



Kafta Sheraro

Aksum

Gheralta

Mekele

Danakil Desert

Erta Ale

Simien Mountains National Park

Gondar

Bahir Dar

Lake Tana

Lalibela

The Blue Nile

Addis Ababa

Yangudi-Rassa National Park

Dire Dawa

Harar

Awash National Park

Ogaden Desert

Gambela

Gambela National Park

Chebera Churchura

Omo National Park

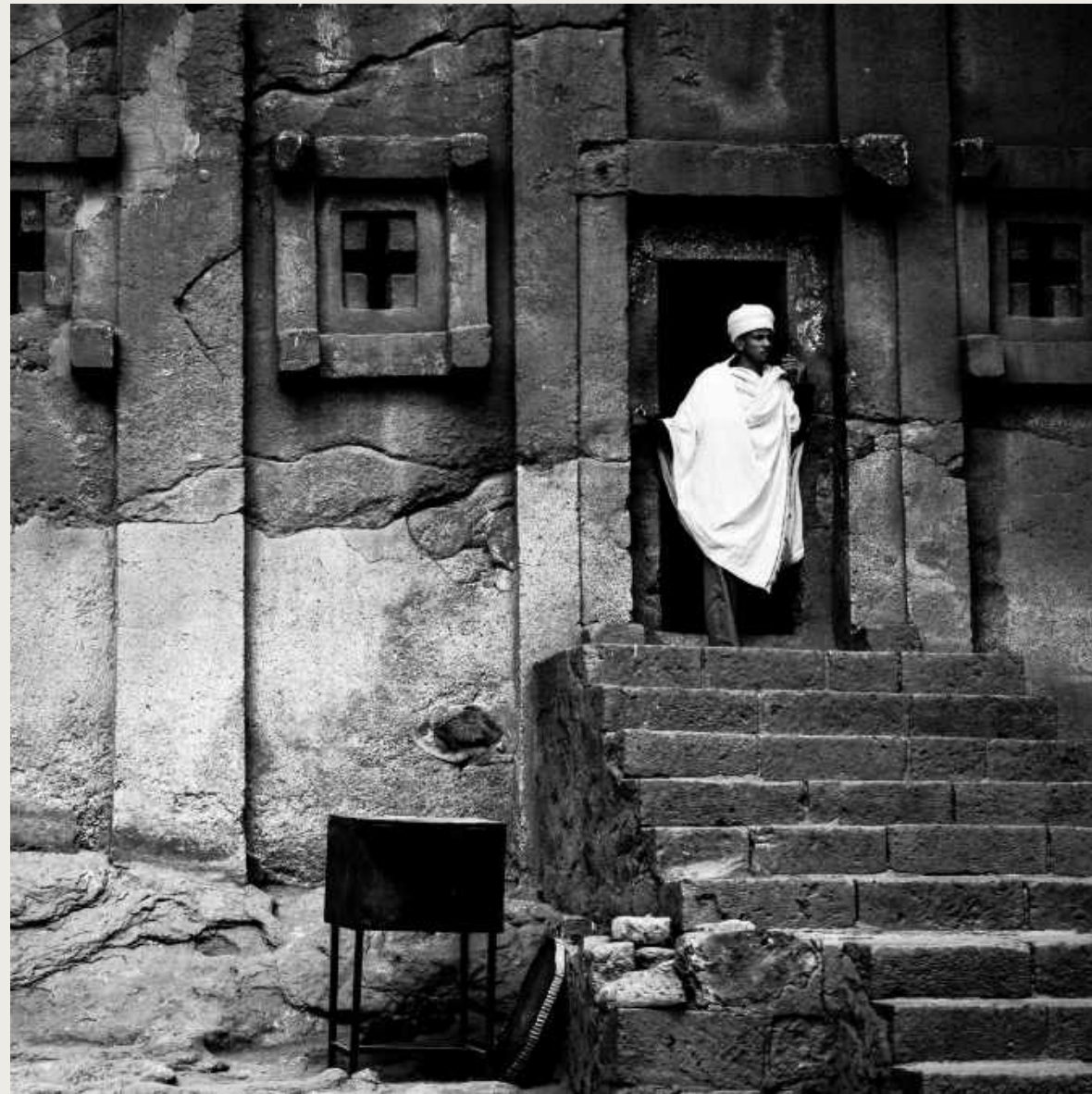
Arba Minch

Bale Mountain National Park

Chew Bahir

Negele

Moyale



Trip summary

DAY ONE	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.
DAY TWO	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.
DAY THREE	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.
DAY FOUR	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>DAY FIVE</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>DAY SIX</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>DAY SEVEN</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>DAY EIGHT</p>	<p>Explore rock-hewn churches of Gheralta</p>	<p>Spend a day exploring more hidden rock-hewn churches.</p>

