

Tour Name GAMBELLA – Sudd Migration
Arrival P/U Bole Airport, Addis Ababa
Departure D/O Bole Airport, Addis Ababa

Itinerary at a glance

Day	Location	Accommodation	MealPlan
1	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Golden Tulip Hotel Addis	LDBB
2	Gambella National Park	Gambella Tented Camp	LDBB
3	Gambella National Park	Gambella Tented Camp	LDBB
4	Gambella National Park	Gambella Tented Camp	LDBB
5	Gambella National Park	Gambella Tented Camp	LDBB
6	Gambella National Park	Gambella Tented Camp	LDBB
7	Gambella National Park	Gambella Tented Camp	LDBB
8	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia		

L-Lunch, D-Dinner, BB-Bed and breakfast, LDBB-Lunch, dinner, bed and breakfast. Game drives & activities at the discretion of guide.

Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Met at Bole airport and transferred by private vehicle

Golden Tulip Hotel Addis Ababa-Deluxe Room LDBB

Day 2 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Gambella National Park

Transferred to Bole airport to connect with onward flight.

Fly for approximately two hours westwards to the Southern Sudan border areas of Gambella home to Africa's second most spectacular mass mammal migration. Met on arrival and transferred to camp for an afternoon orientation.

Gambella Mobile Tented Camp LDBB

Day 3-7 Gambella National Park

SIX Full days exploring the unknown region of Gambella.

Ovenrnight **Gambella Mobile Tented Camp LDBB**

Day 8 Gambella National Park - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fly 2 hours back to Addis Ababa

Met at Bole airport and transferred by private vehicle

Accommodation Information

Golden Tulip Hotel Addis Ababa

The Golden Tulip Addis Ababa is a striking, brand new hotel with a convenient location for business guests and tourists alike. This gleaming 4 star hotel in Addis Ababa is situated just 1 km from Bole International airport, with the city centre's attractions only a short distance away as well. Enjoy a warm welcome that blends international service standards with local hospitality. You'll find a range of amenities at your disposal, including conference facilities, bars, and restaurants.

There are 90 spacious 4 star hotel rooms and suites available at the Golden Tulip Addis Ababa, all outfitted to the highest standard with a touch of luxury. Non-smoking and family rooms are available to suit every need, and Wi-Fi access connects you to the world for a small fee. Enjoy the convenience of private bathrooms in our spacious rooms and suites, complete with complimentary toiletries. All rooms include air conditioning, a refrigerator, and minibar.

The well-trained staff at the Golden Tulip Addis Ababa is on hand to attend to your every service need, with concierge and laundry services on offer. This 4 star hotel in Addis Ababa caters for business guests with extensive conference facilities, suitable for up to 200 guests. Plan your next special event or simply relax in our onsite fitness centre and gym. Dining is one of the greatest pleasures at the hotel, with a varied selection

of international cuisine and room service available.

Just 1 km from the airport, the Golden Tulip Addis Ababa is ideally situated for both arrivals and departures from within Africa or further abroad. All the excitement of Addis Ababa is just out the door, and you'll find the African union, international embassies, and business district a short drive away.



Gambella Mobile Tented Camp

No safari in Africa is complete without the experience of a few nights out in the wilderness under canvas, or better still, under the stars.

Our camp is lightweight but very comfortable and operated by a small but experienced crew who also cook and serve delicious food and act as waiters and tent stewards, led by an experienced guide.

These camps combine the most important elements of a safari: you have a crew of people to look after you, great food freshly prepared and cooked over an open fire (there's nothing like a bit of wilderness to boost a healthy appetite). There en-suite flush toilets and hot showers from safari bucket-showers and after winding down and swapping stories around the campfire. At night you collapse gratefully onto your full size wooden bed, in an insect-proof tent. You soon sink into a deep sleep under the watchful eye of the askari.

The huge advantage of a mobile camp is that it takes you to the wilder parts of Africa. In the evenings after you return from your days activities you'll find a blazing fire, kerosene lanterns and bedrolls laid out on the ground, where you can sit and enjoy a welcome drink.

Camping isn't for the fainthearted or luxury addict - but if you think you might enjoy it - you will love it!

