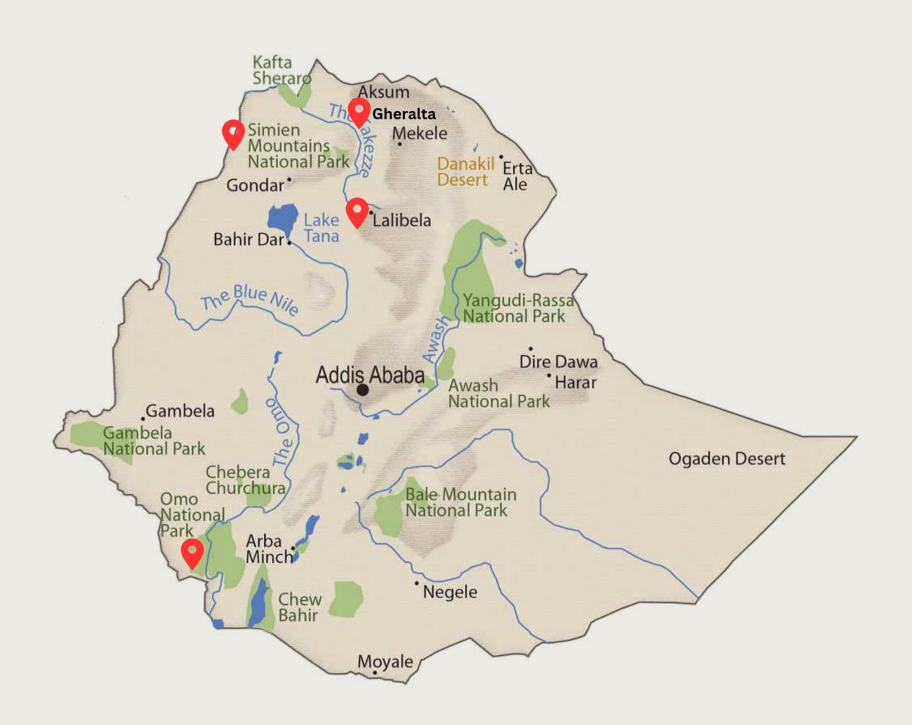
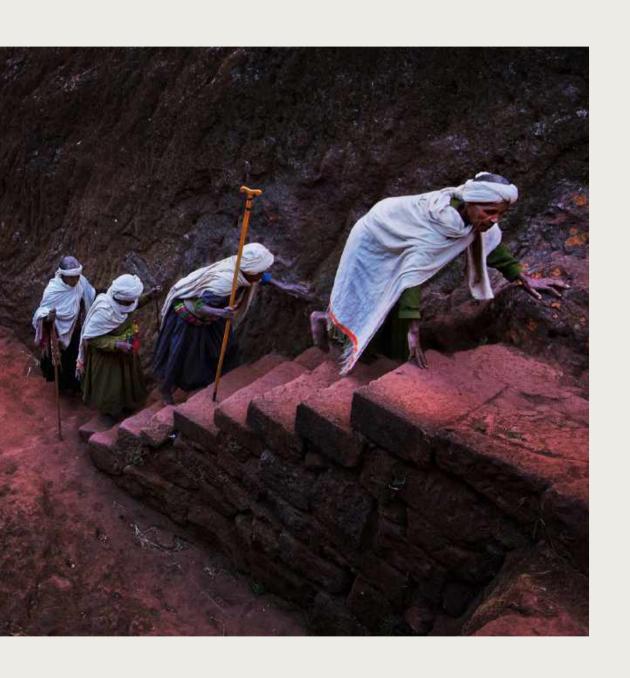
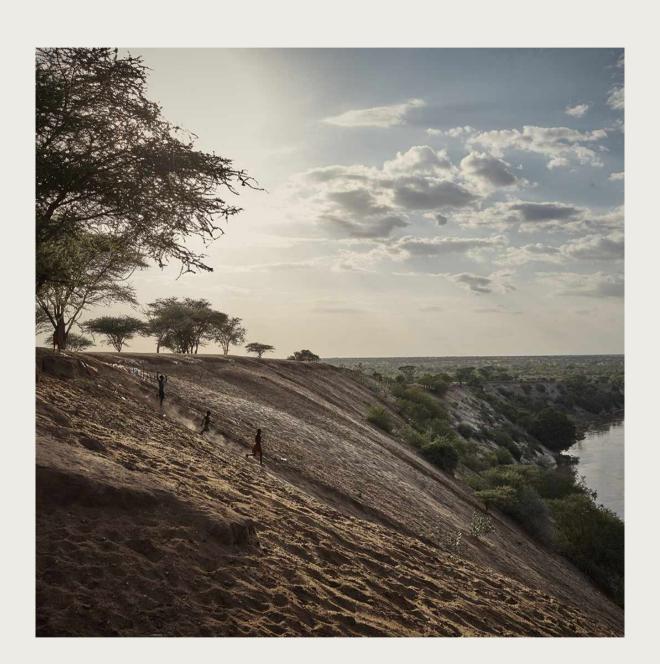


