

Tour name: AET 004 the Fascinating Omo Valley Tribes for 08Nights/09Days

Accommodation: Variable Hotels Tour Starts: Addis Ababa Tour Ends: Addis Ababa Transport: Surface transports Guide: Multilingual National guide will be available on request.

Trip Highlights

This program includes History, culture, religion, different social activities, scenery and wildlife. 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.

Discover the incredible number of different ethnic groups in and around the Omo Valley. Explore their villages, learn about local customs and wander through bustling markets on a specific day of the week as listed below.

Monday - Kako Market at Jinka or Turmi Market at Turmi village

Tuesday- Dimeka Market at Turmi village / Dorze market at Chencha

Wednesday-

Thursday – Key Afer Market at Key Afer village

Friday –

Saturday - Dimeka Market at Turmi village / / Dorze market at Chencha

Sunday – Weito Market at Erbore village.

Visitors with an interest in observing pre-materialist cultures or in anthropology will find much to fascinate them in the different ethnic groups situated along the Omo River, with marvelous scenery, wild life and bird life as an added bonus.

Along the Omo River a variety of different ethnic groups are found, such as the Tsemay, Arbore, Hamer, Galeb(Dasenech), Karo, Benna, Ari, and Mursi, Bume(Nyangatom), Bodi, Surma, whose contact with the modern world has come only within the last two to three decades. The Omo, flowing for nearly 1000 km from the highlands south west of Addis Ababa to Lake Turkana in Kenya, provides excellent opportunities for white water rafting.



• Visit the local villages, meet with elders ...

• Involve with everyday tasks such as farming, weaving, food preparation, hunting, gathering ect.

Trip Summary

Join us on a fascinating tour to the south Omo valley, where a mosaic of indigenous tribes intriguing cultural value, beautiful landscape and diversified tribes with their own unique village settlements for a century. This trip is carefully designed to offer you the best of Omo Valley with the exceptional experience of the local villagers' interaction with visiting one of the tribe's family houses as a guest. All of this is yours in this package will guarantee you a fantastic journey of discovery to the Omo Valley Tribes.

PROGRAM IN DETAIL

DAY 01	- L- D
ADDIS ABABA	

Welcome to Addis Ababa.

Addis Ababa "New Flower" is the third highest capital in the world. It is located at 3,000m above sea level which offers bracing temperatures and plenty of fresh highland air. Addis Ababa is a pleasant city with interesting museums and one of the largest open-air markets in Africa, "Mercato".

Addis Ababa is Africa's diplomatic capital with headquarters for the Organization of African Unity and the United Nation Economic Commissions for Africa.

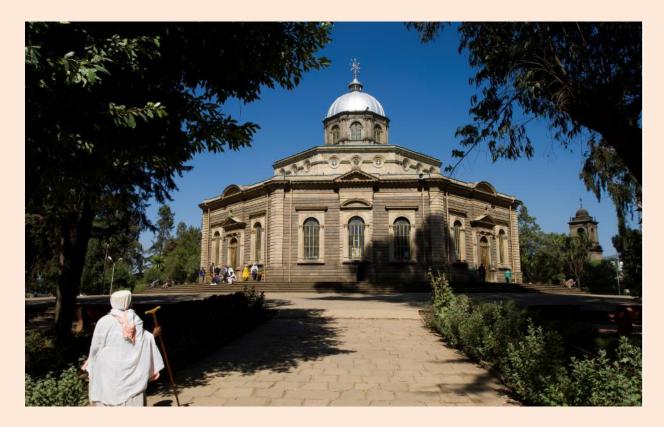
On your arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, after clearing immigration and customs welcome by Absolute Ethiopia Tours staff and get transferred to your hotel.

Depending on your arrival time it is possible to arrange sightseeing in Addis Ababa with a national guide and this includes;

A visit of the National Archaeological Museum; ranks among the most important museums in sub-Sahara Africa. It housed the 3.5 million-year-old bones of Lucy. Lucy is believed to be the ancestor of all Human kind. It has lots of ancient exhibits that reflect the importance of Ethiopia as the 'Cradle of Mankind'. Its historic room features finery worn in the wars, such as crowns, weapons, and pictures of wartime heroes and kings. Lunch can be served at the gate of the Museum – famous Lucy gazebo restaurant, have both local and international dishes.



