

16 Days tour to northern historic route & Southern Omo valley (Epiphany in Gonder 2023) - Ethiopia

Timket is the greatest festival of the Ethiopian year, falling just 2 weeks after Ethiopian Christmas. It is actually a 3-day affair preceded by the eve of Timket when the dramatic processions take place through a night of fasting, to the great day itself and the commemoration of Christ's baptism in the Jordan River.

Ketera, the Eve of Timket is when the Priests bring out the Tabots – replicas of the 2 tablets of laws received by Moses, which are normally housed inside the altar symbolizing the Ark of the Covenant.

Priests bless the water of the pool or river where the next day's celebration will take place. It is the Tabot, rather than the church building which is consecrated and given extreme reverence. Visitors have the unique chance to experience a festival lost to the rest of the world.

Trip Highlights

- ✚ Visit the vibrant city of Addis Ababa
- ✚ Attend Celebration of Timket ("Ethiopian Epiphany").
- ✚ 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.15/ 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.16/ 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 17/2023): Fly to Bahir Dar & sightseeing (Lake Tana & Blue Nile Fall)

Catch Morning flight to Bahir Dar and transfer to your reserved Lodge/Hotel. after check in and take 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. 04:(Jan.18 2023) Drive to Gondar and visit the sightseeing of Gondar Attend 1st day Timket (Epiphany)

Early morning 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).

After noon attained first day of Timeket ceremony very color full event. People walking to bath place with replica of Arc of Covent.

Day. 05: (Jan. 19/2023) Attend the 2nd day Timket (Epiphany) ceremony

In the morning visit the colorful day of Timket ceremony in Gonder early in the morning watch the people get baptizing in the big bath near to the Arch and many people celebrate the fest colorfully with religious sound and dressing code.

Then 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.

Day. 06: (Jan. 20/2023) 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. 21/2023) 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. 22/2023) Fly to Lalibela and visit rock hewn churches.

morning transfer to airport to fly 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: (Jan. 23/2023) 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 and after noon visit the second group of the rock-hewn churches; Bete Emanuel (house of Emanuel) is architecturally the finest. Bete Giorgise (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: (Jan. 24/2023) Fly back to Addis and drive to Awassa

In the morning after breakfast transfer to the air port and fly back to Addis Ababa. Meet the vehicle and driver then transfer to Awassa to the rift valley lakes region.

Day. 11: (Jan. 24/2023) Visit Fish market and drive to Arba Minch Via Dorze village

In the morning visit local fish market at Lake Awassa then proceed driving to Arba minch with some stops to visit Dorze people on the way. 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. 12: (Tue. Jan. 25/2023) Boat trip on Lake Chamo and drive to Turmi via Dimeka (Tuesday) 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. Heading to Turmi via Dimeka to attend the Tuesday market which attracts neighboring tribes from the area like Hammer, Karo and sometimes Dassanech tribes.

Day. 13: (Wen. Jan. 26/2023) 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. 14: (Thu. Jan. 26/2023) Drive to Jinka via Karo Village via Key Afer 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 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. 15: (Fri. Jan. 27/2023) 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. 16: (Sat. Jan. 28/2023) 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>✓ 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 /SGL room.</p>	<p>➤ Alcohol beverages,</p>
<p>Transportation:- (all internal flight and all ground transportation) All domestic flight cost including the following sector</p> <p>ADDIS - BAHARDAR</p> <p>GONDER - LALIBELA</p> <p>LALIBELA -ADDIS</p> <p>4WD Land Cruiser(1 Car to 4 person for all attraction and trip to all destinations.</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>✓ Entrance fee:- All entrance fee in the sight, village, national park</p>	<p>➤ All not mentioned in the included part</p>
<p>✓ Guiding service:-English speaking guide for the whole tour</p>	
<p>✓ Boat trips:- Boat trips at lake Tana and Chamo</p>	
<p>✓ Government tax:- Price quote include government tax</p>	