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GEMSBOK SAFARIS LTD

TOUR NAME: Omo Valley Cultural Express Tour for 07Nights/08Days

DATES: 2026

ACCOMMODATION: 4* star hotel in Addis and best available out of Addis

TRANSPORT: Internal flights & surface transports

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

OVERVIEW

This fascinating tour to the South Omo valley includes a mosaic of indigenous tribes intriguing cultural value, beautiful landscape and diversified tribes with their own unique village settlements for a century. This trip is carefully designed to offer the best of Omo Valley with the exceptional experience of the local villagers' interaction.

Along the Omo River a variety of different ethnic groups are found, such as the Tsemay, Arbore, Hamar, Galeb (Dasenech), Karo, Benna, Ari, and Mursi, Bume (Nyangatom), Bodi, Surma, whose contact with the modern world has come only within the last two to three decades. The Omo, flowing for nearly 1000 km from the highlands south west of Addis Ababa to Lake Turkana in Kenya, provides excellent opportunities for white water rafting.

Discover the incredible number of different ethnic groups in and around the Omo Valley. Explore their villages, learn about local customs and wander through bustling markets on a specific day of the week as listed below.

Monday – Kako Market at Jinka or Turmi Market at Turmi village

Tuesday- Dimeka / Alduba market at Turmi village / Dorze market at Chench

Thursday – Key Afer Market at Key Afer village

Saturday – Dimeka Market at Turmi village / Dorze market at Chench

Sunday – Weito Market at Erbore village.

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.**

Meals: Lunch & Dinner are included



Day 02: Fly Addis Ababa – Jinka

Today, transfer to the airport for your ET flight to Jinka.

Upon arrival, continue to drive to the Jinka city, which you will have en route visit the Ari people of Ethiopia are said to be one of the most culturally and economically dominant groups in the Omo valley. They currently live in a clan structure, but actually used to live independently until the late 19th century when they were conquered and unified as part of the Ethiopian empire. Their territories are divided into nine independent units, each with its own leader and a traditional spiritual leader known as Babi.

Like most other Omo Valley Tribes, Ari men are allowed to marry as many women as they want as long as they can provide for their families. However, this practice is becoming relegated as the Ari people embrace Christianity and polygamy becomes less common. Today, most Ari men have only one wife.

Visit the South Omo Research Museum & local villages in Jinka and get acquainted to the local life, how they make local liquor made of Sorghum, Garlic and maize and how they make a pot.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Eco Omo Lodge

Day 03: Drive Jinka – Mursi – Turmi

Total driving distance 230kms/6-7hrs.

Take a day excursion to Mago National Park to visit the Mursi village. The Mursi are one of the most original ethnic groups. They live in very low huts made of straw leaves. The women like to wear terra cotta on their enormously stretched lower lips and ear lobes. The men are famous for their hairstyles. They go in for body scarification and among the women the wearing of lip plates. The larger the lip plate, the greater the woman's value when she is married. She removes her plate for eating and sleeping. They are easily distinguished by how their long, distended lips hang down from their mouths. Visit and drive to Turmi.

Turmi is a place for the Hamar tribes, visit the Hamer village they are a fine-looking people, both men and women take great pride in their appearance, shaving and coloring their hair, oiling their bodies and decorating themselves with beads and bracelets worn around arms and legs. They are famous for their body decoration, moonlight dance (Evangedi Dance) and bull-jumping. Bull jumping marks the rite of passage from childhood to adulthood. It is not a done every day.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Buska Lodge



Day 04: Drive Turmi – Karo – Turmi

Total driving distance 150kms/3-4hrs.

Following your early breakfast and you will venture to Murulle holding your picnic lunch to visit the Karo people, who reside along the banks of the Lower Omo River. The Karo incorporate rich cultural symbolism into their rituals and use ornate body art, intricate headdress, and body scarification to emphasize beauty and status within their community. This small but lively tribe numbers under 1,000, but they are the main non-nomadic agriculturalist group in the Lower Omo Valley.

The Karo are differentiated from neighboring tribes by placing higher emphasis on body and face painting. They paint themselves daily with colored ochre, white chalk, yellow mineral rock, charcoal, and pulverized iron ore - all resources found in this area.

Karo body painting is a deep aspect of their culture; they are communicating as well as decorating. The experience of visiting the people of this incredibly rich, proud, yet adapting culture gives amazing insight into Ethiopia's indigenous peoples. After the visit, you will drive to Turmi.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Buska Lodge



Day 05: Drive Turmi – Arbaminch

Total driving distance 280kms/5-6hrs.

Following breakfast drive to Erbore village to say hello to the beautiful women of Arbore tribe with their black veils, but are half nude and head shaved, so the contrast is really amazing. Arbore / Erbore, is far more rustic and unaffected than many similarly size towns in south Omo, in common with their linguistically and culturally affiliated Tsemai neighbours, the Arbore migrated to their present homeland from Konso perhaps two centuries ago.

