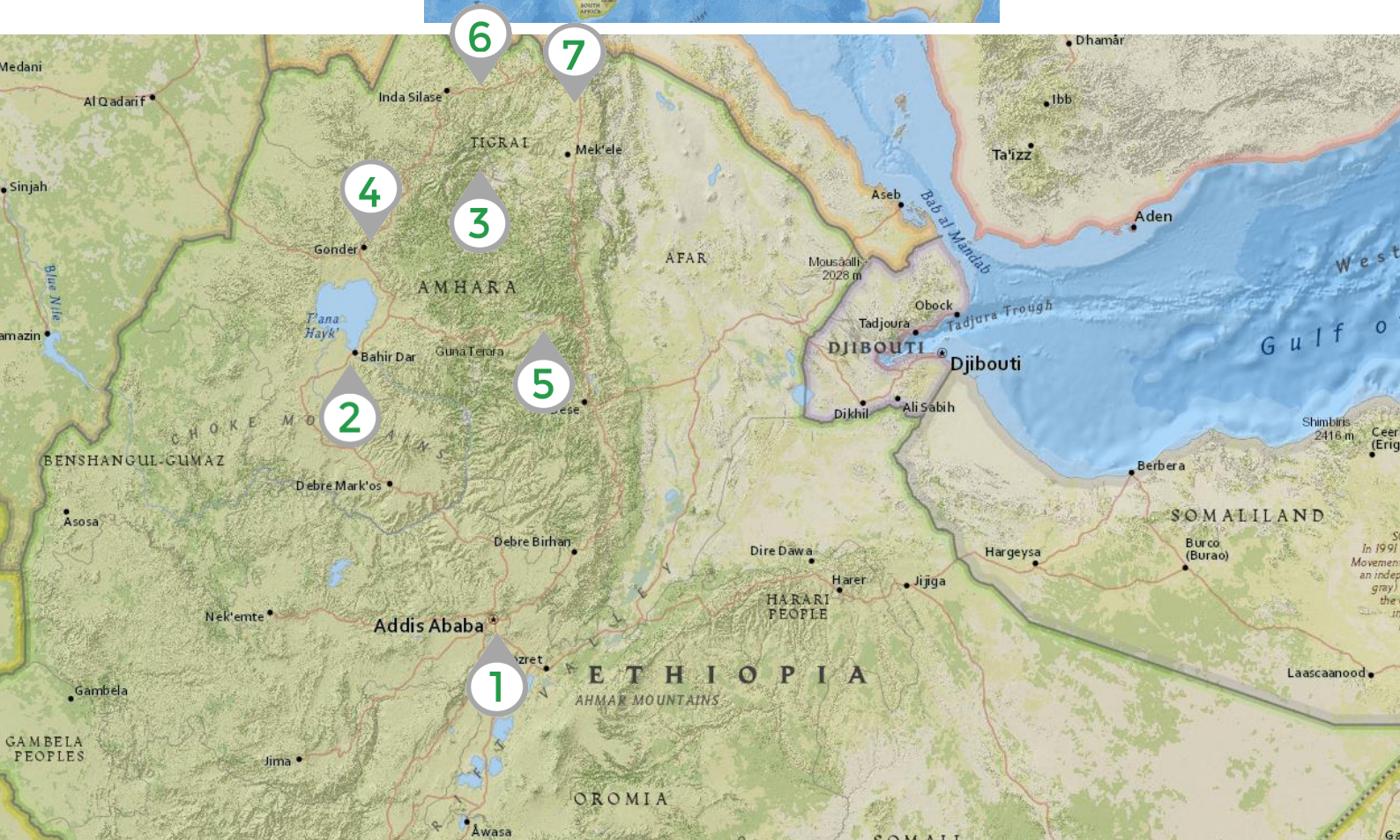


DISTINCTIVE
AFRICA



CLASSIC
ETHIOPIA

No.	Date	Location	Details	Meals	Hotel	Nts
	Day 01	OVERNIGHT FLIGHT	Depart Heathrow with Ethiopian Airways	-	Overnight Flight	1
1	Day 02	ADDIS ABABA	Arrive into Addis Ababa. afternoon enjoy a sight-seeing tour of the city	B	Jupiter Hotel Lobelia	1
2	Day 03	BAHIR DAR	Fly to Bahir Dar. Explore the Zege Peninsula in the afternoon	BLD	Abay Minch Lodge	1
3	Day 04	SIMIEN MOUNTAINS	Drive to the Simien Mountain National Park	BLD	Simien Mountain Lodge	2
	Day 05		Explore the National Park	BLD		
4	Day 06	GONDAR	Drive to Gondar	BLD	Goha Hotel	1
5	Day 07	LALIBELA	Fly to Lalibela, excursion en-route to your hotel	BLD	Hotel Maribela	2
	Day 08		Day at leisure	BLD		
6	Day 09	AXUM	Fly to Axum, city tour and afternoon tour to Stele field	BLD	Sabean International Hotel	1
7	Day 10	HAWZIEN	Drive to Yeha for excursion then onto Hawzien	BLD	Gheralta Lodge	2
	Day 11		Excursion to the rock hewn churches of Tigray	BLD		
	Day 12	DEPART /UK	Transfer back to Addis Ababa to meet your return flights with Ethiopia Air. Arrive back into the UK.	B	-	-





Day 01 LONDON HEATHROW - OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

Depart London Heathrow to Addis Ababa flying with Ethiopian Airways.



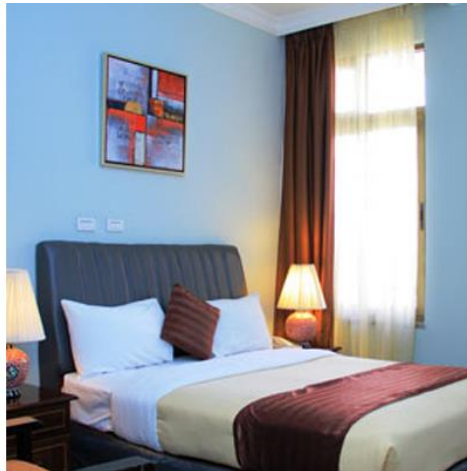
ET701 Economy Dep: London Heathrow 21:00 Arr: Addis Ababa 07:00 (Day 02)



Day 02 ADDIS ABABA

You will be met at the airport and taken to your hotel where you can relax after your journey.

Jupiter Hotel Lobelia



1 x Standard Room on a Bed and Breakfast basis for 1 night

