





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 + THREE	Limalimo Lodge, Simien Mountains (2 nights, full board)	Ethiopian Airlines flight Addis Ababa to Gondar (approx. 1hr) Sightseeing and lunch in Gondar before driving to the Simien Mountains for a two-night stay at Limalimo Lodge. Afternoon arrival followed by sundowners and dinner. Day three sees an early breakfast and drive to spend time with Geladas (early morning best as they warm up on the cliff edges) and Ibex (quite a long drive to get to the Ibex, but well worth it). Full day exploration of the park with packed lunch. Return to lodge for sundowners.
DAY FOUR + FIVE	Mezena Lodge, Lalibela (2 nights, full board)	Drive back to Gondar after breakfast. Flight to Lalibela. It's then a 30-minute drive from the Lalibela Airport to Mezena Lodge. On these days you will visit the churches of Lalibela that date back to the 11th century. Also visit the cave church on day five. It is an hour drive out of town to access the cave church and takes a further 20 minutes to walk up to church. It is the most ornately decorated church in Lalibela and well worth the journey. Drive back to the town for dinner at Ben Abeba Restaurant and drinks at local wine bar, Torpido.

<p>DAY SIX</p>	<p>Lale's Camp, Omo Valley (1 night, full board)</p>	<p>Leave Camp after early Breakfast. Transfer to Lalibela Airport. Private flight from Lalibela to Murulle. Depart Murulle by boat to Lale's Camp (40mins). Lale's camp is a beautiful tented camp with en suite tents situated on the banks of the Omo River under a grove of mahogany and fig trees.</p>
<p>DAY SEVEN</p>	<p>Mursi Mountains Fly Camp, Mago National Park (1 night, full board)</p>	<p>Early morning light breakfast followed by a drive to the remote Hamar village. Here, guests witness and document the early morning routine of this Omotic community. The Hamar are renowned for their bull-jumping ceremony, and guests are welcome to attend if happening when you visit. Guests then head back to camp for breakfast before taking a boat trip (3hrs) up river to Mago National Park to camp with Mursi villagers. The Mursi walk down to the river from their villages in the distant hills. They will trade for coffee and millet. You will spent a day/night/ here getting know this remote tribe.</p>
<p>DAY EIGHT</p>	<p>Lale's Camp, Omo Valley (1 night, full board)</p>	<p>A morning wildlife walk in Mago National Park. Boat back to Lale's Camp for lunch Drive to for a short visit to the Nyangatom Villages . Back to camp and witness the incredible Kara body painting and Dancing cermonies.</p>
<p>DAY NINE</p>	<p>Depart / Back to Addis</p>	<p>Depart camp after breakfast by boat back to Murulle for a private flight to Addis. Arrive at Addis and transfer to hotel. Last shopping in the city and farewell dinner and jazz at Fendika. Morning transfer to airport in time for your international flight.</p>

Your itinerary cost

Cost for accommodation including flights:

Per person for 2 people US\$ 17,790 (net cost)

Per person for 4 people US\$ 11,530 (net cost)

Per person for 6 people US\$ 9,426.67 (net cost)

Per person for 8 people US\$ 8,320 (net cost)

Per person for 10 people US\$ 7,815.50 (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.





 National Museum, Addis Ababa



📍 Traditional jazz, 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.



 Fasilides Castle, Gondar



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 scenic landscape photograph of Simien Mountain National Park. In the foreground, a large, spreading tree with a thick trunk and dense green foliage stands on a grassy slope. The middle ground shows a valley with a winding road and more trees. The background features several mountain peaks, with the most prominent one having a sharp, pointed summit. The scene is shrouded in a light mist or haze, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

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

A wide, calm river flows through a lush valley. The water is a light brownish-grey color, reflecting the sky. In the distance, a range of mountains stretches across the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The riverbanks are lined with dense green vegetation, including trees and shrubs. A small boat with a canopy is visible on the left side of the river, moving towards the right. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Lale's Camp, Omo Valley



 The Kara community, Omo River

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, Omo Valley



 Lale's Camp, Omo Valley



 Lale's Camp, Omo Valley



 Lale's Camp, Omo Valley



 Kara, Omo River



 Kara, Omo River



 Kara, Omo Valley

A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a scene of activity on a sandy dune. In the foreground and middle ground, several people are seen running down the slope of the dune, which is covered in fine, golden sand. The dune's surface shows tracks and ripples from the wind and the runners. To the left, a line of trees with dense foliage stands on the crest of the dune. In the background, a vast, flat landscape stretches to the horizon, with a river visible on the right side. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting. The word "Experiences" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, serif font.