Fact file:

- * Luxury Mobile tents
- * En-suite shower tent (bucket shower, hot water always available on request)
- * En-suite flush toilet tent
- * Safari basin, filled with hot water on request
- * Full sized beds, linen, & blankets
- * Camp chair & awning 'verandah'
- * Camp fire
- * Fresh prepared and fire-cooked food
- * Tea, coffee, bottled water, juice (alcoholic beverages if requested in advance)
- * Experienced camp crew including professional safari guide



Flights and Other Information

Steve Turner - Professional Safari Guide

The Turner's have a long and established history with Africa. The very first members of the family to adventure into the continent did so more than a century ago, and in 1876 were amongst the first western explorers to discover the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba. More recently, during the Mau Mau Wars of the 1950's, Don Turner came to Nairobi, Kenya with the British Colonial Service. He stayed on in Kenya with his young family after Kenya's independence in 1962, after a personal invitation from the new President - Jomo Kenyatta. Don's business - East African Ornithological Safaris Ltd (EAOS) started well, his first client was the

famous American author and naturalist Roger Tory Peterson - who on that very safari described the Flamingoes of Lake Nakuru as : "the finest bird spectacle in the world". After 25 years in the safari business, Don retired to the shores of Lake Naivasha in the Great Rift Valley to finish writing the authoritative guide to "The Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania" and then in 1987 left the family business to his son Steve.

Steve's post colonial upbringing in the wildernesses of East Africa obviously fostered a very special and dedicated interest and extensive knowledge, in not only natural history, but also the communities and tribal people who live within these rich environments. He knows East and Central Africa like few others, having spent much of his early adult years in Central Africa. It was in the early/mid 1980's, in Zaire (now DRC), Rwanda, CAR and the rest of East Africa where he cut his teeth on expedition planning - working with conservationists and film makers in search of rarely seen endemic wildlife such as eastern lowland and mountain gorillas, okapi and the rediscovery of the thought to be extinct Congo Peacock amongst others.

Steve has travelled widely throughout the region with and without guests searching for similar life changing experiences - including a massive 25,000 kms photographic expedition taking some 6 months across north, west and central Africa. His passion for culture, wildlife and nature has taken him and his guests throughout the African continent, and as far afield as Australia, Asia, The Amazon, The Arctic and Antarctica. He has received acclamation awards for his in depth photography of endangered Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda and Zaire, and after 25 years of guiding in Ethiopia's Omo Valley, his extensive collection of photographs of Africa's disappearing tribal people have been published worldwide. Steve photographs are represented internationally by Getty Images worldwide.

Today Steve is CEO and Managing Director of EAOS, now trading as "Origins Safaris", one of East Africa's most specialized safari operator. Steve is a Trustee of the Kasigau Conservation Trust an organization dedicated to the development of community based environmental enterprises in Kenya's largest wilderness - Tsavo. In his time Steve has been the Chairman of "The Kenya Professional Guides Association" - an association to promote greater qualification for the tour guides. He is currently one of the few Gold certified guides in East Africa. As the Chairman of "Campfire Kenya" he lead a consortium of conservationists working to promote greater conservation amongst Africa's pastoralists peoples. He has also served as vice chairman of the Ethics and Standards Committee for The Kenya Association of Tour Operators, a Board Member of The East African Natural History Society, and the African Board member of the US based Ecotourism Society. As with all Origins driver/guides he has also attained a certificate in 4WD Off Road Driving skills from Glen Edmunds Performance Driving School. Steve's first aid training does not stop at just the normal "Emergency First Responder", but in addition he is trained and certified in "Advance Wilderness Medicine". This is a specialist programme geared towards expedition medicine in remote areas where emergency medical assistance is not always available - i.e places that he often find himself.



Eurocopter EC130B4 (OPTIONAL)

The EC130 B4 is the quietest, most spacious helicopter available on the market and integrates the latest technological advances of EUROCOPTER's new generation helicopters: a new 7 seats enlarged cabin with enhanced comfort, a new tail boom with quiet FENESTRON shrouded tail rotor, a dual channel FADEC unit plus a third independent and automatic channel for engine control, an automatic variable rotor speed control for noise reduction, a dual hydraulic system and energy attenuating seats for each occupant. It has been designed to be environmental friendly, with an optimal external noise pattern. It is one of the few aircraft meeting the very stringent noise level required in the United States to fly over National Parks (GCNP).



Anuak and Nuer Villages

The people of this area are the Anuak and the Nuer. Mainly fisherfolk - but also cattle herders - the Anuak and Nuer are extremely handsome, with dark, satiny complexions. Both men and women favour a style of decorative scarification on the chest, stomach, and face; and often boast heavy bone bangles, bright bead necklaces, and spikes of ivory or brass thrust through a hole pierced in the lower lip and protruding down over the chin. Unaffected by the ways of the modern world, these interesting people remain as remote, unchanged, and beautiful as the land in which they live.



