

TRAVEL LOGISTICS – VISAS, DOMESTIC FLIGHTS, RAIL, SEASONS

VISA & ENTRY

- eVisa: Ethiopia issues tourist e-visas through the official portal. Apply, pay, and receive approval online; print or save approval to present at immigration on arrival. Beware of third-party look-alike sites—use the official address only. Some nationalities may also be eligible for Visa on Arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport—check the current eligibility list and carry your e-visa approval if using e-visa.

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

- Ethiopian Airlines operates an extensive domestic network linking Addis Ababa with major regional cities and tourism gateways such as Bahir Dar, Gondar, Lalibela, Dire Dawa, Jijiga, Semera (Danakil access), Arba Minch, Jinka, and others. Schedules and operations can change; verify current flight days and baggage rules. Discounted domestic fares are often available to passengers holding Ethiopian Airlines international tickets.

RAIL

- Addis Ababa–Djibouti Standard-Gauge Railway: Passenger services operate on certain days, linking the capital's outskirts (Lebu) with Dire Dawa and Djibouti. Check the operator's ticketing site for current timetables and booking. The line is Africa's first modern cross-border electrified railway, built to carry freight and passengers between Addis Ababa and the Port of Djibouti.

SEASONS & WEATHER (PLANNING SHORTCUTS)

- Kiremt (main rains): approximately June–September in the northern/central highlands; wettest around July–August.
- Bega (dry/cool): roughly October–February with crisp mornings and bright days in the highlands.
- Belg (short rains): approximately February–May, varying by region; in parts of the south, rains occur March–June with a shorter wet spell around October–November.
- Danakil Depression: extremely hot year-round; relatively cooler November–February.

HEALTH & SAFETY BASICS

- Altitude: Many destinations sit 2,000–3,000+ m—plan easy first days.
- Sun & Hydration: High-elevation UV is strong; carry water and sun protection.
- Road Travel: Allow buffer time for roadworks or weather; use experienced drivers for remote areas.
- Respect & Permissions: Follow park rules and local guidance; hire accredited guides where required.

SOURCES SUMMARY

Visa process notes reflect the official e-visa portal guidance; flight network and rail notes derive from Ethiopian Airlines network pages and the operator's booking/schedule references; seasonal definitions reflect the Ethiopian Meteorology Institute's Belg/Kiremt/Bega framework.