



# Historic Route, Semien Mountain, Dankakil and Volcano (#20865)

**Note:** Price printed on this PDF is valid until **09-08-2025** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

## Trip Highlights

Addis Ababa-Bahir Dar-Gonder-Semien Mountain-Lalibela-Ert'ale-Hamed Ella-Dallol

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 01

### Day 01: Arrive Addis Ababa

Arrival into Bole International Airport, Meet your English-Speaking Guide and transfer to the hotel.

After some rest at the hotel depart on an Addis Ababa City Tour including a drive to Mount Entoto for a panoramic view of the city, National Museum the resting place of Lucy the mother of humanity, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Ethnological Museum, Red Terror Museum, Merkato which is the biggest market.

**Hotel:** Swiss Inn Nexus Hotel or Similar (Standard Room)



**Day 02****Day 02: Addis Ababa-Bahir Dar**

Breakfast at the hotel

Check out, Meet your English-Speaking Guide and transfer to the airport for your morning flight to Bahir Dar

Arrival into Bahir Dar Belay Zeleke International Airport, meet your English-Speaking Guide and transfer to the hotel

Take a boat trip over Lake Tana to the Zeghie peninsula to visit the beautifully painted Churches that are found hidden in the small forest: Azwa Mariam Monaster.

Second stop will be at the Bete Maryam Monastery (The House of Mary) located on the Zege peninsula, one of the oldest and most spectacular monasteries on the peninsula.

Return to Bahir Dar for Lunch, in the after visit the Bahir Dar market and do a city tour.

**Hotel:** Homeland hotel/Similar (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 03****Day 03: Bahir Dar**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning drive trip to visit Tississat named after the water falls of the Blue Nile River (the life blood for the Sudanese and Egyptians). Please note that you will have to walk about 30 minutes to get near the water falls on Blue Nile.

Travel back to the city and late afternoon take a drive to Bezawit palace for the panoramic view of Blue Nile River, Lake Tana, the town of Bahir Dar with a wonderful sun set view.

**Hotel:** Homeland hotel/Similar (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 04****Day 04: Bahir Dar-Gonder**

Breakfast at the hotel



Morning drive to Gonder, on the way visit the Guzara Castle, admire the wonderful landscape and views.

Transfer to the hotel where you will enjoy lunch, on the way visit the Awramba community in the Northwest of Ethiopia, which is an intentional community of about 500 people, founded by Zumra Nuru.

In the afternoon you will visit the Fasil Ghebbi a UNESCO World Heritage site, where you can see the medieval castle of king Fasilidas, King Yohannes, King Eyasu, King Dawit, King Bakafa and Queen Mentewab.

Also visit the Churches of Debre Birhan Selassie with amazing wall paintings and the bath of King Fasilidas

**Hotel:** Goha hotel/Similar (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Lunch

### Day 05

### Day 05: Gonder-Semien Mountain

Breakfast at the hotel

In the morning drive to Semien Mountain to visit the marvellous scenery of the Semien Mountain, the endemic animals of Walya Ibex, Chilada Baboon and birds.

Five kilometres from Gonder you will see the old village of the black Jews.

Take a hike to Jimbar waterfalls, do trekking and some time with Chilada baboon around the Sankaber campsite.

Late in the afternoon drive back to Gonder.

**Hotel:** Simien Lodge (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 06

### Day 06: Semien Mountain-Gonder

After breakfast, drive to Chenek and walk around to see the scenic mountains and views in the surrounding. Chenek lies at an altitude of 3800 m ASL in the valley at the bottom of the second highest pick called Buahit 4000 m ASL. It is the ideal place to see one of the endemic mammals found in the park, the Walia Ibex. They adapt living in the gigantic cliff age and high altitude.



This adaptation comes from habitat loss because in the past they used to live at around 2500 m ASL. The males are big in size while the females are smaller. With such a colossal horn curved to the back, the males are easily spotted sleeping on the rock or standing near the giant lobelia.

