

ABSOLUTE ETHIOPIA TOURS

Building Absolute Vacations!

AET 006- 14Days Classic Ethiopia & The Bale Mts.Tour

Itinerary Prepared For Luxury Market

 Duration: 13Nights/ 14 Days

 Accommodation: Best available Hotels

 Tour Starts: Addis Ababa

 Tour Ends: Addis Ababa

Guide: Multilingual national guide is available on request.

Trip Highlights

- Visiting the hub of Addis Ababa city
- The Bale Mts. is the perfect spot for nature lovers, One park many world.
- History, religion, scenery and wildlife.
- Blue Nile falls, and Lake Tanna Monasteries
- Explore the wild life and landscape of the Simien Mountains & the city of Gondar.
- Touring through the Lalibela- Rock Hewn Churches

Relax by Langano's fresh breath taking atmosphere. Lake Langano is bilharzias and crocodile free, and visitors can go for a swimming, walk along the shores of the lake or go bird watching in the forests along the lake shores.

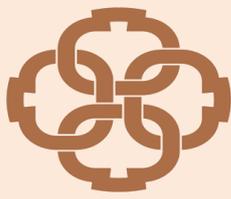
This program includes History, culture, religion, different social activities, scenery and wildlife.

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.

Bale Mountains National park, a journey that is both scenic and exciting. Located in the Oromia Region of southeast Ethiopia, the Bale Mountain National Park is one of those landscapes that keeps you guessing.

From volcanic peaks, to glacial lakes to swamps, it's not a place that runs out of things to show you.

The park is rich in birds and endemic animals like the Nyala. It also has all the levels of vegetation from grasslands to thick forests. More than 60 mammal species and 260 birds have been found at the Bale Mountains National Park. This park is the perfect spot for trekking and horseback riding. You will be able to spot the endemic Mountain Nyala, the Menelik Bushbuck and the Ethiopian wolf and explore lakes, waterfalls



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and deep gorges. You can either explore the park on foot with a guide or on horseback. The best time to visit the park is November to March but be prepared as the nights can get to below freezing temperatures.

Discover the mysteries of Ethiopia, a land of deep traditions dating back more than 3,000 years, on this exclusive trip explore the wonders of Lalibela, Gondar and Bahir Dar with the unspoiled nature of the Simien Mountains National Park, past stunning scenery of jagged peaks and panorama over the lowlands.

Trip Summary

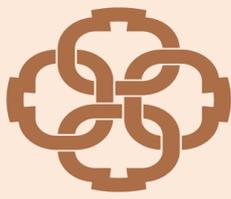
If you are interested to explore one of the glorious ancient human being civilizations in the continent of Africa, this tour is completely designed for your best and it defiantly suites your interest. You might be found yourself confused throughout this trip and continuously asking yourself why this great human being civilizations unable to sustain by the past and present Ethiopian generations? Might be there is the super Natural power interventions on all those great ancient civilizations evidences? Why don't you join us with this tour and put your own hypothesis for this argument?

Our life time journey begins with the city tour of Addis Ababa, followed by a relaxing stopover along the shores of Lake Langano, known for its wooded shores and variety of birdlife, then climbing through forests, fields, little villages and banana groves and reach open grassy upland, approaching the park the scenery becomes increasingly spectacular - stay in the stunning Bale Mountains.

Return back to Addis & connection flight to Bahir Dar, where we will explore the interesting medieval periods of Lake Tana monasteries and the marvellous Blue Nile falls and then continuing to Gondar for visiting the famous Royal Enclosures. Our discovery of this fascinating historic route also continues to the lovely landscape of Simein Mountains, where you'll enjoy a half day walking with the troops of Gellad Baboon – Endemic for Ethiopia. After a morning walk through the beautiful scenery of the mountains then we will back to Gondar. Our Journey will also touch the splendid Rock churches of Lalibela, considered as one of the eight wonders of the world and you will have enough time to learn more about these rock churches with your guided tour.

Generally the best time to visit Ethiopia is between October and June, when it is the dry season. Rains tend to stop in early October, meaning afterwards the highlands are lush and green – perfect for trekking amongst pretty wildflowers that have sprung up. Be sure to bring a sweater all year round due to the elevation.

Things to bring with you; during the dry season, although days can be cool, a hat and high SPF sunscreen are still essential to avoid sunburn. Temperatures can drop dramatically in the evenings so pack warm clothes.



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During the heavy rainy season between June and October trails can be wet and muddy so proper trekking shoes are essential.

TRIP IN DETAILS

DAY 01

ADDIS ABABA

- L- D

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".

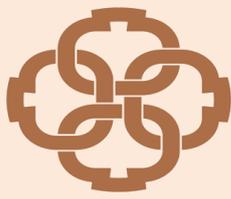
Addis Ababa is Africa's diplomatic capital with headquarters for the Organization of African Unity and the United Nation Economic Commissions for Africa.

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.

