

**AET 040 - The Omo Valley cultural route,
Danakil depression and Historic route of Ethiopia**

2014/15

28 Days

Tour Code	AET 855		Issued date:	5/4/14
Group Size	3		Issued by:	Simeneh
Country		Contact Person	Tel #	
Ethiopia (Operation)		Simeneh Y Bekele	+251 911 427728	
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Itinerary				
1	Dec 18	ADDIS ABABA	Arrive Addis Ababa	
2	Dec 19	ADDIS ABABA	City sights In Addis Ababa including Beza Entoto Workshop	
3	Dec 20	ADDIS ABABA	Day excursion to Adadi Mariam/Menagesha forest	
4	Dec 21	BAHIRDAR	Fly to Bahirdar Sights, Blue Nile falls	
5	Dec 22	BAHIRDAR	Visit Tana Monasteries in Zege	
6	Dec 23	BAHIRDAR	Visit the market, the hill at Bezawit	
7	Dec 24	GONDAR	Drive to Gondar and visit the city	
8	Dec 25	SEMIEN	Visit the Falasha /Beta Israel in the morning and drive to the Semien Mt.	
9	Dec 26	GONDAR	Morning vist the park and dtive to Gondar	
10	Dec 27	LALIBELA	Fly to Lalibela and visit the first group of churches	
11	Dec 28	LALIBELA	Visit Second group on Churches and PM visit Yimrahine Kirstos	
12	Dec 29	LALIBELA	Visit St. George church and Genete Mariam in the afternoon	
13	Dec 30	AXUM	Fly to Axum Sight Seeing	
14	Dec 31	GERHALTA	visit Yeha Temple, DebreDamo and Adikesho Medhanealem Church	
15	Jan 1	HAMEDELA	Drive to Hamedela and visit Camel caravan and Salt mines	
16	Jan 2	ERTAALE	Visit the Volcano – trek using the camels to reach the volcano	
17	Jan 3	DALLOL-HAMEDELA	Hot springs and colorful sulfur formations	
18	Jan 4	MEKELE	Drive to Mekele and rest in the hotel	
19	Jan 5	ADDIS ABABA-AWASSA	Fly to Addis and drive to Awassa visiting the Rift Valley lakes	
20	Jan 6	ARBAMINCH	Drive to Arbaminch and visit Dorze tribes	
21	Jan 7	TURMI	Tsemai tribes and Konso village, keyAfer Market	
22	Jan 8	TURMI	Visit Hamer village , possible Bull Jumping, Karo Tribes	
23	Jan 9	JINKA	Visit Dimeka market and Ari tribes	
24	Jan 10	JINKA	Visit mursi village in Mago park	
25	Jan 11	ARBAMINCH	Visit Chamo Lake, Hippo, crocodile Market and afternoon fly to Addis	
26	Jan 12	ADDIS	Full day in Addis	
27	Jan 13	ADDIS	Addis and free day	
28	Jan 14	DEPARTURE	Transfer to airport for flight back home	

HOTEL INFORMATION

laces	Hotel/Address	Night	Hotel type	Telephone/Address
Addis Ababa	Saro-Maria hotel	5 nights	4 star hotel	http://www.saromariahhotel.com/
Bahirdar	Abayminch Lodge	3 nights	3 Star hotel	http://www.abayminchlodge.com/
Gondar	Goha Hotel	2 nights	3 star hotel	http://www.gohahotel.com/
Semien Mts.	Semien park Lodge	1 night	Lodge	www.simiens.com
Axum	Brana Hotel	1night	3 star hotel	http://www.branahotel.com
Gerhalta	Gerhalta Lodge	1night	Lodge	www.gheraltalodgetigrai.com
Lalibela	Tukul Hotel	3 nights	Resort	http://www.tukulvillage.com/
Arbaminch	Paradise Lodge	2 nights	Lodge	www.paradiselodgeethiopia.com/
Jinka	Eco Omo lodge	2 nightS	Lodge	www.eco-omo.com
Turmi	Buska Lodge	2 nights	Lodge	http://buskalodge.com/
Awassa	Haile Resort	1 night	Resort	http://haileresorts.com/
Danakil	Camping	3 nights	In tents	-----
Mekele	Planet hotel	1 night	3 star hotel	http://www.planetinternationalhotel.com

DETAILED ITINERARY

ADDIS ABABA

Day 1 - Arrive in Addis Ababa. Transfer to Saro-Maria Hotel, an attractive four star hotel in the center of Addis.

