

TOUR CODE: WIE/ET174

SUMMARY OF KEY DETAILS

- **TYPE OF TOUR : - NATURAL, HISTORICAL, CULTURAL AND MOUNTAIN TREKKING**
- **DESTINATION: - GONDAR, SANKABER, GEECH, CHENEK, RAS DASHEN, SONA, MULIT, AXUM, LALIBELLA**
- **MODE OF TRANSPORT: - FLIGHT AND DRIVE**
- **DURATION: - 14 DAYS AND 13 NIGHTS**
- **ACCOMMODATION: - SUPERIOR 3 OR 4 STAR HOTELS**

DAY 1 ADDIS ABABA - GONDAR

In the morning we fly from Addis to Gondar. After checking into the hotel we visit the 17th century castles of the Gondriaanse kings, also known as the African Camelot.

From that time stems the extensive castle ruins of King Fasilades. We visit the only church from the 17th century that has survived the Muslim demolitions, the Debre Birhan Selassie. The ceiling of this church is painted with the faces of 80 angels. The walls have beautiful frescoes with scenes from the Bible. We also pay a visit to Emperor Fasil's pool where still every year dopping ceremony is held. We stay in a hotel, whose rooms are based on African huts.

DAY 2 GONDAR - SANKABER (3235 M)

Maybe in the morning some sightseeing in Gondar when we come short time yesterday.

Then by bus to Debarq. After a short stop we drive into the mountains to Sankaber where we set up our tents. From here begins our 8 day trek in the Simien Mountains. If we had the road not too much delay, we will cover the last few kilometers to the camp on foot to determine what to enjoy the wonderful views.

DAY 3 SANKABER - GEECH (3619 M) START TREKKING SIMIEN MOUNTAINS

Slowly we rise on a kind of platform with all kinds of beautiful flowers and trees hung with long beard moss. At some point we are at such a 3300 meters altitude on the edge of the break in the countryside. You can see tens of kilometers along this bizarrely shaped rock towers and precipices. The rest of the day we keep the edge of this break in sight and sometimes we walk along there. The terrain is sometimes a bit more covered with forest and there is a good chance that you encounter a group of gelada baboons. These are endemic animals with glittering golden mane and a beautiful "red heart". In the afternoon it really persevere before you reach the beautiful camp site of Geech. You have reached a plateau with the typical afro-alpine vegetation and a beautiful view. It is here one cold night with temperatures below zero.

DAY 4 FROM GEECH TO CHENNEK (3622 M)

Today we will need a good condition, because we need a heavier piece of land, along the edge of the cliffs to a height of 4120 meters. You can easily get to hang over the edge and `s 1500 to 2000 meters looking down, with the view of the somewhat lower stockade is breathtaking. Then on to the next camp. There is hardly a path and you can find that you have to get used to the altitude. An easier path may lead, among other things along to the next camp. This is also a wonderful place with unreal views at an altitude of over 3600 meters.

DAY 5 FROM CHENNEK TO AMBIKWA (3123 M)

Slowly we rise to around 4200 meters altitude. From here you have a view of the high ridge in front of us in which the Ras Dashen is. But first we have to the valley from 1400 meters down. The slopes are predominantly used for agriculture and the last part of the descent is rocky with a multitude of flowers and cacti. After having crossed the river, it is a small one and a half hour again rise to the camp in the hut village Ambikwa at almost 3200 meters.

DAY 6 AMBIKWA- RASH DASHEN (4550 M) - AMBIKWA

Today, the choice can be made between a rest day with a short walk around Ambikwa or a tough trip up and down the Rash Dashen at +/- 4550m. About 1500 meters up over a distance of 10 km and again down. From the camp site at 3200 meters you `s 9 to 11 hours on the road. Initially, many rising and again much later down. We really need the whole day and leave when it gets light. The first part is still occupied and we are already seeing early people who go to their lands to work. Higher up we get back into the zone with the reuzenlobelia`s and above 4300 meters it is really bare. After a false flat across a large rock area there remains a small piece of scrambling to the summit, the highest point in Ethiopia at 4550 meters. Then we go down the same route back down to our campsite in Ambikwa, where we fulfilled this feat, are warmly welcomed by our remaining counselors and companions.