Experiences

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.



Mursi Mountains Fly 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.



 Mursi Mountains Fly Camp



 Mursi Mountains Fly Camp



📍 Mursi Mountains Fly Camp







 Lale's Camp

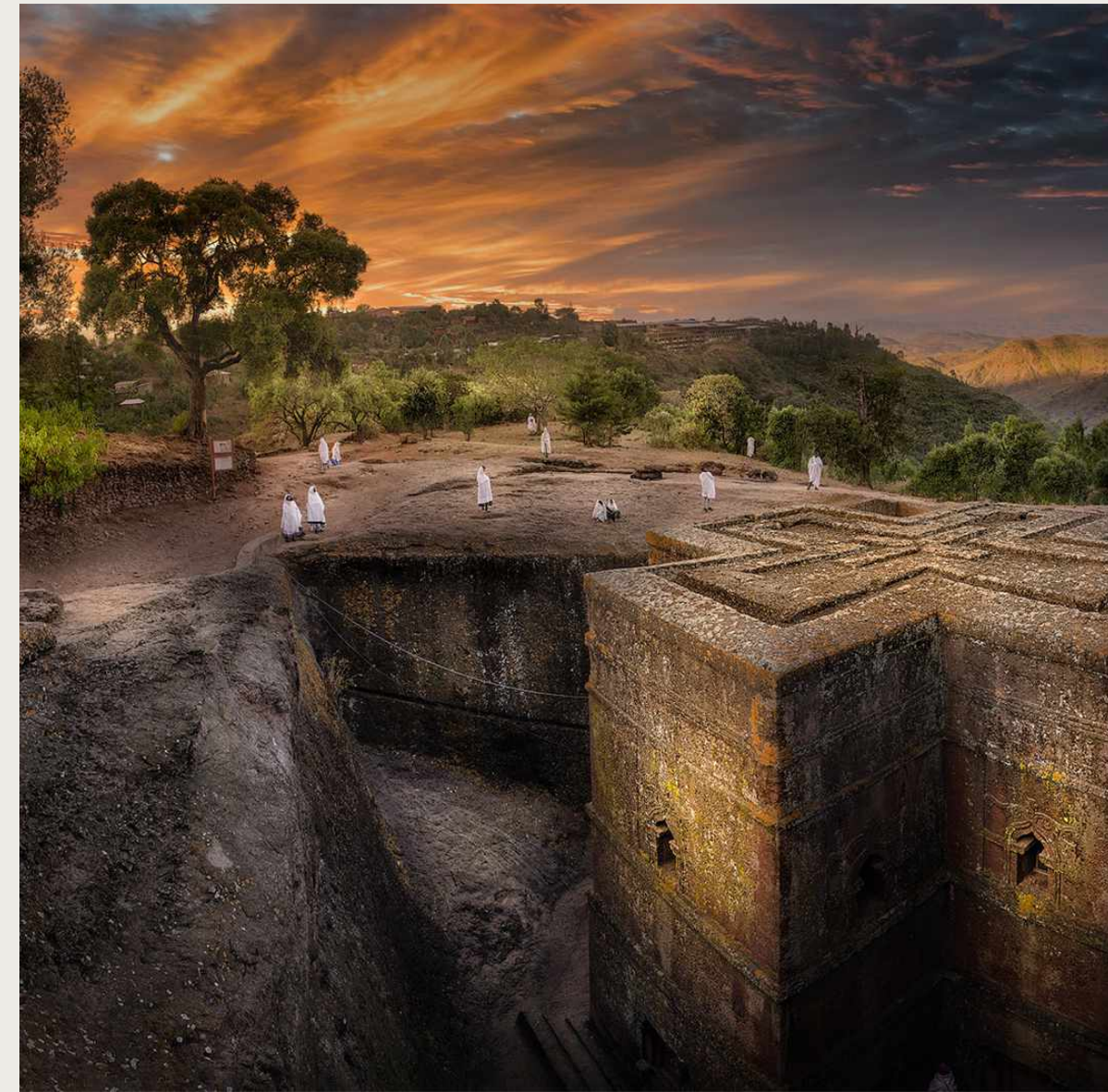
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THE AFRICANS
BOOKSHOP



 Addis Ababa



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

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