

TOUR CODE: WIE/ET 170

SUMMARY OF KEY DETAILS

- **TYPE OF TOUR : - NATURAL, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL**
- **DESTINATION: - BAHIR DAR/ GONDAR/ SEMIEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK/ AXUM/ LANGANO/ARBAMINCH/ KONSO/TURMI/ KARO/ JINKA/ MURSI/ DORZE**
- **MODE OF TRANSPORT: - FLIGHT AND DRIVE**
- **DURATION: - 16 DAYS AND 15 NIGHTS**
- **ACCOMODATION: - SUPERIOR 3 OR 4 STAR HOTELS AND LODGES**

DAY 1 ADDIS ABABA

Arrive in Addis Ababa. Reception and transfer to the hotel, where the rooms are readily available to freshen briefly before starting our journey of discovery. The exploration of the town starts at the Entoto hills from where we have stunning views over the city. We also visit the National Museum where we included can see the skeleton of the famous Lucy. Lucy is one of the oldest hominids on Earth, belonging to the Australopithecus afarensis. Then we visit the Holy Trinity Church where are the mausoleums of Emperor Haile Selassie and his wife.

DAY 2 ADDIS ABEBA - BAHIR DAR

Depart early in the morning from Addis Ababa. A short flight will take you to Bahirdar. Upon arrival, you will be taken to hotel and take a brief break and start the tour. Bahirdar city is located in north-western part of Ethiopia. It is the capital city of the Amhara Region and emerged one of the leading tourist destinations in Ethiopia, with a variety of attractions in the nearby Lake Tana and Blue Nile river.

Your first visit will be to Lake Tana and the monasteries. Lake Tana is the largest lake in Ethiopia and fourth largest in Africa, spanning an area of more than 3500 square Km. This highland lake set at an altitude of 1800 meters above sea level and was formed by a volcanic eruption. The lake is the main source of the Blue Nile and hosts several species of birds and wildlife. The island dotted all over the magnificent waters is places where some of the most captivating and oldest monasteries in Ethiopia can be found.

Some of 21 churches that are mostly spread out on the 39 different islands located on the lake go all the way back to the 13th century. The Churches contain the earliest religious and historical

manuscripts, awe-inspiring incarnations of ecclesiastic art, royal crowns and scepters used by early Christian kings and emperors.

In the afternoon we will drive (some 30 Km) and visit to the Blue Nile Falls the most spectacular water fall. It is known as **Tis Abay** in Amharic, meaning "smoking water". It is situated on the upper course of the river, about 30 km downstream from the town of Bahir Dar and Lake Tana. The falls are considered one of Ethiopia's best known tourist attractions. The falls are estimated to be between 37 and 45 meters high.

DAY 3 BAHIRDAR - GONDAR

In the morning we will drive from Bahirdar 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 dopings ceremony is held.

DAY 4 GONDAR - SIMIEN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK – GONDAR

Day trip to Semien Mountaion National Park. The trip starts morning at 1:30 Ethiopian local time or (7:30 International Time) after two hours and half drive we will arrive to the Semien Lodge and the car drop you there then we will have one and half hour trekking to Chikuwanit to see the Gelada Baboons. After some break we will drive back to Gondar.

DAY 5 GONDAR - LALIBELA

On this day, we will take a short flight to Lalibela and meet our local guide in the town. We will drive 23kms to the town where all the 11 monolithic Rock Hewn Churches of Lalibela are situated. On the first day, we will visit six churches which are called Bet Golgotha, Bet Mika'el, Bet Maryam, Bet Meskel, Bet Danaghel and Bet Medhane Alem.

DAY 6 LALIBELA

On this day after a brief breakfast you will visit the rest churches and you will continue to **Asheten Mariam monastery**.

Asheten Mariam monastery: is built on a ridge in 13th century, excellent views over the surrounding countryside at an altitude of 3150 meters. It is about 8 kms from Lalibela. The road to this monastery is steeply looked like a twisted rope hugged on the wall but very beautiful scenery

and rewarding to experience it. On top, it looks like flying over the town of Lalibela and its surroundings. Inside the monastery you find the 13th hand and processional crosses of King Na'akutola'ab who ruled Ethiopia for 40 years just after king Lalibela.

DAY 7 LALIBELA - AXUM

After breakfast, we fly to Axum. The ancient city of Axum is found close to Ethiopia's northern border. It marks the location of the heart of ancient Ethiopia, when the Kingdom of Aksum was the most powerful state between the Eastern Roman Empire and Persia. After you check in to your hotel, we will start a tour in Axum that includes visit to St. Mary church where the original Arc of the covenant housed in, Archeological Museum, Stelaes, tombs, and palace.

DAY 8 AXUM - ADDIS ABEBA - LANGANO

Early in the morning we will fly back to Addis Ababa and drive to Langano.

DAY 9 LANGANO - KARAT-KONSO

Drive from Langano to Konso.

DAY 10 KONSO – TURMI

Early in the morning we will start to visit Konso. The people known for its religious traditions, waga sculptures, and nearby fossil beds (the latter an archaeological site of early hominids). The Konso live in an isolated region of the basalt hills. The area is made up of hard rocky slopes. A Konso village maybe fortified by a stone wall used as a defensive measure, their village is located on hilltops and is split up into communities, with each community having a main hut. In order to enter a Konso village, you must pass through a gate and a series of alleys. These paths are part of its security system, keeping the village difficult to access.

DAY 11 TURMI - KARO - TURMI

Today we drive to Kolcho and Dus to visit the Karo tribe. **The Karo tribe** is a small, endangered omotic tribe with an estimated population between 1,000 and 3,000. They live along the east banks of the Omo River in southern Ethiopia and practice flood retreat cultivation. The crops that are grown by them are sorghum, maize and beans.

Like many of the tribes in the Omo, they paint their bodies and faces with white chalk to prepare for a ceremony. The chalk is mixed with yellow rock, red iron ore and charcoal to make its color. Face masks are worn at times and they have clay hair buns with feathers in them. Red clay mixed with butter is put into their hair and clothing is made from animal skin. The women scar their chest believing it makes them beautiful. The men's scars represent an enemy or dangerous animal killed. They also wear clay hair buns which symbol a kill. A man in the tribe

can have as many wives as he wants, but must be able to afford them. Most men will only marry two or three.

DAY 12 TURMI - DIMEKA – JINKA

If the day is Tuesday or Saturdays, Dimeka holds one of the most colorful markets in the South Omo. At the evening time if there is a bull jumping which is the traditional wedding ceremony. Then you will drive to Jinka.

DAY 13 JINKA - MURSI – JINKA

Early in the morning, we drive to Mago National Park to visit the Mursi tribes, who are known for their lower lip and earlobe plates.

DAY 14 JINKA - ARBA MINCH

Early in the morning you will drive to Arbaminch in the afternoon you have a boat trip on Lake Chamo (the largest lake in Ethiopian rift valley lakes) to visit hippos and Nile Crocodiles at Azo (Crocodile) market on the lake.

DAY 15 ARBA MINCH – DORZE - ARBAMINCH

On the next day morning drive to Chenchu village to visit the Dorze tribe who lives in the high land areas and surrounded by bamboo forest and well known for their traditional weaving and towering huts.

DAY 16 ARBA MINCH - ADDIS ABEBA

Drive back to Addis Ababa and End of the Tour.