Gursha

Tours

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**Overview of Addis Ababa main attractions:**

**About Addis Abeba:**

Addis Ababa is the capital and largest city of Ethiopia. Being home to the African Union, having important United Nations branches, and with nearly every foreign embassy from around the world represented, Addis Ababa is often referred to as the capital of Africa.

Located in the beautiful Ethiopian highlands, Addis Ababa is positioned at 2,665 meters in elevation, making the weather extremely pleasant, if not a bit on the cool side.

From the marvelous array of local and international food, some of the best coffee you’ll ever have in your life, to ancient churches, and fascinating museums, there are plenty of things to keep you occupied and satisfied in Addis Ababa.

**Main Attractions:**

* Addis Mercato

It’s crowded, it’s chaotic, but the Addis Mercato is so incredibly entertaining and full of life and character, that walking around is one of the best things to do in Addis Ababa.

The Mercato, coming from the Italian word for market, claims to be the largest open air market in Africa. There are so many different sections of the market and you can buy everything from souvenirs to clothes to food. That being said, it’s also a great place to buy nothing and just go to watch the crowds of people and observe the incredible loads being carried from place to place.

Do be careful, just like any busy place in the world, don’t carry an unnecessary amount of belongings, and take care of your pockets.

* St. George’s Cathedral and Museum

One of the most well recognized places of worship and icons of Addis Ababa is St. George’s Cathedral. The compound is located on the top of a hill, overlooking the Menelik II square.

To the side of the cathedral is a museum which is worth a quick stroll. It’s filled with memorabilia from the ancient church and a collection of religious writings, Ethiopian crosses, and clothing.

Inside the church you can walk in a circle around the cathedral, observing an incredible set of paintings portraying both scenes from the Bible and from Ethiopian history.

* Meskel Square and Museums

Meskel Square in Addis Ababa is sort of the central gathering place in the city, especially important during festivals and political demonstrations. Meskel Square also is a good point of reference for local transportation and for getting into the center of the city.

Unless there’s an event taking place at Meskel Square, there’s not a whole lot to do there. However, there is the official Ethiopian Tourism office across the street and there are two museums adjacent to the square, just off Bole Road.

* The Red Terror Martyrs Memorial Museum

Is a small and modern museum showing and explaining the period of “Red Terror” (from 1978-1978) in Ethiopia when countless innocent people suffered. The museum is free entrance. Also next to Meskel Square is the Addis Ababa Museum.

* Holy Trinity Cathedral (Kidist Selassie) and Museum

While St. George’s Cathedral is one of the most famous in Addis Ababa, the Holy Trinity Cathedral is the most sacred Ethiopian Orthodox church in the city, and one of the most sacred sites of worship in Ethiopia after the churches of Lalibela.

The Holy Trinity Cathedral has a real medieval feel to it, the grounds surrounded by weeping pine trees and the cathedral decorated with statues and carvings.

At the back of the cathedral is another museum, where you can see more Ethiopian historical memorabilia, crowns of former Ethiopian Emperors, and a selection incredibly well preserved Amharic Bibles and religious writings.

At the front of the cathedral, if you ask the priest to open the gate, you can see the tomb of Emperor Haile Selassie.

* National Museum of Ethiopia

In my opinion, this is one of the best museums in Addis Ababa. The facility is home to many of the most significant relics and pieces of artwork from around the country. I also enjoyed the variety of different art and displays.

First of all, the National Museum of Ethiopia has a good collection of archaeology, like precious stelae and statues from Axum. You’ll also find skeletal remains from early hominids, and a model of the famous “Lucy.”

**Full Ethiopia Itinerary**

#the northern circuit and the east

The popular northern circuit can be covered in between five and eight days by air or two weeks by road. Append some time in Addis Ababa and take a detour to the Simiens and Harar if you have time.

**Sites in Ethiopia:**

1. Addis Ababa

Don’t miss the National Museum, a fine introduction to Ethiopian history, or the incendiary local food and dancing at Habesha 2000.

2. Lake Tana

Basing yourself at the port city of Bahir Dar, take a scenic boat trip to the monasteries of the wooded Zege Peninsula.

