

ITINERARY IN SUMMARY

DATE	CITY	ACCOMMODATION	MEALS
Day 01	Arrive Addis Ababa	Sheraton Addis Hotel (Standard Room)	-L-D
Day 02	Addis – Weliso	Negash Lodge	B-L-D
Day 03	Weliso – Bonga	Coffee Land Hotel	B-L-D
Day 04	Bonga	Coffee Lands Hotel	B-L-D
Day 05	Bonga – Mizan Teferi	Salayesh Hotel	B-L-D
Day 06	Mizan Teferi – Jimma	Haney Land Hotel	B-L-D
Day 07	Jimma – Hawassa	Haile Resort Hotel	B-L-D
Day 08	Hawassa – Yirga Chefe – Yirga Alem	Aregash Lodge	B-L-D
Day 09	Yirga Alem – Addis Ababa	Sheraton Addis Hotel (Standard Room)	B-L-D
Day 10	Departure		B-

ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Day 01, Arrival at Addis Ababa

-L-D

Welcome to Addis Ababa.

Addis Ababa “New Flower”, is the third highest capital in the world. It is located at 3,000m above sea level. Addis Ababa is a pleasant city with wide avenues of jacaranda trees, interesting museums and one of the largest open-air markets in Africa, “Mercato”.

Addis Ababa is Africa’s diplomatic capital with headquarters for the Organization of African Unity and the United Nation Economic Commissions for Africa. The capital is rich in impressive monuments of colonial architecture that are scattered among stretches of sun-bleached shacks.

On your arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, welcome by Kibran Tours staff and get transferred to your hotel, after taking a rest start explore Addis Ababa, first visit the Ethnographic Museum, with its two main sections covering local crafts and on regions and people, this museum is an ideal place to start learning about Ethiopia’s rich ethnic diversity. The museum has an impressive array of religious crosses, triptychs and murals, as well as Haile Selassie’s (Ethiopia’s last Emperor) bedroom and bathroom.

The National Archaeological Museum ranks among the most important museums in sub- Sahara Africa. It housed the 3.5 million-year-old bones of Lucy. Lucy is believed to be the ancestor of all Human kind. It has lots of ancient exhibits that reflect the importance of Ethiopia as the ‘Cradle of Mankind’. Its historic room features finery worn in the wars, such as crowns, weapons, and pictures of wartime heroes and kings. Lunch at the gate of the Museum – famous Lucy gazebo restaurant serve both local and international dishes.

On the way back to the hotel pass to the Holy Trinity Cathedral, built in 1945, this cathedral is renowned for its stunning stain-glassed windows which depict scenes from the Old and New Testament of the Holy Bible. The Trinity Cathedral also houses the tombs of the late emperor and his family as well as the tomb of English feminist Sylvia Pankhurst.

Accommodation: *Sheraton Addis Hotel*, www.luxurycollection.com

Day 02, Drive to Weliso

B-L-D

You’ll start the journey towards the western coffee region of Kaffa. First, you will visit Mt Menagesha, 3,400 m, an extinct volcano, which hosts the Menagesha State Forest, one of the oldest reforestation projects in the Ethiopia. Here you take a short walk to experience the special flora.

Later you will have a visit of Addis Alem, where Emperor Menelik II wanted to build the new capital because of wood shortages in Addis Ababa.

Accommodation: *Negash Lodge*

Day 03, Drive to Bonga

B-L-D

The trip continues through Jimma, the largest and most important city in western Ethiopia. Jimma welcomes you with a monumental coffee pot at the roundabout. This is the Kaffa region, area of origin of the coffee, and it is still the region in which one of the best and most popular coffee is harvested.

We will visit the Coffee Research Center in Jimma Melko – where you’ll learn a lot about the genetic diversity of coffee plants, farming methods and protection against pests.

After lunch, we’ll drive to Bonga, the former capital of the kingdom of Kaffa, one of the last Oromo kingdoms. In this region there are the largest contiguous original cloud forests of the country.