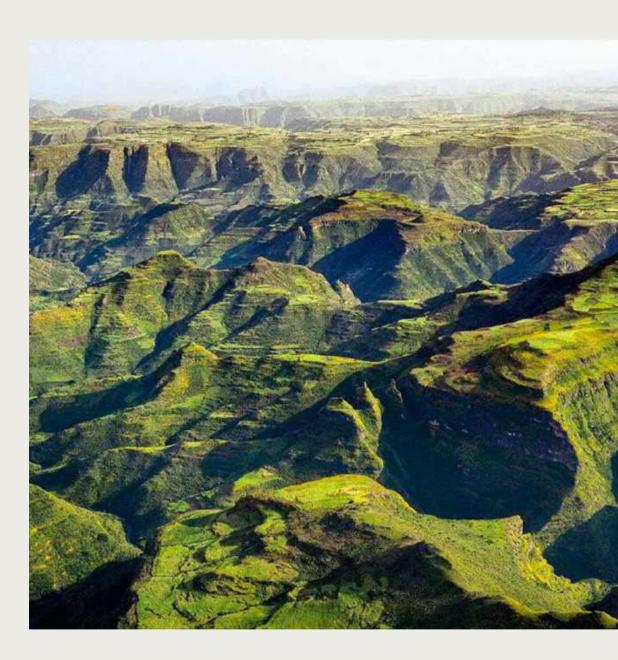
An 11-night journey to northern and southern Ethiopia, with an extension to the Omo Valley

Exploring the Simien Mountains, Lalibela, Gheralta and the Omo Valley









Trip summary

DAY ONE	Hyatt Regency, Addis Ababa (1 night, bed and breakfast)	Arrive in Addis Ababa on an airline of your choice. VIP assistance through airport formalities and baggage reclaim. Met in Arrivals for your private transfer to your hotel.
DAY TWO	Limalimo Lodge, Simien Mountains (2 nights, full board accommodation)	Ethiopian Airlines flight Addis Ababa to Gondar (approx. 1hr) Sightseeing and lunch in Gondar before driving to the Simien Mountains
DAY FOUR	Mezena Lodge, Lalibela (2 nights, full board accommodation)	Ethiopian Airlines flight Gondar to Lalibela (approx. 1hr) Mezena Lodge, Lalibela (2 nights, full board)
DAY SIX	Wild Expeditions Fig Tree Camp, Gheralta (3 nights, exclusive use)	Ethiopian Airlines flight Lalibela to Axum (approx. 1hr)

DAY NINE	Lale's Camp, Omo Valley (1 night, full board)	Ethiopian Airlines flight Mekelle to Addis (approx 1.5hrs). Private charter Addis to Murelle Airstrip, Omo Valley (departs 10:00 / arrives 11:30). Boat transfer to Lale's Camp, Omo Valley.
DAY TEN	Mursi Mountains Fly Camp, Mago National Park. (1 night, full board)	Private boat transfer upstream the Omo River.
DAY ELEVEN	Lale's Camp, Omo Valley (1 night, full board)	Private boat transfer back to Lale's Camp.
DAY TWELVE	Depart	Private charter Murelle to Addis Ababa (approx. 1.5hrs). Dayroom or overnight room at Hyatt Regency, Addis Ababa.