Accommodation Saro-Maria Hotel

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Included Activities: Transfer to hotel and rest

ADDIS ABABA

Day 2- Today we will have full day sightseeing tour of the capital which includes the Ethnological Museum in the former palace of King Haileselassie, the National (Archaeological) Museum, the superb Holy Trinity Cathedral, the various historical monuments of Addis Ababa; and Merkato largest open-air market in Africa. We will visit Mount Entoto for panoramic view point at the highest peak in Addis with an altitude of 3200 meters and St. Mary Church , Beza Entoto Workshop, St George Cathedral and Museum, Baheta Mariam church.

Accommodation Saro-Maria Hotel

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: City tour of Addis

WOLISO-ADDIS ABABA

Day 3- In the morning drive to Menagesha Supa Forest (densely wooded with some 400 years old trees. It is sanctuary for several endemic birds and animals such as the Abyssinian Catbird and the Menelik Bush Buck .

Accommodation Saro-Maria Hotel

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Walk in the age old forests, animals and endemic birds- stunning countryside scenery

BAHIRDAR

Day 4 - Fly to Bahirdar. After check in the hotel we drive to Bezawit Hill to have a panoramic view of the town of Bahir Dar, visit the place of emperor Haile Silassie and the colorful market of Bahirdar

Accommodation Abayminch lodge

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: City tour of Bahirdar, Market and Viewpoint of Bezawit

BAHIRDAR

Day 5 - In the morning drive 32 km southwest of Bahir Dar to the small town of Tiss Abay to visit the Blue Nile Falls. We will walk some distances to the Falls and visit some of the villages around there.

Accommodation Abayminch Lodge

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Blue Nile falls and city of Bahirdar

Travel Distance : 70 kms

LAKE TANA

Day 6 - In the morning we will have a boat excursion in Ethiopia's largest water body, Lake Tana (3,600 sq km) to visit the monasteries of Ura Kidane Mihret and Azwa Mariam which are found on the largest peninsula of the lake.

These monasteries are known for the colorful frescoes of religious scenes, different ancient types of crosses, paintings, murals and an impressive display of illuminated Bibles written in Ge'ez, Ethiopia's oldest language

Accommodation Abayminch Lodge

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Tana lake monasteries

GONDAR

Day 7- Early Morning drive to Gondar - Gondar was the first capital city of the Ethiopian empire, which began in 1632 with the reign of King Fasilledes. In Gondar there are dozens of castles built by various emperors over the course of 236 years.

Gondar visit includes the palaces, residences and open air baths of King Fasilledes; (World Heritage Site by UNESCO), the monasteries of Qusquom, the church of Debre Berhan Sellassie (Light of the Trinity) with its 16th century paintings and frescoes, which is located at the summit of a hill and surrounded by fortified walls.

Accommodation Goha hotel

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Palaces, Churches, paintings, Murals, Crosses

Travel Distance : 180kms

SEMIEN MOUNTAIN

Day 8 - In the morning we will visit Beta Israel or the Felasha Mura in the outskirts of Gondar. Continue drive to the Semien Mountains National Park via Debank the gateway to the park and continue driving to reach to Sankaber 3230masl through a beautiful scenery and Ahmara people and villages. The Semien Mountains National Park is a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and we will visit its exceptional natural beauty which includes superb scenery, endemic fauna and flora. Among other endemics it is here that the Gelada Baboon (bleeding heart Baboon) is found.

Accommodation Semien park Lodge

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Day excursion, walk and visit the Baboons

Travel Distance : 100kms

GONDAR

Day 9 –In the morning we will walk around the park and its surroundings and continue drive to Gondar for overnight

Accommodation Goha hotel

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Park and Scenery

Travel Distance : 100kms

LALIBELA

Day 10 - Fly to Lalibella to tour the famous eleven rock- hewn churches of 12th century. The city contains 11 monolithic churches that were built in the 12th century and are carved out of the pink granite rock; they have been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Each church (Bet) has a unique architectural style; all are superbly carved and most of them are decorated with well-preserved paintings. We will visit the first group of Rock hewn Churches.

Accommodation Tukul Village

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: First group of Rock churches

LALIBELA

Day 11 - Early in the morning Visit Yimrahine Kirstos a church which was built during the 12c. In the afternoon we will start visiting the 2nd group of rock hewn churches of Lalibela. Each church (Bet) has a unique architectural style.

Accommodation Tukul Village

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Yimrahine Kirstos ,Rock hewn Churches

LALIBELA

Day 12 – In the morning visit the beautiful St. George Church. After lunch drive to Genete Mariam Church a beautiful rock hewn church.

Accommodation Tukul Village

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Genete Mariam , Rock hewn Churches

AXUM

Day 13 – Fly to Axum, a holy city of Ethiopia, dating back over 2000 years and the cradle of Ethiopian civilization with the Axumite Kingdom, tour of Axum that includes: Axum stele or obelisks; the largest single pieces of stone standing anywhere on the world (World Heritage Site by UNESCO), castles of former monarchs, the Axum Museum and Mariam tsion Church, built on the site of Ethiopia's first church AD, and palace of Sheba and the Gundit stelae field, King Ezana's inscriptions and the tombs of Kings Kaleb and Gebre Meskel.

