Great Ethiopian Tours

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15-03-2025 Addis Ababa/Ethiopia

11 Days Ethiopia Tour Itinerary

Countries: Ethiopia **Date:** 2025 - 2026 **Price:** -----_

Day 1: Addis Ababa – Erta Ale

- **Travel:** Pick-up from Semera Airport (8:00 AM). The drive to Erta Ale Base Camp takes approximately 4-5 hours.
- Activity: En route, you'll stop at Afdera for a swim in the Salt Lake, famous for its buoyancy due to high salt content.
- **Overnight:** Camping near Erta Ale, an active volcano in the Danakil.

Day 2: Erta Ale – Lake Asale

- Travel: Depart from Erta Ale Base Camp around 8:30 AM to Hamedela.
- Activity: Upon arrival, explore the Lake Asale salt flats, enjoy the stunning sunset, and observe camel caravans transporting salt across the otherworldly landscape.
- **Overnight:** Camping in Hamedela, a small settlement in the Danakil Depression.

Day 3: Dallol – Mekele

- **Travel:** Drive back to Mekele (4-5 hours).
- Activity: On the way, explore the Dallol region, known for its surreal and colorful geothermal landscape, sulfuric acid ponds, salt extraction methods, and the option to swim in the Salt Lake.
- **Overnight:** Relax and unwind at Desta Hotel in Mekele.

Day 4: Mekele – Tigray Churches

- **Travel:** Depart at 7:00 AM for a tour of the Geralta mountain ranges (70 km from Mekele). Afterward, return to Mekele for a flight back to Addis Ababa.
- Activity: Hike to the Tigray rock-hewn churches, including Abune Yemata Guh and Korkor. These incredible churches are carved into cliff faces, and the hike offers breathtaking views of the surrounding area.
- **Overnight:** Sabean Hotel in Axum.

Day 5: Axum and Yiha Temple

- **Travel:** After exploring Axum, take a 55 km drive to visit the Yiha Temple, an ancient site from the Aksumite period.
- Activity: Explore the historical sites of Axum, including the Obelisk Fields, Queen of Sheba's Palace ruins, and the Church of St. Mary of Zion.
- **Overnight:** Sabean Hotel in Axum.

Day 6: Flight to Addis Ababa

- Activity: Explore Addis Ababa with a half-day tour. Visit the National Museum, Holy Trinity Cathedral, or Merkato (the largest outdoor market in Africa).
- **Overnight:** Hotel Lobelia in Addis Ababa.

Day 7: Addis Ababa – Lalibela

- **Travel:** Fly from Addis Ababa to Lalibela (20-minute flight).
- Activity: Explore Lalibela's famous rock-hewn churches, such as Bete Giyorgis and Bete Medhaniale. Enjoy a stunning sunset over the first cluster of churches.
- **Overnight:** Marbela Hotel in Lalibela.

Day 8: Lalibela – Addis Ababa

- **Travel:** Fly from Lalibela to Addis Ababa.
- Activity: Visit Bete Giyorgis for sunrise, then climb Mount Asheton for panoramic views of Lalibela and its surrounding landscapes.
- **Overnight:** Hotel Lobelia in Addis Ababa.

Day 9: Addis Ababa – Jinka

- **Travel:** Fly from Addis Ababa to Jinka.
- Activity: Visit the Bana and Ari tribal markets, and experience the Hamar tribe's Bull-Jumping ceremony, a traditional rite of passage for young men.
- **Overnight:** Emerald Lodge in Turmi.

Day 10: Turmi – Karo in the Omo River Bank

- **Travel:** Drive from Jinka to Mago National Park (2-3 hours).
- Activity: Visit the Karo tribe near the Omo River, known for their stunning body decoration.
- **Overnight:** Nasa Hotel in Jinka.

Day 11: Jinka – Mago National Park – Addis Ababa

- **Travel:** Drive to Mago National Park, then fly back to Addis Ababa.
- Activity: Before your flight, visit the Mursi tribe villages, known for their distinctive lip plates.
- **Traditional Folkloric Music:** In Addis Ababa, enjoy a traditional folkloric music dinner. Afterward, we'll transfer you to the airport.

Summary of Key Highlights:

- Erta Ale: Witness one of the only active lava lakes in the world.
- **Danakil Depression:** Experience the hottest and lowest place on Earth, featuring colorful salt flats and volcanic landscapes.
- **Tigray Churches:** Visit ancient rock-hewn churches carved into cliff faces.
- **Tribal Experiences:** Interact with Ethiopia's indigenous tribes, such as the Hamar, Karo, and Mursi, and witness unique cultural ceremonies like the Bull-Jumping.
- Lalibela: Explore the 11 rock-hewn churches, including the famous Bete Giyorgis.
- Axum: Discover the ancient city's obelisks and historical sites.

What to pack:

- Torch lights and headlamps,
- Trekking shoes and sandals,
- Trekking pants and shorts,
- along with Sleeping bag (we provide sleeping bags).

What's Included:

- Accommodation
- Domestic flights
- Meals & water
- Ground transportation
- English-speaking guide
- Travel permits
- Permission letters for sightseeing
- Site entrance fees
- Camping gear
- Security fees

What's Not Included:

- International flight tickets
- Personal expenses
- Visa costs

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