

CLASSIC ETHIOPIA



HIGHLIGHTS

- BOAT TRIP ON LAKE TANA
- FAMOUS CAVE CHURCHES IN LALIBELA
- AFRICA'S LARGEST OPEN AIR MARKET IN ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia is one of the most fascinating countries on the African continent. It is an intriguing mixture of culture, religion, peoples and landscapes that will not fail to change many of the stereotypes we hold of the country. Ethiopia is the only country on the continent that has never been colonised, the birthplace of coffee,

home of one of the oldest churches from the 4th Century and last resting place of the Ark of the Covenant.

DAY 1

Depart London

Depart London this evening with an overnight flight to Addis Ababa

DAY 2

Arrive Addis Ababa

In Ethiopia's central highlands, Addis Ababa is the third highest capital in the world. Emperor Menelik II selected



the site in 1887 because its location within the Entoto Hills has long been the centre of Shoon politics. This afternoon take a tour of the city - visit the Ethnographic Museum, an ideal place to start learning about Ethiopia's rich ethnic diversity, and Holy Trinity Cathedral, built to commemorate liberation from Italian occupation.

DAY 3

Addis Ababa/Bahir Dar

Today take a short flight to Bahir Dar, meaning "by the side of the sea" in the Amharic language. This afternoon take a journey overland to the Blue Nile Falls, known locally as Tissiat or "Smoking Water". Embark on a boat trip over Lake Tana to see the Monasteries of



the Lake, with wonderful paintings depicting scenes from the Old and New Testaments.

DAY 4

Bahir Dar/Gondar

Depart this morning with a leisurely drive to Gondar (a journey of around 3 hours) stopping en route to visit the Amhara's village. Gondar was the first capital city of the Ethiopian empire, with numerous castles built by the emperors over 200 years. Parts of the city seem more European than

African. Visit the castle complex, the baths of Fasilidas and the church of Debre Berhan Selassie decorated with beautiful frescoes. ➤



THE A&K DIFFERENCE With our leading reputation and rigorous selection policy, we employ the very best guides who ensure you acquire real insight into their culture and country. Our experienced team of experts, both in the UK and locally, are on hand to provide comprehensive support and ensure complete peace of mind. They anticipate individual needs and provide those extra little touches that make the difference between a good and an exceptional holiday, such as meeting you at the airport, private transfers in air-conditioned vehicles and a ready supply of chilled bottled water. With their unique contacts they can arrange special access to individuals, places and experiences not ordinarily available.

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DAY 5

Gondar/Lalibela

Fly this morning to Lalibela, site of the famous medieval and monolithic rock-hewn cave churches. This city was built by King Lalibela in the 12th Century in an almost inaccessible mountain stronghold. One legend tells of the young Prince Lalibela being taken to Heaven where God told him to build churches in Roha. The work was completed quickly because angels were said to have continued the work at night.

DAY 6

Lalibela

After breakfast, drive to the outskirts of the city to see the Monastery of Nakutoleab hewn out of a rock cave and the famous Bete Georgis. This Greek cross-shaped church is accessible only by a tunnel a small distance away. It was built by Lalibela for Saint George, who is said to have supervised construction himself - just ask the monks who will show you the hoof marks left by his horse.

DAY 7

Lalibela/Axum

Fly from Lalibela to Axum, capital of one of the oldest African empires and a crucial bridge between Africa and Asia for almost a thousand years. The *Kebre Nagast* (Book of Kings) recounts how the son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba brought the Ark of the Covenant to Axum where it is believed to reside to this day. See the steles, granite monoliths decorated with symbolic engravings, and visit the church of Saint Mary of Zion to see the crowns of Ethiopian kings.

DAY 8

Axum/Hawzen

Take a leisurely drive to Hawzen, passing through the Mountains of Adwa that were the site of the battle with the Italians in 1896, visiting the impressive pre-Axumite temple of Yeha, and enjoying distant views of the great cliff-top monastery of Debre Damo that is forbidden to enter.

DAY 9

Gheralta Region

Today is dedicated to visiting the famous churches of the areas that go

back to the foundation of Christianity including Abreha Atsbeha Monastery, Cherkos Wukro and the church of Petros and Paulos.

DAY 10

Hawzen/ Mekelle/Addis Ababa

Drive from Hawzen to Mekelle, from where you will take a flight to Addis Ababa. You may like to spend your final afternoon in the Merkato, the largest open-air market in Africa, an array of colours, aromas, costumes, produce and jewellery where you are sure to find memorable souvenirs.

DAY 11

Depart Addis Ababa

Today your journey comes to an end as your return to the airport for your flight to the UK.



At Abercrombie & Kent, all our journeys are individually tailored to suit your interests and requirements and you may like to remove or add on a few extra days. As a guide, this 11 day journey through Ethiopia costs from £3,995 per person, based on two adults sharing with flights from the UK, subject to availability. *Please bear in mind this is not a prescriptive itinerary but a suggestion to give you a taste of what is possible with the very highest level of comfort, service and convenience. Accordingly, we aim to quote to a standard as opposed to a price.*

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