The Jupiter Hotel is an international standard 4 star hotel located in the centre of Addis Ababa and within walking distance of the Uneca centre. Guest rooms are large and comfortable and feature complimentary amenities of bottled water, coffee and tea making facilities, slippers, hair dryer, safe box and Sunday business newspapers. Hotel facilities consist of complementary full breakfast buffet, 24 hour room service, Free WiFi connection and complementary fitness centre with sauna and steam. The hotel also has a lovely bar lounge area as well as a restaurant that serves international and local cuisine.

After lunch, you will be picked up from your hotel and taken for a sight-seeing tour of Addis Ababa including the National Museum, Trinity Cathedral and Merkato. The National Museum comprises of many archaeological and historical findings including the famous complete fossilised remains of 'Lucy' locally known as 'Dinknesh' meaning wonderful. Lucy is estimated to have lived 3.2 million years ago. Visiting this museum at the start of your Ethiopian itinerary will give you a great insight into Ethiopia and a good summary for your visit.

Trinity Cathedral is a beautiful church with a European baroque style of architecture which is unique to Ethiopia and is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Here you will find scripts of the imperial families, statues by a Greek sculpture, Stained glass window paintings from the Old and New Testament in the Bible and coffins of Emperor Haile Silassie-I; the founder of the church, and his wife. Merkato is the largest open-air market in Africa. Here you will be presented with a confusing but fascinating glimpse of the vast range of goods and artefacts available from all parts of the country.





Day 03 ADDIS ABABA – BAHIR DAR

You will be picked up after breakfast this morning and taken to the airport for the one hour flight to Bahir Dar with Ethiopian Airways. There are several flights per day so the below times are a guide only and can be tailored to your requirements.