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)

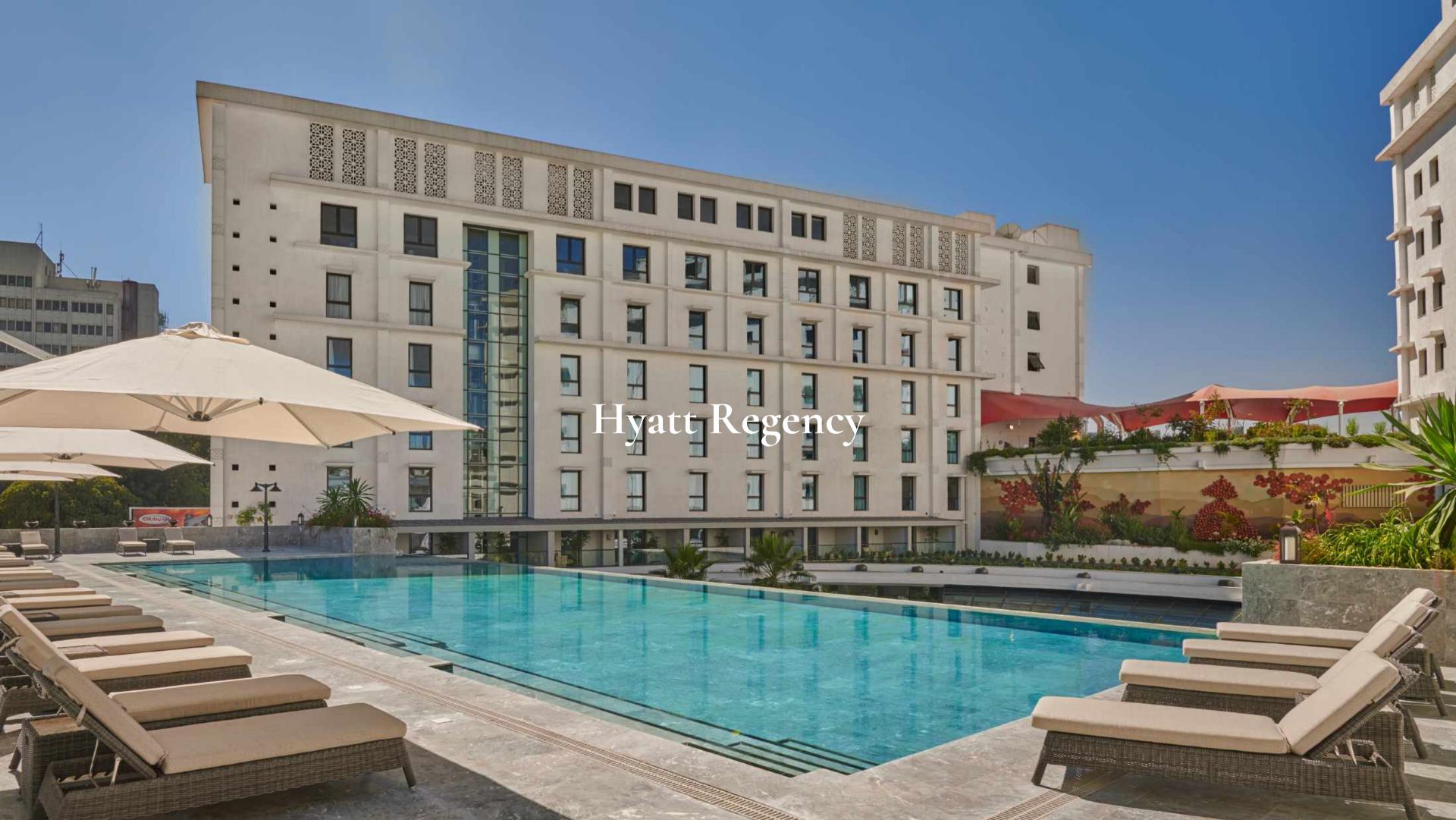
Per person for 8 people US\$ 10,102.50 (net cost)

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

Day 1 | Hyatt Regency, Addis Ababa, 1 night



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.







