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GEMSBOK SAFARIS LTD

TOUR NAME: Ethiopia – Africa’s Hidden Treasure for 06 Nights/07 Days

DATES: 2026

ACCOMMODATION: 4* Hotel in Addis and best available outside of Addis

TRANSPORT: Internal flights & surface transports

GUIDE: An accompanying national guide English speaking (Multi-lingual upon request)

HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAM IN DETAIL

Day 01: Arrival

Welcome to Addis Ababa.

On your arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, after clearing immigration and customs welcome by Gemsbok Safaris staff and get transferred to your hotel.

Addis Ababa is the largest city of Ethiopia and its capital city at the same time. Addis Ababa, which in Amharic means "a new flower", is located in the center of the country, 2100- 2300m above the sea. It is one of the highest-located capital cities in the world. Addis Ababa is a pleasant city with interesting museums and one of the largest open-air markets in Africa, “Mercato”. Addis Ababa is Africa’s diplomatic capital with headquarters for the Organization of African Unity and the United Nation Economic Commissions for Africa.

Based on your flight time the sightseeing of Addis can be arranged which you will commence with a visit to the National Archaeological Museum; ranks among the most important museums in sub-Saharan Africa. It housed the 3.5-million-year-old bones of Lucy. Lucy is believed to be the ancestor of all Human kind. It has lots of ancient exhibits that reflect the importance of Ethiopia as the ‘Cradle of Mankind’. Its historic room features finery worn in the wars, such as crowns, weapons, and pictures of wartime heroes and kings.

Continue your sightseeing to Ethnographic Museum, with its two main sections covering local crafts and on regions and people, this museum is an ideal place to start learning about Ethiopia's rich ethnic diversity. The museum has an impressive array of religious crosses, triptychs and murals, as well as Haile Selassie’s (Ethiopia’s last Emperor) bedroom and bathroom.

And continue to visit St. George’s Cathedral (Giorgis Cathedral) which lies at the north end of Churchill Rd. Designed in the traditional octagonal shape, this cathedral was built in 1896 to commemorate Ethiopia's victory over the Italians at the Battle of Adwa. The Cathedral houses the work of Afewerk Tekle, the renowned Ethiopian artist responsible for the stained-glass windows of the Africa Hall and also houses a small museum in the compound. Once you complete return back to your hotel. **Overnight at Ramada Addis**



Day 02: Fly Addis Ababa - Bahir Dar

This morning, you will be transferred from the hotel to the airport to catch your flight from Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar.

Bahir Dar is one of the best well-planned cities in Ethiopia, which means “by the side of the sea”. Bahir Dar is the third largest and arguably the most beautiful city in Ethiopia. As the capital for the regional state of Amhara, the city is home for historic monasteries, charming lodges, exotic fish markets, beautiful lakes and of course the famous Blue Nile Falls. There are dozens of islands found on Lake Tana, and many are home to 14th Century monasteries complete with ancient ornaments, frescoes, and fascinating wall paintings.

Once arrived, and checked into your hotel, your first destination will be Lake Tana. Nor is it only the largest lake in Ethiopia with a size of 3,600 km² / 2,282 m², it is also the source of the Blue Nile. There are also 37 islands dotted around the lake, of which 20 shelter monasteries believed to have existed since the 14th century. These islands also hold vast Ancient Ethiopian history, as well as artifacts of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and are also burial sites for certain former Emperors of the Ethiopian Empire.



The island you will visit holds the coveted monastery “Ura Kidane Mehert”, if time allows you will also be able to visit the monastery “Azwa Mariam” both known for their ancient manuscripts, paintings, crosses and artifacts. Later on in the afternoon, after having lunch, you will be driven to the waterfalls of “Tis Isat” also known as the Blue Nile falls (please keep in mind that due to construction of the new dam being built within the vicinity, the water levels could be very minimal). If time is still left, the tour of the city will follow, along with the “Bezawit Palace” including its view point. Drive back to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Avanti Blu Nile Resorts



