

## **15 Days tour to Northern Historic route& Southern Omo Valley (X – MAS in Lalibela 2023) – Ethiopia**

Ethiopian Christmas Festival Tour- Special place to celebrate in a Historic Route of Ethiopia, Step back in time and explore thousands of years of history, legend, and the most colorful and ancient festivals celebrated around the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela.

Celebrated on January 7th and preceded by a fast of 40 days, on the eve of Christmas people gather in churches for mass that lasts about 3 hours. The clergy and “Debtera” (scholars versed in liturgy and music of the church) lift their voices in hymns and chant just as it has been for over a thousand years when Ethiopia accepted Christianity.

After mass, the fast is broken so the clergy and crowd alike disperse to their homes to feast. Food and drink is plentiful, with many homes preparing special meals that are characteristic to all big festivities highlighted on the Ethiopian calendar.

This is one of the greatest and most colorful festivals on the Ethiopian calendar. At Lalibela, it is celebrated with greater devotion, chanting, dancing, and singing around the rock-hewn churches that were built more than 800 years ago. The ancient city of Lalibela will be filled with tens of thousands of pilgrims who come from all directions of Ethiopia and from all walks of life.

### **Trip Highlights**

- ✚ Visit the vibrant city of Addis Ababa
- ✚ Attend Celebration of Gena ("Ethiopian Christmas").
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Explore the ancient city of Axum, Stale Park and also the last resting place of the Ark of the Covenant.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Meet various ethnic group Tribes.
- ✚ Visit colorful and exuberant markets.
- ✚ Special occasion ceremonies
- ✚ Boat trip on Lake Chamo
- ✚ Try the varied Ethiopian food

***Day. 01 (Jan.04/ 2023) Arrival of Addis Ababa***

Arrival of Addis Ababa Meet Yama Ethiopia Tours representative at Bole International airport and transfer to your hotel.

***Day. 02 (Jan.05/ 2023) Sight Seeing of Addis Ababa***

In the morning 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. 03: (Jan. 06/2023) Fly to Lalibela & Visit churches & attend Ethiopian Christmas ceremony***

After breakfast transfer to airport to fly 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. ***Evening attend Ethiopian Christmas ceremony.***

***Day. 04: (Jan. 07/2023) Full day in Lalibela visiting the churches and X-Mas ceremony***

Early in the morning attended the Christmas Ceremony and late day visit the remaining churches of Lalibela and surroundings.

***Day. 05: (Jan. 08/2023) Fly to Gondar and sightseeing of Gondar***

In the morning transfer to Gondar. Sightseeing to the legendary city and world heritage site of Gondar. Gondar Known as the Camelot of Africa, and it was the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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: (Jan. 09/2023) 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: (Jan. 09/2023) 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: (Jan. 10/2023) Sightseeing of Gondar and drive to Bahir Dar***

Morning after breakfast 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, including the life of Christ, Mary, and the saints and martyrs. There is also a painting of the church's founder, Emperor Iyasu I. In the afternoon drive to Bahir Dar.

***Day. 09: (Jan. 11/2023) 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. 10: (Wen. Jan. 12/2023) Fly to Arba Minch Via Dorze village***

In the morning transfer to airport to fly back Addis and Connect your flight to Arba Minch. after some rest drive back to Chench Village to visit Dorze people. Among their very interesting cultures are their houses built from bamboo way of life and cultivation of the false banana (from which they extract their local bread, called Kotcho.

***Day. 11: (Thu. Jan. 13/2023) Boat trip on Lake Chamo and drive to Turmi via Key Afer market***

In the morning after breakfast make boat trip excursion on Lake Chamo to see some crocodiles, Hippos and a lot of water birds. Then drive to Turmi on the way visit Konso tribe village. Konso tribe is known for their unique social life structure and practicing the agriculture terracing. and Heading to Turmi *on the way attend Key Afer Market, you will be able to join in the local weekly Banna and Tsemay market, same a very Colorful market that attracts neighboring tribes in the region - the Aris from Jinka, the Tsemay from Weyto and the Hamers from Dimeka area and are known for their local made showy decorative dressings and bunting hair style as well as dye striped.*

***Day. 12: (Fri. Jan. 14/2023) Excursion to Omorate***

Excursion to Omorate to visit the Dasenach tribes across the Omo river by wooden local boat then come back to Turmi in the afternoon to visit the nearby hammer tribe village, also possibility to see special occasion ceremonies like wedding and ritual.

***Day. 13: (Sat. Jan. 13/2023) Drive to Jinka via Karo Village via Dimeka (Saturday) market***

Early morning Excursion to Karo village. Where the Karo people are referred as master of body painting of this region. And practice body decorations and scarification; Then drive to Jinka. *via Dimeka to attend the Saturday market which tracts neighboring tribes from the area like Hammer, Karo and sometimes Dassanech tribes.*

***Day. 14: (Sun. Jan. 14/2023) Excursion to Mursi village and drive to Arba Minch***

Early morning excursion to Mursi tribes village. Mursi tribes is the most famous tradition includes the lip plate worn by the women. The origin of this tradition is not known but the Mursi themselves consider it as something that makes them distinguish from the surrounding tribes. Then drive to Arba Minch.

***Day. 15: (Mon. Jan. 15/2023) Drive back to Addis and departure***

Early morning after breakfast drive back to Addis and en route you can visit Tiya stelae. Evening fare well dinner and transfer to airport to fly back home.

***“End of the Tour”***

**PRICE INCLUDED**

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<p>✓ <b>Accommodation:-</b> Best available accommodations, please see the detail hotel listing and arrangement below</p>	<p>➤ Internal &amp;International air tickets,</p>
	<p>➤ Any meal which is not mentioned in the included part</p>
<p>✓ <b>Meal plan:- (BB meal plan) Bed and Breakfast in DBL/TWIN /SGLroom.</b></p>	<p>➤ Alcohol beverages,</p>
<p><b>Transportation:-</b>(all internal flight and all ground transportation)All domestic flight cost including the following sector</p> <p>ADDIS – LALIBELA</p> <p>LALIBELA - GONDER</p> <p>BAHIRDAR - ADDIS</p> <p>ADDIS - ARBAMINCH</p> <p>4WD Land Cruiser, Mini Bus or Costar for all attraction and trip to all destinations. Depending on Group size</p>	<p>➤ Tourist Insurance,</p>
	<p>➤ Video filming and photography fees,</p>
	<p>➤ Tips and items of personal nature like laundry, souvenirs, etc</p>
<p>✓ <b>Entrance fee:-</b>All entrance fee in the sight, village, national park</p>	<p>➤ All not mentioned in the included part</p>
<p>✓ <b>Guiding service:-</b>English speaking guide for the whole tour</p>	
<p>✓ <b>Boat trips:-</b> Boat trips at lake Tana and Chamo</p>	
<p>✓ <b>Government tax:-</b> Price quote include government tax</p>	