



## Trip summary

<b>DAY ONE</b>	Hyatt Regency, Addis Ababa (1 night, bed and breakfast)	Arrive Addis Ababa on your international flights (please note international flights are your responsibility to book). VIP meet and greet on arrival. Transferred by road to the Hyatt Regency. Depending on your arrival time, you may be able to visit the National and Ethnographic museums, the Cathedral churches, and explore the local markets.
<b>DAY TWO</b>	Limalimo Lodge, Simien Mountains (2 nights, full board accommodation)	Early morning transfer back to the Addis Ababa airport. Scheduled flight from Addis Ababa to Gondar (depart 06.50hrs / arrive 08.10hrs). Spend a morning exploring the city of Gondar, including Fasiledes Castle and Debrebrehan Selassie Church. After lunch, continue driving to Limalimo Lodge. This takes a further two hours as you climb to higher altitudes. Sundowners on the balcony with some of the best views in Africa.
<b>DAY THREE</b>	Simien Mountains National Park	Early morning breakfast at the lodge before driving into Simien Mountains National Park. Spend time with Geladas (early morning is best as they warm up on the cliff edges) and Ibex (quite a long drive to get to the Ibex, but well worth it). This is a full day exploration of the National Park with packed lunch.
<b>DAY FOUR</b>	Mezena Lodge, Lalibela (2 nights, full board accommodation)	Transfer back to Gondar (2 hours) for the scheduled flight to Lalibela (ET 122 / departs 10.10hrs / arrives 11.00hrs). Transfer by road from Lalibela airport to Mezena Lodge (30 minutes). This afternoon, you will visit the first and the second cluster of Rock-hewn churches.

<p><b>DAY FIVE</b></p>	<p>Rock-hewn churches of Lalibela</p>	<p>Today, you will explore the third cluster of churches in Lalibela. You will also drive out to Cave Church (Yemrehanna Kristos). It is an hour's drive to access the cave church and then it takes a further 20 minutes to walk up to church. It is the most ornately decorated church in Lalibela and well worth the journey. In the afternoon, you will transfer back to town for dinner at Ben Abeba restaurant.</p>
<p><b>DAY SIX</b></p>	<p>Gheralta Fig Tree Tented Camp, Gheralta (3 nights, full board accommodation)</p>	<p>Transfer back to the airport (30 minutes) for the scheduled flight from Lalibela to Axum (departs 12.00hrs / arrives 12.30hrs). Visit Stellae field and learn of the Axumite empire. Once one of the four most important world empires, little remains today, but the history of this period is etched in stone stellae. After lunch, continue driving to Gheralta.</p>
<p><b>DAY SEVEN</b></p>	<p>Explore rock-hewn churches of Gheralta</p>	<p>Visit a couple of the rock-hewn churches that are widespread in these mountains (Abuna Yemata and Abuna Gebre Mikael). Dating from the 4th and 5th centuries, these ancient carved churches are still live today. Although smaller than Lalibela, they are more impressive in that the work taken to access the cliff tops and dig away the sandstone to create them is simply amazing. The views from the top of these sandstone cliffs across the Northern Tigray countryside are stunning.</p>
<p><b>DAY EIGHT</b></p>	<p>Explore rock-hewn churches of Gheralta</p>	<p>Spend a day exploring more hidden rock-hewn churches.</p>
<p><b>DAY NINE</b></p>	<p>Depart</p>	<p>Transfer by road to Mekele (2 hours) for the scheduled flight from Mekele to Addis Ababa. Enjoy a farewell dinner and Jazz at Fendika before transferring to the airport for your international flight home.</p>

# Your itinerary cost

Cost for accommodation including flights:

Per person for 2 people US\$ 10,340 (net cost)

Per person for 4 people US\$ 8,507.50 (net cost)

Per person for 6 people US\$ 7,751.67 (net cost)

Per person for 8 people US\$ 6,815 (net cost)

Per person for 10 people US\$ 6,652 (net cost)

Cost for one private guide or host is included in the above cost

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# Hyatt Regency



Hyatt Regency is centrally positioned near the airport on Meskel Square. The hotel building centres around a courtyard with landscaped gardens, and water features.

The hotel offers a vibrant dining destination where guests can enjoy a range of international flavours and local cuisine. The spacious hotel lobby and its extended lounge area offers an integrated business centre, a gift shop, flowers and a coffee area that serves freshly brewed world-famous Ethiopian coffee, delicious pastries and bakery items.

The guest rooms are welcoming with comfortable beds, large working areas with ergonomic chairs and charging stations. Bathrooms feature a walk-in rain shower and a fine selection of bathroom amenities.