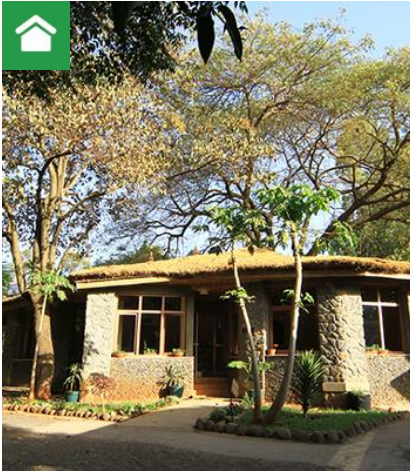


ET120 Economy Dep: Addis Ababa 08:10

Arr: Bahir Dar 09:10

There will be a private driver guide waiting for you at the airport, you will drive to your hotel, check in and then head out on Lake Tana to the Zege Peninsula and its famous monasteries.

Abay Minch Lodge

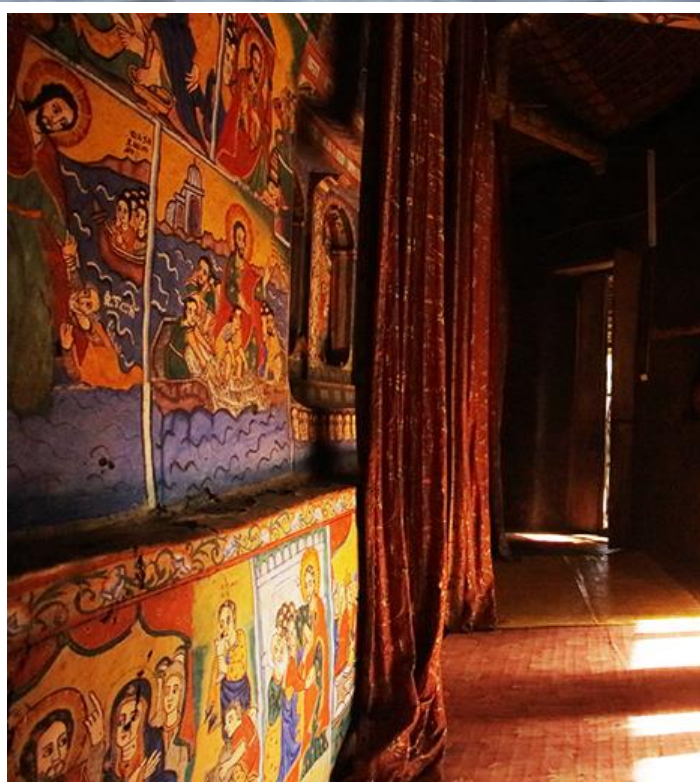


1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 1 night

Located in the heart of Bahir Dar, a city that is surrounded by the beautiful Lake Tana, the mighty Blue Nile River and the wonders of the Simien Mountains, Abay Minch Lodge is a fantastic option. The lodge is surrounded by nature, abundant vegetation and has a generally exotic feel. Standards of accommodation are excellent with 40 comfortable bungalow rooms, where you can reach out of the window and grab fresh fruit straight from the trees. All rooms come with flat screen satellite TVs and WiFi access. Personal balconies attached to each room give you a perfect spot to relax with a book or a drink. The on-site restaurant offers breakfast, a la carte lunch and a la carte dinner and also has a snack menu. The restaurant offers an excellent selection of dining options from traditional Ethiopian dishes to international cuisine with fresh ingredients sourced from the gardens. The intimate bar and lounge is fully stocked with a selection of fine wines and top-shelf liquors and is the perfect spot to relax for a drink.

Some people like to describe Bahir Dar as the Ethiopian Riviera. This sounds strange, but when you pull into the town and see the wide streets shaded by palm trees and sweeping views across Lake Tana's shimmering blue waters, you'll understand. In the 16th and 17th centuries, various temporary Ethiopian capitals were established in the vicinity of Lake Tana.

In the afternoon you will head to the Blue Nile Falls. The Blue Nile Falls is considered by many as one of the most spectacular falls in Africa. When in full flood the falls are very impressive at 400 m wide and 45 m high. The falls are an interesting site with some wonderful bird watching on the easy 30-min walk to the viewpoint. Hippos and crocodiles are occasionally spotted on the banks of the river, especially in the early morning and late afternoon hours.





