**Language**

Ethiopia has 83 different languages with up to 200 different dialects spoken. The largest ethnic and linguistic groups are the Oromos, Amharas and Tigrayans.

[Ge'ez](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ge%27ez_language) is the ancient language, and was introduced as an official written language during the first Aksumite kingdom when the Sabeans sought refuge in Aksum. The Aksumites developed [Ge'ez](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ge%27ez_language), a unique script derived from the Sabean alphabet, and it is still used by the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church today. Tigrigna and Amharigna (Amharic) are the modern languages which are derived from Ge'ez. Amharic is the official national language of Ethiopia. English, Arabic, Italian and French are widely spoken by many Ethiopians.

The Ethiopian languages are divided into four major language groups.These are Semitic, Cushitic, Omotic, and Nilo-Saharan.

<http://www.ethiopiantreasures.co.uk/pages/language.htm>

Numbers and Alphabets

Amharic as the offical language of the state and Amharic is written with a version of the Ge'ez script known as Fidel, refer the picture. There is no standard way to transliterate Amharic into the Latin alphabet. The Ethiopian script is not strictly speaking an alphabet, but what is called a syllabary. This means that each letter or symbol usually represents a whole syllable. Not only the alphabet system but the numbering system of Ethiopians is also different. The numerical system is used in the church writing only. The picture shows some of the numbers in relation with standard numerical system. <http://www.amharicmachine.com/default/alphabet>

Learn language