

KIBRAN TOURS

PRESENTS

HISTORIC ETHIOPIA & BALE MOUNTAINS 7 DAYS/ 6 NIGHTS



DAY 01: ARRIVAL IN ADDIS ABABA

Welcome to Addis Ababa! Addis Ababa means “New Flower” in Amharic. It is the third highest capital in the world.

After freshening up at your hotel, you embark on a city tour of Addis Ababa. Visit the National Archaeological Museum with the 3.2 million-year-old bones of Lucy as well as a collection of modern arts. The Ethnographic Museum with its two main sections covers local crafts and the Ethiopian regions and people. The museum has an impressive array of religious crosses, triptychs, and murals, as well as Haile Selassie’s bedroom and bathroom.

After lunch you visit St. George’s Cathedral at the north end of Churchill Avenue. Designed in the traditional octagonal shape, this cathedral was built in 1896 to commemorate Ethiopia’s victory over the Italians in the Battle of Adwa. The Cathedral houses the work of Afewerk Tekle, the renowned Ethiopian artist responsible for the stained glass windows of Africa Hall. It also houses a small museum in the compound.

Alternatively you could visit 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.

Then move to the largest market in Africa, Mercato, where virtually every possible commodity is on sale. For the visitor good at bargaining, there is a huge selection of Ethiopian arts and crafts.

Drive up to Mount Entoto to enjoy a drop in temperature and the air filled with the scent of Eucalyptus trees lining the road. Enjoy the panoramic view of the capital and the surrounding countryside.

Overnight: Sheraton Luxury Collection www.sheratonAddis.com. Lunch and dinner are included

DAY 02: FLY TO GONDAR AND DRIVE TO SIMIEN MOUNTAINS

In the morning you fly to Gondar and drive to the magnificent Simien Mountains National Park. This is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites since the late 1960s.

En route you visit the former Felasha village Wolleka. Take a look at the characteristic pottery sold there.

Enjoy the rich endemic wildlife and the Afro-Alpine flora, meadows and grasslands.



Overnight: Limalimo Lodge www.limalimolodge.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included

DAY 03: DRIVE BACK TO GONDAR

Gondar is often referred to as the “Camelot of Africa”. The Kings of Ethiopia based their power in Gondar for two centuries. The city was the first capital of the Ethiopian empire, which began in 1632 with the reign of Fasilides. There are a dozen castles built by various Emperors over the course of 236 years. Many picturesque ruins lie in the royal enclosure. The castles reflect the glory of the Gondarine Kings. Visit the Bath of Fasilides, in which pilgrims still take a plunge during Timkat (Epiphany) celebrations. In the afternoon you visit Debre Birhan Selassie church, the only church in Gondar that was saved from Mahdist invasion in the 1880s. The walls and ceilings are completely covered with murals - the angels’ faces on the ceiling have become a common motif in Ethiopian design.



Overnight: Mayleko lodge www.maylekolodge.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included

DAY 04: FLY TO LALIBELA

After breakfast you fly to Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its 11 medieval monolithic rock-hewn churches.

Lalibela is often referred to as the “New Jerusalem”. The city was built by King Lalibela of the Zagwe Dynasty “with the help of angels” in the 12th century, in an almost inaccessible mountain stronghold at a height of nearly 7,700 feet above sea level.

There are many legends around the building of the city. One legend tells of rivalry between the young Prince Lalibela and his elder brother, King Harbay, following their mother’s revelation that Lalibela would be King. Harbay attempted to murder Lalibela with poison that only put Lalibela to sleep. During his slumber, Lalibela was taken to heaven by angels, where God ordered him to build churches in Lalibela. After awakening from his sleep and forgiving his brother, the two traveled to Lalibela, where Harbay abdicated to make way for Lalibela. On his coronation, Lalibela ordered the building of the churches - the work being completed quickly because angels were said to have continued the work at night.

The first group of six churches lies in rock cradles one behind the other: Bet Golgotha, Bet Mikael, Bet Mariam, Bet Meskel, Bet Danaghel, and Bet Medhane Alem.

After lunch, you visit the second group of churches, including the famous Bete Georgis. This cross-shaped



church is located in a deep pit with perpendicular walls. It is accessible only through a tunnel. The church was built by Lalibela for Saint George, who is said to have supervised its construction himself – just ask the monks who will show you the hoof marks left by his horse! The other four churches of this group are Bet Emanuel, Bet Mercuiros, Bet Abba Libanos and Bet Gabriel-Rufaël. Bet Emanuel’s elaborate exterior is much praised by art historians.

Overnight: Tukul Village www.tukulvillage.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included

DAY 05: FLY BACK TO ADDIS AND TAKE A PRIVATE CHARTER FLIGHT TO BALE MOUNTAINS NP

You fly back to Addis Abeba in the morning, from where you proceed in a private jet to Gobba, located in the Bale Mountains.

Enjoy the photo stops on your way to your lodge. Approaching the park, the scenery becomes more and more spectacular. Magnificent forests cling to the sides of deep valleys. High peaks, rocky outcrops, pinnacles and ridges pierce horizons, and moorlands, grasslands and peaty pools sit in plains and hollows.

Dinsho is a village in south-central Ethiopia. Located in the Bale zone of the Oromia Region in the heart of the Bale Mountains, it sits on an elevation of 3207 meters.



Overnight: Bale Mountain Lodge www.balemountainlodge.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included

DAY 06: BALE MOUNTAINS

Spend a full day exploring the park with your guide. The Bale Mountains, lying between 9,500 feet and 14,360 feet, contain the largest tract of high moorland in Africa. Virtually uninhabited, they are entirely unspoiled and were set aside as a national park in order to protect the Mountain Nyala which is found nowhere else in the world. The Bale Mountains possess exceptional beauty and charm. They are green and vast, decorated with rocky peaks and crags, numerous small lakes, extensive heathland, magnificent cloud forests and bogs. Within the park is Mount Batu, with 14,360 feet one of the highest mountains in Ethiopia. The flora is fascinating and so is the fauna. However, for many visitors the Ethiopian Wolf is the real star of the show and is regularly sighted here.

Today make best use of your time in the Bale Mountain National Park on the high altitude Sanetti plateau. Observe the endemic Ethiopian Wolf, the Giant Mole, and much more. Walk across the plateau enjoying the awe-inspiring landscape. After spending the morning on the plateau, drive back to your lodge.



Overnight: Bale Mountain Lodge www.balemountainlodge.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included

DAY 07: FLY BACK TO ADDIS ABABA

A charter flight brings you back to Addis Ababa. Tonight enjoy a memorable farewell dinner in a traditional restaurant in Addis Ababa with local food, music, and dance. Transfer to the airport for your final departure.

Day room at the Sheraton. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included

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