Day 04 BAHIR DAR – SIMIEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, leave Bahir Dar and drive to head to Sankaber- the headquarters of Simien Mountains National Park- passing rural villages and crossing mountain passes with stunning vistas. The Simien Mountains National park occupies a surface area of around 180 km sq. The park, situated between 4,430 and 1,900 meters (6,200 - 4,500 feet), boasts varied flora with three marked botanical areas. The highest parts have meadows with little vegetation, characteristic of afro alpine zones. You will find the endemic *Lobelia rhynchopetalum*, small groups of perpetual flowers, *Helichrysum*, and the striking *Kniphofia foliosa*. The beauty of the ranges can be discovered by following Century old footpaths, and don't forget to look out for the Gelada Baboons who reside here amidst the local pasture lands. You can spend the afternoon walking near your lodge to spot the endemic Gelada baboon and appreciate the breath-taking scenery.



Simien Mountain Lodge



1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 2 nights

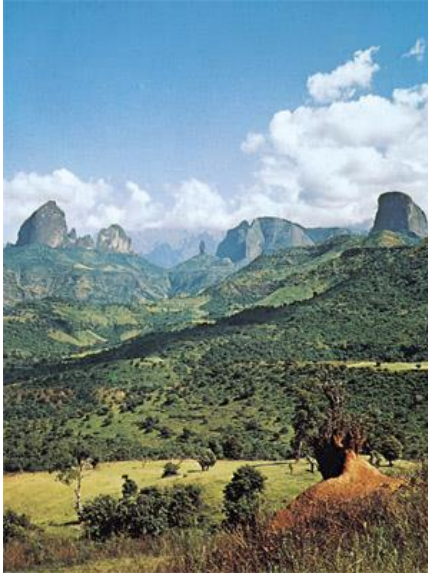
A tukel is the name that Ethiopians give to a house. In the case of Simien lodge each tukel is two individual rooms with two bathrooms. Each of the 26 rooms are of high quality with 2 large single beds (2m x 1m). There is a private en-suite bathroom with a shower and all rooms have under-floor heating by solar power (which of course works when there is sun). The beds have duvet bedding with pure white cotton sheets and each room has a sheltered balcony. The restaurant is a spacious area with a log fire centre piece. In the evening a set menu is served which is prepared by the in house chef. Meals are normally international fare but vegetarians and other religious foods are certainly catered for. There is an A la carte menu of Ethiopian and European food which is served throughout the day. The bar has recently been updated with warm comfortable furnishings and is the highest place to get a drink in the whole of Africa. The bar is open most of the day and until the last clients have left in the evening serving several types of Ethiopian beer, South African and Ethiopian wine and a variety of other drinks too.





Day 05 SIMIEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, head out on a day hike with a picnic lunch. Depart the lodge for Chenek where it's possible to spot the endemic, Walia Ibex. The landscape in the area is remarkably picturesque with panoramic vistas overlooking the deep gorges of the Escarpment.



The excursion today will allow you to explore the pinnacles, valleys and wildlife of this stunning region. The beauty of the ranges can be discovered by following Century old footpaths, and don't forget to look out for the Gelada Baboons who reside here amidst the local pasture lands.





Day 06 SIMIEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK - GONDAR

Your private vehicle and driver will pick you up this morning and you will drive to Gondar. Gondar was the 17th and 18th Century capital of Ethiopia and home to the 'Royal Compound' with many majestic castles constructed in the European middle age architectural style. Sites of interest include the 'Bath of Emperor Fasilades' and Debre Birhan Sillassie church which is the finest of the Gonderine churches.



The church was built during the reign of Emperor Iyasu (1682 - 1706). The inside walls of the front room are covered with paintings on cloth, glued to the surface. The ceiling is built with thick beams and it is decorated with winged angel heads looking down. The wall paintings depict scenes from the life of Christ, and Mary. You will have time to visit the Royal Compound, the bath of Emperor Fasilades and Debre Birhan Sillassie church.