Visit St. George's Cathedral (Giorgis Cathedral) which lies at the north end of Churchill Rd. Designed in the traditional octagonal shape, this cathedral was built in 1896 to commemorate Ethiopia's victory over the Italians at the Battle of Adwa. The Cathedral houses the work of Afewerk Tekle, the renowned Ethiopian artist responsible for the stained glass windows of the Africa Hall and also houses a small museum in the compound.



And a visit of Merkato; the Largest open Market in Africa; where virtually every possible commodity is on sale, from livestock to computers. It is closed on Sundays & for a visitor good at bargaining, there is a huge selection of Ethiopian arts and crafts.

Meals: Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best Available Hotel - Sheraton Addis Luxury Collection >5*

https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/addlc-sheraton-addis-a-luxury-collection-hotel-addisababa/.com or

Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa Hotel https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/ethiopia/hyatt-regencyaddis-ababa/addra?src=corp lclb gmb seo eame addra

Moderate Hotel - Best Western Plus Addis Ababa Hotel 4*

https://www.bestwestern.com/en US/book/hotel-



rooms.75550.html?aff=BAF&iata=00171880&ssob=BLBWI0004G&cid=BLBWI0004G:google:gmb:7

<u>5550</u>

Budget Hotel-Bonanza Hotel https://bonanzaaddishotel.com/

Accommodation overviews in Addis Ababa

The Sheraton in Addis a truly luxury hotel in Addis, There are over 10 restaurants and bars and 293 rooms and suites in all, a spa offering massaged, jacuzzi, sauna and pools and a kids club and kids swimming pool. The most basic 'Classic Rooms' feature King size bed, Individually controlled air-conditioning, data connections. All guests receive a complimentary morning coffee or tea served up to 8:30 AM upon request with wake up call. The main reason for staying here is to take advantage of the pleasant heated swimming pool and garden areas. This is the best place in Addis to sit back in peaceful garden and swimming pool surroundings and enjoy a cup of tea.

Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa Hotel, located on Meskel Square, 15 minutes from Bole international airport, an ideal high-end urban base for exploring the Ethiopian capital. Positioned a brief walk away from the United Nations Conference centre and within short distance of the presidential palace, this 188-room hotel (the first Hyatt Hotel in Ethiopia) combines convenience with modern character. Hyatt Regency offers guests two on-site restaurants, four distinct bars, a spa, fitness centre, and outdoor heated infinity pool.

Best Western Plus Addis Ababa Hotel with 160 rooms and suites is ideally located in the heart of the commercial and entertainment district of Addis Ababa. Nearby attractions such as business centers, religious centers, restaurants, bars and Bole International Airport are all within walking distance of the hotel. The fresh and trendy all day dining restaurant is located on the mezzanine floor and offers an incredible selection of cultural and international delicacies. The Modern atmospheric sports bar which offers the guest a 360 degree view of the city locates on the 10th floor. The hotel also boasts a state of the art gym with a wide range of equipment and a dedicated professional team.

Bonanza Addis Hotel is situated inside the hub of the city with a close proximity to Bole International Airport and African Union, offering 6 various styles of rooms and suites with complimentary Heat Drier, Bottle water, Balcony, Mini Bar, Microwave & Iron and iron board in each; With rousing interiors, moreover relishing scrumptious dining alternatives in collaboration with the authentic Ethiopian Hospitality. A devoted spa, wellness center, GYM and swimming pools



along with a complementary supper buffet or continental breakfast, Valet Parking, Private /VIP donning spaces. And free WI FI services.

DAY 02 DRIVE ADDIS ABABA TO ARBA MINCH

B- L- D

Total driving distance 475kms/7hrs.

Early Morning, drive to Arba Minch via Lake Ziway, Lake Langano, Shashemene & Sodo towns. Arba Minch is the home of two Ethiopia's largest Rift Valley lakes, beautiful landscape (God's Bridge), forty (40) springs Nechisar National Park, crocodile ranches, crocodiles market and the highland of Dorze village on its doorstep. The city is also a gateway to the Omo valley and Konso on the Southern circuit. It is one of the best destinations in Ethiopia.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best available Hotel – Haile Resorts 4* http://www.hailehotelsandresorts.com/ Paradise lodge >3** https://www.paradiselodgeethiopia.com/

Moderate Hotel– Emerald Hotel 3* https://www.emeraldresortandlodge.com/

Accommodation overviews in Arba Minch

The Haile Resort in Arba Minch is located on the edge of the precipice on the edge of the East African Rift Valley and greets its guests with a wide view of the Abaya and Lake Chamo. The



spacious rooms have air conditioning and a balcony, inviting you to rest. The restaurant serves international food. Guests can pamper themselves in the on-site wellness center or enjoy the view over the lakes and the Grabenbruch by the pool.