Accommodation: *Coffee Land Hotel*

Day 04, Bonga and surroundings

B-L-D

Today after breakfast have a short ride and a half an hour walk then you’ll reach the origin of coffee plant, from which all other coffee plants originate. This is the real birthplace of coffee.

The legend said that a young goatherd named Kaldi watched his goats became hyperactive after they ate beans from a bush. Soon had the news spread about the godly effect of the plant, the monks could pray longer without tiredness. The slave-trade route to the east spread the popularity of the coffee from the Kaffa region to Harar, from there to Arabia and further into the world.

The afternoon is free to explore the beautiful natural surroundings of Bonga and drive back to Bonga for overnight stay.

Accommodation: Coffee Land Hotel

Day 05, Drive to Mizan Tefery B-L-D

Today after breakfast drive to Mizan Teferi. On the way, we will have a short hike in the beautiful surroundings of Bonga and visit the Wushwush tea plantation. Then drive to Bebek coffee plantation. After a short drive you'll reach the biggest and oldest plantation of Ethiopia. You'll have a guided tour through the coffee plantation and facilities and stay overnight in the coffee plantation's beautiful guesthouse. Late afternoon drive back to Mizan and overnight Salayesh hotel/Similar guest house.

Accommodation: Salayesh Hotel

Day 06, Drive back to Jimma B-L-

Today after breakfast drive to Jimma, after check in to your hotel visit the former palace of the Kaffa king Abba Jiffar II who died 1933. Here you can see some items such as the royal throne overnight at Jimma Central/Similar. The region of Jimma produces a large part of Ethiopian coffee.

Accommodation: Haney Land Hotel

Day 07, Drive to Hawassa B-L-D

Today is a long trip to visit the other best coffee plantation area of the Yirgachefee. So we will pass through Sodo and drive to Awassa. Overnight at Haile resort or Similar.

Accommodation: Haile Resort, www.hailerresort.com

Day 08, Awassa – Yirga Chefe – Yirga Alem B-L-D

Today after breakfast drive to Yirgacheffe, where one of the most popular coffees in the world is harvested. On our journey to the south along the main road leading up to Kenya, you will discover other coffee plantations. In this area, several coffee cooperatives with lovely plantations can be seen. Many of the excellent coffee we have in Third Wave Coffee shops and roasters are interestingly aromatic, full of citrus, and also floral notes – making Yirgacheffe one of the best growing coffee in the world.

Late afternoon you reach the beautiful Aregash Lodge. Located far from the village, the lodge is surrounded by coffee plants, forests and wilderness. An ideal place for coffee lovers to relax and to let fade away your day.

Accommodation: Aregash Lodge, www.aregashlodge.com

Day 09, Drive Back to Addis B-L-D

Today after breakfast you will visit the bustling fish market. Then start the return trip to the capital Addis Ababa. For lunch you have a short break in the small town of Debre Zeit. The city is situated around several small crater lakes and a popular day trip destination for locals of Addis Ababa.

On the evening you will have a wonderful cultural evening at one of Addis Ababa Restaurant; 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.

Accommodation: Sheraton Addis Hotel, www.luxurycollection.com

Day 10, Departure B-L-D

Finally transfer out for final departure

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Tour Package: the package cost for the above programs comes to

Based on 10pax: USD2900.00/person

YOUR ITINERARY INCLUDES

Accommodation:	All accommodation as detailed with private facilities.
Meals/Beverages:	Meals as specified above.
Transfers/Transport:	Airport welcome, assistance with luggage, and transportation by air-conditioned vehicle.
Sightseeing:	Expert English speaking guides for sightseeing.
Entrance Fees:	All entrance fees are included

YOUR ITINERARY EXCLUDES

Miscellaneous:	Visa for Ethiopia.
Flight	International & Domestic air fares.
Insurance:	Insurance coverage of personal loss, injury, illness or damages incurred during your trip. We strongly recommend travel /cancellation insurance.
Personal expenses:	Items of a purely personal nature such as drinks (unless noted), laundry, dry cleaning, internet, fax, or telephone charges and transfers/sightseeing or meals not included in "Your itinerary includes".
Baggage allowance:	Excess baggage charges.

