





AET- 002 Day Excursions out of Addis Ababa

 Duration: 1- 2Days or more

 Accommodation: Variable Hotels

 Tour Starts: Addis Ababa

 Tour Ends: Addis Ababa

Guide: Multilingual Guide is available on request

Trip Highlights

- Visiting Addis Ababa often referred as "the political capital of Africa" for its historical, diplomatic and political significance for the continent.
- Visiting Historical places, monuments, museums.
- Exploring cultural life with excellent art galleries, traditional restaurants and live music venues.
- Visit the 13thc renowned Debre Libanos monastery & the Spectacular Blue Nile Gorge Africa cousin of Grand Canyon.
- Enjoying Kuriftu's water park - East Africa's Largest Water Park.

GROUND HANDLER	
COMPANY NAME	Absolute Ethiopia Tours
CONTACT PERSON	Betty – S. Travel Specialist
EMAIL ADDRESS	betty@absoluteethiopia.com
TELEPHONE NUMBER	+251911825412
SKYPE ID	https://join.skype.com/invite/uemzs0R63KCn
WEBSITE ADDRESS	https://absoluteethiopia.com/
GUEST INFO	
GROUP NAME	
MAIN GUEST NAME	
ADULTS	
CHILDREN <12 YRS	

- Botanical Gardens & Born free sanctuary.
- Visit Tiya, classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.
- Wonchi crater is truly regarded as a paradise for trekkers.

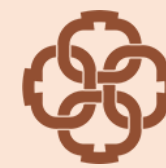
TOUR IN SUMMARY

DATE	ACCOMMODATION	MEALS	
Day 01	Arrive in Addis Ababa	Hotel of your choice	-L-D
Day 02	Day excursion / overnight trips from Addis Ababa & Departure	Hotel of your choice	B-L-D

TOUR / EXCURSION DETAILS

Days	Trip Description	Overnight -Accommodation -
01 - Arrival in Addis Ababa	<p>Welcome to Addis Ababa.</p> <p>Addis Ababa is the largest city of Ethiopia and its capital city at the same time. Addis Ababa, which in Amharic means "a new flower", is located in the center of the country, 2100- 2300m above the sea. It is one of the highest-located capital cities in the world. Here you can do various activities depending on your available time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting Historical places, monuments, museums. • Exploring cultural life with excellent art galleries, traditional restaurants and live music venues. • Enjoying panoramic views, scenic land escapes • Tasting Ethiopian's food • Offer good evening lively Night life Entertainment 	<p>Sheraton Addis Luxury Collection >5*</p> <p>https://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-photos/addis-sheraton-addis-a-luxury-collection-hotel-addis-ababa/</p> <p>The Sheraton hotel is a luxury hotel with over 10 restaurants and bars and 293 rooms and suites in all, a spa</p>





Today's Activities

On your arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, after clearing immigration and customs welcome by Absolute Ethiopia staff and get transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day relaxing at your hotel or sightseeing of Addis Ababa.

Based on time availability - Other Activities to be add

Go shopping: exploring Markets & shopping Malls.

Conducting Social activities: Visit of Ketchene Women’s pottery association, Visit Former Women's Fuel Wood Carriers Association, Visit of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, Selamta Family project.

Galleries in Addis: St. George or Addis Fine Art Gallery represents emerging and established international with a focus on contemporary art from the Horn of Africa and its diaspora.

02- Addis Ababa

Today following your hearty breakfast you will have a day excursion out of Addis Ababa,

You can choose what you would like to see/do for today

1. DEBRE LIBANOS AND THE BLUE NILE RIVER GORGE 220kms/3hrs

Pick up from the hotel at 8.00 am and then head north on the Gojjam road to Debre Libanos, about 110km from Addis Ababa or approximately two hours' drive. Debre Libanos is an important monastic center for Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, the monastery there was founded by the renowned 13th century mystic, Saint Tekle Haimanot and there is a small cave near the church (where he is said to have stood for seven years on one leg, until the other wasted away and dropped off.

offering massaged, jacuzzi, sauna and pools and a kids club and kids swimming pool.

Pleasant heated swimming pool and garden areas are the best features of the hotel.