The Emerald Lodge and Resort features 72 comfortable rooms, almost with a private balcony overlooking the beautiful charming garden. The Resort Provides Massages, Steam & Bath services.

B 4 4 6 2	
DAY 03	B-L-D
ARBA MINCH	

Full day in Arba Minch

Following breakfast visit the home of the Dorze people at Chencha, 40kms from the city. The Dorze are renowned cotton weavers whose tall beehive-shaped dwellings are among the most distinctive traditional structures to be seen anywhere in Africa. The main occupations of the region are subsistence farming and weaving. The Shama cloth produced around Chencha is regarded to be the finest in Ethiopia: Plain white Gabbi robes and brightly colored scarf-like Netalas are sold along the roadside. Explore the local Dorze market decorated with many colours.





In the afternoon, enjoy the boat trip on Lake Chamo - one of the best features of the park. Attraction of the boat trip includes viewing of large number of hippos and crocodiles from a very close range. There is a good place to watch large number of crocodiles on the shore of Lake Chamo. The place known as "Azo-Gebeya" meaning Crocodile Market offers one of Africa's most impressive displays of big crocks.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best available Hotel – Haile Resorts 4* http://www.hailehotelsandresorts.com/ Moderate Hotel- Paradise lodge >3** https://www.paradiselodgeethiopia.com/ Budget Hotel– Emerald Hotel 3* https://www.emeraldresortandlodge.com/

DAY 04 DRIVE ARBA MINCH TO JINKA B- L- D

Total driving distance 270kms/4hrs.

Make a drive through the Konso village; whose people are known for their intricately terraced hillsides, they make recognized and prized by UNESCO, fine woven materials and the carved totems with which they decorate their graves.

On the way stop and visit Konso Cultural Community. The rolling hills of Ethiopia's Southern Rift Valley, dotted with bright green moringa trees and quaint thatched huts, are home to the Konso people – traditional farmers who cultivate cereals and cotton and rear cows and goats.



The vast and majestic landscape provides a stunning backdrop for the unique Konso culture. Konso villages, known as kantas, are built into the hillsides and encircled with stone walls for protection. The winding paths that weave through the village all lead to the mora, a large, thatched pavilion which acts as a special meeting place for the people of the surrounding villages. At night the young, unmarried men sleep here to protect the community and learn about life.



The Konso culture has much to offer visitors. From cultural performances to handcraft demonstrations, visitors can learn about the traditions of the Konso people and the important roles these traditions still play in their lives.

Continue your journey to Jinka & after check-in to your hotel visit the local villages in Jinka and get acquainted to the local life, how they make local liquor made of Sorghum, Garlic and maize and how they make a pot.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best available Hotel – Eco Omo Lodge 3* <u>https://www.eco-omo.com/</u> Moderate Hotel- Jinka resort <3* <u>https://jinka-resort.business.site/</u> Budget Hotel- NASA Hotel <3*



Accommodation overviews in Jinka

Eco Omo is a basic permanent tented lodge located in Jinka, in the heart of the Omo Valley, just outside the town and bordering the Neri River on the way to Mago National Park. The lodge has 20 tent-rooms with en suit bathroom, with either twin or double beds. All beds have large mosquito nets. There is a restaurant and bar on site. Eco Omo is fairly basic, it can be a noisy location and hot water and electricity is not always reliable, but it is still the best option in this area.

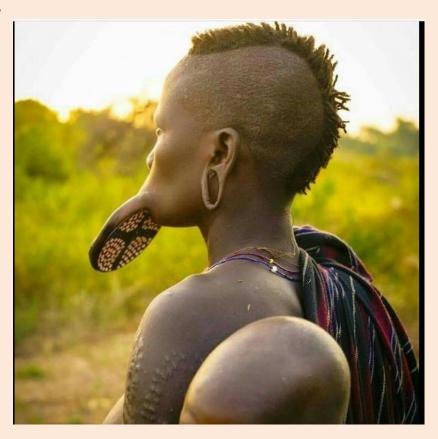
Jinka Resort, very basic hotel with its green grounds a short distance from the town centre. The rooms are simple, consisting of little more than beds (comfy and clean) with mosquito nets. Ensuite bathrooms have showers. There are camping sites for those who come bearing tents, with shared bathroom facilities but no kitchen.

