ABOUT

**Lalibela** ([Amharic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amharic_language): ላሊበላ) is a town in [Amhara Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amhara_Region), northern [Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia) famous for [monolithic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monolithic_church) [rock-cut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock-cut_architecture) churches. The whole of Lalibela offers an exceptional testimony to the medieval and post-medieval civilization of [Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalibela#cite_note-unesco-1) Lalibela is one of Ethiopia's holiest cities, second only to [Aksum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aksum), and a center of [pilgrimage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilgrimage). Unlike Aksum, the population of Lalibela is almost completely [Ethiopian Orthodox Christian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopian_Orthodox_Tewahedo_Church). Ethiopia was one of the earliest nations to adopt Christianity in the first half of the fourth century, and its historical roots date to the time of the Apostles. The churches themselves date from the seventh to thirteenth centuries, and are traditionally dated to the reign of the [Zagwe dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zagwe_dynasty) king [Gebre Mesqel Lalibela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gebre_Mesqel_Lalibela) (r. ca. 1181–1221 AD).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalibela#cite_note-metmuseum-2)

The layout and names of the major buildings in Lalibela are widely accepted, especially by local clergy, to be a symbolic representation of [Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalibela#cite_note-3) This has led some experts to date the current church forms to the years following the capture of Jerusalem in 1187 by Muslim leader, [Saladin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saladin).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalibela#cite_note-4)

Lalibela is located in the [Semien Wollo Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semien_Wollo_Zone) of the [Amhara Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amhara_Region), at roughly 2,500 meters above [sea level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_level). It is the main town in [Lasta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lasta_%28woreda%29) [woreda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woreda), which was formerly part of [Bugna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bugna) woreda. The Rock-Hewn Churches were declared a UNESCO [World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) in 1978.

PLACES TO

The Church of Saint George that includs the following

The Northern Group:

* Biete Medhane Alem (House of the Saviour of the World), home to the [Lalibela Cross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalibela_Cross).
* [Biete Maryam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biete_Maryam) (House of Miriam/House of [Mary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary,_mother_of_Jesus)), possibly the oldest of the churches, and a replica of the Tombs of Adam and Christ.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalibela#cite_note-unesco-1)
* [Biete Golgotha Mikael](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Biete_Golgotha_Mikael&action=edit&redlink=1) (House of Golgotha Mikael), known for its arts and said to contain the tomb of King Lalibela)
* [Biete Meskel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biete_Meskel) (House of [the Cross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_cross))
* [Biete Denagel](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Biete_Denagel&action=edit&redlink=1) (House of Virgins)

The Western Group:

* [Biete Giyorgis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biete_Giyorgis) (Church of [Saint George](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_George)), thought to be the most finely executed and best preserved church

The Eastern Group:

* [Biete Amanuel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bet_Amanuel) (House of [Emmanuel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immanuel)), possibly the former royal chapel
* [Biete Qeddus Mercoreus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biete_Qeddus_Mercoreus) (House of [St Mercoreos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Mercurius)/House of [St Mark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_the_Evangelist)), which may be a former prison
* [Biete Abba Libanos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biete_Abba_Libanos) (House of Abbot Libanos
* [Biete Gabriel-Rufael](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biete_Gabriel-Rufael) (House of the angels [Gabriel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel), and [Raphael](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raphael_%28archangel%29)) possibly a former royal palace, linked to a holy [bakery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakery).
* [Biete Lehem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biete_Lehem) (Bethlehem Hebrew: בֵּית לֶחֶם, House of Holy Bread)[11]

2) the traditional earth houses and analysis of their state of conservation.

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| **Population** (2007) | |
| **• Total** | 17,367 |