

Trip summary

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| 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 (3 nights, full board accommodation) | Depart Addis Ababa on a scenic helicopter flight Gondar via the Blue Nile Gorge. Along the way, you will make a stop in Gondar for a city tour before flying to the Simien Mountains National Park. You will have the next three days to experience and enjoy the National Park. |
| DAY FIVE | Mezena Lodge, Lalibela (2 nights, full board accommodation) | After departing Limalimo, your journey will continue toward Lalibela. Over the next two days, accompanied by your guide, explore the famous 12th-century rock-hewn churches attributed to King Lalibela. |

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| DAY SEVEN | Gheralta Fig Tree Tented Camp, Gheralta (3 nights, full board accommodation) | You'll fly to Gheralta, following the Tekeze Gorge, and spend the next four days exploring monastic rock-hewn churches, visiting the Danakil Depression and Erta Ale, and meeting Afar nomads near sulphur springs. |
| DAY TEN | Hyatt Regency Hotel, Addis Ababa (1 night, bed and breakfast). | Today, you'll fly back to Addis Ababa. Enjoy dinner and Jazz at Fendika. |
| DAY ELEVEN | Depart | Private road transfer to the airport and assisted to your connecting flight home. |

Your itinerary cost

Cost for accommodation including flights:

Per person for 2 people US\$ 61,190 (1 helicopter)

Per person for 4 people US\$ 33,692.50 (1 helicopter)

Per person for 6 people US\$ 41,540 (2 helicopters)

Per person for 8 people US\$ 31,385 (2 helicopters)

Per person for 10 people US\$ 36,473 (3 helicopters)

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.



 Hyatt Regency



 Fendika, Jazz night, Addis Ababa



 National Museum, Addis Ababa





📍 Blue Nile gorge between Addis Ababa and Gondar

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 written in a white, serif font in the center of the image.

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 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







A wide-angle photograph of a private camp in a desert landscape. The camp consists of several large, olive-green canvas tents. On the left, a large tent is set up as a dining area with a wooden table, several chairs, and various supplies. In the center and right, there are more tents, some with open entrances showing interior bedding. The ground is dry and sandy, with scattered desert vegetation like yucca plants. In the background, a vast, flat plain extends to a range of low, hazy mountains under a clear, light blue sky. The text "Gheralta Fig Tree Private Camp" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, serif font.

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



 Gheralta





This is an exciting adventure that offers visitors the chance to explore one of the most unique and intriguing regions in Ethiopia. Located in the northeastern part of the country, the Danakil Depression is a remote and otherworldly landscape that features geothermal fields, colorful mineral deposits, and vast salt flats.