Or

Of your choice / standard / budget

Meals: Lunch & Dinner

Sheraton Addis Luxury Collection >5*
<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-photos/addlc-sheraton-addis-a-luxury-collection-hotel-addis-ababa/>

On this tour visitors can combine history and culture with some good bird watching, as one pass through the Sululta Plain there comes a lot of birds, Black-winged plovers, Wattled Ibis, Blue-winged geese, Common Cranes and Wheat ears.

Or
Of your choice /
standard / budget

Further to the Blue Nile River gorge there is a drop of nearly 1000 meters to the valley below. There are a lot of Birds and the endemic Gelada or bleeding heart baboons. In the gorge you could find variety of vultures - Lamergeyer's, Ruppell's and Lappet faced vultures.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
& Dinner

Proceed to the church and then make the climb to the cave of St Teklehaimanot. Near the cave monks may show visitors the remains of some 300 monks, slaughtered in 1936 by the Italian invaders. Mussolini and the fascist authorities saw the Ethiopian Orthodox Church as one of the key elements of an independent Ethiopian identity, and thought that by carrying out the massacre they would cow the Church and by extension the Ethiopian people into submission. Up the hill from the cave from the top there's a great view of the surrounding countryside.

At some stage takes a picnic lunch in a scenic spot or in a local restaurant Leave Debre Libanos around 4.30 PM, returning to Addis Ababa early evening.

2. DEBRE ZEIT 40kms/ 1.3hrs drive – Kuriftu's Water park

After breakfast drive to Debre zeyit which is well known by the name Bishoftu. The small town of Bishoftu is only about an hour's drive (40kms) south east of Addis Ababa. At an altitude of 1900 meters, it enjoys a warm climate. It is surrounded with series of Lovely Crater Lakes which offer short boat ride and bird watching.





Have a visit one of the two Lakes. Lake Bishoftu is the most central, alkaline natured lake. It supports some interesting birds notably a wintering population of ferruginous duck and breeding pairs of Ruppell's griffin vulture. Then drive to Lake Hora is 2 km away from the town center; 40m deep saline water body. Lake Hora is the most extensive Crater Lake; thickly wooded slopes teem with birds.

Lake Kuriftu is more notable for its excellent fishing than any scenic qualities. Finally after your visit drive back to Addis Ababa and up on arrival transfer to your hotel.

More fun in Kuriftu lodge & water park. <https://kurifturesorts.com/> The Kuriftu Water Park is East Africa's Largest Water Park and Ethiopia's first. Boasting over 30,000 square meters of fun while featuring a wide range of activities, such as: Boomerang Slide, Triple Spiral Slide, 2 Water Houses, Wave Pool with a Performance Stage, Fekat Circus and a Food Court.

2. THE MENAGESHA FOREST AND ADDIS ALEM 50kms/1.3hrs.

Set off at 7.00, heading west on the Jimma road. Take a turn left after the town of Sebeta to Mount Wuchacha and the Menegasha forest - the 50 km journey takes about 1 ½ hours. The Emperor Zera Yacob (1434-1468), noticing the degradation of the forest around Mount Wechecha, initiated what was perhaps the first reforestation and conservation measure in the region by having Juniper trees planted. Take a picnic lunch, making your way up through the forest towards the top of Mount Wechecha. Here there are abundant of birds including the Abyssinian Catbird, Banded Barbet, Golden-backed Woodpecker, Black-headed Forest Oriole, Wattled Ibis, Yellow-fronted Parrot, Black-winged Lovebird, Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Crowned Eagle and Narina's Trogan. Among the wildlife species recorded here are: Menelik's Bushbuck, Leopard (rarely seen), Colobus Monkey, Serval, Grey Duiker, Hyaena, Warthog, Porcupine and Civet Cat.



On your way, Stop and visit Born free Ethiopia <https://www.bornfree.org.uk/ethiopia>. The foundation is dedicated to caring and rehabilitating injured and orphaned animals. There are Lions, Cheetas, White Monkeys all of which you get to see pretty close.