The Holy Trinity Cathedral, built in 1945, this cathedral is renowned for its stunning stain-glassed windows which depict scenes from the Old and New Testament of the Holy Bible. The Trinity Cathedral also houses the tombs of the late emperor and his family as well as the tomb of English feminist Sylvia Pankhurst.



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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.

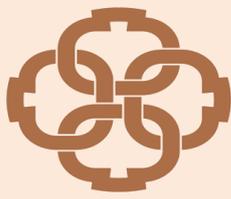
Meals: Lunch & Dinner are included

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

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/addlc-sheraton-addis-a-luxury-collection-hotel-addis-ababa/.com> or
Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa Hotel https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/ethiopia/hyatt-regency-addis-ababa/addra?src=corp_lclb_gmb_seo_eame_addra

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



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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.

DAY 02

DRIVE ADDIS ABABA TO LANGANO

B - L - D

Road transfer Addis Ababa to Langano 200kms/4hrs via Ziway.

Following your hearty breakfast at Hyatt Regency hotel you will drive to Lake Langano, has a beautiful white sand beach.

Langano is located in the Great Rift Valley at an elevation of 1,585 meters to the east of Lake Abijata.

According to figures published by the Central Statistical Agency, Lake Langano is 18 kilometers long and 16 km wide, with a surface area of 330 square kilometers and a maximum depth of 46 meters.

As it is free of Bilharzias (Schistosomiasis), unlike all other freshwater lakes in Ethiopia, Lake Langano is popular with tourists and city dwellers for its swimming, water sport, horse riding, forest walking and mountain biking activities. The lake is brown in color and as well one can experience variety of wildlife around the lake, which includes hippos, monkeys, baboons, warthogs, and a huge variety of birds.

On your way visit Lake Ziway, the largest of the northern group of Rift Valley Lakes. It lies about 1.5km east of the town of Ziway, it is best known for its bird life. Visit the Castel Winery garden & wine testing at Ziway <http://castelwineryethiopia.com/homepage/>

Relax by Langano's fresh breath taking atmosphere. Lake Langano is bilharzias 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.



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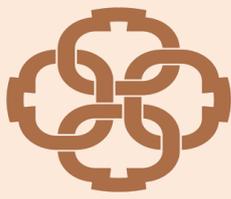


Following lunch visit Abijata-Shala National Park. "Lakes Park" which was once reputed as one of the bird watchers ground in Africa. It was 887 square kilometres in area out of which 482 square kilometres is covered by water of Lake Abijata and Shala. This park used to have about 31 species of mammals such as Spotted Hyena, Golden and Black Backed Jakals, Olive Baboon, Grant's Gazelle, etc., and 367 species of birds. But currently due to devastated ecology and extreme decrease of Abijata Lake water, one can see only less concentration of flamingos.

Before, myriad of local and exotic birds that come from Europe and different parts of the world used to congregate here in at Lake Abijata.

Hundreds of thousands of Flamingoes and Great White Pelicans, Fish Eagles, King Fishers, the tall Marabou Stork, Cormorants and Darters, etc. used to roam here in Lake Abijata and in the side-by lake Shala. There were also vast colonies of sacred Ibis, Queela, Stilt, Snope Black Heron, Avocet, Egyptian Geeze, Eglets, Plovers, etc. It is quite unlikely however, to see most of the birds mentioned above while some species are seen in small number (seasonally), due to the same reason stated earlier.

At the park's head quarter one can easily observe (watch) a flock of male and female ostriches and some gazelles. Lake Shala, which is separated to the south from Lake Abijata by a strip of land has a delightful view for its deep blue color with excellent reflections of the magnificent western hills. At the north eastern shore of



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the lake Shala, one can be impressed by a tumbling cascade of hot springs and smoke of vapor that rush out down to the bay.

Lake Chitu: is a small Crater Lake offers a spectacular view of colony of flamingos feeding on blue- green algae.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodations: *Best available Hotel- Sabana Lodge* <http://www.sabanalangano.com/>

Hara Langano Lodge <http://www.haralangano.com/>

Bishangari lodge <https://bishangarilodge.com/>

Accommodation overviews in Langano

Sabana lodge, the resort's unusual landscape offers both a serene beachfront as well as a vast cliff-top with a breath-taking view over the lake.

Hara Langano Eco Lodge, 3.5-star lodge with free breakfast and restaurant, 30 individually decorated rooms feature free WiFi and room service. Patios, living rooms, Bathrooms include showers and free bottled water is among the other amenities available to guests.

Bishangari Eco-Lodge, surrounded by ancient rainforests, secluded beaches, and diverse wildlife, Bishangari is the perfect place to reconnect with nature and recharge. it is located on the eastern side of Lake Langano, where the tropical climate and mineral-rich waters provide the perfect setting for relaxation and rejuvenation.

DAY 03

DRIVE LANGANO TO BALE MTS.

B - L - D

Road transfer Langano to Bale Mts. 310kms/4 -5hrs via Dinsho.

