Aksum

Located close to Ethiopìa’s [recently reopened border with Eritrea](https://www.ethiopiaonlinevisa.com/ethiopia-eritrea-border-reopened/) in the extreme north of the country, these ancient ruins represent [**the last remains of the powerful Aksumite kingdom**](https://www.ethiopiaonlinevisa.com/axum-ethiopia/), which dominated the area from the 1st to the 8th centuries AD. Alternatively known as Aksum, this impressive Ethiopian World Heritage site boasts a variety of intriguing artifacts, most notably the **towering monolithic obelisks** (up to 23 meters high) that dominate the area.

Many tourists **visit Aksum in search of the Ark of the Covenant**, the Biblical artifact which is said to have been brought to Ethiopia by the son of the Queen of Sheba and held under guard **near the Church of Our Lady Mary of Zion** in this ancient city.

Gondor

Why [visit Gondar](https://www.ethiopiaonlinevisa.com/gondar-tourist-attractions-history/)? Nicknamed ‘**the Camelot of Ethiopia**’, this city near Lake Tana in the northwest is home to the **ruins of the fortress-city of Fasil Ghebbi**, the residence of Ethiopia’s emperors during the 16th and 17th centuries.

The compound is surrounded by an ancient 900 meter-long wall and boasts the **well-preserved remains of various royal castles** in the unique Nubian style. Visitors often feel as though they’ve been transported back to Medieval Europe (without leaving Africa!).

Lalibela(marvelious rock hewn churches)

**One of the first World Heritage sites in Ethiopia** to be added to the UNESCO list, in 1978, the rock-cut churches of Lalibela can be found close to this holy city in the north of Ethiopia. This **series of jaw-dropping monolithic churches**were carved directly into a rocky cliff face between the 12th and 13th century.

The Lalibela churches are considered **a place of holy pilgrimage in Ethiopia**, and visitors should at least **pay a visit to St. George’s Cathedral**, the best-preserved specimen, which is said to have been built on orders from none other than God himself.

Jegol

Found close to the border with Somalia in the east of the country, this sacred holy city is **surrounded by 13-century fortified walls and boasts over 82 mosques**, 3 of which date back as far as the 10th century. However, this historic city really earns its World Heritage site status through the **intricately designed merchant townhouses** that reflects the diversity of this long-time trading post.

Don’t leave Harar without visiting the **cultural center dedicated to famous French poet Arthur Rimbaud**, who once made his home in the city, or attending a**night-time hyena feeding show** just outside the ancient walls.

Awash valley

The Lower Awash Valley, around 300 kilometers north of Addis Ababa, is one of the most important UNESCO World Heritage sites in Ethiopia. Some of**the most significant paleoanthropological discoveries on the African continent** have been made in the area, some dating back as much as 3 million years.

These include the unearthing of **the bones of Lucy, an early human** whose discovery has greatly boosted theories of evolution. A replica of Lucy’s skeleton can now be seen in**the National Museum of Ethiopia in**[**Addis Ababa**](https://www.ethiopiaonlinevisa.com/addis-ababa-capital-largest-city-ethiopia/), but it’s worth paying a visit to the site anyway to explore the ongoing excavations. You might even find a fossil or two yourself.

Uncover the Tiya Archeological Site

Just **a two-hour drive south of Addis Ababa**, this Ethiopian World Heritage attraction could give the famous Stonehenge in England a run for its money.

It’s home to the**Tiya megaliths of Ethiopia**, a series of **standing stones carved with cryptic symbols** attributed to an ancient Ethiopian civilization. Although presumed to be of funerary significance, these stone structures remain a mystery, so it’s fun to **visit to try to figure out what they mean** for yourself.

Lower omo vallry tribes

you’ve ever been curious about experiencing a completely different way of life to much of the western world, then the [Lower Omo Valley](https://www.ethiopiaonlinevisa.com/omo-valley-ancient-tribes/) is a must visit in Ethiopia. It’s **home to a variety of indigenous tribes**, and visitors can **take a tour of the traditional settlements** and get to know the local customs.

This UNESCO World Heritage attraction also includes the Konso and Fejej **paleontological research** locations, where**ancient stone tools and fossils**supporting theories of human evolution have also been uncovered.

Konso cultural landscapr

Whereas many of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in Ethiopia are remnants of the country’s distant past, visitors can **experience real living history** at the Konso Cultural Landscape. This 55km2 area in the far south of Ethiopia, near the border with Kenya, is full of striking **traditional villages built on extensive dry stone terraces** used for agriculture, a living cultural tradition that stretches back over 400 years and 21 generations.

One of the standout features of the area is the **daga-hela, large stone megaliths** that continue to be constructed and used in rituals by the native Konso tribespeople, as well as the **waka, anthropomorphic wooden statues**the Konso erect to commemorate the deceased.

If you feel like exploring these incredible World Heritage attractions in Ethiopia, don’t forget to first check if you require a [tourist visa for Ethiopia](https://www.ethiopiaonlinevisa.com/tourist-visa/) before your trip.

**Greate Ethiopian run**

Ethiopia has much to offer to international tourists: from the [Blue Nile Falls](https://www.ethiopiaonlinevisa.com/blue-nile-falls/) to world-class archaeological sites and friendly and welcoming people, Ethiopia is a country many fall in love with.

The African nation is also home to one of the planet’s most famous destinations for adrenaline-seekers: **Erta Ale volcano**.

A continuously active volcano in the middle of a scorching desert, this is one **of the most inhospitable areas** in the continent. However, it is so unique and fascinating that many decide to make the trip here every year regardless of the harsh conditions.

It is crucial that visitors **arrive prepared**. Although seeing Erta Ale is possible and will make memories for a lifetime, there are risks associated with the local environment one should be aware of, such as dehydration.

In this article, readers will find **information and advice for** **visiting Erta Ale**, including:

* The necessary documents
* When and how to get to Erta Ale
* Packing and preparing for a safe trip to Erta Ale

## Documents Needed to Travel to Erta Ale

The Erta Ale volcano is located in the Afar region in the northeast of Ethiopia. **Most foreign visitors need a visa** in order to enter the country and travel to Erta Ale.

International travelers should check the specific visa type that best suits their circumstances. However, the electronic visa is considered by many **the quickest and easiest Ethiopian visa** to obtain. The [electronic application](https://www.ethiopiaonlinevisa.com/application/) means that the visa can be requested online in a matter of minutes from the comfort of one’s home or office, no need to make an appointment with an Ethiopian embassy.

Purchasing **health and travel insurance** is always a good idea. However, this is especially the case for those planning to go to Erta Ale, so that they can make the trip with peace of mind and know that they will receive support and medical attention should the need arise.

## How to Get to Erta Ale Volcano

Erta Ale sits in **the Dalakil depression**, about 100 km (about 62 miles) from the city of Mekelle. It is not recommended to travel to the Erta Ale volcano independently.

International tourists are advised to **hire an experienced tour operator**. There are several agencies available and many can be booked from Addis Ababa and from abroad.

Please note that **this is not a day trip** since the Dalakil depression is a vast desert area and Erta Ale is relatively far from urban centers. Most tours include:

**Websites to point to https://www.ethiopiaonlinevisa.com/ethiopia-world-heritage-attractions/**