Day 2 | Gondar followed by Limalimo Lodge, Simien Mountains, 2 nights (full board accommodation)



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.





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.











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.





Day 4 | Mezena Lodge, Lalibela, 2 nights (full board accommodation)



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.











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.







Day 6 | Axum followed by Gheralta Fig Tree Tented Camp, Gheralta, 3 nights (full board accommodation) Exclusive Wild Expeditions Private Mobile Camp



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.





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.







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.







Day 9 | Lale's Camp, Omo Valley (1-night, full board) Exclusive Wild Expeditions Private Mobile Camp





Located on a sinuous bend of the lower Omo River in southern Ethiopia, Lale's Camp is set in deep riverine shade on the edge of the river, tamarind trees providing shelter from the baking sun. The nearby Kara village of Dus (one of just three villages belonging to the Kara people) is only a few minutes' walk away, with some isolated Hamar settlements further afield.

The camp is extremely remote, and access is possible only by river after first driving or flying to the southern Omo using the little known Murule Airstrip (less than 2 hours flight from Addis Ababa in a private charter). This remoteness is key to enabling exclusive access to authentic tribal cultures of the lower Omo such as the Kara, Hamar, Mursi and Nyangatom.

A comfortable dining and lounge tent, or mess, is the central point of Lale's Camp. Meals are taken here or outdoors around the fire.

Carefully spaced along the high banks of the Omo River on either side of the main area are seven large, spacious Meru tents. En suite, with flush toilets and traditional safari showers, each tent is carefully positioned in the deepest shade of this special patch of riverine forest. Gauze panels serve as 'windows', maximising the through draft and ensuring our guests are immersed in nature and can hear all the sounds of the night.

Rivet Monkeys, Guereza Colobus and Gambian Sun Squirrels are residents in camp with the nearby Kara village of Dus only a few minutes' walk away.

















Lale's Camp is centered around the appreciation of the tribal cultures of the lower Omo region and the Omo River itself. Aside from boating and limited use of vehicles, we spend a lot of time on foot, either with the local people or in exploring this vast environment.

customs are a key focus for our guests. Meeting with the Mursi people requires a stay at an overnight fly camp far upriver at a site where the Mursi women collect clay to fashion their lip plates.

A Kara village (one of only three settlements of this tiny ethnic group which consists of less than 1500 people in its entirety) is within walking distance of Lale's Camp, while inland from the river lie small, isolated Hamar settlements. Interactions with these fascinating people and learning about their culture and customs are a key focus for our guests. Meeting with the Mursi people requires a stay at an overnight fly camp far upriver at a site where the Mursi women collect clay to fashion their lip plates.

The Omo River itself is part of the adventure, with boating providing fantastic viewing of some unusual primates (like De Brazza's Monkey) and some special bird species (Egyptian Plover; Pel's Fishing Owl), while marvelling at the large crocodiles sunning themselves on the banks.

Day 10 | Mursi Mountains Fly Camp, Mago National Park, (1 night, full board) Exclusive Wild Expeditions Private Mobile Camp



The Mursi are a marginal community living in and around the Mursi Mountains, mid valley, between Omo National park, Hanna Wildlife Reserve and Mago National Park. The practice of women using lip plates has made them a point of particular interest.

Located north of Lale's Camp, high up on a riverbank overlooking the Omo River, and another addition to the Wild Expeditions portfolio, Mursi Mountains Fly Camp is an excellent and truly off-the-beaten-track accommodation.

Set and struck at the drop of a hat, an all-canvas affair, and accessed by boat and foot, Mursi Mountains Fly Camp consists of a mess area and sleeping tents. A gazebo-type set up, the shared area includes a dining area and seating. The earth underfoot is soft and the climate warm, even in evenings, so guests can walk around bare foot. Please note there is access to minimal electricity at the camp and no Wi-Fi. Respecting the privacy of the Mursi, photography is limited to arrangements made between host and guide.