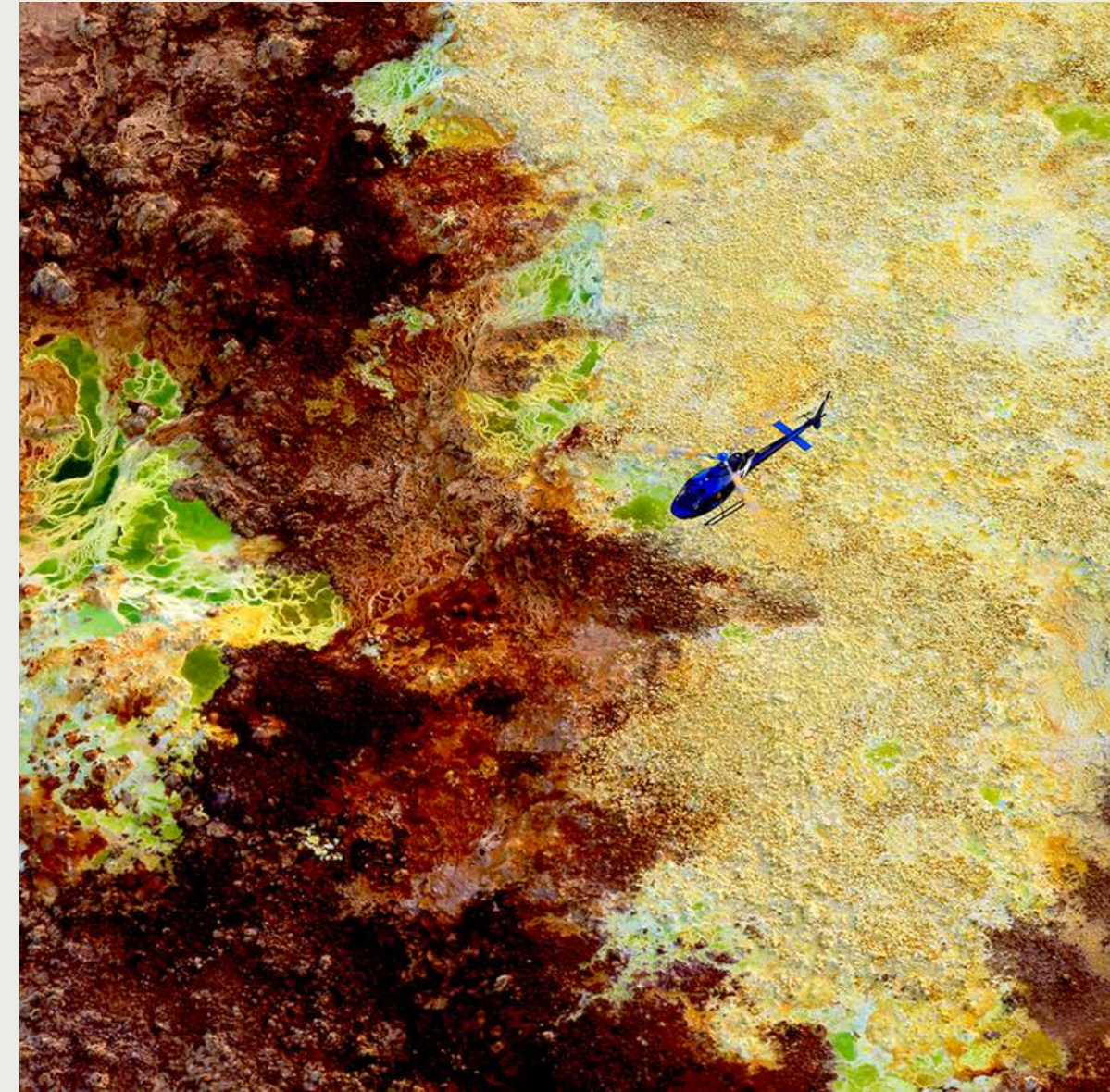
This scenic flight is a journey through this surreal landscape, visiting highlights such as the bubbling sulphuric acid pool at Dallol, the expansive salt flats of Lake Asale, and the active volcano, Erta Ale. Along the way, visitors will learn about the history and geology of the area and witness the daily life of the Afar people who call this region home.











Your itinerary includes:

A seamless ground arrangement service

Full board accommodation throughout including all meals, local beverages, and laundry

Exclusive use of Wild Expeditions Fig Tree Camp

Bed and breakfast at Hyatt Regency

Use of your own private helicopter Eurocopter B3

19 hours of flying time

Private pilot and local guides

12 hours mobilisation costs for helicopter from Kenya

Remote fuel

Pilot accommodation in Addis Ababa

Pilot night away allowance

Flight clearance and airstrip security fees

All scheduled activities and entrance fees

Park and conservation fees

Flying doctor emergency evacuation

1% For the Planet

Carbon Offset contribution

Your itinerary excludes:

Anything of a personal nature

Any spa services, massages, and treatments

Premium liquors and champagne

International flights

Trip cancellation and health insurance

Any options not described in the itinerary

Visa and passport fees

Gratuities

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Wild Expeditions

SPECIALIST ETHIOPIAN JOURNEYS