After a picnic lunch in the forest or in Menagesha town, return to Addis Ababa by the Ambo road, stopping off at the small town of Addis Alem. Towards the end of the 19th century, faced with a chronic wood shortage around Addis Ababa (ultimately solved through the importation and planting of the fast growing Eucalyptus), Emperor Menelik II thought of transferring his capital here, and one can see today the imperial compound, Menelik's residence, a dining hall, kitchen and the church of Mariam, which was planned to be the counterpart of Mariam Tsion Church in Axum. The church has some interesting paintings and a small museum nearby contains clothes and decorations of former Ethiopian rulers.

Return back to Addis Ababa, passing Gefersa reservoir (good for birds) and arriving early evening.

3. MELKA KUNTURE, ADADI MARIAM AND TIYA 90kms/1.4hrs

Pick up at 7.30 am, then head south-west on the Jimma road, before turning due south on to the Butajira Road. Melka Kunture lies near the Awash River Gorge and is one of the most important neolithic sites in Ethiopia. Hand axes and various other implements have been found here.

About 5 km further on the Butajira Road, is the rock hewn church of Adadi Mariam, contemporaneous with those of Lalibela - in fact local tradition ascribes it to King Lalibela who is said to have had it built on his visit to Mount Zuqwala in 1106. Damaged during the wars with Ahmed Gragn in the 16th century, it fell into disuse and was only reopened in the time of Menelik II. It is today in regular use.

Tiya, classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, where one can see the northernmost example of a peculiar type of engraved, standing stellae which stretch across parts of southern Ethiopia. These stellae are believed to have been erected between the 12th and 14th centuries and are almost certainly grave markers - recent excavations at Tiya have revealed the remains of young people of both sexes, aged between 18 - 30 and buried in frontal positions.

Take a picnic lunch, perhaps near the Awash River Gorge, and leave for the return journey to Addis Ababa mid-afternoon.

4. AMBO AND WONCHI CRATER LAKE / 140kms/2hrs

Set off at 7.00, heading west on the Ambo road. pass the Gefursa reservoir, Menagesha Forest to the south of the road, the Holetta River (a tributary of the Awash), the small town of Addis Alem where Menelik II once planned to make his capital, before reaching Ambo, some 120 km from the capital.

The area between Addis Alem and Ambo contains the intersections of three of Ethiopia's major river basins: those of the Awash, Omo and Guder.

Stop for some refreshment in the town of Ambo, from where Ethiopia's most famous mineral water is drawn, before driving up nearly 1000 meters in 27 km to the rim of the Wonchi crater, where visitors will see one of the most beautiful sites in Ethiopia - verdant forests, a lake with islands, all within the crater.

Wonchi Crater Lake is the beautiful legacy of a once powerful volcano erupting in the Tertiary period of the Cenozoic era. This beautiful lake is exceptionally situated at an altitude of 2800m above sea level. Wonchi contains hot springs

and waterfalls with breath taking valleys and stunning scenery. Wonchi is the home of wonderful and indigenous forest reserves. Wonchi is truly regarded as a paradise for trekkers.

Enjoy the spectacular scenic view of the lake positioned in the middle of the surrounding ringed hills covered by vegetation. You will trek on horseback to access the shore of the lake. Once you arrive at the Crater Lake, you are totally mesmerized by the beauty of the landscape and the freshness of the air. There are some aquatic bird species around the lake.

Have a picnic lunch here and spend some hours walking or horse riding through the forest, visiting the hot springs, and taking a dug-out boat over to the island to visit the church. Mid-afternoon; start returning journey to Addis Ababa.

Tonight or the previous day night - you will have a wonderful cultural evening at one of Addis Ababa Restaurant; Ethiopia is a mosaic of people with more than 80 languages, different lifestyles, costumes and cultural dances. Take a chance to experience some of these cultural dances and traditional meals with a drink of Tej, a type of wine made from Honey.

DEPARTURE

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight. Many thanks & have a safe flight.

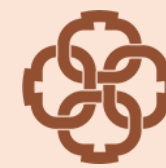
AET - SHORT TOURS / OVER NIGHT TRIPS FROM ADDIS ABABA

1. SODERE HOT SPRINGS 120kms/2hrs

Pick up from the hotel is at 7.30, and then set off on the south east road, turning east at Mojo. Turn off the main road before Nazereth for the hot springs resort of Sodere, which lies along the Awash River.