DAY 05 DRIVE JINKA – MURSI- TURMI

Total driving distance 230kms/6-7hrs.

Mago National Park, one of Africa's vast wildernesses, was founded in the 1960s and it encloses dense acacia forests and open savannah. Drive to visit the Mursi villages; they go in for body

scarification and among the women the wearing of lip plates. They are known for fierce warrior disposition and wildly decorative appearance, with large circular clay labrets that the women wear in the lower lip.





Turmi is a place for the Hamer tribes, visit the Hamer village they are a fine looking people, both men and women take great pride in their appearance, shaving and coloring their hair, oiling their bodies and decorating themselves with beads and bracelets worn around arms and legs. They are famous for their body decoration, moonlight dance (Evangedi Dance) and bull-jumping. Bull jumping marks the rite of passage from childhood to adulthood. It is not a done every day.



If Tuesday or Thursday attend the beautiful Omo Valley market on the way to Turmi - the best colourful ones in the Omo Valley Markets. Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included Accommodation: Best available Hotel – Paradise Lodge Turmi 3*

https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Lodge/Paradise-Lodges-Hotels-Resorts-Turmi-Omo-Valley-Ethiopia-256919678109530/

Moderate Hotel- Buska Lodge <3* http://www.buskalodge.com/

Accommodation overviews in Turmi

Paradise Lodge opened a new hotel in Turmi, South Omo in December 2018. It is located just outside the town of Turmi, in a village called Kayna, overviewing the banks of the Keske River. 20 cottages feature a rustic tribal style, yet spoil you with luxury, fine art and excellent service, and



reflect the unique craftsmanship of the people of the rift valley by blending modern architecture with traditional huts of the southern region. All rooms offer twin beds, private bathrooms and hot water. The restaurant offers a variety of European and Ethiopian dishes, including a selection of vegetarian and vegan choices. The Paradise Lodge Turmi features a swimming pool offer a Spa and Massage treatment.

Buska Lodge is a comfortable lodge in the Hammer region of the Omo Valley and an excellent base for visiting the tribes of the area. Accommodation is in traditional Tukul Villages and the hotel is set amidst lovely gardens.



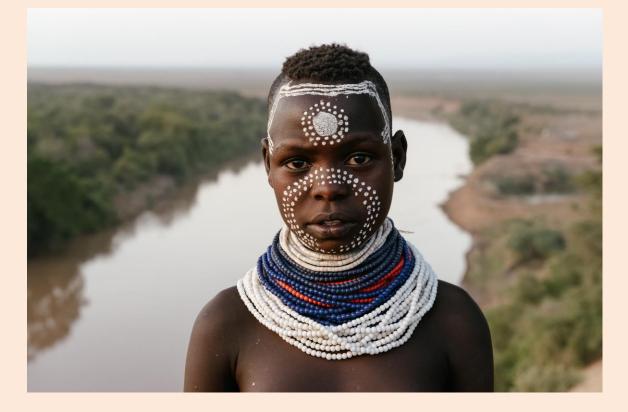


DAY 06 DRIVE TURMI –BUME- KARO- TURMI

B- L- D

Total driving distance 150kms/3-4hrs.

Following your early breakfast and holding your picnic lunch; today drive and cross the Omo River to visit the Bumi tribe on the Side of the Omo Valley. The Bumis are great warriors. They are also specialized crocodile hunters using harpoons from a dugout canoe. Cross back to the Omo River and drive to the village of Kolcho and visit the Karo tribes. They are considered the masters of body painting, in which they engage when preparing for a dance, feast or celebration. Finally drive back to Turmi.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included *Accommodation: Best available Hotel – Paradise Lodge Turmi 3** <u>https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Lodge/Paradise-Lodges-Hotels-Resorts-Turmi-Omo-</u> <u>Valley-Ethiopia-256919678109530/</u>

Moderate Hotel- Buska Lodge <3* http://www.buskalodge.com/







DAY 07 DRIVE TURMI TO ARBA MINCH

Total driving distance 280kms/5-6hrs.