Goha Hotel



1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 1 night

Goha hotel in Gondar is ideally situated on the hills of the city and a short distance from the royal enclosures. The hotel has 82 rooms and suites that feature excellent amenities including free high-speed wireless internet and flat-screen televisions. Additional amenities include a lovely swimming pool, souvenir shop, restaurant and bar with an open fire are also there to make your stay a comfortable one. Each room comes equipped with a private en-suite bathroom as well as a writing desk and 24 hour room service. The onsite restaurant serves local and international cuisine and is recognised locally to offer excellent cuisine. Staff are more than happy to help arrange local activities and are very friendly.





Day 07 GONDAR - LALIBELA

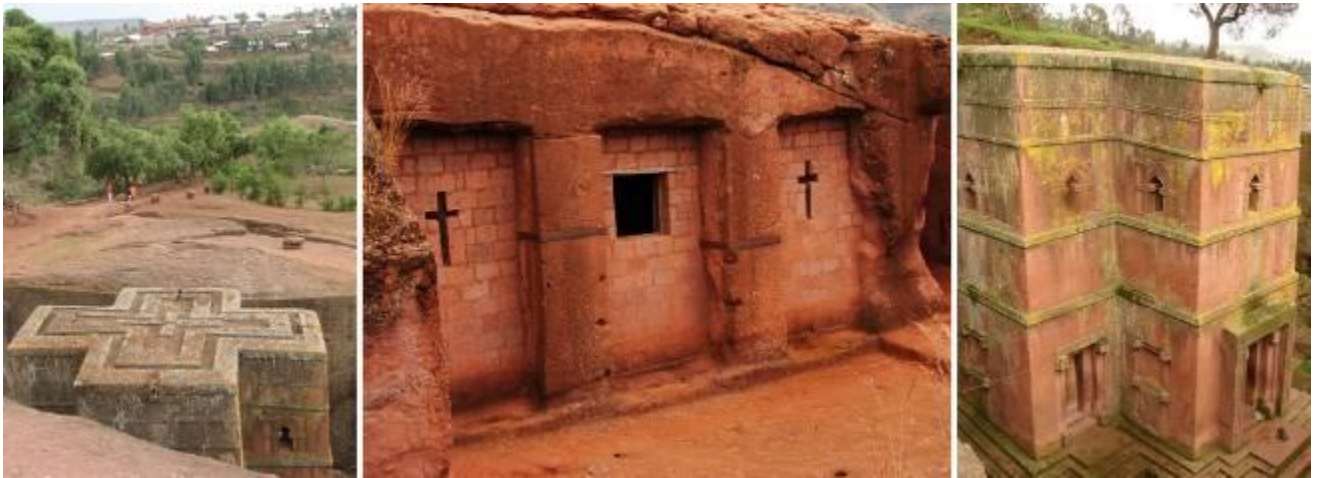
After breakfast this morning you will be taken to the airport for your flight to Lalibela.



ET122 Economy Dep: Gondar 09:15

Arr: Lalibela 09:45

You will be met at the airport and taken for a visit to the first group of the churches which represent the earthly Jerusalem. This group includes Bete Medhanialem (Saviour church), Bete Miriam, Bete Denagel, Bete Meskal, Debra Sina, and Bete Golgotha. Standing 38 feet tall with seventy-two pillars, Medhane Alem is not only the largest in Lalibela, but it is the largest monolithic rock-hewn church in the world.



After exploring the churches of the area you can head to your hotel and check in.

Hotel Maribela



1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 2-nights

Hotel Maribela is a new hotel located in the heart of the Lalibela Mountains near an astounding chain of mountains and valleys with the combination of beautiful scenery and convenient access to the historic home of architectural wonders of Lalibela, the location really couldn't be better. Each of the spacious and modern rooms come equipped with a private en-suite bathroom and private balcony offering breath-taking views of the Ethiopian Highlands, a cosy daybed is available so you can enjoy the stunning views. The onsite restaurant offers excellent Ethiopian and International cuisine. Every night there is a small bonfire and guests are offered a complimentary coffee ceremony and 'tej,' Ethiopia's famous honey-wine. The coffee ceremony is one of Ethiopia's proudest traditions and guests are encouraged to participate.