DAY 7 AMBIKWA TO SONA

First we go down in an hour back down to the river. Then a long steady climb to over 3600m. Then many contours through regions with large agricultural activity where harvested end of December and will be threshed. Everywhere people to work in their fields. It goes up and down a few times before we arrive in Arkwasiye. A fairly large village whose houses have roofs of corrugated iron as opposed to the cabins we've seen before and also spreads here are among the fields. Then back up a moment and then slowly descend to our campsite. A beautiful place, on the edge of a precipice where are no other structures, but with a magnificent view over the valley in which we go down tomorrow. This is again a fairly long a hot day.

DAY 8 SONA TO MEKARABIA

We spent five days at or above 3,000 meters. Today we descend down to +/- 1800 meter final, where the lowland (to Ethiopian standards) begins. Immediately from the camp a steep descent to the river that flows through the valley. The transition is incredible. The relatively barren sparsely vegetated slopes you come abruptly in a tropical jungle. Big giant trees and chirping of

cicadas and crickets. Towards the evening we arrive at our campsite, where the views are stunning and the temperatures are comfortable throughout the evening.

DAY 9 MEKAREBIA TO MULIT

We have now arrived in the lower and so hot part of the journey. So to get up early in relation to the heat. We need a number of times through or along the river and crosses fields with sorghum and other crops. We often see homemade racks where children with slingshot chase monkeys so they cannot infest the crop. Along the way we take the time for a swim in a lake at a few waterfalls. Though in time we come this day to the camp where we can enjoy a great view of the palisades. In the evening we say goodbye to the guides who accompanied us on this trip.

DAY 10 MULIT- ADI ARKAY- AXUM

This day we almost only downhill. In about 2 hours we arrive at Adi Arkay. We settle down at a local café, while the luggage is loaded on the bus that took us into ± 5 hours to Axum brenge. Vooral will be in the first part of the ride, the Haweza Mountains, is still busy working on the road. We go down to the bridge over the river Tekeze (850 m) and then the road climbs gradually to over 2,000 meters and we cross the Tigray area to Axum.

DAY 11 AXUM

Axum is a small town in Tigray. There is a lot of fighting in the area and maybe we see here and there some being burned army vehicles stopped along the road or in the field. The roots of contemporary Ethiopia are in Axum. Axum was a major trading center in the 1st to the 6th century. There are huge sites that actually for the average tourist does not even deserve the respect. Best known are the so-called. Stelae, dozens of meters high granite pillars, which we see today. The best thing is probably to Axum that still comes at a very different atmosphere. Especially evenings in various bars there socializing and dancing typical Tigrays on z` where the women make provocative moves to the men who are supposed enthusiasm than from bank notes to stick on the forehead or breasts of the women concerned.

DAY 12 AXUM- LALIBELA

In the course of the morning flight departs. During the flight you get a good picture of the landscape strange shapes of the central highlands. Lalibela is located in a very mountainous area. It is a village that became serious in the past suffered from war and famine. Currently, there are a number of development projects going on in which people are, for example, for the construction of the road paid in food. Although the rock churches are world famous, there is still only a lack of tourism infrastructure. From the airport it is an hour's drive to Lalibela. Here we take a room in a good hotel. In the afternoon we visit the first cluster rock churches and the St. George Church Rock. Indeed, it is a wonder that people think these big churches have freely made by hand from the hard rocks. There is a certain serenity and wandering through the corridors and caves here and there facing blind and leprous beggars you find yourself in the middle ages. Lalibela is the leading center for the Christian Ethiopians to profess their faith. During the Christmas shop here tens of thousands of pilgrims in large meetings.

DAY 13 LALIBELA

Today we visit the second cluster rock churches. After lunch there is time for a bit of personal interpretation. Wander about the town, buy some souvenirs in one of the many shops or if it is very hot, the shade of the canopy of the outdoor restaurant at the hotel complex.

DAY 14 LALIBELA- ADDIS ABABA

In the morning we fly from Lalibela to Addis and End of the tour.