Day 03: Drive Bahir Dar – Gondar

After breakfast, the drive to Gondar will follow 185kms/3hrs. The city that once was the royal capital of the Ethiopian Empire. Founded in 1636 by the Emperor Fassiledes. From castles to churches the medieval city is adorned by medieval styled infrastructure that was constructed by the Emperor along with his descendants. Visits will also include, the Fassiledes Castle along with the Fassiledes Bath. Once thought to be the grand swimming pool of the Emperor, now known as Fassiledes Bath, is used as a baptism site. It symbolizes the holy waters of the river Jordan, Israel where Jesus Christ was baptized, where each year on the 19th of January during Timket (Epiphany), hundreds bath in these waters to get christened. Regrettably, you will not be able to attend this spectacle as the day you will visit will not fall on this particular holiday.



After lunch, you will visit the “Debre Birhan Selassie Church” a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was built in the late 18th century by Iyasu I, the grandson of the Emperor Fasilides, where its walls and ceilings are adorned with rows among rows of winged cherubs that represent the omnipresence of God. After you have concluded with your tour, the drive to the lodge will continue after dinner, you will witness the traditional dance, “Eskesta”, which Gondar is known for.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Haile Resort Gondar



Day 04: Excursion to Simien Mountains National Park

After breakfast, you will drive to the Simien Mountains for a day trip Road/ Surface transfer 210kms/2hrs. The Simien Mts. dramatic topography resulted from the volcanic activity, ascribed it as the world natural heritage site, graced by exceptional botanical phenomena and a zoo of wild life Walia Ibex, Red fox, and Chelada/ bleeding heart Baboons are few to site.

The excursion's first destination will be "Kosoye" view point, where you will be able to enjoy the landscape. Following will be "Debarq" the pin point or headquarters of the park, where you will be assigned a scout. Once the scout has been designated, you will be driven to "Buyit Ras" view point. A picnic lunch usually takes place at "Jimbar Falls",



Visit Sankaber the first camp sight of the Simien Mts. Here you will find one of the most spectacular mountain sceneries in Ethiopia. Stop to watch Chelada Baboons and observe their foraging habits, and take a short walk to a waterfall (the ground here is uneven).

These Mountains are known as “The Roof of Africa” due to their elevation, set at an altitude of 3260 m. /1072 ft. (Please make sure to wear thick and warm clothing as temperatures in these mountains can get quite low). Once the tour is done you will head back to Gondar and overnight. Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

[Accommodation: Haile Resort Gondar](#)

[Day 05: Fly Gondar – Lalibela](#)

Following your breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Lalibela. Drive to the city which takes ~40 minute from the airport, check-in to your hotel and you will start to explore Lalibela. The small town of Lalibela, which is home to one of the world's most astounding sacred sites, comprising eleven medieval rock-hewn churches, each carved entirely out of a single piece of stone.

Lalibela, the “New Jerusalem”, was built by King Lalibela with the help of angels in the 12th century, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its eleven rock-hewn churches. The rock-hewn churches are large and several are more than ten metres high. Because they are carved below ground level, they are ringed by trenches and courtyards, the sides of which are cut into with stone graves and hermit cells, and connected to each other by a tangled maze of tunnels and passages.



The eleven rock churches, thought to be at least 200 years old, are divided into two groups and are visited by foot. The steps are uneven and walking around can require a little agility.

You will visit the magnificent rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, which are called the “Eighth Wonder of the World.” These churches were hand-hewn out of solid rock between 800 - 1200 AD and are still active worship places.

After lunch leave to visit the north-west cluster of churches consists of Bet Medhane Alem, Bet Maryam, Bet Meskel, Bet Danaghel, Bet Debre Sina, and Bet Golgotha. Also included in this tour is the isolated monolith of Bet Giyorgis (the Church of St George). Bet Medhane Alem is the largest monolithic rock-hewn church

Take a part in a traditional coffee ceremony.

