



Icon Adventures • Licence no. 31920

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Ethiopian Discovery

DEPARTS:
NOV 1, 2012

COST PER PERSON:
\$6995

INCLUDES:

- Return airfare from Australia to Ethiopia (ex-Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne)
- Internal flights and transfers in Ethiopia
- All accommodation: double or twin share (single supplement available on request)
- All breakfasts, some lunches, and dinner in Addis Ababa on day 14
- Australian host
- Local guides
- National park, exhibit and monument fees
- Government taxes

Note - price is subject to change due to currency fluctuations or increases in flight or other costs.

Join us for a memorable insight into the beauty, culture and diversity of Ethiopia and its people.

From Addis Ababa, a bustling city nestled below the Entoto Hills, our first flight takes us to Lalibela, a world-heritage-listed town set high in craggy mountains. Lalibela is renowned for its 12th- and 13th-century churches hewn out of solid rock and connected with subterranean passages.

From here we fly to Axum, the capital of the ancient Axumite Empire which encompassed most of northern Ethiopia and Yemen. Marvel at ancient stelae (monolithic monuments) and the church which, according to tradition, houses the Ark of the Covenant.

From Axum we drive south to the Simien Mountains which rank among the most beautiful mountain ranges in Africa. The park is a World Heritage Site and home to a variety of wildlife, including large troops of gelada baboons and the elusive Simien Wolf.

Our next stop is Gondar, the Camelot of Africa, with its 17th-century castles and churches. Visit the elaborate Ethiopian Coptic church where rows of African angels gaze down from painted rafters.

Bahar Dar is next, a picturesque town set on the shores of Lake Tana, where we'll visit the island monasteries and the Blue Nile Falls while keeping an eye out for hippos, crocodiles and birdlife.

The tour concludes back in Addis Ababa. Visit the Mercato, the largest market in East Africa and enjoy some of the best coffee in the world along with sumptuous banquets of spicy food while being entertained by Ethiopian music and dancing.



Itinerary

Date	Activity	Overnight
THUR Nov 1 DAY 1 (meals on plane)	Flights from Australian airports.	On plane
FRI Nov 2 DAY 2 (breakfast on plane)	Arrive in Addis Ababa. Check into our hotel and rest. Or for those who would like get out and about, a visit to one of Addis Ababa's many cafes and patisseries is recommended. These serve excellent coffee or try a spris – a layered juice drink, which is an Ethiopian speciality.	Ghion Hotel Addis Ababa
SAT Nov 3 DAY 3 (B)	Early morning flight to Lalibela, a striking town set at over 2500 metres in wild, craggy mountains with two-storey stone houses that are quite different to those in the rest of Ethiopia. We are here to visit the huge 12th and 13th century rock churches carved below ground level and connected by a maze of subterranean passages. Each of the churches is unique and intricately carved. Wander through the northern and southern clusters and visit the most famous of the rock-hewn churches – Bet Giorgis – the house of St George.	Lal Hotel Lalibela
SUN Nov 4 DAY 4 (B)	Day-trip to the monastery of Yemrehanna Kristos. This church, built within a cavern on the side of a mountain, is said to be nearly 1000 years old. It is an excellent example of Axumitic architecture with alternating layers of dark wood and white marble.	Lal Hotel Lalibela
MON Nov 5 DAY 5 (B)	Morning flight to Axum, the centre of the Axumite empire from the first to the seventh centuries and considered to be the holiest city in Ethiopia. Afternoon free.	Yeha Hotel Axum
TUES Nov 6 DAY 6 (B)	Today we'll visit the stelae fields, where there are more than 75 obelisks in an area less than one square kilometre. We'll also visit Tsion Maryam church, said to hold the Ark of the Covenant.	Yeha Hotel Axum
WED Nov 7 DAY 7 (B,L)	An early start for a full-day's drive to the Simien Mountains. The road makes its way through villages and farmland, past relics of civil war then climbs steeply up into the mountains. As we drive towards the Simiens you'll get the first glimpse of their majesty, where huge monolithic mountains stand high over deep, shadowed valleys. Two nights at the very comfortable and unique Simien Lodge, the highest hotel in Africa (3260 metres ASL).	Simien Lodge Simien Mountains
THUR Nov 8 DAY 8 (B,L)	Morning walk along the edge of the escarpment. Fantastic views of the highlands. Walk to the Jin Bahir waterfall, which plunges more than 400 metres into a chasm. Drive further into the highlands to Chenek, where we'll see gelada baboons grazing in large troops and, if we are lucky, the walia ibex, a rare species of mountain goat.	Simien Lodge Simien Mountains
FRI Nov 9 DAY 9 (B)	A half-day's drive south to Gondar. Visit Ploughshare Craft Centre at the Falasha village just north of Gondar on the way. The centre was established to train and support young single mothers and specialises in unique handmade pottery. Afternoon free	Taye Hotel Gondar
SAT Nov 10 DAY 10 (B)	Today we'll visit Fasil Ghebbi, the seven-hectare royal compound containing six castles built in the 16th and 17th centuries by Ethiopian emperors and the beautifully decorated church of Debre Birhan Selassie, which houses some of the best ecclesiastical art in Ethiopia. Afternoon free.	Taye Hotel Gondar
SUN Nov 11 DAY 11 (B)	Drive south to Bahar Dar after breakfast. Afternoon visit to the Blue Nile falls or Tis Abay, which means 'smoke of the Nile'.	Summerland Hotel Bahar Dar
MON Nov 12 DAY 12 (B)	In the morning we'll visit island monasteries on Lake Tana, most of which were founded in or before the 15th century. Lake Tana is also famous for its paparus canoes, still used by local fishermen. Birdlife is abundant on the lake. Afternoon free.	Summerland Hotel Bahar Dar
TUES Nov 13 DAY 13 (B)	Morning flight from Bahar Dar to Addis Ababa. City tour of Addis Ababa, which at 2400 metres, is the world's third highest capital. Some of the highlights will include the National Museum, and Entoto Maryam church and the former site of Menelek's capital in the Entoto hills. Afternoon visit to the Hamlin Fistula hospital for those interested.	Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa
WED Nov 14 DAY 14 (B,D)	Morning visit to the Mercato, Africa's largest open-air market – an enormous maze of stalls, kiosks and small shops where you can buy tribal silver and jewellery, wooden artifacts, woven baskets, traditional embroidered cotton cloth and clothing and pungent spices. In the evening we'll have a traditional Ethiopian feast of spicy stews (wots) served on 'plates' of large spongy flatbread (ingera). There will also be traditional music and we'll have a chance to watch and/or join in with Ethiopian dancing.	Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa
THUR Nov 15 DAY 15 (B)	Day free for last minute shopping, resting or having that final macchiato or spris juice. Flights depart in the evening for those not going onto the Southern Ethiopia Odyssey tour.	On plane or start Southern Ethiopia Odyssey tour the following day