There is a large naturally heated swimming pool, and a number of smaller pools throughout the grounds of the resort. Vervet monkeys and baboons are common in the resort, and visitors can see crocodiles basking along the

Sodere Resorts
<https://www.facebook.com/Sodere-Resort-Hotel->



banks of the Awash River. The forests which fringe the river are also good for birds – there are about 9 or 10 endemics to be seen, including Black Winged Love Bird, White Collared Pigeon, Abyssinian Woodpecker, Abyssinian Cat Bird, Yellow Fronted Parrot, Abyssinian Wax Bill.

[1163524047082668/](tel:1163524047082668)

Spend the rest of the day relaxing by the hot spring and return Back to Addis on the following day.

2. DEBRE BERHAN AND ANKOBER 170kms/3hrs

Set off at 7.00 am, heading north on the Asmara Road. Stop at Debre Berhan, some 130km from Addis Ababa. The great Emperor Zera Yaqob (1434 - 1468) made his imperial capital here, after seeing a “heavenly light” which he took as a divine sign. Later rulers abandoned the town but once again it became an important centre under the Shoa kings, notably King Sahle Selassie (1813 - 1847). However, it was largely destroyed in 1855, when Emperor Tewodros advanced into Shoa. Emperor Menelik made it his capital for a period, and visitors should see the church of Selassie which he restored in 1906. Visitors might like to buy the woolen hats worn by shepherd boys, and carpets with the designs characteristic of the area.

Ankober Lodge

<http://www.ankoberpalacelodge.com/>

Now take the road east to another former imperial capital - Ankober, a little over 40 km from Debre Berhan.

Founded by King Amaha Iyesus, Ankober commanded the very important trade route between the eastern lowlands and the Showan plateau. Abandoned by Menelik II in favour of Entoto (and later Addis Ababa), the old palace ruins can still be seen, and two of the original five churches (Mariam and Medhane Alem) are still used as places of worship.

From the town of Ankober, there are marvelous views over the escarpment, and for ornithologists there is the chance of seeing the very rare Ankober Serin, and other species such as Smith's Francolin, Yellow Throated Serin, White billed Starling, Black-winged Love Bird, Lammergeyer, Mountain Buzzard, Peregrine, Red-breasted Sparrow Hawk, Alpine Swift, Crag Martin and Blue Rock Thrush. Wildlife recorded in the area includes: Leopard (rarely seen),



Colobus and Vervet Monkeys, Gelada Baboon, Menelik's Bushbuck, Klipspringer and Rock Hyrax, which despite its small size is a distant relative of the elephant.

One could return from Ankober back to Addis Ababa but there is a traditional styled lodge. Using this lodge as a base, there are some great walks and hikes – one could easily spend a couple of days here, enjoying the air (it is 2870masl) the great views and tranquility.

3. AMBO, WONCHI CRATER LAKE AND WOLLISO 115kms/2.3hrs

Set off at 7.00, heading west on the Ambo road. Pass the Gefursa reservoir, Menagesha Forest to the south of the road, the Holetta River (a tributary of the Awash), the small town of Addis Alem and then Ambo. Stop for some refreshment in the town of Ambo and proceed to Wonchi crater lakes. Continue to Wolliso, to Negash Lodge. This was the site of the old Ghion Hotel – there is a natural hot spring which feeds a swimming pool as well as the water in the rooms, marvelous grounds with good bird life and Colobus and Vervet monkeys.

Negash Lodge

<http://www.negashresort.com/>

4. THE RIFT VALLEY LAKES - ZWAI, LANGANO, SHALLA AND ABIATA , 200kms/4hrs

Set off early down the Rift Valley, passing through Debre Zeit, and by the lakes of Koka and Zwai - if there are birders in the party stop at Lake Zwai and head down to the lake shore where huge numbers of water birds are congregated. African Pygmy Geese, Yellow-billed Storks, Collared Pratincoles, Lesser and greater Jacanas, African Jacanas, White Pelicans, Fish Eagles, crowned and common cranes are some of the species to be seen here in impressive numbers. Lake Langano is bilharzia and crocodile free, and visitors can go for a swim, walk along the shores of the lake or go bird watching in the forests along the lake shores.

