



📍 Vision Plaza, 2nd Floor, Msa Rd, Nairobi – Kenya,
☎ +254 755 996 970
✉ safari@gemboksafari.com
✉ info@gemboksafari.com
🌐 www.gemboksafari.com

Ethiopia – Africa’s Hidden Treasure for 07 Nights/08 Days

TOUR NAME: Ethiopia – Africa’s Hidden Treasure for 07 Nights/08 Days

DATES: 2027

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

TOUR STARTS: Addis Ababa

TOUR ENDS: Addis Ababa

TRANSPORT: Internal flights & surface transport

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visiting Addis Ababa is often referred to as "the political capital of Africa" for its historical, diplomatic and political significance for the continent including the National Museum, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Ethnographic Museum, & Merkato.
- Exploring the ancient Aksumite Kingdoms tombs, obelisks, stelae in Axum city.
- The Magnificent Blue Nile falls, and Lake Tana Monasteries - A boat trip on the source of the Blue Nile, "Lake Tana", along with the visit of the Blue Nile Falls or "Tis Isat".
- Castles and churches were constructed in medieval architectural style in Gondar.
- "Lalibela's" rock hewn churches galore. Indulge yourself in the famous honey wine known as "Tej".

Our lifetime journey starts begins with the city tour of Addis Ababa and you will continue to fly to Axum, city in the Tigray region, is home to some of the oldest churches in the country.

You will then head to Bahirdar to visit the Blue Nile falls and Tana monastery; you will then continue to Gondar to visit the famous Royal Enclosures. Our discovery of this fascinating historic route proceeds to the splendid Rock churches of Lalibela, considered as one of the eight wonders of the world and you will have enough time to learn more about these rock churches with your guided tour.

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 Absolute Ethiopia Tours 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 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 schedule, you will have the sightseeing 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 Humankind. 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.

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.

The Holy Trinity Cathedral, built in 1945, this cathedral is renowned for its stunning stain-glassed windows which depict scenes from the Old and New Testament of the Holy Bible. The Trinity Cathedral also houses the tombs of the late emperor and his family as well as the tomb of English feminist Sylvia Pankhurst. (It is currently under maintenance).

And a visit of Merkato; the Largest open Market in Africa; where virtually every possible commodity is on sale, from livestock to computers. It is closed on Sundays & for a visitor good at bargaining, there is a huge selection of Ethiopian arts and crafts.

Once you complete, return to your hotel. Meals:

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Overnight at Ramada Addis



Day 02: Fly Addis – Axum

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Axum. The check-in time for local flights is one hour prior to the departure time. Once you arrive in Axum, check in to your hotel and explore Axum city.

Axum is once the capital of the Axumite Empire and an important trading center in antiquity - A small and lowly town surrounded by dry hills, modern Axum does not easily yield evidence of the splendors and pageantry of its glorious past. The tour starts with a drive out of town to visit the tombs of King Kelab and Gebre Meskel, passing Mai Shum (or the bath of the Queen of Sheba) and King Ezana's stone on the way. On a clear day, the border of Eritrea can be seen from the tombs in the distance.



Continue your tour to the magnificent stelae, the world's tallest monoliths, situated just north of the modern town square. Carved from a single piece of rock, some experts believe these were erected to mark the passing of some ancient royal personages. Others say that they had an astronomical function. In ancient times, seven of the tallest obelisks stood in the Park of the Stelae. The largest obelisk, more than 33 meters high, fell long ago and now lies in pieces. Another was 24 meters high and was returned from Rome to Ethiopia only in April 2005.

The oldest church in Africa was the first St Mary of Zion Church, originally built around the 4th century. Emperor Fasilidas replaced it with a newer church around 1635 which is still a place of active worship. The modern chapel next to St Mary of Zion church is said to contain the sacred Ark of the Covenant, but no one except the Orthodox priest who serves as the chapel's custodian is allowed to enter the building. The museum, although in need of some extra funds, holds many interesting artifacts which follow the rise and fall of the Axumite Kingdom.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Atranos Hotel

Today after breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Addis which you will connect a flight to Bahirdar. Upon arrival in Bahirdar, you will head to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Blue Nile Resort

Day 04: Bahirdar

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.



Explore the 12th-14th century treasured Monasteries of Lake Tana by a cruise, round, grass roofed of the Zeghie Peninsula, witness the Ethiopia's links with the ancient world by the papyrus Tankwa that sail the lake bear a striking resemblance to the boats of Ancient Egypt.