Then make a drive to the Konso village to visit the majestic landscape and the way of their living; whose people are known for their intricately terraced hillsides, they make recognized and prized by UNESCO, fine woven materials and the carved totems with which they decorate their graves.

The vast and majestic landscape provides a stunning backdrop for the unique Konso culture. Konso villages, known as kantas, are built into the hillsides and encircled with stone walls for protection. The winding paths that weave through the village all lead to the mora, a large, thatched pavilion which acts as a special meeting place for the people of the surrounding villages.

The Konso culture has much to offer visitors. From cultural performances to handcraft demonstrations, visitors can learn about the traditions of the Konso people and the important roles these traditions still play in their lives.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Haile Resorts



Day 06: Boat Cruise on Lake Chamo and visit of Chenchu Village

Following breakfast, enjoy the boat trip on Lake Chamo - one of the best features of the park. Attraction of the boat trip includes viewing of large number of hippos and crocodiles from a very close range. There is a good

place to watch large number of crocodiles on the shore of Lake Chamo. The place known as “Azo-Gebeya” meaning Crocodile Market offers one of Africa's most impressive displays of big crocks.



In the afternoon, you will visit the home of the Dorze people at Chench, 40kms from the city. The Dorze are renowned cotton weavers whose tall beehive-shaped dwellings are among the most distinctive traditional structures to be seen anywhere in Africa.

The main occupations of the region are subsistence farming and weaving. The Shama cloth produced around Chench is regarded to be the finest in Ethiopia: Plain white Gabbi robes and brightly colored scarf-like Netalas are sold along the roadside. Explore the local Dorze market decorated with many colours.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Haile Resorts



Day 07: Drive Arbaminch - Hawassa

Following breakfast, drive to Arbaminch ~ 248 that takes ~ 4 hrs. the capital town of the Southern People's Nations and nicknamed as "The town of endless Love". The city of Hawassa is one of the fast-growing cities in the region - in Hawassa, you can recover from the strengths of travelling in the 5-star resort of the famous Ethiopian runner Haile Gebre Selassie. From Sauna, steam bath to beauty treatment nothing should be missing here and the sunset is fantastic! Afternoon: We arrive at the luxurious Haile Resort early enough to enjoy the beautiful sunset over the lake.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodations: Haile Resort Hawassa



Day 08: Drive Hawassa - Addis

The distance of ~ 275 km & ~4 hrs. drive. This morning you will have a visit of the local fish market on the shores of Lake Awassa and later you will continue north to Addis Ababa. On the way, visit the Abiatta-Shala National Park. Lake Shala, with its deep blue waters is the deepest lake in Ethiopia at 236m. Lake Abiatta is a soda lake at which thousands of flamingos can be seen at various times of the year.



Upon arrival in Addis, you will be transferred to your hotel for a day use room until your departure flight, if time allows you will have a farewell dinner in one of cultural restaurant to taste Ethiopian food together with learning Ethiopian traditional dances.

Day use room at Ramada Addis

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 on a sharing basis 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 and local guides at each destination
Entrance Fees:	All entrance fees as per the program are included
Local taxes	All necessary local Government taxes are included
Porterage fees	Porterage fees at the airport and Hotels.
Other activities	Boat Cruise on Lake Chamo Coffee ceremony, and Honey wine drinks (Tej). Traditional farewell Dinner in Addis Ababa

YOUR ITINERARY EXCLUDES

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

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.
Excess Baggage:	Excess baggage may be safely stored at hotel in Addis Ababa.

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

2 Pax – USD 2,777.00 - Using one 4x4 vehicle for Omo Valley and Minivan in Addis

4 Pax – USD 2,500.00 - Using two 4x4 vehicle for Omo Valley and Minivan in Addis

6 Pax – USD 2,212.00 - Using two 4x4 vehicle for Omo Valley and Minivan in Addis

8 Pax – USD 2,222.00 - Using three 4x4 vehicle for Omo Valley and Minivan in Addis

10 Pax – USD 2,098.00 - Using three 4x4 vehicle for Omo Valley and Minivan in Addis

12 Pax – USD 2,123.00 - Using four 4x4 vehicle for Omo Valley and Minivan in Addis

14 Pax – USD 2,034.00 - Using four 4x4 vehicle for Omo Valley and Minivan in Addis

16 Pax – USD 2,067.00 - Using five 4x4 vehicle for Omo Valley and Minivan in Addis

Single room supplement – USD 267.00 per person

Bull jumping or similar activities supplement – TBA

Domestic flight fare for the sectors of Addis – Ababa – Jinka:

- If you use Ethiopian air for your international flight **USD 184.00 Per person**

- If you use different air (non-Ethiopian flights) for his international flights **USD 212.00 per person**. Flight fare subjected to change.

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, porterage, 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.



"Gemsbok Safaris – Your Gateway to Unforgettable Journeys."