For guests continuing to the Seychelles, your dive gear or extra luggage can be stored in Addis Ababa at the beginning of the expedition and collected before departing to Mahe/Seychelles or your international flights home. Extra baggage fees are currently priced at \$1 per extra kg on Ethiopian Airways domestic flights.

CAMERA FEES OMO VALLEY

Please note that if you wish to take photographs of the various tribal people in the Omo valley, it is required to pay a camera fee for each photo taken of any tribal people. At this time camera fees are only charged in the Omo Valley. Depending on how many photos you plan to take, the total amount could amount in excess of \$250 per person if you plan on taking roughly 500 photos of these tribal people. As with all Wild Earth Expeditions trips, we will include for you a selection of the best photos, but if you wish to personally take photographs and videos you will be responsible to pay any camera fees.

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