Dinsho is the head Quarter of the Bale Mountain National park inhabited by Oromo people look for the three of the endemic mammals: Menelik's Bushbuck, Semien Fox, and Mountain Nyala. And birds Blue-winged goose, Spot-breasted lapwing, Abyssinian long claw, Wattled ibis, Black-headed siskin, Rouget's rail. Other mammals you can expect to see here are warthog, boor reedbuck, Gureza monkey, as well as several other water and grassland birds



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After your picnic lunch or lunch in local restaurant, make a short hike along the woodland part of the national park chance to spot endemic Mountain Nyala, Menelick Bushback, Bohor Reedbuck and bird species. Then transfer to the lodge for the overnight stay.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodations: *Best available Hotel- Bale Mts. Lodge* <http://www.balemountainlodge.com/>

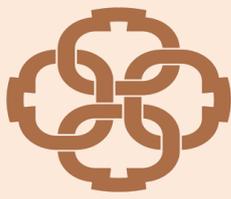
Accommodation overviews in Bale Mts

Bale Mountain Lodge is a thatch, stone and wood build situated in the Harenna Forest. It has 12 guestrooms including a romantic treehouse. Each room has a wood burning stove and colourful throws on the beds, with matching curtains. The main lodge has a lounge and dining area, and comes with a bar, fireplace, natural waterfall dip and shared terrace. A 'splash' pool beneath a natural waterfall is a unique feature of the lodge, and a sauna is planned.

DAY 04 & 05
HIKING IN THE BALE MTS.

B - L - D

SANETTI PLATEAU & HARENNA FOREST



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Full day visit with picnic lunch on Sanetti Plateau, 4000masl, with its striking Afro-Alpine flora, such as the Giant Lobelia and Red Hot Poker. It is the best place in Ethiopia to see the Simien Wolf, the rarest canid in the world, while the huge rodent population, including the endemic Giant Mole Rat, supports a variety of raptors. The rare Wattled Crane is often seen, while there are a good number of the Spot-breasted Plover. Tullu Dimtu at 4377 m is the second highest mountain in Ethiopia and then return back to the Hareenna forest and birding around the lodge here one comes encounter with olive baboon, gureza monkey, bush buck, bush pig, leopard, lions and wild dogs.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodations: Bale Mts. Lodge

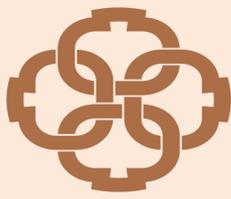
DAY 06 & 07



FLY BALE MTS. TO BAHIR DAR VIA ADDIS ABABA

B - L - D

Drive to Goba and catch your flight back to Addis Ababa and connect your flight to Bahir Dar.



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Bahir Dar is the capital of the Amhara region situated on the shores of Lake Tana, the largest lake in the country. Bahir Dar is one of the best well-planned cities in Ethiopia. Bahir Dar means "by the side of the sea" after check into your hotel

Leave for the visit of the Blue Nile Falls, locally known as "Tissiat" – which means "Smoking Water." The Falls are 328 feet wide and the water plunges some 150 feet, giving rise to picturesque stream clouds and rainbows. Blue Nile Falls is 32kms from the city. On a clear sunny day you can walk for about 30min walk to the base of the falls. Meet with the locals around for a short coffee break. Cotton spinning is the most famous activity in this area.

Following lunch embark on a cruise on Lake Tana, the largest highland lake in Ethiopia. Lake Tana is also the source of the Blue Nile, a fact that may explain many of Ethiopia's links with the ancient world. Even today, the papyrus tankwa that sail the lake bear a striking resemblance to the boats of Ancient Egypt.

Visit the Zeghie Peninsula & the locals, known for its 14th century, round, grass roofed churches and their magnificent wall murals, the Azoa Mariam and Ura Kidane Mehret churches, its architectural style is a typical example of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church having mud plastered round wall with conical thatched roof. Ura is known especially for its fine frescoes, manuscripts, ecclesiastical objects like crown of various emperors dated from the 14thc, processional crosses of silver & gold, silver-drum and royal vestments, and an impressive display of illuminated bibles written in Ge'ez, the religious language from which Amharic is derived. And then walk through dense forest with lots of bird life & coffee plantations.

And in late afternoon enjoy the sightseeing in Bahir Dar - have a look around the city of Bahir dar including Agelgil Market & Bazawit Hill Top which offers a spectacular view of the surrounding, the city, the islands of Lake Tana and Blue Nile leaving the lake. With some luck hippopotamus colonies can be seen at the bottom. There is the palace of Emperor Hailesillasie built in the 1960s which you could see from the outside.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best available Hotel- Kuriftu Resort & Spa <https://kurifturesorts.com/bahir-dar>

Avanti Blue Nile Resort <http://www.bluenileresorthotels.com/>



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Accommodation overviews in Bahir Dar

The Kuriftu Resort is set on the shores of Lake Tana, has 14 spacious luxurious traditional stone cottages (28 rooms in total, with one room on the ground floor and another on the first floor) set around a gorgeous pool, with breath-taking views of the lake.

The resort has been sensitively developed (which is more than can be said for its neighbours), the service is excellent and free massage treatments are included in your stay.