3. Blue Nile Falls

Witnessed in the rainy season, the Blue Nile Falls are one of the most spectacular cataracts anywhere in Africa.

4. Gondar

Head north from Lake Tana to absorb the Portuguese-influenced stone castles and churches of the former capital.

5. Simien Mountains National Park

Day walks or overnight hikes in this mountainous park come with a certainty of encountering, among others, the endemic gelada monkey and spectacular lammergeyer.

6. Aksum

Explore the ancient stelae and ruined palaces that litter this most ancient fulcrum of Ethiopian culture.

7. Lalibela

A tour of the town’s famous rock-hewn churches could be followed by a day hike to Asheton Maryam or a drive to the churches around Bilbilla.

8. Harar

Fly east, via Addis Ababa, to enjoy this Islamic walled citadel and its legendary hyena men.

Tours

1

* 10 days Ethiopia

**Day 1: Arrival in Addis Abeba**

Arrival at Addis Abeba International Airport. Transfer to hotel. Walk through the city centre. Night in Addis Abeba.

**Day 2: Addis Abeba - Arba Minch**

Transfer to Arba Minch by private car, stopping at Langano for lunch. Walk through Arba Minch. Night in Arba Minch.

**Day 3: Arba Minch - Jinka**

Road trip from Arba Minch to Jinka, meeting the Konso and the Tsemay people on the way (Konso market on Mondays and Saturdays / Tsemay market on Saturdays). Night in Jinka.

**Day 4: Jinka – Mago National Park**

Game drive through Mago National Park. Visit to a Mursi village, whose women wear plates in their lower lips. Nigh in Jinka.

**Day 5: Jinka - Turmi**

Transfer to Turmi. Visit to a Hamer village. If possible, attend to a wedding ceremony, observing the bull jumping rituals. Visit to the Hamer Market (on Tuesday). Night in Turmi.

**Day 6: Turmi - Arba Minch**

Road trip to Arba Minch visiting an Erbore village and a Konso village on the way (market on Mondays and Saturdays). Boat safari through Lake Chamo, looking for hippos and the biggest crocodiles in Africa (6 metres long). Night in Arba Minch.

**Day 7: Arba Minch - Addis Abeba**

Visit to Chencha, a Dorze village famous because of the peculiar design of the houses and the usage of the "false banana" to cook their traditional bread. Return to Addis Abeba. Night in Addis Abeba.

**Day 8: Lalibela**

Flight to Lalibela, a World Heritage Site. Visit to the first sector of churches, including the famous Church of Saint George. Walk through the town. Night in Lalibela.

**Day 9: Lalibela**

Visit to Asheton Mariam Church, situated on the outskirts of Lalibela. Visit to the second sector of Lalibela churches. Flight back to Addis Abeba. Walk through the city. Night in Addis Abeba.

**Day 10: Back home**

Flight back home.

2

* ​**7 Days / 6 Nights Ethiopia tour:**

**Day 01**

**Addis Ababa**

Visit Trinity Cathedral, resting place of Emperor Haile Selassie. Tour the Ethnographic Museum, a great introduction to Ethiopian culture and history. Make a short drive to Entoto Hills for a view of the city and visit Maryam Church. En-route, stop at Sheromeda traditional cloth market. Visit the Mercato or the Sholla Market, two of Addis Ababa's main markets.

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**Day 02**

**Addis Ababa - Bahar Dar**

Fly to Bahar Dar on Ethiopian Airlines. Take a boat tour on Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, and tour ancient monasteries on the Zege Peninsula. We will visit two of the following monasteries: Ura Kidane Mehiret, Azwa Maryam, Mehal Zege Giorgis, and Bete Maryam. End the day with a sunset visit to Bezawit Hills overlooking the Nile River.

Overnight Lodge (B, L, D included)

Photographer

The ceiling of Debre Birhan Selassie.