<p>DAY NINE</p>	<p>Wild Expeditions Webb Tented Camp, Bale Mountains National Park (3 nights, full board accommodation)</p>	<p>Transfer by road to Mekele (2 hours) for the scheduled flight from Mekele to Addis Ababa. Connect with private charter flight from Addis Ababa to the Bale Mountains (depart 12.00hrs / arrive 13.30hrs). Transfer by road to the Webb Valley (1.3hrs). The Webb River which continues its journey through the grassland is stocked with both rainbow and brown trout. It is an ideal opportunity to have a picnic on the banks of the river and try fly fishing.</p>
<p>DAY TEN</p>	<p>Bale Mountains National Park</p>	<p>Begin your exploration of Bale Mountains National Park. The best time to see the Ethiopian Wolves is early in the morning when they patrol their territory. You will either be out on the horses or on foot looking for them as they start their day's activities.</p>
<p>DAY ELEVEN</p>	<p>Bale Mountains National Park</p>	<p>Another day exploring the National Park.. The Gaysay Grassland has some of Ethiopia's highest concentrations of mammals where you can spot Mountain Nyala, Reedbuck, Warthog, Serval, Olive Baboons, Augur Buzzards, Golden Jackals, Columbus Monkeys, Bushbuck, Grey Duiker and Hyena.</p>
<p>DAY TWELVE</p>	<p>Depart</p>	<p>Private charter flight from Bale to Addis Ababa (depart 10.00hrs/ arrive 11.00hrs). 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\$ 20,650.00 (net cost)

Per person for 4 people US\$ 14,457.50 (net cost)

Per person for 6 people US\$ 12,331.67 (net cost)

Per person for 8 people US\$ 10,102.50 (net cost)

Per person for 10 people US\$ 9,769 (net cost)

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

info@wildexpeditions.co



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 Ragueel, 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. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of sunrise, with mist or smoke rising from the city, creating a hazy atmosphere. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The word "Gondar" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, serif font.

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



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





An aerial photograph of a tented camp in a vast, green, mountainous landscape. The camp consists of four large, rectangular tents with light-colored roofs and dark green sides, arranged in a loose cluster. The surrounding terrain is a mix of green grass and rocky outcrops. In the background, there are rolling hills and a small stream or river winding through the valley. The overall scene is serene and remote.

Wild Expeditions Webb Tented Camp



 Wild Expeditions Webb Tented Camp



 Wild Expeditions Webb Tented Camp



📍 Wild Expeditions Webb Tented Camp



Bale Mountains

The Bale Mountains – home to one of the highest incidences of endemic species, not only in Africa, but throughout the world – is located in south-eastern Ethiopia, some 400 kilometres from the capital Addis Ababa. Its protected areas, as constituted by Bale Mountains National Park, are some 2,200 square kilometres large.

The Bale Mountains makes for an extraordinary habitat. Divided into grasslands, woodlands, Afro-alpine meadowlands, the Erica moorlands and Haremma forest, it is home variously to great welts of juniper tree, wildflower (hagenia, for example) shrubs, and to the iconic Sanetti Plateau; an enormous area of lichen covered rock, periodically punctuated by streams, lakes, and giant lobelia.

Given the climate, the Bale Mountains are home to 20 animals endemic to Ethiopia, of which 5 mammals are found only here – they include the Bale monkey and the giant mole-rat. Crucially, it is home to over half the remaining population of the Ethiopian wolf. Other species of mammal include the mountain nyala, the Menelik's bushbuck, spotted hyena, lion, leopard and African wild dog – all in extremely low numbers. Overall, there is a high incident of rodent species, several of which are keystone features of the food chain – which accounts not only for the presence of the Ethiopian wolf, but also for the area's large numbers of raptor. Indeed bird-wise, the area is extremely rich, with over 280 species thus far identified.

Ancestral home of the Oromo, the Bale Mountains are home to approximately a population of 1.5 million, most of which are farmers, and for whom the mountains are an important aspect of the traditional annual grazing cycle – meaning that tensions between the local community's needs and those of a fragile wildlife habitat periodically occur, and require sensitive handling.



 Bale Mountains



 Ethiopian Wolf, Bale Mountains



 Bale Mountains



 Mountain Nyala, Bale Mountains



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

info@wildexpeditions.co



Wild Expeditions

SPECIALIST ETHIOPIAN JOURNEYS