The shared areas include a reception, bar/lounge area, swimming pool, restaurant, extensive outdoor seating and spa.

Avanti Blue Nile resort is a luxury hotel & resort with a total of 135 en suite rooms, providing a lovely lake views across Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile. The restaurants serve both international and national dishes, free Wi-Fi service, bar services and many more.

DAY 08

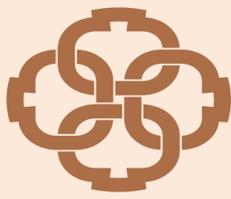
B-L-D

DRIVE BAHIR DAR TO SIMIEN MTS. VIA GONDAR

Have a hearty breakfast and head to the magnificent Simien Mts. National Park via Gondar.

Gondar was once the capital and commercial centre of Ethiopia from the 17th to mid-19th century; you will have lunch in Gondar city and from here you'll proceed to the Simien Mountains National Park.

Road/ Surface transfer 290kms/5hrs.



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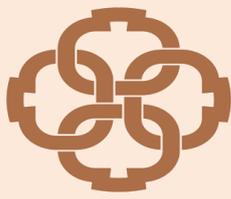
The Simien Mountains National Park is situated about 100km north of Gondar and is one of Africa's largest mountain ranges. At least a dozen of the peaks are over the 4,000m mark, including Ras Dashen, the highest peak in Ethiopia. The western side of the range, excluding Ras Dashen, was designated as the Simien Mountains National Park in 1969, and the entire range was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. The Simien range consists of several large plateaus divided by large river valleys. The spectacular views stretch north towards Eritrea. Three of Ethiopia's endemic large mammals are residents of the Simiens. The Ghelada Baboon is the most common with an estimated population of 7,000. They are often to be seen grazing in herds of up to 400 individuals. There is also the rare Ethiopian Wolf, with a population of no more than 50 that exists high up on the mountains slopes of Ras Dashen, Bwahit and Kidus Yared. Finally there are 600 Walia Ibexes still surviving. Non-endemic mammals include Klipspringer, Bushbuck, and the Common Jackal. Flora includes St John's Wort and an array of Aloe.

Visit Sankaber the first camp sight of the Simien Mts. Here you will find one of the most spectacular mountain scenery in Ethiopia. Stop to watch Ghelada Baboons and observe their foraging habits, and take a short walk to a waterfall (the ground here is uneven).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best available Hotel- Limalimo Lodge <https://limalimolodge.com/>

Simien Lodge <http://www.simiens.com/>



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Accommodation overviews in Simien Mts

Limalimo Lodge offers 14 rooms scattered throughout the site's sprawling 10 hectares, communal bar, restaurant and large terrace – complete with fire-pit – afford truly spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. The décor is a unique and striking blend of the contemporary and the traditional, with thatched roofs, local woods and stylish rammed earth walls that have been integral in keeping the construction local and sustainable. The sleeping rooms are a mixture of twin, double, triple and family. In keeping with the main areas, the feel of all the rooms is elegant and subtle, thoughtfully blending comfort with distinctive local finesse. Each room's location affords seclusion and spectacular views, coming with en-suite facilities. Electricity, hot water and heating are provided by sustainable sources, whilst water for the gardens is recycled. Each room includes a private terrace. Wi-Fi is available, though please be advised a clear connection is not always guaranteed.

Simien Lodge is located near the Simien Mountains National Park on a hilltop with fantastic views of the countryside. The highest hotel in Africa includes 20 bungalows furnished in the style of the country and an on-site restaurant.

Remarks: Please bring warm clothing and rain wear. Despite its closeness to the equator, the Simien Mountains tend to get quite cold at night

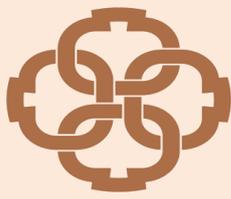
DAY 09

THE SIMIEN MOUNTAINS NP

B-L-D

Drive to Jinnbar falls & Hyena Meda to enjoy the beautiful morning scenic view of the mountains and from Hyena Meda climb the Immet gogo /3926m/and have a wonderful view from here. Then proceed to Chennek, 3,620m, home to endemic Walia Ibex, as well as Klipspringers and Bushbucks. Chennek is one of the most spectacular spots in the Simien Mountains and the surrounding slopes are thick with giant Lobelias and Afro-Alpine scrub.

A picnic lunch will be arranged for you at a scenic spot.



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A sighting of the Walia Ibex is not guaranteed and is usually dictated by the road conditions, because these animals generally inhabit an area at least 60km from the lodge.

Visit the Argin village, in the heart of the park a few kilometres southwest of Chenek. You will practice baking injera, beer making, coffee ceremony, Hair do or any activities by the locals. Revenues go straight to the local community.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best available Hotel- Limalimo Lodge <https://limalimolodge.com/>

Simien Lodge <http://www.simiens.com/>

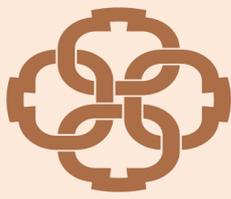
DAY 10

DRIVE SIMIEN MTS. TO GONDAR

B-L-D

Today you will drive to Gondar 185kms/3hrs. Enjoy the scenic view & real country side feeling on your way.