**Day 03 Bahar Dar - Gondar**

Drive through the countryside to Gondar. Tour the Royal Enclosure, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring five castles built by a succession of Ethiopian kings beginning in the early 17th century. Having survived several wars, including air raids during World War 2, the castles are a testament to the resilience of this once mighty empire. Visit the church of Debre Birhan Selassie, famous for its religious art and especially its iconic ceiling depicting angels.

Overnight Hotel (B, L, D)

Orthodox priest in Lalibela.

Orthodox priest in Lalibela.

**Day 04**

**Gondar - Lalibela**

Fly to Lalibela on Ethiopian Airlines. Tour the magnificent rock-hewn churches, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This group of eleven monolithic churches were carved directly into the stone mountainside at least 800 years ago. This complex boasts the largest monolithic church in the world, a maze of passageways and tunnels, intricately carved reliefs, and fabulous examples of icon paintings. In the late afternoon, enjoy a traditional coffee ceremony and learn the process for baking injera (a staple food for much of Ethiopia.)

Overnight Hotel (B, L, D)

Photographer

Mt. Asheton, Lalibela.

**Day 05**

**Lalibela**

For the morning we have two options: Take a morning hike with mules to the 13th century rock-hewn monastery of Mount Asheton. The walk provides wonderful views of Lalibela and the surrounding countryside. - OR - Drive to Yemrehanna Kristos, a beautiful church situated in a shallow cave that predates the churches of Lalibela. The drive to Yemrehanna will give you the opportunity to view the rural countryside and villages of the Ethiopian highlands. Following either option above continue with tour of Lalibela’s churches in the afternoon.

Overnight Hotel (B, L, D)

Photographer

Axum's Saturday basket market.

**Day 06**

**Lalibela - Axum**

Fly to Axum on Ethiopian Airlines. Tour the ancient stelae fields, standing for 2000 years. Visit the new and impressive Archeological Museum. See St. Mary Tsion Church, which houses the Ark of the Covenant according to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (no one is allowed to see the Ark.) Visit other tombs and archeological sites as time permits.

Overnight Hotel (B, L, D)

**Day 07**

**Axum - Addis Ababa**

Fly to Addis Ababa. Visit the National Museum, home of the 3 million year old skeleton “Lucy.” Optional souvenir shopping in the afternoon. Farewell dinner at a traditional Ethiopian restaurant featuring dancers and musicians representing some of the country's many ethnic groups. Transfer to airport for late night departure if needed.

Overnight Hotel (B, L, D)

End of Tour

(Gursha Tours will arrange additional hotel nights in Addis Ababa upon request.)

**Inclusions**

* Entrance fees for all sites and parks mentioned in the itinerary
* All excursions listed on the itinerary
* Experienced, multilingual tour guides and guides' expenses
* Ground transportation via tour vehicle (including driver and fuel)
* All domestic flights listed on itinerary (actual flight number/schedule may change)
* All meals mentioned on itinerary
* Lodging for each night on tour
* All hotel/airport transfers during the tour

**Exclusions**

Any expenses of a personal nature

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**South route**

Ten to fourteen days is a good period of time to spend covering the Rift Valley lakes and South Omo. Allow longer to divert to the Bale Mountains.

1. Lake Ziway

Spot abundant birdlife from the fishing jetty, or take a boat trip to Tulu Gudo Island to see its ancient monastery.

2. Lake Langano

The most resort-like of the lakes could be bypassed by hyperactive, time-restrained travellers. Equally, you could chill out here for days.

3. Abijata-Shala National Park

This protected area near Langano warrants a day-trip, both for its aquatic birdlife and the dramatic Rift Valley landscapes.

4. Hawassa

Southern Ethiopia’s largest town is orderly and modern, and blessed with a gorgeous setting on a lake rimmed by monkey-filled forests.

5. Bale Mountains National Park

Allow at least three days for a diversion to the high plateaus and forests of this misty stronghold of the endangered Ethiopian wolf and mountain nyala.

6. Nechisar National Park

Basing yourself in Arba Minch, explore the best wildlife destination in the Ethiopian Rift Valley.

7. Karat (Konso)

Visit the Konso Museum and the fortified hilltop village of Mecheke.