Food at Mursi Mountains Fly Camp is a basic affair, often a one-pot wonder, with pasta and sauce or curry and rice as a staple. Self-service is the way of the camp, from drinks in the fridge to the food laid out in buffet style on the table. Depending on guests' needs, staff at the camp, who are from nearby communities, are happy to either join the table at dinner times or to give guests privacy.











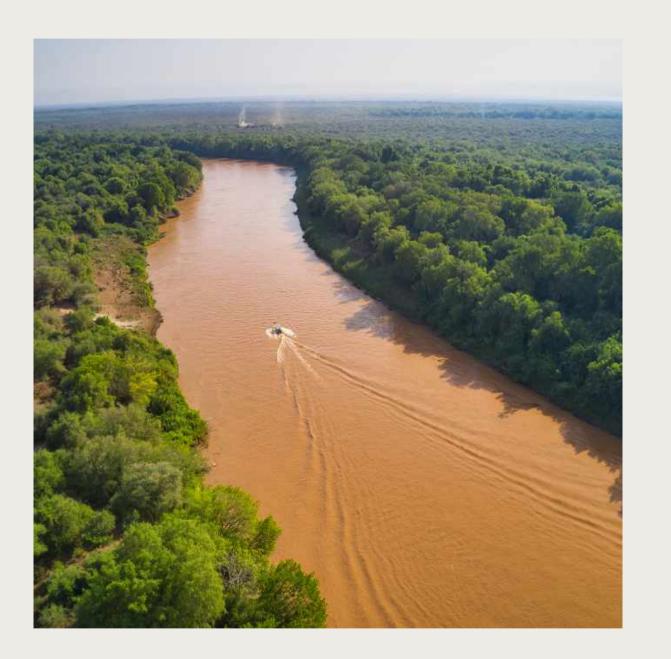
Day 11 | Private boat transfer back to Lale's Camp, (1-night, full board)

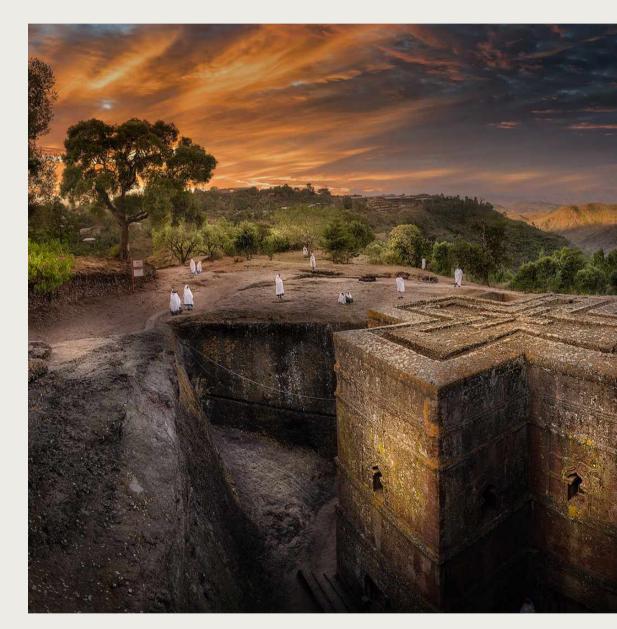


Day 12 | Depart









Your itinerary includes:

A seamless ground arrangement service with airport assistance

Full board accommodation (Bed and Breakfast in Addis Ababa)

Exclusive use of camps in Gheralta and The Omo Valley (including local beverages)

All private charter and scheduled flights as stipulated Private guide fees, including flights and accommodations

Local Ethiopian guide, including flights and accommodations

All Park, Conservancy and entrance fees Membership to the Emergency Flying Doctors

Your itinerary excludes:

International flights and travel insurance
Use of helicopters – further information is available on request

Visas (must be obtained in advance)

Additional activities such as spa treatments

Local and premium brands beverages (Local brand beverages supplement can be included upon request.)

All items of a personal nature and staff gratuities

Any new government taxes or levies that are beyond our control

info@wildexpeditions.co