Accommodation Brana hotel

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Stele, Churches, monuments

GERHALTA/ HAWZEN

Day 14 - Early in the morning drive to Gerhalta en route visit -Yeha Temple- a pagan temple of the 5th C BC. , Debredamo monastery and Tigray Rock churches, AdiKesho Medhanealem

Accommodation Gerhalta Lodge

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Temple and Rock Churches and Scenery

Travel Distance : 190kms

HAMEDELA

Day 15 - drive to Hamdela and at Berhale pay entrance and have permission from Berhale Administration bureau and also take two police men and road guide and continue drive to Hamedela along unmarked sandy tracks, passing Afar settlements along the way. Ahmedela is the base for exploring the salt mines and seeing the salt workers and camel caravans.

Accommodation *Camping*

Rooming In tent

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Included Activities: Village, Scenery

Travel Distance 260 km

ERTA ALE

Day 16- Drive to Kusrewat here where we arrange the camel to trek to the volcano and to ascend our logistics and for those who wish to ride, Local militia and rock guide apart from those who already with us. Late afternoon start walking to Erta Ale. After a 3 hours trek, climb to Erta Ale volcano and over-night on the top of the mountain. Erta Ale is 613 meters tall, with a lava lake at the summit.

Accommodation *Camping*

Meals Breakfast ,Lunch and dinner

Included Activities: Scenery

DALLOL

Day 17 - Drive to Dallol, Visit the hot springs at Dallol, composed of different minerals along with sulphurs and potash and create spectacular colors. Dallol is renowned as being the hottest inhabited place on earth; You are likely to see the long 'caravane de sel' – camel trains loaded with salt and visit Lake Asale Salt mining with the Salt workers & see the merchants from the highland Salt Market.

Accommodation *Camping*

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Included Activities: Scenery, active volcano and lave formation

MEKELE

Day 18 - Drive to Mekele through the town of Berhale. Ascend to the Tigrian highland with the camel caravan and stop for photo over the depression.

Accommodation Planet hotel

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Scenery

AWASSA

Day 19 - In the morning fly to Addis Ababa and meet the car to drive to Awassa en route visit some of Debrezeit (Bishoftu) crater Lakes such as Hora, Babogaya, and Kuriftu. Continue driving through the great Rift valley lakes, Langano and Abijatta-Shalla and the town of Awassa, the capital city of the southern region, which is very popular in fish market and its volcanic lake. The rift contains a marvelous series of lakes, which are teeming with fish and provide a habitat for hundreds of species of birds. On the way we pass 4 of the lakes. Awassa is located on the edge of Lake Awassa, surrounded by mountains.

Accommodation Haile Resort

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Visit of the rift valley lakes of Langano , Abyatta Shalla,Lake Awassa

Travel Distance 262 km

ARBAMINCH

Day 20 – We drive through one of the most colorful and scenic areas of Southern Ethiopia, a land that is inhabited by the people of the Sidamo, the Alaba, who were once nomads but are now farmers. A long section of the road offers magnificent views of Lake Abaya, surrounded by mountains. The lake has volcanic origins and is almost pink in color. Today we visit the Dorze village, one of the many small group of tribes in southern Ethiopia. Once warriors, the Dorze are now turned to farming and weaving to earn a living.

Accommodation Paradise Lodge

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Rift valley lakes, Scenery

Travel Distance : 260kms

KONSO-KEYAFER MARKET

Day 21 - Drive to Turmi en route meet the people of Konso and their villages. The cornerstone of Konso culture is a highly specialized and successful agricultural economy. Meet the people, take photographs and learn of a culture that has had very little outside influence and continue to Turmi. We will visit the weekly market of the Hamar and Bena in KeyAfer Market (Thursday Market) a highlight of Omo Valley where all the ethnic tribes come to shop. The market is exciting and you may have the opportunity to buy some of the tribal regalia and artifacts.

Accommodation Buska Lodge

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Turmi Market, tribes, Konso Village, KeyAfer Market

Travel Distance : 250kms

TURMI-OMORATE

Day 22- In the morning we drive to Omo Rate crossing the Omo River by boat to visit the Galab village in the bank of the lower Omo valley. One of a small group of the Omo Valley tribes, called Dasanach. This day we drive towards the Dus/Kangate area to see the Karo ethnic group in Korcho villages, experts in body painting, using clays and locally available vegetable pigments to trace fantastic patterns on each other's faces, chests, arms and legs.