Ethiopia's coffee ceremony is an integral part of the social and cultural life. It is an important cultural ritual that's been passed from generation to generation. An invitation to attend a coffee ceremony is considered as a mark of friendship or respect and is an example of Ethiopian hospitality.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodation: Mezena Lodge



Day 06: Lalibela

Today visit the cave church of Yimrehane Kirstos, 40kms from the city, built by the king of the same name before the reign of King Lalibela. The church is constructed inside a cave, in Axumite style, similar to the church at Debre Damo, with alternating levels of wood and stone. If the day meets, attend the yearly celebration of King & Saint Yimrehane Kirstos which is attended by tens thousands of pilgrims from all over Ethiopia, making it one of the most joyous annual pilgrimages in Lalibela. It is celebrated with greater devotion, the congregation wrapped in white shawls sing with joy along with the priests' one after the other and among the swaying choir the priests chanting, dancing, and singing around the church letting out a deep boom of the drums and female's voice respond in a piercing chorus of ululations. Then return back to the town.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodation: Mezena Lodge



Day 07: Fly Lalibela – Addis Ababa

You will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Addis. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel for a day use room. Have a farewell dinner in a cultural restaurant serving the unique Ethiopian cuisine accompanied by traditional music and dancing and later transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Many thanks & have a safe flight.

End of Services

YOUR ITINERARY INCLUDES

Accommodation:	All accommodation as detailed with private facilities.
Meals/Beverages:	Breakfasts, lunch and dinner with one bottle of water as stated in the itinerary/ soft drink and bottled water in the vehicle is included
Transfers/Transport:	Airport welcome, assistance with luggage, and transportation by air-conditioned comfortable spacious vehicles, complete with bottled water.
Sightseeing:	English speaking guide are included throughout the trip
Entrance Fees:	All entrance fees as per the program are included
Local taxes	All necessary local government taxes are included
Boat	Boat Cruise on Lake Tana
Porterage fees	Porterage fees at the Airport and Hotels.

Other activities	Coffee ceremony, and Honey wine drinks (Tej). Traditional farewell Dinner in Addis Ababa
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BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Domestic Flights:	A strict luggage restriction of 20kgs per person and hand luggage, applies to all light aircraft flights within Ethiopia. It is important that you carry soft- sided or “barrel” bags, as hard-sided suitcases (Samsonite-style) cannot be fitted into the small holds of light aircraft if you use the charter flights on this program.
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Excess Baggage:	Excess baggage may be safely stored at hotel in Addis Ababa.
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YOUR ITINERARY EXCLUDES

Miscellaneous:	Visa for Ethiopia.
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Flight	International & Domestic airfare. Domestic flight fare is quoted separately on the flight section.
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Gratitude	Tipping Alcoholic beverages Early- check-in
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Insurance:	Insurance coverage of personal loss, injury, illness or damages incurred during your trip. We strongly recommend travel /cancellation insurance.
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Personal expenses: Items of a purely personal nature such as drinks (unless noted), laundry, dry cleaning, internet, fax, or telephone charges and transfers/sightseeing or meals not included in “Your itinerary includes”.

Baggage allowance: Excess baggage charge

THE PACKAGE COST PER PERSON: for the above program based on room sharing:

2 Pax – USD 2,278.00 – Using Minivan

4 Pax – USD 1,789.00 - Using Minivan

6 Pax – USD 1,658.00 - Using Minivan

8 Pax – USD 1,578.00 - Using Minivan

10 Pax – USD 1,555.00 – Using Coaster bus

12 Pax – USD 1,550.00 - Using Coaster bus

14 Pax – USD 1,517.00 - Using Coaster bus

16 Pax – USD 1,489.00 - Using Coaster bus

Single room supplement – USD 239.00 per person Holiday

Supplement – USD 278.00 per person Domestic flights:

- Addis - Bahir Dar// Gondar - Lalibela – Addis Ababa: with a non-Ethiopian airlines international flights **USD 465.00 per person**
- Addis - Bahir Dar// Gondar - Lalibela – Addis Ababa: with an Ethiopian Airlines international flights **USD 332.00 per person**

NB. Please note that the above fare is subjected to change and if clients come to Ethiopia with Ethiopian Airlines, they will get a reasonable discount on the internal/domestic flight fares.

Terms and Conditions Apply.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

NOTES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

BAGGAGE INFORMATION

Hand Luggage Inclusion: The baggage allowance includes hand luggage. For significant excess baggage, guests may book a "freight" seat at an adult rate (Y class fares) to accommodate an additional 75 kg. Freight seats are only available on safari routes and are subject to Gemsbok Safaris' discretion. Alternatively, excess baggage can be purchased in advance in bundles of 10, 20, or 30 kg.