Sabana Beach Resort

<http://www.sabanalangano.com/>

Hara Langano Lodge

<http://www.haralanganano.com/>

Later in the afternoon, visit Shalla and Abiata National Park, passing the tame ostriches at the gate, head first towards Shalla Lake which with a maximum depth of 300 meters is the deepest of the Rift Valley Lakes. Look out

Kurftu Resorts Langano

<https://kurifturesorts.com/>

point over the two lakes before heading down to the lake shore where there are a number of springs so hot that locals boil maize in them. Then head towards Abiata Lake, where by this time (4pm) of day the lakes shores will be pink from the thousands of both lesser and greater Flamingo's which feed in the shallows. African Pochard, Avocet, Gull billed Tern and Pintail, Ruff and a variety of ducks are among other species to be seen.

[m/langano](#)

The following day, spend the morning relaxing by the lake, take lunch in the hotel and leave for Addis Ababa mid afternoon, arriving early evening.

5. WONDO GENET -280kms/5hrs drive from Addis Ababa

Set off early down the Rift Valley, passing through Debre Zeit, and by the lakes of Koka, Zwai Langano, Abiata and Shalla. Start to climb after passing Langano, leaving the drier acacia forest for the greener areas around Shashamene.

Wondo Genet Resort
Hotel

Shashamene is situated at a cross roads, with roads north south and east west. It is also home to a Rastafarian community from the Caribbean. The late Emperor Haile Selassie I granted them land here in perpetuity in recognition of the support and solidarity of the people of African origin in the Caribbean for Ethiopia at the time of the Fascist aggression in 1935, when Mussolini's Italian forces invaded the country.

Haile Resorts
Shashemene

Turn east for about 15km for the mountain and spa resort of Wondo Genet - or "place of heaven". Haile Selassie had a lodge here, now part of the hotel, and the waters are reputed to have curative properties. The hot water comes gushing out of the rocks and one can stand underneath, getting a natural hydro massage. There is also a naturally heated swimming pool. The scenery around the lodge is hilly and Juniper forested. While most visitors may prefer to relax around the spa, there are some very good walks in the hills, with plenty of bird life - the endemic Yellow-fronted Parrot, the Black-headed Forest Oriole and the Golden-backed Woodpecker can easily be seen, along with

<https://www.haileresort.com/shashemene-hotel/>



the Redwing Starling, Grosbeak Weaver, Mountain Wagtail and Black Roughwing Swallow - and wildlife - colobus and vervet monkeys, anubis baboon and bushbuck.

Spectacular sunsets can be seen from the terrace outside the bar, with a great view of Lake Awassa.

On the following day more relaxation or forest walks. After taking lunch in the hotel, we return to Addis Ababa. We will take a stop at the Bekele Molla hotel on the shores of Lake Langano, and arrive in Addis Ababa late afternoon.

6. LAKE AWASSA 280kms/ 5hrs

Pick up from the hotel is at 7.30 then head south down the Rift Valley, passing through Debre Zeit, and by the lakes of Koka, Zwai, Langano, Abiata and Shalla. Start to climb after passing Langano, leaving the drier acacia forest for the greener areas around Shashamene. A short distance from Shashamene is the town of Awassa, capital of the southern region. Lake Awassa with its mountainous background, is one of Ethiopia's most beautiful lakes and is home to a huge population of birds, and walking along the shores one can also see hippo. Colobus and cervet monkeys and baboons are common in the hotel grounds. (The distance is about 280 km, the journey taking about 4 hours.)

Boats can be hired on the lake, and it is a great way to spend an afternoon, among the fishermen and watching the antics of the malakite king fisher and other water birds. There is a swimming pool in the grounds of the hotel, or visitors may like to walk along the shores of the lake or in the nearby Black Forest.

On the following day, you may like to take an early morning trip to the fish market, and get really close to a variety of species that are very used to human company. Otherwise you will spend the morning relaxing in the hotel grounds, along the shores of the lake or on a boat. We will take lunch in the hotel, and set back to Addis Ababa mid-afternoon.