During your time in Addis Ababa you will have the opportunity to explore the city. Highlights include the Trinity Cathedral, Church of Raguel, local markets and galleries and various community projects. Addis also has a fantastic Jazz scene that is well worth discovering.


The National Museum is also a must-see and is ranked among the most important in sub-Saharan Africa. Far and away the highlight is the paleontological exhibition in the basement, the home of world-famous Lucy. Her 1974 discovery in the Afar region of north western Ethiopia changed our understanding of human origins forever.









 Fendika, Jazz night, Addis Ababa





 National Museum, Addis Ababa





An aerial photograph of Gondar, Ethiopia, taken from an elevated position. The city is nestled in a valley, with numerous buildings and structures visible. A thick layer of mist or smoke rises from the city, partially obscuring the lower buildings. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a soft, golden light, suggesting early morning. The foreground shows some greenery and a large agave-like plant.

# Gondar



Founded by Emperor Fasilides in the 17th century, Gondar has been called the Camelot of Africa because of its castles and fortress-like battlements. The very presence of these castles in Africa make them a rare and imposing sight. Rich in history, ambassadors of the Moguls of the Ottoman Empire and of Louis XVI of France were once entertained here.

Gondar was the imperial capital from the 17th to mid-19th centuries, and today visitors can see the imperial compound, with castles still in good condition (some recently restored by UNESCO after bombings in World War II), and also the bath of King Fasilides, where at Timkat (Ethiopian Epiphany) a nearby river's course is purposely changed to bring its flow in to fill an area the size of a small swimming pool. This is the sight of a traditional re-enactment of the baptism of Christ, where worshippers plunge into the pool every January 19th.

Although many of Gondar's churches were destroyed during the Mahdist invasion from Sudan in the 1880s, one very fine example, Debre Berhan Selassie, was saved, according to the legend, by a swarm of bees, which routed the invaders. The walls and ceiling are completely covered with murals. Also worth a visit are the ruined palace of Queen Mentowab, and the church of Qusquam.

Additionally, the town is home to Gondar University, Ethiopia's oldest medical school.





 Debre Birhan Selassie church ceiling, Gondar





 Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar



A stone staircase leads up a hillside towards a small wooden lodge. The scene is surrounded by lush greenery, including large trees with thick trunks and dense foliage. The sky is clear and blue. The text "Limalimo Lodge" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Limalimo Lodge



Limalimo Lodge is a truly first-rate, conservation-minded accommodation in Ethiopia. The lodge has been meticulously thought-out, with a clear purpose of combining luxury with modern ecological techniques and local engagement.

For all Limalimo Lodge's luxury, however, its position on an escarpment in the Simien Mountains National Park is its prime selling point. Much thought has therefore gone into ensuring that the communal bar, restaurant and large terrace – complete with firepit – afford truly spectacular views of the surrounding mountains.

The cuisine is expertly prepared and, when possible, uses only local produce. Meals include local cuisine and more Western dishes. Champagne breakfasts are a romantic must, as are the luxury picnics. Food intolerances are well catered for, and the knowledgeable service is exceptional.

The 12 sleeping rooms at Limalimo Lodge are a mixture of twin, double, triple and family, and all come with en-suite facilities and a private terrace. Electricity, hot water, and heating are provided by sustainable sources. Wi-Fi is available, though please be advised a clear connection is not always guaranteed.

Activities at Limalimo Lodge include trek, birdwatching, cultural visits, and yoga and massage.





 Limalimo Lodge





 Limalimo Lodge





 Limalimo Lodge





 Limalimo Lodge



A wide-angle landscape photograph of Simien Mountain National Park. The foreground is a grassy hillside with scattered rocks and a dirt path. The middle ground shows a deep valley with steep, rocky slopes. In the background, there are more mountain ranges under a hazy sky. The text "Simien Mountain National Park" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Simien Mountain National Park



Famous for its dramatic highland scenery, the Simien Mountain National Park constitutes a world heritage site, and the mountains' jagged peaks (or ambas) frequently serve as a backdrop to Ethiopian tourist initiatives. These gigantic pieces of rock are, in fact, hard cores of volcanic outlets from which the surrounding material has eroded away over the centuries.

The variation in shape and size of the ambas is quite stunning, and the region includes many summits over 13,000 feet, culminating in Ras Dashen, which at 14,901 feet is the 3rd highest peak in Africa. Simien Mountains National Park is also known for its endemic walia ibex, a very large mountain goat of which only about 60 survive today.

Other specifically Ethiopian animals live in the park, including the Abyssinia wolf and the gelada baboon. The bearded vulture is also a common visitor and nests in the sheer rock faces.





 Gelada Baboon, Simien Mountain National Park





 Simien Mountain National Park









# Mezena Lodge



Owned and run by local Ethiopian Yohannes Assefa, Mezena Lodge is Lalibela's most promising lodge.