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE:

Domestic Flights	A strict luggage restriction of 20kgs per person and hand luggage, applies to all light aircraft flights within Ethiopia. It is important that you carry soft-sided or "barrel" bags, as hard-sided suitcases (Samsonite-style) cannot be fitted into the small holds of light aircraft if you use the charter flights on this program.
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Geography

Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Eritrea to the north, Djibouti and Somalia to the east, Sudan and South Sudan to the west, and Kenya to the south.

A major portion of Ethiopia lies on the Horn of Africa, which is the easternmost part of the African landmass.

Its topography ranges from deserts along its eastern border, mountains ranges in its central core, and tropical forests in the southern reaches.

Ethiopia is dominated by a vast highland complex of mountains, plateaus and lakes, all divided by the Great Rift Valley that's surrounded by lowlands and steppes.

Climate

There are two seasons: dry season from October to May and rainy season from mid of June to mid of September. In Addis Ababa, the climate is almost the same along the year and the temperatures are around 70 degrees Fahrenheit/around 22 Celsius. In the Southern Omo Valley, the main rains are from March to June and shorter rains in November. The Somali region and the Danakil lowlands in the Afar region have a hot, dry climate producing semi-desert conditions.

Calendar

Feel eight years younger than your age as the Ethiopian year number is 7-8 years less than the Gregorian calendar.

The year of the Ethiopian calendar contains 365 days to which is added every fourth year an extra day. Each year in this four-year period is dedicated to one of the four Evangelists who come in the following order: Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. The year of Luke is the Ethiopian Leap year and is the year which precedes the western leap year.

Each year is divided into 12 months of 30 days. The extra 5 days are placed at the end of the year and known as Pagumen. In the leap year the extra day is added to these five days making the Pagumen of this year a period of 6 days.

Time

The time difference is +3 hours from Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Safety

Ethiopia is a politically stable country. Its popular tourist destinations are safe and secure. Ethiopia is one of the safest places in Africa. Violent crimes are very rare. Tourist should be aware of pickpockets though in crowded places like markets, and it is better not to show off valuables and money. In some regions, it is recommended not to drive after dawn. In some remote areas, a prior official authorization might be necessary before we send tourists to such places.

Customs

Due to strict custom regulations, it may cause problems at the airport to carry more than the usual basic electronic devices, especially if they are new. Import tax payment may be required. Souvenirs imitating historic artefacts have to be approved as such by the National Museum in Addis Ababa, otherwise they can be confiscated at the airport customs before leaving Ethiopia. Receipts have to be kept. You may want to consult your local Ethiopian Embassy if you want to bring high standard electronic equipment. In many places, small fees are charged for photos taken of people, especially in the southern areas of Ethiopia. Video fees can be very high in National Parks and other guarded places.

Money

Money can be exchanged in the airport, in hotels and banks. Exchange requires a passport and the receipts should be kept, as re-exchanging back into foreign currency is difficult otherwise. The Ethiopian currency is the Birr ("Silver" in Amharic). VISA and MASTERCARD are accepted at the major hotels. There are many ATM's available in throughout Addis Ababa and other cities across the country.

Visa

You can get your visa from the Ethiopian Embassy or a tourist visa upon arrival at the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa. (Nationals of a few countries are allowed to receive their tourist visas on arrival) To get the most current visa information for business visa or multiple entry tourist visa, contact your local Ethiopian Embassy. If you enter Ethiopia by land, you should obtain your visa in advance from your local embassy.

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE:

Domestic Flights

A strict luggage restriction of 20kgs per person and hand luggage, applies to all light aircraft flights within Ethiopia. It is important that you carry soft-sided or "barrel" bags, as hard-sided suitcases (Samsonite-style) cannot be fitted into the small holds of light aircraft if you use the charter flights on this program.

Medical information

The possession of a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is not mandatory. Immunization for Hepatitis A and B, Tetanus, Typhoid, Diphtheria, Meningococcal, and Polio is recommended.