8. South Omo

Continue southwest to this fascinating repository of traditional cultures, basing your itinerary around market.

4

**Addis Abeba museum tour**

1-The National Museum of Ethiopia

The National Museum of Ethiopia, also referred to as the Ethiopian National Museum, is a national museum in Ethiopia. It is located in the capital, Addis Ababa, near the Addis Ababa University's graduate school.

**Ethnographic musum-The Ethnological Museum**

2-Ethnographic musum-The Ethnological Museum, Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia, is a public institution dedicated to ethnology and culture. The Ethnological Museum, Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia, is a public institution dedicated to ethnology and culture. The Ethnological Museum houses anthropological, musicological and cultural objects. The Ethnological Museum is the first university museum in Ethiopia.

**The holy trinity cathedral church**

The massive and ornate cathedral of the Holy Trinity church construction started in 1936 and finished in 1944, was built by Emperor Haile Selassie l. It is one of the architecturally decorated, spacious, splendid stained glass windows and well-designed churches in Ethiopia. As well as being the burial place for Haile Selassie and his wife and the Patriots who fought for Ethiopia’s liberation from the Italians, it also has a small but very moving mausoleum to the leaders killed following the downfall of the Emperor in the grounds. Inside the church are some grand murals, the most notable being Afewerk Tekle’s depiction of the Holy Trinity, with Matthew (man), Mark (lion), Luke (cow), and John (dove) peering through the clouds, the immense stone coffins of the Emperor and his wife as well as some relics of the Emperor’s time. Outside, there are statues of angels and the four Bible writers. To the west of the cathedral is the tomb of the famous British suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst. Sylvia was one of the very few people outside Ethiopia who protested Italy’s occupation; she moved to Addis Ababa in 1956. There is also a small museum on the grounds that has over 146 various religious manuscripts, icons, ceremonial items, paintings, gold, silver embroidered robes, umbrellas, crosses, and books that date from the 15th century AD.

**Saint George's Cathedral**

(Amharic: የቅዱስ ጊዮርጊስ ካቴድራል) is an Ethiopian Orthodox church in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The cathedral is noted for its distinctive octagonal form. It is located at the northern end of Churchill Road in the city.

**Addis Mercato**

5-Addis Mercato or simply known as Mercato is a large open-air marketplace in the Addis Ketema, district of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the name refers to the neighborhood in which it is located.

5-

2 weeks Gursha custom

Days 1-2: Addis Ababa.

Days 3-4: Guassa Conservation Area.

Days 5- 7: Lalibela.

Days 8-10: Gonder.

Days 11-13: Bahir Dar and Lake Tana.

Day 14: Fly back to Addis Ababa

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**7 Days Southern Part of Ethiopia**

Day 1 Addis-Arbaminch

Drive Arbaminch on the way visit south Rift valley Lakes and see the spectacular scenery and Green covered lands of the country. O/n/Hotel/

**Day 2 Full day Arbaminch**

Full day Arbaaminch morning drive chincha Mountain and visit the Dorze Village. After lunch drive for boat ride on Lake cahmo to enjoy the most spectacular scenery of lake and see the largest crocodile, species which riches until 6-meter length. After visit Back to Hotel

**Day 3 Arbaminch-Jinka**

Drive Jinka with short stop to visit people of Konso, Tsemay,Bena and Ari tribes./ O/n Hotel/

**Day 4 Jinka-Mursi-Jinka**

Early drive Mursi Villages, the most celebrated residents of south omo.after visit drive back jinka trough Mago National Park. O/n / Hotel/

**Day 5 Jinka-Turmi**

Drive to Turmi via Key Afer village the region of the very nice Hammer people with unique hairstyle, Cultures, ornaments and traditions. O/n /Camping/

**Day 6 Turmi-Arbaminch**

Drive back Arbaminch via Erbore visiting the marled tribes, which are migrated to their present homeland from Konso perhaps two centuries ago. O/n/Hotel/

**Day 7 Arbaminch-Addis**

Drive back Addis on the way visit wondogent this place is the small and green paradise. After relax drive continue Addis.