

SAMPLE ITINERARIES – 1 TO 10 DAYS (HISTORIC NORTH, CULTURE SOUTH, WILD EAST)

OVERVIEW

This planner provides retrieval-friendly building blocks the RAG assistant can assemble into tailored trips. Blocks use real, season-aware sequences and place names aligned with Ethiopia's main tourism corridors.

ONE-CITY SHORTS

- Addis 1 Day: National Museum → Holy Trinity Cathedral → Unity Park → Entoto viewpoints.
- Addis 2 Days: Add Entoto Natural Park trails and guided Merkato visit with coffee ceremony.
- Harar 2 Days: Old-town circuit, city museum, and hyena feeding; optional Dire Dawa day trip.

HISTORIC NORTH

- 5 Days (Fly Both Ways): Day 1 Addis → Gondar (Fasil Ghebbi, Debre Berhan Selassie). Day 2 drive or fly to Bahir Dar (Lake Tana monasteries). Day 3 Blue Nile Falls + evening flight to Lalibela. Day 4 Lalibela north/south church circuits. Day 5 sunrise at Bete Giyorgis; return to Addis.
- 7–8 Days (Add Simien): Insert 2–3 days for Simien Mountains between Gondar and Lalibela (Sankaber/Geech/Chennek viewpoints; ibex and gelada focus).

SOUTHERN CULTURE & NATURE

- 5 Days (Rift & Bale): Day 1 Addis → Ziway boats → overnight Langano. Day 2 Abijatta-Shalla park → Hawassa evening. Day 3 drive to Goba/Dinsho (Bale). Day 4 Sanetti Plateau wolf search; Day 5 Harenna Forest → return.
- 7–8 Days (Omo Focus): Fly to Jinka; museum + market; guided visits to Mursi/Hamar/Karo with community liaisons; time activities early/late due to heat.

WILD EAST & AFAR

- 3 Days (Harar & Dire Dawa): Old town walls, shrines, markets; evening hyena feeding; railway relics in Dire Dawa.
- 3–4 Days (Danakil): Semera/Mekelle approach; Erta Ale overnight; Dallol hydrothermal field; Lake Assale salt flats; mandatory permits and escorts.

FESTIVAL-LED TRIPS

- Timkat (19 Jan): Gondar processions and Fasilides' Bath ceremonies; book far ahead.
- Meskel (27 Sep): Addis Ababa's Demera at Meskel Square; pair with city museums.
- Genna (7 Jan): Lalibela's dawn services around the rock-hewn churches.

PLANNING GUARDRAILS

- Seasonality: Avoid heavy-rain travel windows on rough southern roads (approx. Mar–Jun); pack layers for highland cold nights year-round; Danakil is best Nov–Feb.
- Time Buffers: Domestic schedules and road works change—keep margins before international departures.
- Respect: Follow church/monastery dress codes; consent for portraits; stay on park paths and rock-church routes.

SOURCES SUMMARY

Sequences align with flight networks, road logics, and protected-area rules widely used in Ethiopia travel planning, tuned to the seasonal framework used by the national meteorology institute and UNESCO-documented festival dates.