Following breakfast drive to Erbore village to say hello to the beautiful women of Arbore tribe with their black veils, but are half nude and head shaved, so the contrast is really amazing. Arbore / Erbore, is far more rustic and unaffected than many similarly size towns in south Omo, in common with their linguistically and culturally affiliated Tsemai neighbors, the Arbore migrated to their present homeland from Konso perhaps two centuries ago. Because they have ancestral and cultural links to Konso and the pastoralists of the surrounding lowlands, the Arbore traditionally



played an important role as middlemen in trade between the Omo River and the Konso Highlands. The town of Arbore lies in an area where several tribal boundaries coverage.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best available Hotel – Haile Resorts 4* http://www.hailehotelsandresorts.com/ Paradise lodge >3** https://www.paradiselodgeethiopia.com/ Moderate Hotel- Emerald Hotel 3* https://www.emeraldresortandlodge.com/

DAY 08 DRIVE ARBA MINCH TO ADDIS ABABA B- L- D

Total driving distance 475kms/7hrs.

Following breakfast, drive to Addis Ababa stopping on the way at Senkelle Swayne's Hartebeest sanctuary. Enjoy the picturesque landscape and keep your eyes open, because with a bit of luck you can watch the Somalia hartebeest. Of this endemic and very rare antelope species there are about 700 more animals. Continue your journey to Addis Ababa.

Stop at Tiya prehistoric site, classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, where you could 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, 18 – 30 years old and buried in foetal positions.

Tonight 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included Accommodation Best available Hotel - Sheraton Addis Luxury Collection >5* Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa Hotel Moderate Hotel- Best Western Plus Addis Ababa Hotel 4* Budget Hotel- Bonanza Hotel <u>https://bonanzaaddishotel.com/</u>

DAY 09

A DAY IN ADDIS & DEPARTURE

B-L-D

A Day in Addis,



Visit to Entoto Hills – best introduction place to Addis Ababa. Mt. Entoto is the highest peak in Addis Ababa reaching 3,200 meters above sea level, giving the opportunity to catch stunning views over the city and the surrounding area from the summit.

It is the first settlement in Addis Ababa where Emperor Menelik II resided and built his palace in 1887. It is a historical place which offers a unique glimpse into the history of Ethiopia's distinct culture. The compound at the peak hosts the Entoto Mariam church, an Ethiopian artefact museum as well as Menelik II palace.



In addition to its historical significance as one drive up the hill there is an appreciable drop in temperature and the air is filled with the scent of the Eucalyptus trees which line the road. On the way up the roadside stalls offers fresh Ethiopian coffee. Also, if you have an interest in Ethiopian traditional clothes stop by at Shero Meda Market. There is a wide variety of beautiful fabrics, shawls, scarves, dresses, tops and jewellery with lots of choice and really good for gift ideas.

DEPARTURE

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

End of Services		
B = Breakfast	L = Lunch	D = Dinner
YOUR ITINERARY IN	CLUDES	
Accommodation:	All acc	ommodation 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 Multilingual National guide will be available on request with a supplement.			
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. Domestic flight fare is quoted separately on the flight section.			
Photography fees	Photography & video fees			
Gratitude	Tipping			
Tour Leader charge	FOC			
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.

THE PACKAGE COST: for the above program based on room sharing:

Price per person based on	Best Available Hotels	Moderate Hotels	Budget Hotels				
4WD/ 4pax/car							
2рах	USD\$2539.00pp	USD\$1944.00pp	USD\$1805.00pp				
Зрах	USD\$2321.00pp	USD\$1726.00pp	USD\$1587.00pp				
4Pax	USD\$2482.00pp	USD\$1887.00pp	USD\$1748.00pp				
5pax	USD\$2362.00pp	USD\$1768.00pp	USD\$1629.00pp				
10Pax	USD\$2232.00pp	USD\$1637.00pp	USD\$1498.00pp				
15рах	USD\$2260.00pp	USD\$1665.00pp	USD\$1526.00pp				
20рах	USD\$2220.00pp	USD\$1626.00pp	USD\$1487.00pp				
SRS	USD\$460.00pp	USD\$155.00pp	USD\$100.00pp				
Multi lingual National guide supplement	USD\$65.00/day	USD\$65.00/day	USD\$65.00/day				
Bull jumping or similar activities supplement	To be advised	To be advised	To be advised				

If you do not want to drive to the Omo Valley you can fly from Addis Ababa to Jinka or Arba Minch.

Domestic flight fare for the sectors of ADD- BCO (Jinka), AMH (Arba Minch) – ADD, if you use ET flight for his international flights **USD\$170.00pp**, if you use different air (non ET flights) for his international flights **USD\$315.00pp**. Flight fare subjected to change.



