

ADDIS ABABA 2021 TOURING

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ADDIS ABABA TOURING

City Tour of Addis Ababa

After breakfast depart with your guide and drive to Entoto Hills, which offers captivating insight into Addis Ababa. Mt. Entoto is the highest peak in Addis reaching 3,200 meters above sea level, giving the opportunity to catch stunning views over the city and the surrounding area from the summit. It is the first settlement in Addis Ababa where Emperor Menelik II resided and built his palace in 1887 and offers a unique glimpse into the history of Ethiopia's distinct culture. The compound at the peak hosts the Entoto Mariam church, an Ethiopian artefact museum, as well as Menelik II palace.

As you drive up the hill there is an appreciable drop in temperature and the air is filled with the scent of the Eucalyptus trees which line the road.

On the way up the roadside, stalls offer fresh Ethiopian coffee. If you have an interest in Ethiopian traditional clothes, it will be possible to stop by at the Shero Meda Market, time permitting. There is a wide variety of beautiful fabrics, shawls, scarves, dresses, tops and jewelry with lots of choice and offers an opportunity to buy gifts or souvenirs.

Continue to the National Museum, which ranks among the most important museums in sub- Sahara Africa. It is famous guest Lucy, One could find exhibits ranging from the 3.5 million-year-old bones of Lucy

Next, you visit the Holy Trinity Cathedral, which was built to commemorate the country's liberation from Italian occupation. It is also the burial place for many famous people and once the largest Ethiopian Orthodox Cathedral.

After lunch you'll visit open air markets, 'Mercato', covering several square miles and employing an estimated 13,000 people in 7,100 business entities.

Return to your hotel.

Price: Upon Request



SURROUNDING AREAS – FULL DAY EXCURSIONS

Debre Libanos

After breakfast, you will be driven 110km north from Addis Ababa over the Entoto Mountains passing through the Sululta Plains to the Monastery of Debre Libanos founded in the 13th century by Abune Tekle Haymanot. Overlooking Jemma River Gorge, a tributary of the Blue Nile, the Monastery owns ecclesiastical, cultural and historical relics, and boasts a rare grove of trees that have disappeared from elsewhere in the region. Drive to a 16th Century Bridge still in use today and said to have been built by Portuguese.

In the evening you will have a wonderful cultural dinner at one of Addis Ababa Restaurants; Ethiopia is a mosaic of people with more than 80 languages, different lifestyles, costumes and cultural dances. Take a chance to experience some of these cultural dances and traditional meals with a drink of Tej, a type of wine made from Honey.

Price: Upon Request

Tiya, Adadi Mariam and Melka Kunture

Pick up at 7.30 am, then head south-west on the Jimma road, before turning due south on to the Butajira Road. Melka Kunture lies near the Awash River Gorge and is one of the most important neolithic sites in Ethiopia. Hand axes and various other implements have been found here.

About 5 km further on the Butajira Road, is the rock hewn church of Adadi Mariam, contemporaneous with those of Lalibela - in fact local tradition ascribes it to King Lalibela who is said to have had it built on his visit to Mount Zuqwala in 1106. Damaged during the wars with Ahmed Gragn in the 16th century, it fell into disuse and was only reopened in the time of Menelik II. It is today in regular use.

Tiya, classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, where one can see the northernmost example of a peculiar type of engraved, standing stellae which stretch across parts of southern Ethiopia. These stellae are believed to have been erected between the 12th and 14th centuries and are almost certainly grave markers - recent excavations at Tiya have revealed the remains of young people of both sexes, aged between 18 - 30 and buried in frontal positions.

Take a picnic lunch, perhaps near the Awash River Gorge, and leave for the return journey to Addis Ababa midafternoon. Then transfer to the airport for final departure.

Price: Upon Request



Wonchi

Set off at 7.00, heading west on the Ambo road. pass the Gefursa reservoir, Menagesha Forest to the south of the road, the Holetta River (a tributary of the Awash), the small town of Addis Alem where Menelik II once planned to make his capital, before reaching Ambo, some 120 km from the capital. The area between Addis Alem and Ambo contains the intersections of three of Ethiopia's major river basins: those of the Awash, Omo and Guder.

Stop for some refreshment in the town of Ambo, from where Ethiopia's most famous mineral water is drawn, before driving up nearly 1000 meters in 27 km to the rim of the Wonchi crater, where visitors will see one of the most beautiful sites in Ethiopia - verdant forests, a lake with islands, all within the crater.

Price: Upon Request



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