



Ethiopian Experiences

The wonders of
ET our Signature Guest Tour ET
Ancient, Historic Ethiopia



Dates for autumn 2025

Autumn 2025 tour:

Tuesday 14th October (evening flight) - Monday 27th October (daytime flight)

Join us on this awe-inspiring and magical tour of northern Ethiopia - twelve full days amidst mysterious castles, ancient monasteries, fascinating wildlife, warm and welcoming people - and culminating in the eighth Wonder of the World, an unbelievable land of rock-hewn churches in Lalibela dating from the 12th century, largely unknown to all but the most adventurous travellers.

www.ethiopianexperiences.com

Twelve days of unmissable experiences for just

£2890

plus flights and visa

**Everything else is included - accommodation in comfortable and characterful hotels,
all meals and coffee stops throughout the trip,
all site tickets, guide fees, tips and all land transportation.**

The itinerary

Day 0: Evening flight from Heathrow to Addis Ababa

Day 1: Coffees, chat and check into our comfortable hotel base in Addis Ababa, followed by relaxation and recovery before lunch. A short transfer to the Amist Kilo area of the city to visit the National Museum for a couple of relaxed introductory hours. Traditional Ethiopian coffee before returning to freshen up for dinner.


Day 2: A morning spent in the central Piassa area, soon reaching the magnificent St George's Cathedral at the top of the square for the first of our guided tours, learning about the fine building itself and becoming acquainted with the Ethiopian Orthodox religion that is so visible in this part of the country. Lunch at the oldest hotel in Ethiopia, the Taitu, followed by a brief visit to the Mercato, the biggest market area in sub-Saharan Africa. We shall not let you get lost, that's guaranteed! Some downtime and a good dinner.


Day 3: The only early start on this tour sees us flying to Bahir Dar on the banks of Lake Tana and checking into our particularly comfortable hotel. We soon transfer to a private boat and are off for a guided visit of one of the finest painted monasteries in the country on the wooded promontory of Zege, walking up through ancient coffee plantations. Lunch is taken back in Bahir Dar on the banks of the lake in an idyllic spot before a saunter along the lakeside Millennium Walk, taking us back into the centre of this attractive town. Relaxation followed by dinner.


Day 4: Joined by our comfortable Toyota High Roof and driver (with us for the next four days) we go out into the countryside to find the village of Tis Abay. A local guide takes us for a couple of hours hiking to see the Tississat Falls, meeting plenty of rural children along the way. Any who are not up for the hill-walking can opt for the shorter and flatter walk that lands up at the same place. Back to our hotel for rest and dinner.


Day 5: A substantial and varied road trip delivers us to the important town of Gondar, north of Lake Tana. There is plenty to experience along the way, calling in for a short, guided tour of the egalitarian


community of Awra Amba and its weavers before going over the mountains and on to our third comfortable base in this one-time capital city. Lunch over, we are on our way to one of the main tourist sites of Ethiopia, the Castle Compound dating from the seventeenth century and containing nearly a dozen fine and varied historic buildings. An excellent local guide to show us round!


 **Day 6:** Another famed site is our focus for the morning, the iconic church of Debre Birhan Selassie and again a knowledgeable guide. We'll do some talking about Eyayaw's special charities over a buffet lunch today, after which we're off for a couple of very contrasted school visits before getting back to Gondar for dinner in one of the two restaurants that vie for top place on Trip Advisor. Great food and, hopefully, rather special entertainment too.


 **Day 7:** A two-and-a-half-hour drive is necessary today to bring us into an area of spectacular scenery in the Simien Mountains. Our guide will be keen to find for us some of the most extraordinary creatures on this planet, the endemic gelada baboons who live in large and complex family groups. If we are lucky, we shall experience some remarkably close (but totally unthreatening) encounters.


 **Day 8:** A farewell to Gondar and a shortish flight takes us to Axum, a very different part of Ethiopia and the ancient centre of the once powerful Axumite Empire. We'll be with our local guide for two full days here. He'll tell us of past greatness and show us remarkable stone stelae on the ancient site in the centre of town.

 **Day 9:** We'll start back in the centre of town today to visit the relatively modern and impressive church of St Mary Zion and its museum of historic artefacts. But the Ark of the Covenant, reputedly being guarded just next door, will not be on display. On the edge of the city we shall visit the sites of some very ancient and important buildings and then, after lunch, we shall be off into the scenic countryside to visit the most ancient religious site in Ethiopia, the lofty pre-Christian temple of Yeha and its little museum, redolent of ancient culture and history.

 **Day 10:** Another mid-morning flight is on the cards for today, but nothing will prepare you for our destination, the astounding and unbelievable rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, the fine climax of this very special tour. We shall do this visit in two halves, today, after a slightly delayed lunch, visiting the north-western cluster with a suitably excellent guide to help us believe what we are seeing. We have a characterful and comfortable hotel for your two nights here.

 **Day 11:** The southern cluster is the focus for our second morning, culminating in the greatest of all the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, the cruciform St George's. From here we'll be able to move to the large Saturday country market, perhaps the best of the markets that we visit on any of our tours. After this energetic morning, we shall make sure of a relaxing lunchtime and afternoon, with a brief teatime visit to a simple house outside the town. The evening will undoubtedly offer you the most extraordinary dinner venue that you will ever have experienced!

 **Day 12:** A relaxed start to the day and a mid-morning flight back to the capital city allows us enough time to look back one last time at extraordinary Lalibela. We shall perhaps pick up some souvenirs in Addis in the afternoon before we say farewell to Ethiopia - at least for the time-being - by having a celebration drink at the Sheraton Hotel with its glorious gardens and almost unreal level of sophistication and comfort. We return to our hotel for a final dinner together.

 **Day 13:** A homeward daytime flight brings everyone gently back to some level of normality. But the memories will linger, we promise you!