Gondar "the Camelot of Africa," is the medieval royal city, distinguished by its castles and imperial compound and by its churches, particularly Debre Berhan Selassie, the walls and ceiling of which are completely covered in murals - the angels' faces on the ceiling have become a common motif in Ethiopian design.



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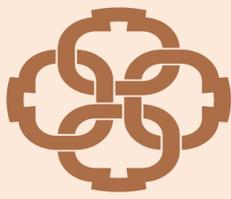
Gondar was founded by Emperor Fasiladas in 1636 as the royal capital of Ethiopia. For several centuries Ethiopia had been ruled from a succession of temporary capitals and Fasiladas recognized that a permanent capital might help provide greater internal stability.



By the time of Fasiladas' death in 1667 Gondar was the largest and most important city in the empire. It retained its position as the capital of Ethiopia for 250 years, though this status was largely nominal from the late 18th century onwards.

Gondar has now become one of Ethiopia's largest and most impressive cities, with its walled Royal Enclosure. Gondar's most famous monuments are its exceptionally well preserved 17th-century castles. The largest and best is that of King Fasilidas. It is a stone-built construction with round turrets and wooden balconies. The king also built a remarkable bath a mile or so outside of town known as the 'Pavilion of Delight'. The Bathhouse of Fasil at which thousands of Ethiopians celebrate Timekat festival every January. This whole complex of buildings is unique in Ethiopia and unlike anything found elsewhere in Africa.

After lunch visit the Royal Enclosure or Fasil Gibbi, encompasses the castles of various Gondarene emperors. The Fasiladas Palace; the Quskuam Church (believed to be the home of famous explorer James Bruce during



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the 1770's). After 2-km drive from the town centre visit the bath of King Fasilides. The pool is now the central stage on which the Timkat or Epiphany festival is celebrated in Gondar.

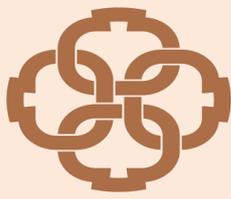
Debre Berhane Selassie church with its remarkable walls and ceiling completely covered with murals - the angels' faces on the ceiling have become a common motif in Ethiopian design.



On your way to Gondar visit Project Ploughshare Women's Crafts Training Centre - Located 5km from Gondar, this centre is focussed on helping disadvantaged women rekindle local pottery traditions, along with Amhara weaving and basketry. Founded in 1993, the aim of the project is to help single mothers who have lost their husbands as a result of HIV/Aids, war, natural disasters or divorce. With an average of 4 to 5 children to support, the proceeds of the products which are sold to the local community and tourists are a vital source of income.

Ras Gimb Museum - Likely built in the 17th century, this attractive palace, now converted into a museum, once served as: a retreat for Haile Selassie; a residence for Italian generals; and as a torture chamber for the Derg.

Enjoy one of the localities activities like ploughing of the land by oxen, local (home) crop/grains grinding, crushing crops, grains ...with pestle & mortal



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Tonight enjoy the traditional Ethiopian Music at Four sisters- Gondar is famous for the Azmari bet, and enjoy the Ethiopian indigenous traditional songs mainly praising and singing with lots of Funs. Young couples, a man playing Masinko (one string instrument) and a woman performs the singing in the mean while if you like you will have the chance to try the dances.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best Available Hotel – Gondar Hills Resort ≥4* <http://gondarhillsresort.com/>

Moderate Hotel- Haile Resort Gondar <http://www.hailehotelsandresorts.com/> (owned by the Great Ethiopian Athlete Haile G.Selassie) or equivalent

Goha Hotel 3* <http://www.gohahotel.com/> or **Maykelo Lodge** <http://maylekolodge.net/>

Budget- Zoble Hotel

Accommodation overviews in Gondar

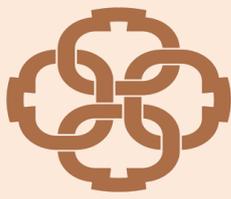
Gondar Hills Resorts is an eco-friendly luxurious development with it's modern stone and glass finish, located in mountainous out-skirt of Gondar town providing a 360 degree view of the surrounding. The mountain-top property is set to feature impressive state-of-the-art of rooms, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, conference and other facilities. One of the resorts most outstanding structures is the amazing traditional stonework combined with the green roofs blending with the surrounding mountains, along with incredible views of the royal enclosure, urban and countryside view.

Haile Resorts: with its 54 room's faces a chain of mountains with Gonder city views. Featuring a terrace, a 3-star hotel has air-conditioned rooms with free WiFi, each with a private bathroom. The accommodation features a hot tub, nightclub and free shuttle service. Each room is fitted with a desk and a flat-screen TV, and certain rooms at the hotel have a balcony. Guest rooms will provide guests with a fridge. A buffet, continental or American breakfast is available daily at the property.