They are very solitary, the female are very close to each other and the family is organized by the dominant mother. It is very common to see one of the high altitude plant called giant Lobelia. When it grows fully, it reaches a height of 9 to 12 meters with a flowering part on the top. For this plant it is quite a struggle to grow at such high altitude where the weather is very difficult. But nature has it all in it

**Hotel:** Goha hotel/Similar (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 07

### Day 07: Gonder-Lalibela

Breakfast at the hotel

Today we drive to Lalibela Via Werota weldia. On the way visit the beautiful scenery, the Amhara people and their village, the real countryside of Ethiopia.

**Hotel:** Top Twelve hotel/ Similar. (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 08

### Day 08: Lalibela

Breakfast at the hotel

Today we will visit the 1st group churches which are included Bieta Medhanialem (Chapel of Holy Savior) which is the biggest and Bieta Mariam (Chapel of Mary): three aisled with mural paintings and a covered pillar containing inscriptions about the end of the world according to the gadl (act) of saintly king.

Further visit of Bieta Denagel (Chapel of the Virgins), Bieta Meskel (Chapel of the cross) and finally, the “double – church” of Debre Sina and Bieta Golghotha (women are not allowed in the latter since it’s where the remains of King Lalibela are and also because it contains the tabernacle of the Holy Trinity).

Afternoon Visit of the second group of rock-hewn churches that are namely: Bieta Gabriel and Raphael, Bieta Merqorios, Bieta Emmanuel with unprecedented Axumite style and the Bieta Abaa Libanos (said to have been built by King Lalibela’s





consort Meskal Kebra and visit the Bieta Ghiorghis which is the cruciform chapel of St. George

**Hotel:** Twelve hotel/Similar (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 09****Day 09: Lalibela-Addis Ababa**

Morning after breakfast you'll be driven to the charming semi-cave church of Neakutoleab, a church of the early 13th century. Inside, there are various artefacts believed to have belonged to Na'akuto La'ab, including crowns, gold-painted drums, crosses, a large painted canvas depicting ancient kings and an old, illuminated Bible. Intriguingly, the monastery has some ancient stone receptacles that gather the water that drips from the cave's roof, thought to be holy water.

Proceed to Lalibela airport for the flight back to Addis. Flight arrive around 2:30 and transfer to hotel. There will be optional city tour for those who want to exploit more about Addis Ababa

**Hotel:** Swiss Inn Nexus Hotel / Similar (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 10****Day 10: Addis Ababa-Semer-Ert'ale**

Morning we will have flight to Semera, afar region. Up on arrival meet our crew and then take police, do permit process and drive to Afdera. Lake Afrera is a hypersaline lake in northern Ethiopia. Located in Administrative Zone 2 of the Afar Region, it is one of the lakes of the Danakil Depression. It has a surface area of 100 km<sup>2</sup> and the source of 85% of the salt consumption of the country.

After lunch continue driving to the so called 'Dodum' which is the base camp for Ert'ale. So far, the road has two parts, the first and the largest part of the road is covered by sand and very flat land, but the rest of the road is covered by rock which is very rough road. Then there will be a short stop in Kusrawit, the place where supplementary scouts and camels for the luggage are arranged here by the chef of the village.

Afterward continue driving to 'Dodum', The Erta Ale volcano has been in a constant state of eruption for over 40 years. As the sun goes down you will start the 40 minutes hike up to the crater rim of the Erta Ale volcano. The hike will be done on foot as it is easy walk. At the top you will descend into the caldera and proceed to the crater's edge. Here you will see the permanent lava lake inside the volcano (the only permanent lava lake in the world). You will camp overnight on the rim of the volcano caldera



**Hotel:** Camping (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 11****Day 11: Ert'ale-Hamed Ella**

Early in the morning if interested visit Ert'ale the second time look at the volcano's lake of lava before descending from the volcano. Our chef will await you preparing wonderful breakfast in this wild desert and then drive to Hamed Ella

Enjoy the best sun Set and camping.