Day 08 LALIBELA

Day at leisure to explore Lalibela with your private English speaking guide. This morning you can enjoy an excursion out of town to Asheten Mariam or Nakutola'ab where you can visit Asheten Mariam, atop a mountain overlooking Lalibela, by mule back. The mountain views are impressive and panoramic and it's easy to understand why the priests at this church believe they are the closest to God. Lalibela is arguably one of the most important religious and historical sites in all of Africa.



There are no less than 200 churches in the Lasta Region of Lalibela, some hidden in enormous caves, but it's exceptional to find 11 churches of such master craftsmanship with elaborately carved details on the piers, capitals, and arches in one locale. These brilliant feats of engineering and architecture are often referred to as the 'Eighth wonder of the world'. The churches are said to have been constructed during King Lalibela's reign during the 12th and 13th centuries when Lalibela (then known as Roha) was the capital of the Zagwe dynasty. Many different theories exist on how they were built and by whom, including angels and the Knights Templars. Legend has it that King Lalibela was exiled in Jerusalem and returned to Ethiopia to build a new Jerusalem.



Day 09 LALIBELA - AXUM

After breakfast you will be taken back to the airport for your flight to Axum.



ET124 Economy Dep: Lalibela 10:05

Arr: Axum 10:45

You will be met on arrival and taken on a city tour that includes the Archeological museum of Axum and the Cathedral of St. Mary of Zion.







Day 09 LALIBELA - AXUM ...

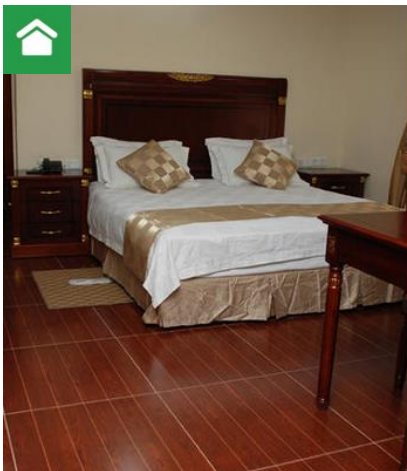
In the afternoon, visit the famous 'Stele field' (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the ruin palace and tomb of King Kaleb and King Gebre Meskel (5th and 6th Century AD) and the residence of the Queen of Sheba.



This simple frontier town is in fact a city of great importance as the ancient capital of Ethiopia. According to local legend, Axum was home to the Queen of Sheba and the current resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. The history of this area includes the Archaeological museum of Axum and the Cathedral of St. Mary of Zion. The original church was built by Emperor Fasiladas, founder of Gondar, in 1665. It's thought that this church is built on the original foundations of a temple built by King Ezana or King Kaleb in the 4th or 6th centuries, making this the oldest Christian site in Africa. Keep your eye out for the guarded chapel, which is said to be the home of the Ark of the Covenant. The modern St. Mary's of Zion cathedral dates from the 1960s when Emperor Haile Selassie had it built. The architectural style is painfully out of place in the ancient city, but the contrast between the buildings on the site is fascinating. The on-site museum under the church, which houses many of Ethiopia's priceless relics, is fascinating.

Following your day trip to explore the area you can then check in to your hotel and relax.

Sabean International Hotel



1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 1-night

The Sabean International Hotel is located on the main road in the tiny town of Axum, a great location from which to see the archaeological sites such as the ancient stele and witness parishioners dressed in white. There are 44 rooms comprising four suites, 28 twin rooms and 12 doubles. All are en-suite with a shower and decorated to an Ethiopian luxury standard with satellite television and there is WiFi at reception. There is also an ATM just outside the main door to the hotel. There is a restaurant on site offering local and International cuisine.