Malaria: in most of the sites malaria is not a problem because of the high elevation, e.g. Addis Ababa, Axum, Gondar and Lalibela. But it may occur in Bahir Dar at the end of the rainy season and after unseasonable rains. Lowland areas along the Awash River, the Omo Valley, Rift Valley and Gambella are subject to malaria outbreaks. Chloroquine resistant strains have been identified in most areas so you should consult your doctor about the prophylaxis.

Visitors should take a simple first aid kit, band aids, antiseptic cream, anti-histamine cream and/or tablets for insect bites, sunscreen (while temperatures are moderate, the sun is strong), anti-diarrhea tablets, mosquito repellent, broad spectrum antibiotics, and anti-bacterial spray /cream.

Flights

Various airlines fly to Ethiopia. Kibran Tours recommends traveling with [Ethiopian Airlines](#), as it is Ethiopia's national carrier and the fastest growing and most profitable airline in Africa as well as one of the safest airlines of the world.

In 2014, IATA ranked Ethiopian Airlines as the largest airline in Africa in revenue and profit. In its operations in the past seven decades, Ethiopian has been a pioneer of African aviation as an aircraft technology leader, providing the first jet service on the continent in 1962, flying the first African B767 in 1984, the first African B777-200LR in 2010, and the first African (and second only to Japan) B787 Dreamliner in 2012.

Ethiopian commands the lion share of the pan-African passenger and cargo network, operating the youngest and most modern fleet to more than 83 international destinations across five continents. The Ethiopian fleet includes ultra-modern and environmentally friendly aircraft such as the Boeing 787, Boeing 777-300ER, Boeing 777-200LR, Boeing 777-200LR Freighter and Bombardier Q-400 with double cabin. In fact, Ethiopian is the first airline in Africa to own and operate these aircrafts.

Ethiopian is currently implementing a 15-year strategic plan, called Vision 2025, that will see it become the leading airline group in Africa with seven strategic business units: Ethiopian International Passenger Service, Ethiopian Regional Service, Ethiopian Cargo, Ethiopian MRO; Ethiopian Aviation Academy, Ethiopian In-flight Catering Service, and Ethiopian Ground Service. Ethiopian has won multiple awards, including SKYTRAX and Passenger Choice Awards in 2013, and has been enjoying an average growth of 25% per annum in the past seven years.

Clothing

We highly recommend to bring sunglasses and a hat for all areas of Ethiopia. Pack light clothes for the day time and a jacket or sweater for the chilly highland evenings and a good pair of walking shoes. Trekkers in the Simien and Bale Mountains will need jackets, warm clothes, thermals, waterproofs, and binoculars for viewing different animals. When entering the churches, the clothes have to be "respectful", covering enough the body. Shoes must always be removed before entering churches and mosques – for travelling around sites like Lalibela with its many churches, socks are very useful.

Language

Ethiopia is a multi-ethnic state with a variety of over 80 different languages spoken in the country, with 200 dialects. The main three languages are Amharic, Tigrigna and Oromigna. English is also widely spoken.

Food

The Ethiopian national food is a communal dish of Injera with stews of meat and vegetables. Injera is a spongy flatbread made of fermented Teff grain. Meat dishes mainly consist of lamb, chicken and beef. There are a number of vegetarian options in traditional Ethiopian cuisine. Pork is rarely consumed in Ethiopia as both the Orthodox and Muslim religion forbid it. Addis Ababa and many other cities boast of a wide variety of international restaurants.

After enjoying a traditional Ethiopian meal, it is customary to participate in a traditional coffee ceremony. Enjoy the unique flavor of Ethiopian organic coffee.

Photography and money

Professional or high standard video equipment may be difficult to be brought to Ethiopia. An official permission letter can be expensive. You may want to consult your local Ethiopian Embassy if you are bringing high standard equipment.

In many places, small fees are charged for photos taken of people, especially in the southern tribal areas of Ethiopia. Video fees can be very high in national parks and other guarded places.