Accommodation Buska lodge

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Tribal area, Villages, Dasanach tribes in Omo Rate , Karo-Tribes

Travel Distance 160 km

DIMEKA MARKET-TURMI

Day 23 - Drive to Jinka and en route visit one of the colorful markets of the Omo valley in Keyafer. It is Saturday and there is a Market where all the tribes gather to socialize and also for the market In Dimeka . Continue driving to Jinka to visit the Ari village.

Accommodation Eco-Omo Lodge

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: visit the Mursis Village, meet with the people and Market

MAGO

Day 24 - Morning drive to Mago National Park located in the eastern bank of the Omo River. From here we will visit the Mursi highlands where the most illustrious of Ethiopia's unique tribes lives. The Mursis are known for their decorative lip plates that adorn the lower lips of the Mursi women. The various cultural aspects of the tribe will be explained and you will be able to take their photographs and interact with them.

Accommodation Eco-Omo Lodge

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

Included Activities: Visit tribes, Villages and Markets

Travel Distance : 100kms

ARBAMINCH

Day 26 – In the morning we will drive to Arbaminch and we will have a boat excursion on Lake Chamo to the "Crocodiles Market", where large numbers of Crocodile (some up to 6 meters long) gathers to sunbath and the Hippos pool. In the afternoon we will transfer to the airport for the flight to Addis

Accommodation Saro-Maria hotel

Rooming Standard twin/double/single room (Based on your preferences)

Meals Breakfast

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Price Includes	Price Excludes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation :- Double /twin /Single Room as stated in the Itinerary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo or Video fee of any ceremony or local festivals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation:- Surface transportation with 4WD Toyota Land cruiser Boat excursion on Lake Tana, Omo river and Chamo in Arbaminch All Domestic flight ticket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tips Alcohol drinks and personal expenses Lunch and dinner except in the camping days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Transfers in and out Arrival and departure transfers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel and accident insurance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees: All entrance fees Villages fees in the Omo Valley Porter Park fee Danakil permit fee 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish speaking Guide services Private cook for the Danakil All camping equipment Camel for Ertaale trekking 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meal:- Breakfast in hotel stay Full board in the camping days 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a bottle of water P/P per day 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scout and local Guides in MNP 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All government taxes 	

Terms of payment

Program contracts and service agreements become valid upon Amazing Ethiopia Tours' confirmation of the booking by e-mail. A deposit of 20% of the total cost is requested at the time of confirmation. The remainder of the total cost is payable 30 days before the beginning date of the tour.

Payment method: Wire transfer

Booking Cancellation: Cancellations of confirmed bookings received more than 30 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation penalty of US \$250 per person

Cancellations received between 30 and 15 days prior to departure will be subject to a penalty of 50% of the total tour rate.

Cancellations received less than 15 days prior to departure will be subject to will be subject to a penalty of 75% of the total tour rate.

Cancellations received less than 5 days prior to departure will be subject to forfeiture of the entire tour rate.

Foreign Exchange

Local Currency: Ethiopian Birr.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: It is advisable to take your spending money in Sterling, Euros or US Dollars cash (high denomination notes usually get better exchange rates). Please note that any pre- 1999 or torn US Dollar bills will not accepted in Ethiopia.

Where to Exchange: Your guide will advise you.

ATM Availability: Very Limited.

Credit Card Acceptance: Limited.

Travellers Cheques: Very difficult to exchange and are not recommended.

Climate

Ethiopia is generally pleasant and warm, but varies with altitude. The long rains usually arrive mid- June to early September and the short rains between mid-February and April.

The temperature all year round rarely falls below 18°C . Average temperature in day time is around 21-23 Degree Celsius.

Footwear

Comfortable, good walking shoes with ankle support are strongly recommended as well as comfortable sandals.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack. Please note that there is a weight restriction of 7kg for hand luggage/daypack for international and internal flights.

Clothing

Daytime temperatures are mainly warm and comfortable but evenings in the highlands can be cold. We recommend a thick jumper or warm fleece and lightweight wind/waterproof clothing. Take a sun hat. The sun is very strong in high altitudes so sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap are important.

Equipment

Bring sun cream, a torch and memory cards for your camera. An insect repellent against fleas could be useful for some places in the North.

Visa Requirements

visa is required for all visitors to Ethiopia and they can get from Ethiopian Diplomatic Mission abroad ,Visitors from the countries listed below can obtain visa on arrival at Bole International Airport (Addis Ababa): Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic, Kuwait, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, and US.

Health Requirements

Malaria precautions should be taken before visiting the lowlands. However, vaccination is not obligatory and not necessarily taken as a major preparation while you arrange your travel document. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

For more information contact: info@amazingethiopia.com