Reserve and Park Information

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, the Capital of modern Ethiopia, and gateway for most tourists, is the political and commercial heart of the Country, now a city of 4 million people; Emperor Menelik founded it in 1887.

This big, sprawling, hospitable city is more than 2, 200 meters high in the foothills of Mount Entoto, Modern buildings and wide open boulevards stand side by side with historic churches, palaces and monuments as well as simple country style huts. The air is filled with the scent of flowers and eucalyptus trees, and the rich vibrancy of a city that is home to so many cultures. Modern Addis Ababa also plays host to many international organizations, including the OAU, the Economic Commission for Africa, and other multi national bodies, who all have their headquarters here. As a major international city, Addis Ababa offers a wide range of excellent hotel facilities, from luxury international hotels to a good number of mid priced and budget accommodations. State of the art conference facilities attract numerous international meetings to Ethiopia. The rich culture of Ethiopia, and its international links, has endowed the city with many fine restaurants and street side cafes. Nightlife, including many cinemas, theatres, casinos and bars provides entertainment until the early hours. Today, Addis Ababa is an up to date thriving city. Served by a modern airport at Bole, just 8 kilometres from the center, the city is linked by Ethiopian Airlines, and a large number of regional and international carriers, to Africa and the world.

Originally Menelik chose Entoto as the site for the capital city however, great Emperor though he was, over this he was over ruled: Taitu, his wife, soon found Entoto too wet and windy. She was attracted to the warmer, more fertile hills and plains below, where natural hot springs at Finfine, the Oromo name for the area, provided bathing opportunities and a softer environment for court life. So the capital was moved and Taitu named the city: Addis Ababa the New Flower . When the court moved down from Entoto the Emperor and his immediate entourage occupied the most prominent hill, his retainers, with their mules and cattle, settling on its slopes. In due course he built the palace and banqueting hall where thousands of his soldiers could feast at one sitting. The area, known as the Old Ghibbe, is now the seat of Government. The chiefs built their houses on other hilltops, and these picturesque structures, with their wooden balconies and occasional turrets, can still be spotted among the more modern buildings of the town. Addis Ababa did not develop according to modern town planning concepts, rather it grew organically. During a city tour one may see modern buildings next to buildings that were constructed in the Italian style in the 19th and 20th century, open markets next to shopping centres, palaces next to modern hotels, Ethiopian churches next to large parks. Addis has never been known to bore a visitor! Interesting places for a visit in the city are the Ethnographic Museum housed on the University Campus with a fascinating wealth of information and exhibits relating to

Ethiopia cultural and ethnographic heritage.

The Menelik Mausoleum: built in 1911, in the old Baata church, it serves as a tomb for emperors, princes and martyrs of freedom. Built to house the tomb of Emperor Menelik II it also includes the graves of members of his family and the Emperor Haile Selassie. St. George's Cathedral: built in 1896 in the traditional octagonal shape by the Emperor Menelik II to commemorate his victory at Adwa, it is dedicated to the national saint of Ethiopia. The museum houses a wide collection of important religious paintings, crosses of many designs, historic books and parchments, and beautiful handicrafts. There are also fine examples of modern paintings by the famous Ethiopian artist Afewerke Tekle. Trinity Cathedral: built in 1941, to a European design, in commemoration of Ethiopia's liberation from Italian occupation. The Jubilee Palace: on Menelik II Avenue, this modern palace was completed to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I.

Climate

Altitude and proximity to the Indian Ocean affect Ethiopia climate. The temperatures on the higher plateaux are pleasant year round but in certain seasons the temperature rises to 28 Centigrade in the lowlands and drops to Zero on the high mountain peaks. The rainy season is from June to October whilst the rest of the year is dry. The end of the rainy season is one of the most appropriate times to visit the remote tribes, when the River Awash floods along the Omo Delta making some of the more remote villages accessible. This is traditionally a time for ceremonies and thanksgiving.

Language

Amharic is the official language of Ethiopia, while English, French and Italian are widely spoken, especially in the business & academic circles. There are 80 different languages with 200 dialects broken down into 4 main groups: Semitic, Hametic, Omotic and Nilo Saharan. The Semitic languages are related to both Hebrew & Arabic and are mostly spoken in the Northern & Central areas. The principal Semitic language is Amharic. The Hametic languages are found mainly in the East, West & South Oromiffa is the predominant language in these areas. The Omotic group of languages are spoken in the Southwest, generally in the area of the Omo River. The nilo Saharan languages are spoken in a wide area along the Sudanese frontier. Some of the written languages use the Ge'ez alphabet the language of the ancient Axumite kingdom (the only indigenous written language in all of Africa). Today some of the written languages in Ethiopia still use the Latin alphabet.