The outdoor pool is a great spot to take a dip, and guests can grab a bite to eat at Haile, which serves local and international cuisine and is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Other highlights at this upscale hotel include a bar/lounge and a garden. Haile Resort-Gondar offers a children's playground.

The Goha occupies a fantastic hill top position overlooking the City, rooms are reasonably furnished if a little tired and there is a pleasant enough restaurant / bar area. There is a swimming pool & free WIFI service.

Zobel Resort sits on a hilltop with good views over the city and its surrounding mountain scape. It is set a bit outside the centre of town, has rooms ranging from standard single, double, and twin rooms with an en suite bathrooms, Wi-Fi access, flat screen TVs, desks, coffee/tea stations and safes. Many of the rooms have very good views thanks to the hotel's hilltop location. The hotel's restaurant serves both Ethiopian and



international cuisine with à la carte and buffet options. There is a spacious terrace with excellent views. Breakfast, which is included in the room price, is served on the terrace. The property is wheelchair accessible.

DAY 11
FLIGHT GONDAR TO LALIBELA

B-L-D

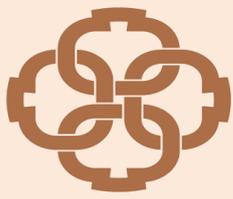
Following your breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Lalibela

The small town of Lalibela, which is home to one of the world's most astounding sacred sites, comprising eleven medieval rock-hewn churches, each carved entirely out of a single piece of stone.



Lalibela, the 'New Jerusalem', was built by King Lalibela 'with the help of angels' in the 12th century, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its eleven rock-hewn churches. Perched among wild craggy mountains and vast rocky escarpments, there is a stark cathedral-like grandeur to Lalibela. The houses of Lalibela are of a design unlike anywhere else in Ethiopia, two-storey circular stone constructs that huddle in an amorphous mass over the steep slopes on which the town is built.

The rock-hewn churches are large and several are more than ten metres high. Because they are carved below ground level, they are ringed by trenches and courtyards, the sides of which are cut into with stone graves and hermit cells, and connected to each other by a tangled maze of tunnels and passages.



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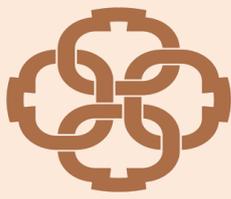
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The eleven rock churches, thought to be at least 200 years old, are divided into two groups and are visited by foot. The steps are uneven and walking around can require a little agility.

After the decline of the Axumite Empire, lamenting their lost grandeur, Ethiopia's rulers retreated with their Christian subjects to the lofty escarpment of the central uplands. There, protected by mountain battlements more formidable than anything the hand of man could fashion, they were able to repel an increasingly expansionist and militant Islamic army by trapping and confusing their enemies in the precipitous maze of valleys that intersects the high plateau. Inevitably, a fortress mentality took root: an intense suspicion of the motives of strangers, a hatred of intrusion and interference, and a protective secrecy. From roughly the seventh to the 16th century AD, the Ethiopians were encompassed by the enemies of their religion, and were described by the British historian Edward Gibbon as having "slept for near a thousand years, forgetful of the world by whom they were forgotten". It is true, moreover, that in holding back those who sought to destroy their faith, the highlanders also effectively cut themselves off the evolving mainstream of Christian culture. However, this is the only sense in which they slept. Their unique, idiosyncratic civilisation was otherwise very much awake, a singular and spirited affirmation of the creative power of the human intellect.