Possessing extraordinary views across the valley towards the town of Lalibela, Mezena Lodge consists of 30 bungalows and a main lodge. The lodge includes two restaurants (serving international and local food respectively), 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.

Its sleeping rooms are located in front of the main building. Each comes with either a twin or king-size bed and includes a large TV, WiFi access and a bathroom with a shower, toilet and two wash basins mounted on a marble-design vanity unit, and private veranda. The room's furnishings are very basic, making for a spartan look and feel.

Activities at Mezena Lodge include visiting its rock-hewn churches, visiting cultural festivals all year around, and spending time in the town's traditional markets and food outlets.





 Mezena Lodge





 Mezena Lodge





 Mezena Lodge





 Mezena Lodge





Lalibela



At the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries, King Lalibela of the Zaghwe dynasty built a series of rock hewn churches – the New Jerusalem as he called it – which are now rightly acknowledged to be one of the wonders of the world. There are 11 churches in the town named after him, with others in the surrounding countryside. 10 of these are still in use today.

Set on the side of a large barren hill, the town of Lalibela is as close to a scene from the bible as it gets. In amongst the donkeys and ancient housing, lie three great clusters of rock churches. Two enormous rocks house a massive 5 separate churches each, hewn from the rock itself, and joined by a warren of underground passages.

The surrounding area contains up to 1000 churches – all in varying states of preservation, each offering something different, and some requiring a higher level of fitness in order to access.

Good examples include Asheten Mariam – which lies high on the hill above Lalibela – and Cristos, which lies some 42 kilometers down a very rough and washed out road. Well worth the journey, Cristos is set in a fantastically peaceful part of the countryside.

As a prominent indicator of their vital historic value, the churches were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978.









 Rock-hewn church, Lalibela





 Lalibela





 Yemrehanna Kristos, Lalibela





📍 Ben Abeba restaurant, Lalibela









Axum



Situated in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia, Axum is a medium sized town. An ordinary looking place, it hides a wealth of culture and history.

Axum is the cradle of Ethiopia's 3000 year old civilisation and, it is said, founded by the great, great grandson of Moses. In the 6th century, in its heyday, the Axumite Kingdom was one of the four great powers of the ancient world, ruling the two southern sides of the Red Sea.

The main features of interest in Axum are the colossal rock stelae, the stone work of royal tombs and the legendary bath of the Queen of Sheba.

The 16th century Church of St. Mary stands on the ruins of an earlier 4th century church. It is the country's oldest and holiest Christian shrine. Most importantly, Ethiopian Christians believe it the resting place of the original Ark of the Covenant – one of the most precious relics of Judeo-Christian tradition.

The town's rich history was recognised in by UNESCO in 1980, when Axum was added to its list of World Heritage Sites. In 2006 the Axum University was founded, a vital movement towards modern development for the area.





 Stelae Field, Axum



A wide-angle photograph of a private camp in a desert landscape. The camp consists of several tents and a dining area. On the left, a large green tent is set up with a dining table and chairs. In the center, a smaller green tent is visible. On the right, another green tent is set up. The ground is dry and sandy, with some sparse vegetation, including a large green plant in the foreground. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The text "Gheralta Fig Tree Private Camp" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Gheralta Fig Tree Private Camp



Wild Expeditions Fig Tree Private Mobile Camp operates in Gheralta, offering the opportunity to experience everything this relatively untouched part of the country has to offer.

A genuine frontier experience, the mobile camp is an entirely canvas affair, and consists of a mess tent and sleeping tents. Imported from South Africa, the tents are comfortable but basic, with sturdy canvas walls and floors, the latter reinforced by thick camping mats. Each tent contains double or twin beds, a veranda, and en-suite facilities that include hot water and a 'long-drop' toilet.

Activities at Fig Tree include visiting Gheralta's rock-hewn churches, the opportunity to trek this mountainous province, and a variety of cultural visits.





 Fig Tree Private Camp





 Fig Tree Private Camp





Gheralta



Gheralta, in northern Ethiopia, is a captivating region known for its ancient rock-hewn churches, nestled amidst stunning sandstone cliffs. Its rugged beauty, panoramic views, and cultural significance make it a must-visit destination for an unforgettable Ethiopian experience.

Travellers to the area can go hiking and rock climbing in the mountains, taking in the breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside.

The region is home to several ancient rock-hewn churches, some of which date back to the 4th century. Travellers can explore these historic sites and learn about the fascinating history of the area. Additionally, visitors can experience the local culture by participating in traditional coffee ceremonies, visiting local markets, and trying local cuisine.