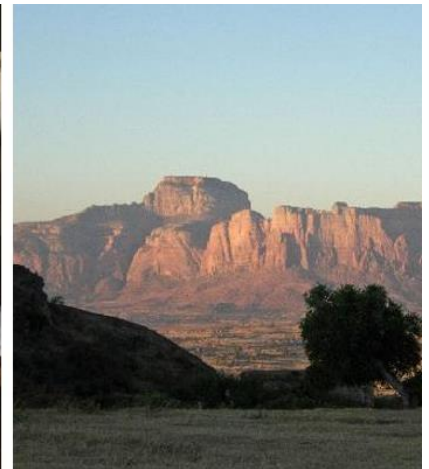
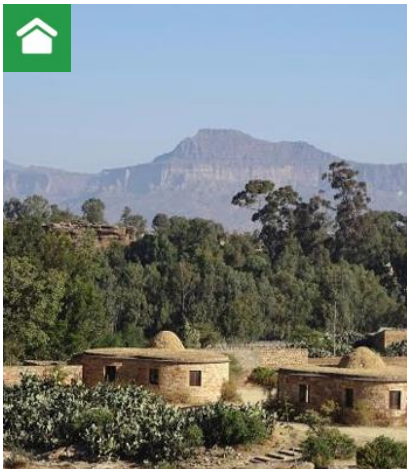


Day 10 AXUM – HAWZEIN

After breakfast, drive to Yeha and visit 8th Century BC Sabaeen temple. The temple is thought to be one of Ethiopia's oldest standing structures. Further drive to Adigrat area and visit the Medhane Alem Adikesho church, one of the oldest and best preserved rock hewn churches in the Tigray region, which also exhibits some beautiful wall paintings. A unique feature is the painted narthex connecting the north and south of the church. The interior of the church where the ceiling is supported by six huge square pillars. The ceiling is decorated with reliefs and geometrical patterns.

Finally drive to Hawzein for overnight in Gheralta lodge.

Gheralta Lodge



1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 2-nights

In the heart of Tigray, in the northern region of Ethiopia, lies a special accommodation structure, the Gheralta Lodge near Hawzen town. Gheralta area, with its unique chain of mountains, is the home of the rock churches, famous for their architecture, ancient paintings and manuscripts and their magnificent views. In a ten hectare rocky area, with four large secular ficus trees and breath-taking views of the Gheralta mountains landscape, an Italian family has built a fantastic lodge and restaurant. Enrica and Silvio Rizzotti aim to offer a family style accommodation – but with impeccable standards of finishing, maintenance and cleanliness – and good, simple cooking prepared with local products. Gheralta Lodge comprises of fifteen huts of varying sizes, each spotlessly clean and featuring comfortable beds, Italian furnishings, mains electricity, and marble-clad bathrooms with abundant hot water. The larger rooms can be converted into triples, suitable for families. The large main building of Gheralta Lodge houses a small lounge, library, and Italian-style restaurant.



Day 11 HAWZEIN

Today you will enjoy an excursion to the nearby rock hewn churches of Tigray. These churches are less frequently visited and represent one of the off-beaten paths in Ethiopia.



Day 12 AXUM – ADDIS ABABA - UK

You will be taken to the airport this morning for your flight back to the UK via Addis Ababa. Please note that it may be necessary to spend one further night in Addis Ababa to connect to flights the following day.



ET114 Economy Dep: Axum 07:15

Arr: Addis Ababa 08:35

You may need to check in for your international flights at Addis Ababa.



ET710 Economy Dep: Addis Ababa 11:00

Arr: London Heathrow 17:00

Arrive back in the UK.

Holiday Cost

from £3,545.00 per person

20% deposit is required to secure this booking

Suggested Itinerary

- This is just a suggested itinerary which we can amend to fit your exact requirements.

Includes

- International flights as listed.
- Internal flights as listed.
- All pre-payable airport departure taxes.
- Accommodation as listed.
- Transfers as listed.
- Meals as listed.
- Activities as listed.

Excludes

- Local departure taxes where applicable.
- Tips and gratuities.
- Any future currency surcharges.
- Any future airline fare, tax or fuel surcharges.*

**In the event of airfare /tax increases you will have the option to pay for your airfare in advance to avoid these increases.*

Booking Conditions

- Usually a deposit of 20% is required to secure a booking.
- The final balance would be due 10 weeks prior to departure.
- Please contact us for our full booking conditions.

Quote Details

- This cost of this itinerary is based on two passengers sharing one room.
- All flights, accommodation and services are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Air fares, taxes, schedules and routings are subject to change until ticket issue.

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