

10 days (2023 Meskel Festival) with the Historic Route of Ethiopia

Meskal is second in importance only to Timket and has been celebrated for over 1,600 years. The word actually means “cross” and the feast commemorates when the cross of Christ was revealed to Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great.

In Addis Ababa, celebrations start in the early afternoon when a procession bearing flaming torches approaches Meskal Square from various directions. Participants include Priests in brightly colored vestments, students, brass bands, contingents of the armed forces and floats carrying huge lit crosses. They circle the “demera” and fling torches upon it while singing a special Meskal song.

Thousands gather at the Square to bid farewell to the rains and welcome in “Tseday” the spring season with its profuse “Meskal” daisies and golden sunshine. As evening darkens, the flames glow brighter. It is not until dawn that the burning pyramid consumes itself entirely and the big tree at the center finally falls. During the celebrations, houses are stocked with “tella” the local beer, and strangers are made welcome.

Trip Highlights

- ✚ Visit the vibrant city of Addis Ababa
- ✚ Attend Celebration of the Meskel ("Ethiopian true finding of the cross").
- ✚ Experience Ethiopian Orthodox Christian doctrines and traditions.
- ✚ Be amazed by the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela,
- ✚ Enjoy the magnificent nature and endemic wildlife of the Simien Mountains.
- ✚ Discover the Camel of Africa Gondar.
- ✚ Boat Trip on Lake Tana to visit the ancient island monasteries.
- ✚ See the source Blue Nile River and Blue Nile Falls.
- ✚ Try the varied Ethiopian food.

Day. 01: (Sep. 26/2023) Arrival of Addis Ababa & Sight Seeing

Arrival of Addis Ababa and transfer to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time make sightseeing in Addis Ababa. The sightseeing includes the national museum (where you can see (the Lucy fossil skeleton found) the Ethnological museum, Trinity cathedral church and Entoto hills.

Day. 02: (Sep. 27/2023) More Excursions in Addis and Attend Meskel Festivity

After Breakfast do more excursions in Addis Ababa, go for shopping in the vast market of Merkato. Then in the afternoon see the Meskel Festivity in Jal Meda.

Day. 03:(Sep. 28/2023) Drive to Bahir Dar

In the morning drive to Bahir Dar on the way visit 13th century monastery of Debre Libanos and 16th century Portuguese bridge; where Chelada baboon could easily be screened. Enjoy the fascinating scenery of Blue Nile gorge.

Day. 04: (Sep. 29/2023) Excursion in Bahir Dar (Lake Tana and Blue Nile Falls)

Morning after breakfast start your journey by Make boat cruise on the beautiful highland Lake Tana and visit beautifully decorated thatched roof monastery with their distinctive colorful frescoes of religious scenes and old manuscripts.

After Lunch break take a scenic drive to the little town of Tiss Abay to visit the famous Blue Nile Falls and drive back to Bahar Dar for Over Night.

Day. 05: (Sep. 30/2023) Drive to Gondar and visit the sightseeing of Gondar

Heading to the legendary city and world heritage site of Gondar. Gondar Known as the Camelot of Africa, and it was the 17th and 18th century capital city of Ethiopia and was a home to number of Emperor's and war lords and Kings who built several castles in one compound. Visit that royal enclosure that is surrounded by high stone walls. (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Also, visit Debre Berhan Selassie Church meaning Trinity at the Mount of Light. It has rectangular structure and ceilings are decorated with beautiful winged angels, and its walls with impressive scenes depicting biblical events, and the Bathing pool of King Fasiledes (now baptism place during Ethiopian Epiphany).

Day. 06: (Oct. 01/2023) Drive to Simien Mountains National park

Today head to a UNESCO world heritage site and the jagged panorama of the Simien Mountains National Park, famed for its exclusive landscape, afro-alpine vegetation, and unique wildlife and birds, Lunch will be served by lunch boxes on top of the view. spend the day within combination of short hiking and drive. here you will see the endemic troops of Gelada Baboons. and drive back to the lodge for overnight.

Day. 07: (Oct. 02/2023) More Excursions in Simien NP. and Drive Back to Gonder

Spend more time in an amazing the Simien Mountains National Park: the incredible mountain scenery is breathtaking. Hike along mountain trails enjoying the endless unique flora and fauna of this elevated region (Giant Lobelia). Drive to Chenek and trek see Wallia a unique species indigenous to Ethiopia and the Simien Mountains. in the late afternoon drive Back to Gonder.

Day. 08: (Oct. 03/2023) Fly to Lalibela and sightseeing

Catch morning flight will take you to Lalibela. and transfer to the hotel. After short break excursion to visit the first group of the magnificent rock-hewn churches of Lalibela which are carved out of living volcanic tuff with super architectural skill that the world has never seen, yet elsewhere. UNESCO registers these churches as world heritage. Among churches of this group **Bete Medahine Alem** (house of the redeemer) is the largest with 5 aisles, 72 pillars, vaulted dome and molding decoration. **Bete Mariam** (house of St. Marry) is the most decorated among the rock hewn churches.

Day. 09: (Oct. 04/2023) More Excursions in Lalibela

More excursion to **Yemerhane Kirstos Cave church** outside of Lalibela through beautiful mountainous land escape of last region. Back to the hotel for lunch. After noon visit the second group of the rock-hewn churches; **Bete Emanuel** (house of Emanuel) is architecturally the finest. **Bete Giorgis** (the house of George) is the finest of all the churches in Lalibela for which reason art historians conclude that this church is carved at the end of the cluster, after the masons have developed their skill to carve the church in such extra ordinary perfection.

Day. 10: (Oct. 05/2023) Fly back to Addis Ababa

In the morning after breakfast transfer to airport and fly back to Addis Ababa. Evening fair well dinner and transfer to airport for flight back home.

“End of the Tour”

PRICE INCLUDED	PRICE EXCLUDED
<p>✓ Accommodation:- Best available accommodations, please see the detail hotel listing and arrangement below</p>	<p>➤ International air tickets,</p>
	<p>➤ Any meal which is not mentioned in the included part</p>
<p>✓ Meal plan:- (BB meal plan) Bed and Breakfast in DBL/TWIN /SGLroom.</p>	<p>➤ Alcohol beverages,</p>
<p>Transportation:- (all internal flight and all ground transportation)All domestic flight cost including the following sector</p>	<p>➤ Tourist Insurance,</p>
	<p>➤ Video filming and photography fees,</p>

<p><i>GONDER – LALIBELA</i></p> <p><i>LALIBELA - ADDIS ABABA</i></p> <p><i>Mini Bus or Costar for all attraction and trip to all destinations. Depending on Group size</i></p>	<p>➤ <i>Tips and items of personal nature like laundry, souvenirs, etc</i></p>
<p>✓ <i>Entrance fee:-All entrance fee in the sight, village, national park</i></p>	
<p>✓ <i>Guiding service:-English speaking Guide for the whole tour</i></p>	<p>➤ <i>All not mentioned in the included part</i></p>
<p>✓ <i>Boat trips:- Boat trips at lake Tana</i></p>	
<p>✓ <i>Government tax:- Price quote include government tax</i></p>	