Live to travel: travel to give

Our philosophy

At Icon Adventures we are serious about responsible travel. We aim to respect the culture of the communities we visit and protect the unique environments in which they live. Above all, we want to ensure that your travel experience is unforgettable for all the right reasons.

Our team receives ongoing training to ensure high levels of environmental care. From off-setting carbon emissions to packing-out rubbish, our aim is to minimise the environmental impact of your visit.

We recognise that we have an opportunity to make a positive economic impact on the communities we visit. We always choose locally owned operators/suppliers who employ local people and offer reasonable working conditions and payment to local staff.

Icon Adventures supports a number of outstanding local community projects which promote environmental conservation, education and sustainable economic development.

Ethiopian community projects we support

- Grace Centre, Bahar Dar

The Grace Centre in Bahar Dar provides food, education and health care to orphaned and vulnerable children. It also offers childcare facilities and training to young single mothers so they can support themselves and their children.

- Ethiopian school desk project, Simien Mountains

Icon Adventures provides desks and chairs for some of the most isolated and poorly resourced schools in Ethiopia. These are manufactured in a local workshop in Debark and transported to schools in the Simien Mountains. This is an ongoing project: your booking means we can purchase a desk and bench seat which will seat three children.



LEFT: Chris Ramsey (left) and our local guide Israel (right) with a Debark workshop employee and the first batch of desks destined for schools in the Simien Mountains.

RIGHT: James Holden presenting medical and other aid to Marcie of the Grace Centre in Bahar Dar (see www.gracecentres.org).

A percentage of profits from this tour goes to the Ethiopian projects we support

Extra information

A 12 day tour of Southern Ethiopia, including the Rift Valley lakes, national parks and remote tribes, can be added to this trip. Please contact James Holden on 0403 418 263 or visit iconadventures.com for more information.

Warm clothes are advisable for the evenings in the Simien Mountains where night-time temperatures can drop to below freezing point.

After a cool start, day-time temperatures should be comfortably warm (around 20 degrees C). The weather during the rest of the trip should be warm (20-25 degrees C) with cool nights (5-10 degrees C). Bahar Dar is at a lower altitude than the other cities, so the weather here is likely to be warmer.

Vaccinations: Please consult your nearest travel doctor for the most up-to-date recommendations for vaccinations for travelling to Ethiopia. These may include: typhoid, polio, tetanus, smallpox, hepatitis A and B, yellow fever. Your travel doctor may also recommend that you take anti-malarial medication.

Essential items to bring: Sunscreen is very important. If you are taking anti-malarial tablets, these can make your skin more sensitive to the sun. The very clear air, especially in the Simien Mountains, can also quickly lead to sunburn of unprotected skin. A broad-brimmed hat is also very important in the Simien Highlands.

Booking form

To secure your spot on the Ethiopian Discovery tour, please complete this form and fax it to: **07 3103 4606**

Or post to: **Icon Adventures, PO Box 1121, Toowoomba QLD, 4350**

For booking information or specific enquiries about this itinerary, please contact **James Holden on 0403 418 263.**



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- Ethiopian Discovery tour (departs Nov 1, 2012) @ \$6995* per person (twin share)**
- Please advise me of single supplement or business class options**

PASSENGER 1

PASSENGER 2

FIRST NAME	.....	.....
SURNAME	.....	.....
HOME ADDRESS	.....	.....

DATE OF BIRTH	.....	.....
TELEPHONE	.....	.....
MOBILE	.....	.....
EMAIL	.....	.....
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME	.....	.....
EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER	.....	.....

SIGNED: PASSENGER 1 PASSENGER 2
DATE

Please send your deposit of \$1500 per person to secure your booking

Payment options (please tick preferred option):

- Cheque:** Please make cheques payable to Discover Africa (postal address is at the top of this form).
- Direct deposit:** Discover Africa Icon, BSB: 013 533, account number: 480 560 778 (ANZ, Bendigo). Please use your surname and the code ED1112 as the reference when making a direct deposit.
- Credit card:** We accept credit card payments over the phone. Please call 03 5441 8811 (a small fee applies).

* Price may be subject to change due to increased flight or other costs or variations in exchange rates.

Full terms and conditions are available at www.iconadventures.com



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