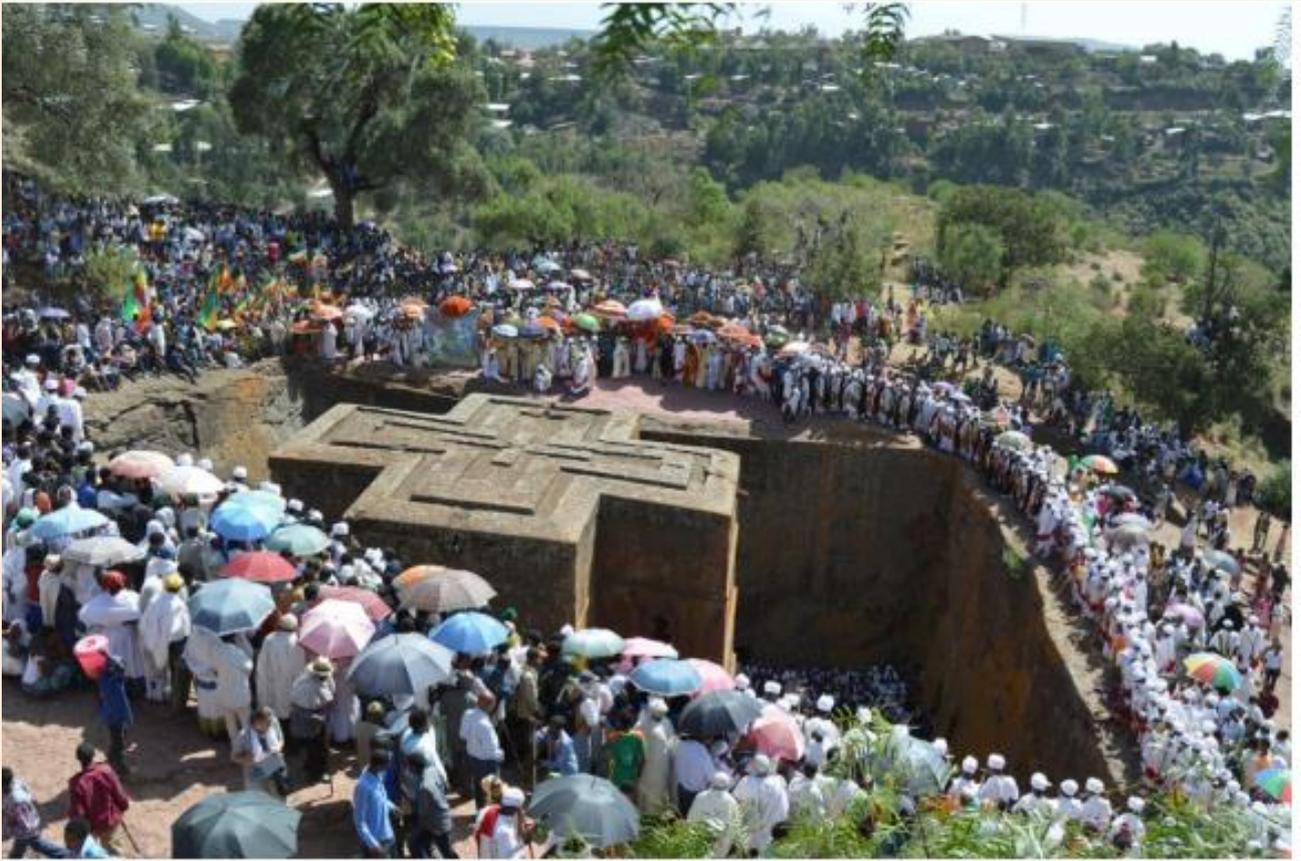
Lalibela, previously known as Roha, was named after the king. The word itself, which translates to mean 'the bees', recognises his sovereignty and the people of the region still recount the legend. Lalibela was born in



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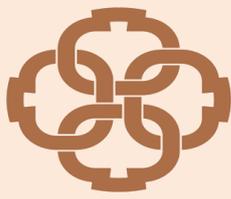
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Roha in the second half of the 12th century, the youngest son of the royal line of the Zagwe dynasty, which then ruled over much of northern Ethiopia. Despite several elder brothers, he was destined for greatness from his earliest days. Not long after his birth, his mother found a swarm of bees around his crib and recalled an old belief that the animal world foretold important futures. She cried out: "The bees know that this child will become king".



At the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th century, King Lalibela of the Zagwe dynasty built a series of rock-hewn churches. There are eleven churches in the town named after him, with others in the surrounding countryside. All are still in use today.

It is estimated that the churches took 25 years to construct. For the kingdom based around Roha to have kept a large work force engaged in economically unproductive labour for such a long period means that it disposed of a large economic surplus and was very wealthy. The area was clearly fertile and agriculturally productive, whereas now deforestation and other forms of ecological degradation have made it barren. This area is particularly prone to drought today.



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After lunch leave to visit the north-west cluster of churches consists of Bet Medhane Alem, Bet Maryam, Bet Meskel, Bet Danaghel, Bet Debre Sina, and Bet Golgotha. Also included in this tour is the isolated monolith of Bet Giyorgis (the Church of St George). Bet Medhane Alem is the largest monolithic rock-hewn church

Take a part in a traditional coffee ceremony.

Ethiopia's coffee ceremony is an integral part of the social and cultural life. It is an important cultural ritual that's been passed from generation to generation. An invitation to attend a coffee ceremony is considered as a mark of friendship or respect and is an example of Ethiopian hospitality.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best available Hotel – Sora Lodge <http://soralodgelalibela.com/>

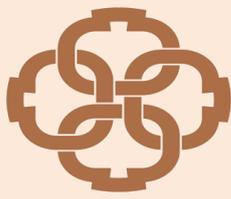
Mezena lodge <https://mezenalodge.com/> or **Maribela Hotel** <https://hotelmaribela.com/> 4*

Moderate Hotel- Tukul Village Hotel 3*

https://www.facebook.com/pg/lalhotels/photos/?ref=page_internal

Accommodation overviews in Lalibela

Sora Lodge offers a unique and spectacular view of the Asheten Mariam Mountain, the valleys and countryside villages around Lalibela. All rooms in our three-storeyed main building have a large private veranda facing east, providing unforgettable views of the sunrise, while the sunset can be watched from the



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common verandas

facing west. They provide 6 tukuls/ traditionally round huts, 12 rock hewn rooms, tree houses & 9 standard rooms equipped with modern amenities and neat, private bathrooms with hot showers. The restaurant offers a stunning view of the valley, the river, the surrounding mountains and the small villages nearby. And their menu includes Ethiopian and Western cuisine.