Overweight Baggage: Check-in staff may allow a leeway of up to 2 kg at the captain's discretion, depending on the aircraft payload and space availability. Charges apply for any additional excess baggage.

Soft Bag Requirement: Due to limited and irregularly shaped luggage compartments on most flights, rigid suitcases may need to be sent on the next available flight.

Sports Equipment: Large sports equipment (e.g., surfboards, bicycles, golf bags) is not accepted unless requested in advance. Golf bags may be allowed on a case-by-case basis on Dash 8 aircraft with a fee of \$20 per bag per sector.

RATES

All bookings are subject to availability. Rates include accommodation with meals, tours, transport, driver/guide, park entrance fees, hotel taxes, and service charges. Rates exclude medical air rescue services, portorage, domestic air charters, visa fees, beverages, laundry, telephone calls, scheduled flights, gratuities, and personal expenses unless specified otherwise. Optional flying doctor services are available for \$20 per person (subject to change).

CHILD POLICY

Child rates apply for one or two children under 12 sharing a room with two adults. When two children share a room with parents, they may require an interconnecting room and be considered as in their room due to accommodation limitations. One child sharing with one adult will be charged at the child rate, and the adult pays the per-person sharing rate plus a single room supplement.

SINGLE ROOM POLICY

Single rooms are available at an additional cost but cannot be guaranteed. Only three single rooms are allowed per group; if unavailable, a refund may be issued.

BOOKING ALTERATIONS

Changes to Bookings: For any changes to confirmed bookings, Gemsbok Safaris will assist if notified in writing at least 65 days before scheduled services. A \$70 fee per person applies for administrative costs, plus any additional charges from suppliers.

Itinerary Changes: Gemsbok Safaris reserves the right to amend itinerary details or substitute comparable hotels as necessary. Clients will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations require written notification. Charges apply as follows:

- More than 60 days prior: Full deposit is forfeited.
- 60 days or fewer prior: 100% cancellation charges apply.
- Unused portions of any tour are non-refundable.

FORCE MAJEURE

In cases of events outside our control, such as war, civil strife, or natural disasters, Gemsbok Safaris and its suppliers are not liable for any expenses, losses, or delays arising from such circumstances.

COMPLAINTS

Any issues during a safari should be reported immediately to the local representative, hotel, lodge, or camp management. Unresolved complaints must be submitted in writing to Gemsbok Safaris within 30 days of tour completion, including reference details.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation may include Land Cruisers or coaches, depending on the route and group size. Gemsbok Safaris may use subcontractors when necessary. Multi-lingual guides are available upon request. For flying package clients, vehicles may be shared with other hotel guests unless exclusive use is requested in advance.

RESPONSIBILITY OF GEMSBOK SAFARIS

Gemsbok Safaris acts as an agent for suppliers and is not liable for their actions or omissions. Tour members are responsible for reviewing supplier terms. Gemsbok Safaris' liability is limited to the tour price in cases of negligence or breach of contract.

CONTRACT

A binding contract is established once Gemsbok Safaris and the client agree upon the itinerary and pricing and confirmed upon invoicing. This contract is governed by the laws of the supplier's country and subject to its jurisdiction.

PAYMENT POLICY

Deposit to Secure Booking: 25% of the total cost is due at confirmation to secure room availability.

Second Payment: A further 25% of the total cost is due 60 days before the start of the tour.

Final Payment: The remaining 50% of the total cost is due 31 days before the tour begins.

Failure to adhere to these terms may result in cancellation of services without refund or liability for Gemsbok Safaris.

Payment Method: Bank Transfer

For international bank transfers, all banking charges are the responsibility of the sender. Gemsbok Safaris Ltd must receive the full invoice amount. Any discrepancies due to transfer fees or other charges will require a supplementary invoice.

Embark on the adventure of a lifetime with Gemsbok Safaris – where unforgettable memories are made. Join us in discovering the beauty of East Africa, Africa, and the world's most iconic safari destinations.