**Hotel:** Camping (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 12****Day 12: Dallol-Danakil Depression**

Morning, we visit Dallol, which at 116m below sea level is the lowest point on the African continent. Admire the stunning landscape, the ground many shades of red, yellow and orange from the hot water, acids and minerals spurting up from the ground. where lakes of acid form colourful sulphur formation in the hottest and deepest part of Danakil depression and you will also witness the cutting of salt bricks and salt.

Have lunch and then proceed to Semera.

**Hotel:** Kuriftu Resort (Standard Room)

**Meal:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 13****Day 13: Semera-Addis Ababa**

Breakfast at the hotel

Check out, meet your English-Speaking Guide and transfer to the Semera Airport for your flight to Addis Ababa

Arrival into Addis Ababa visit the Ethnological Museum, enjoy lunch and souvenir shopping, evening farewell dinner at one of the city's best traditional restaurants enjoying a variety of Ethiopian cuisines and watch traditional dancing transfer.



Transfer to the Bole International Airport for your night flight onwards

End of services.

**Meal:** Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

## Inclusions

Accommodation as specified in itinerary.

Meals as specified in itinerary.

Transfers as specified in itinerary.

English Speaking Driver as specified in itinerary.

English Speaking Guide as specified in itinerary.

Services of an experienced English-speaking driver-guide.

All entrance fees and guided excursions as described in itinerary.

All park fees.

Bottled water on all excursions and transfers.

## Exclusions

International Flights and Airport Taxes

Visa Fees (if applicable)

Medical & Travel Insurance

Incidental tips to hotel/lodge staff

Gratuity to tour driver/guide (This is not mandatory. It depends with the quality of service delivery)

All expenses of personal nature.

Any entrance fees and guided excursions not included in the above itinerary.

Early Check In & Late Check Out.

Internal & Domestic Flights (priced separately).

## Note

Hotels Used or Similar

Addis Ababa - Swiss Inn Nexus Hotel or Similar (Standard Room)

Bahir Dar - Homeland hotel / Similar



Gonder - Goha hotel/Similar (Standard Room)  
Semien Mountain - Simien Lodge (Standard Room)  
Lalibela - Top Twelve hotel/ Similar. (Standard Room)  
Ert'ale - Camping (Standard Room)  
Hamed Ella - Camping (Standard Room)  
Danakil Depression - Kuriftu Resort (Standard Room)

Domestic flight cost: Available on request.

**NOTE:**

All GGTS standard terms and conditions apply to this quote, these terms and conditions are available on request.

This quote is valid for 48 hours only and after 48 hours a new quotation will be issued on request.

All quotes are subject to availability and change due to airfare increases, hotel rate increases, currency exchange fluctuations and any other unforeseen circumstances all without prior notice.

Please check and re-confirm all services on this itinerary with Itravel prior to final booking, failure to do so may result in incorrectly scheduled services for which Itravel will not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Itinerary and journey times are close approximations and are subject to change without prior notice.

**Light Aircraft Flights:**

-Baggage allowance is normally restricted between 15kg to 30 kg (depending on country, aviation supplier and seat class chosen) per passenger, inclusive of hand luggage in soft bags. Excess baggage will be charged at prevailing rates and only carried subject to space availability.

-Timings in remote areas such as national parks may vary from day to day. It is very important that your clients ask their tour guide or lodge manager to reconfirm flights 24 hours before departure. This reconfirmation process will give the departure and arrival details for the flight(s) the following day and will save unnecessary waiting time and discomfort. Charter companies reserves the right to change departure times or carrier when so required for operational, weather or safety reasons.

-Passenger weights limits apply for light aircraft flights and additional seats may be required if exceeding the weight limit. However, please let us know in advance if this is likely to apply so we can do whatever is possible to minimize the likelihood of this becoming an issue.

## **Program Touring / Guide**

Private touring

## **Periodic Departure**





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