The team in camp are committed to providing guests with a comfortable and enjoyable stay. Whether it's serving drinks around the evening fire or preparing delicious meals, our team is always ready to assist. Our three-course meals are primarily based on Western cuisine, but upon request, the team is happy to prepare local Ethiopian dishes.





 Gheralta





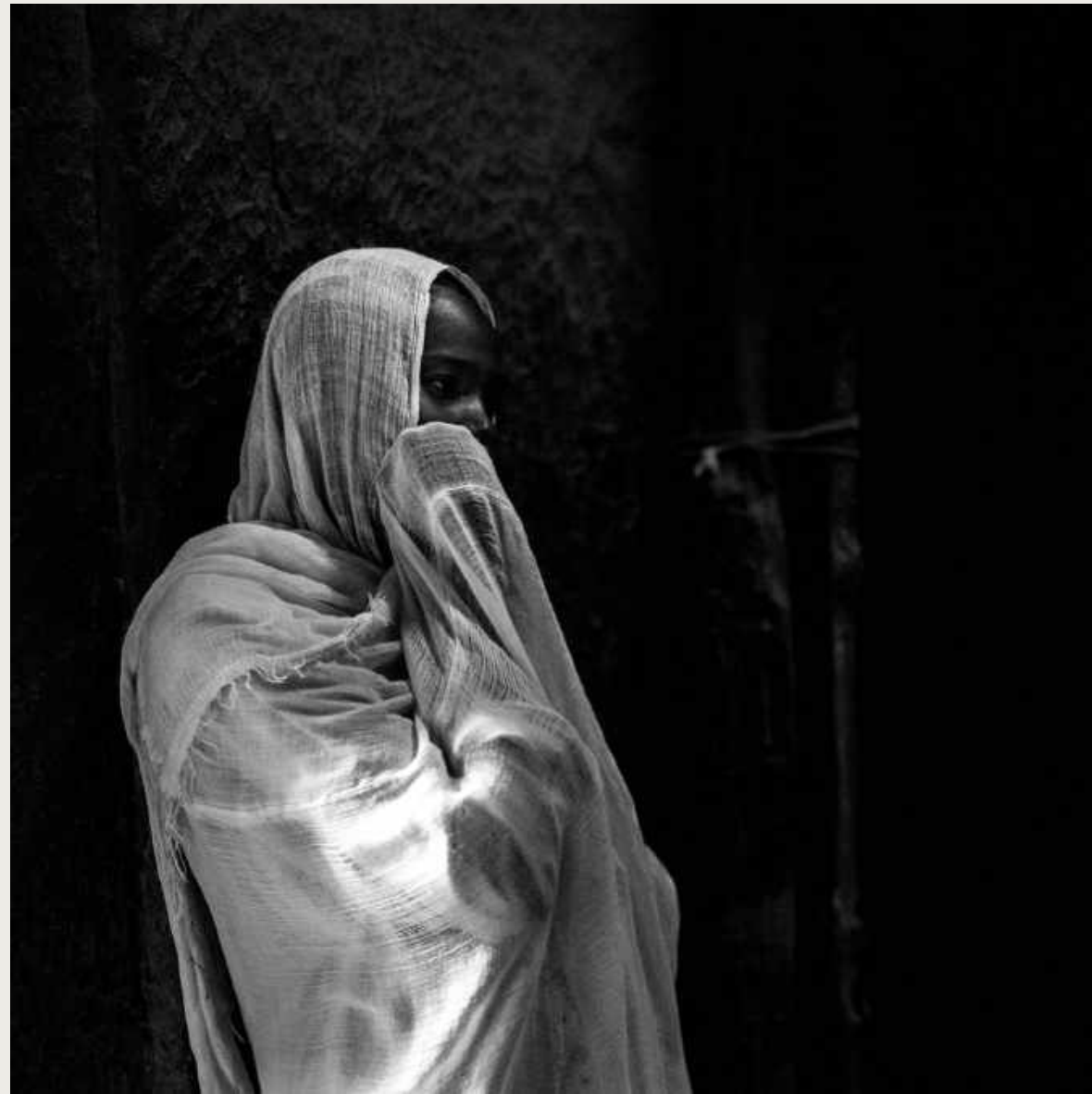














Your itinerary includes:

A seamless ground arrangement service  
VIP airport assistance on arrival and departure  
Full board accommodation (Bed and Breakfast in Addis Ababa)  
Your own private tented camp in Gheralta  
All scheduled flights as stipulated  
All Park and Conservancy Fees  
Membership to the Emergency Flying Doctors

Your itinerary excludes:

International flights and travel insurance  
Visas  
Additional activities such as spa treatments  
Alcoholic drinks, wines, spirits (we can make a plan to make sure the right drinks are in the right place)  
All items of a personal nature and staff gratuities  
Any new government taxes or levies that are beyond our control

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