Haile Resorts Awassa
<https://www.haileresorts.com/hawassa-resort/>

Possible to visit Senkelle Swayne's Hartebeest Sanctuary from Awassa which is only 40kms away.

The sanctuary was originally established to protect the endemic and endangered antelope species called Swayne's hartebeests. The open acacia woodland of the reserve is quite scenic and some of the animals are easily spotted, specially the Swayne's hartebeests, the population of which is currently estimated at between 600 and 800. The sanctuary harbor other wild animals including Bohor, reedbucks, greater kudu, oryx antelopes, spotted hyenas, serval and civet cats, caracals, warthogs, common jackals as well as 91 species of bird. Enjoy spectacular view on the Lalima/Borena hills.

7. YIRGALEM AND AREGASH LODGE – 325kms/5-6hrs.

Pick up from the hotel is at 7.30 then head south down the Rift Valley, passing through Debre Zeit, and by the lakes of Koka, Zwai, Langano, Abiata and Shalla. Start to climb after passing Langano, leaving the drier acacia forest for the greener areas around Shashamene. Yirgalem is about 86kms from Shashamene.

Yirgalem is about 45kms past Awassa. Yirgalem is coffee and various fruit cultivating town with splendid greenery everywhere. The scenery is extraordinarily lush and green. Spend the night at the Aregash Lodge; nestled between coffee fields and lush vegetation in Yirgalem town.

Aregash lodge

On the following day visit Sidama village, a cultural village along with coffee and false banana (Enset) plantation. The cultivation of enset (false banana or Abyssinian banana) and everything which revolves around it has generated an entire culture, especially for inhabitants of Gurage and Sidama people. You will experience the process of Kocho (the best dish of the area) preparation from the false banana tree...tasting the Sidama's known cultural 'Bursame' with Ethiopian coffee ceremony and return back to Addis Ababa.

<http://www.aregashlodge.com/>

The accommodation at Aregash Lodge is based on the very attractive Sidamo House. There is an excellent kitchen with lots of organic fruit and vegetables grown in the vicinity. There are more than 100 bird species recorded in the area, and on our walks we can see hyena, jackals, Colubus and vervet monkeys.

End of Services

B = Breakfast **L = Lunch** **D = Dinner**

YOUR ITINERARY INCLUDES

Accommodation:	All accommodation as detailed with private facilities.
Meals/Beverages:	Meals on Full board basis Breakfasts, Lunches & dinners with one soft drink or bottled water per meal per person are included
Transfers/Transport:	Airport welcome, assistance with luggage, and transportation by air-conditioned comfortable spacious vehicles, complete with bottled water.
Sightseeing:	Expert English speaking guides for the entire sightseeing- optional. (multi lingual guides are available on request with extra charge)
Cultural activities	Cultural activities mentioned in day by day are included
Entrance Fees:	All entrance fees as per the program are included
Local taxes	All necessary local Government taxes are included
Porterage fees	Porterage fees at the Airport and Hotels.

Other activities Coffee ceremony, and Honey wine drinks (Tej).
Traditional farewell Dinner in Addis Ababa

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Domestic Flights: A strict luggage restriction of 20kgs per person and hand luggage, applies to all light aircraft flights within Ethiopia. It is important that you carry soft-sided or “barrel” bags, as hard-sided suitcases (Samsonite-style) cannot be fitted into the small holds of light aircraft if you use the charter flights on this program.

Excess Baggage: Excess baggage may be safely stored at hotel in Addis Ababa.

YOUR ITINERARY EXCLUDES

Miscellaneous: Visa for Ethiopia.

Flight International & Domestic airfare.

Gratitude Tipping

Insurance: Insurance coverage of personal loss, injury, illness or damages incurred during your trip. We strongly recommend travel /cancellation insurance.



Personal expenses: Items of a purely personal nature such as drinks (unless noted), laundry, dry cleaning, internet, fax, or telephone charges and transfers/sightseeing or meals not included in "Your itinerary includes".

Baggage allowance: Excess baggage charge.

PACKAGE RATE – to be advised

For the above program based on room sharing: To be advised on request