Visit the round, thatched roof of the Azuwa Maryam Monastery along the Zege Peninsular makes this church one of the most aesthetically pleasing. Then move to one of the bigger monasteries in the region, Ura Kidane Mehret is known for its beautifully painted, psychedelic murals that run the perimeter of its circular straw walls. Just 25 minutes' walk from the boat landing point, Ura Kidane Mehret is one of the more accessible churches in the region and is by far the most popular. Concealed behind tall, shady palm trees and densely planted coffee farms, the monastery houses vibrant frescoes depicting scenes from Ethiopian folklore and Christianity. Both men and women are permitted entry and there is a small museum on-site, called the Zege Satekela Museum. Here you can learn about the hand-crafted tools and musical instruments that helped shape this vibrant land and that are still in use today.

After lunch, go for the alluring Blue Nile Falls, “Tiss isat” (smoking fire), the Falls are 328 feet wide and the water cascades down 150 feet, high drop to produce a dazzling spray of mist and rainbows, shimmering across the gorge, and a small perennial rainforest of lush green vegetation, to the delight of the many monkeys and multi-coloured birds that inhabit the area. The Blue Nile Falls is 32kms from the city. On a clear sunny day, you can walk for about 30min walk to the base of the falls. Meet with the locals around for a short coffee break.

In late afternoon enjoy a spectacular view of Bezawit hilltop, & the open-air market of Bahir Dar Agelgil Market to meet up with locals.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner are included

Accommodation: Blue Nile Resort



Day 05: 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 Fassiledes Castle along with 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. Unfortunately, you will not be able to attend this spectacle as the day you will visit will not fall on this 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 and dinner

Accommodation: Gondar Hills Resort



Day 06: Fly Gondar – Lalibela

Following your breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Lalibela. Drive to the city which takes ~40 minutes 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 meters 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 places for worship.

After lunch leave to visit the north-west cluster of churches consisting 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

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodation: Mezena Lodge



Day 07: Lalibela

Today you will visit Asheton Mariam, as you make the ascent climb towards the monastery, the views becoming increasingly impressive. At the trailhead, there are views down towards central Lalibela and the rock-hewn churches, the trail then passes through small rural villages, and continues to follow the narrow, winding paths higher until finally reaching Asheton Maryam. The climb is long, but incredibly rewarding.

The monastery is still in active use, with a priest living their full time to welcome worshippers and visitors. There are many sacred items found at Asheton Maryam, including crosses and a Bible illustrated with colorful, intricate drawings, presented by the priest for visitors to see. Then return to the town and visit the remaining rock-hewn churches.

Take 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 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 08: 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 to refresh and get ready for today's departure. Later in the evening you will be picked for a farewell dinner in a cultural restaurant serving the unique Ethiopian cuisine accompanied by traditional music and dancing.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Later in the evening you will head to the airport for your departure flight.

Ramada Addis

End of Services

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

- 2 Pax – USD 2,943 per person
 - 4 Pax – USD 2,338 per person
 - 6 Pax – USD 2,185 per person
 - 8 Pax – USD 2,057 per person
 - 10 Pax – USD 2,068 per person
 - 12 Pax – USD 2,035 per person
 - 14 Pax – USD 1,986 per person
 - 16 Pax – USD 1,947 per person
- **Single Room Supplement – USD 275 per person** The above rates are quoted using Minivan for 2 – 8 pax and Coaster bus for above 10 Pax

Domestic flights:

- Addis – Axum – Addis - Bahir Dar// Gondar – Lalibela – Addis Ababa: with an Ethiopian airline's international flights **USD 682.00 per person**
- Addis – Axum – Addis - Bahir Dar// Gondar – Lalibela – Addis Ababa: with a non-Ethiopian airline's international flights **USD 1,072.50 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.

YOUR ITINERARY INCLUDES

Accommodation:	All accommodation as detailed on a sharing room basis with private facilities.
Meals/Beverages:	Breakfasts, lunch and dinner with one bottle of water outside of Addis as indicated 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:	An English/ Spanish speaking guide are included throughout the trip and local guide at each destination.
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

YOUR ITINERARY EXCLUDES

Miscellaneous:	Visa for Ethiopia.
Flight:	International & Domestic airfare.
Gratitude:	Domestic flight fare is quoted separately on the flight section. Tipping Alcoholic
Insurance:	beverages Early-check-in Insurance coverage of personal loss, injury, illness or damages incurred during your trip. We strongly recommend travel /cancellation insurance.

P

ch as drinks (unless noted), laundry, dry cleaning, internet, fax, or telephone charges and transfers/sightseeing or meals not included in “Your itinerary includes”.

s Baggage allowance:

Excess baggage charge.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

a 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.

s Excess Baggage:

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

:

I
t
e
m
s
o
f
a
p
u
r
e
l
y
p
e
r
s
o
n
a
l
n
a
t
u
r
e
s
u

.....**END OF SERVICE**

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, portage, 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.