Mezena Lodge sits among a grove of trees, possesses extraordinary views across the valley towards the town of Lalibela, and consists of 30 bungalows and a main lodge. The main lodge includes two restaurants, a large bar, a coffee ceremony room, gift shop, and a spa – sauna, steam room, massage service, gym and a large terrace with a swimming pool. Wi-Fi is also available throughout the lodge.

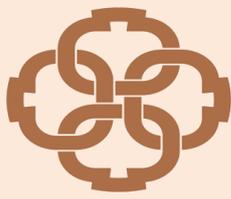
The Maribela Hotel is located in the middle of the mountains of Lalibela and offers a magnificent view of the Ethiopian highlands. The tasteful design of the hotel was inspired by the famous rock churches of Lalibela. Your rooms are cozy and attractively furnished and have a private balcony where you can enjoy the view and the sunset. After an eventful day, you can round off the day at the in-house restaurant.

Tukul Village Hotel is a pleasant small lodge in the heart of Lalibela, close walking distance from many of the rock hewn churches that the town is famous for. Set within pleasant gardens, there are 12 Tukuls (traditional African huts) each containing two comfortable en-suite rooms (24 rooms in total). The rooms are large, light and airy with comfortable simple furnishings and decent bathrooms.

DAY 12
LALIBELA

B-L-D

Today visit the cave church of Yimrehane Kirstos, 40kms from the city, built by the king of the same name before the reign of King Lalibela. The church is constructed inside a cave, in Axumite style, similar to the church at Debre Damo, with alternating levels of wood and stone. If the day meets, attend the yearly celebration of King & Saint Yimrehane Kirstos which is attended by tens thousands of pilgrims from all over Ethiopia, making it one of the most joyous annual pilgrimages in Lalibela. It is celebrated with greater devotion, the congregation wrapped in white shawls sing with joy along with the priests' one after the other and among the swaying choir the priests chanting, dancing, and singing around the church letting out a deep boom of the drums and female's voice respond in a piercing chorus of ululations. Then return back to the town.



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Visit the second group of the rock churches. The south-east cluster of churches is more irregular in design than the north-western cluster. Several of the individual churches in this cluster are thought to have been secular in origin, and some predate the reign of King Lalibela by five centuries. The churches in the south-east cluster include Bet Gabriel-Rafael, Bet Abba Libanos, Bet Lehem, Bet Emanuel, and Bet Mercurios. According to legend, Bet Abba Libanos was built overnight by Lalibela's wife, Meskel Kebre, who was assisted by a group of angels.

You can also visit the Markets in Lalibela see the colourful and variety of offers. Very intense and enlightening experience or participate in tree planting.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Best Available Hotel – Sora Lodge <http://soralodgelalibela.com/>

Mezana lodge or Maribela Hotel 4*

Moderate Hotel- Tukul Village Hotel 3*

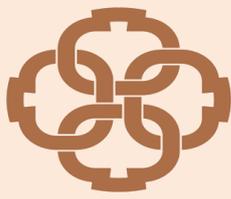
DAY 13



FLY LALIBELA TO ADDIS ABABA

B-L-D

Today, transfer to Lalibela airport for your flight back to Addis Ababa. Spend the rest of the day at leisure or go for shopping or more sightseeing in Addis.



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Meals: Breakfast, 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-addis-ababa/.com>

or

Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa Hotel https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/ethiopia/hyatt-regency-addis-ababa/addra?src=corp_lclb_gmb_seo_eame_addra

DAY 14

ADDIS ABABA & DEPARTURE

B- L- _

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 muse-um 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.



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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.

A Day use at your hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

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 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:	Multilingual national guide is available on request and 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.



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YOUR ITINERARY EXCLUDES

Miscellaneous:	Visa for Ethiopia.
Flight	International & Domestic airfare. Domestic flight fare is quoted separately on the flight section.
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
2pax	USD\$5,260.00pp	USD\$4229.00pp
3pax	USD\$4951.00pp	USD\$3920.00pp
4Pax	USD\$4921.00pp	USD\$3890.00pp
5pax	USD\$4748.00pp	USD\$3717.00pp
10Pax	USD\$4,632.00pp	USD\$3,601.00pp
15pax	USD\$4,547.00pp	USD\$3,516.00pp
20pax	USD\$4,542.00pp	USD\$3,511.00pp
SRS	USD\$985.00pp	USD\$550.00pp
Multilingual guide supplement	USD\$65.00/day	USD\$65.00/day
Holiday supplement Christ Mas, Timket Easter, Hidar Tsion or any other	USD\$150.00pp/Festival	USD\$150.00pp/Festival

Domestic flights: Bale Goba - Addis Ababa – Bahir Dar,– Lalibela – Addis Ababa-, if you come to Ethiopia with a non ET flights USD\$660.00pp if you use Ethiopian air for your international flights USD\$340.00pp. To be revised if any fare difference is observed during time of travel. *NB. Please note that if clients come to Ethiopia with Ethiopian Airlines they will get a reasonable discount on the internal/domestic flight fares.*