Traditions:

Ethiopians tend to be conservative in their own country. A handshake greeting is normal with a pleasant discussion on personal matters before getting down to business. Time is not that important and patience is much needed at times. The longer the greeting, the closer the friends. The coffee ceremony is a sacred tradition in Ethiopia (where the beverage originated) and is an integral part of everyday life. The coffee ceremony takes place 3 times a day: morning, noon & evening, prepared in a special pot and poured into a special cup.



Gambella National Park

Tucked away in the south-west corner of Ethiopia, the Gambella Region is hidden from much of the world. Located on the strategic Baro River, the capital of Gambella is a historic meeting place of cultures. It boasts physical remnants of Italian, British, and various African occupations. The richness and diversity of humanity found in Gambella is rivaled only by its natural landscape.

Gambella is home to a stunning mosaic of ecosystems, including pristine areas of highland forests to the east and the expansive Duma wetland to the west. These ecosystems host some of the world's rarest species, including the Nile lechwe antelope and the endangered shoebill stork. It also boasts the second largest overland mammal migration in the world, that of the white-eared kob antelope. Every year, hundreds of thousands of these majestic creatures bound across the South Sudanese border into the Boma-Jonglei landscape, only to return again to Gambella when the weather is right. Gambella's waterways lay claim to the highest diversity of fish in Ethiopia and experts have described the bird life as "astounding". Gambella is truly a hidden treasure. Gambella has been hidden not only from tourists and conservationists, but from the international economy. Indeed, this splendid landscape and obvious national asset has so far remained one of the least developed regions in Ethiopia. For the past hundred years, ecological tourism has boomed in

neighboring Kenya and Tanzania, but Gambella, with its own unique displays of natural beauty, has remained isolated.

Africa's Second Largest Migration

In 2007 the first aerial survey of southern Sudan in 25 years revealed vast migrating herds, rivaling those of the Serengeti plains, that have managed to survive 25 years of civil war, says the Wildlife Conservation Society and Southern Sudan. Michael Fay, a conservationist at the Wildlife Conservation Society and explorer-in-residence at the National Geographic Society, who has participated in the surveys, said that southern Sudan's herds of more than a million gazelle and antelope may even surpass the Serengeti's herds of wildebeest, making the newly surveyed migration the largest on earth. "It's so far beyond anything you've ever seen, you can't believe it," Dr. Fay said. "You think you're hallucinating." It is estimated that 700,000 white-eared kob can be seen migrating here.

The Endemic Nile Lechwe

The Nile lechwe is endemic to Ethiopia and Sudan. The majority of the population is found in the Sudd swamps, vast swamps in southern Sudan created by the White Nile River. A smaller population is also found in the Machar marshes near the Ethiopian border. In Ethiopia, the Nile lechwe only occurs in Gambella National Park in the south-west of the country. Both sexes of this rare, little-studied antelope have a shaggy coat with a short beard, but otherwise, the male and female Nile lechwe differ greatly in appearance. The most obvious distinguishing features are the male's ringed, 'S'-shaped horns, which arch backwards. The adult male has a dark chocolate brown coat with a lighter shade of fur extending from the eyes to behind the base of the horns and down the nape of the neck to a large white patch between the shoulder blades. The chin, upper lip, middle belly and inner surfaces of the hind legs are also white, and a broad, whitish band sits above the hooves. The female and young Nile lechwe have a greyish-yellow coat with weakly defined white areas on the head, but lack any white patches on the neck or shoulders. Like many antelope, the Nile lechwe is most active in the early morning and the evening. In large, loose herds, it moves about feeding on succulent grasses and water plants. Wild rice is thought to be a preferred food at the start of the flood season, while a larger proportion of swamp grasses are consumed when the waters recede. Occasionally, such as during periods of drought, it may feed on young leaves from trees and bushes, rearing up to reach this green vegetation. When moving through shallow water, the Nile lechwe travels by a series of graceful leaps, while in deeper water it is a capable swimmer.



Country Information

Ethiopia, a Kaleidoscope of Culture

Nowhere in the world is as well endowed with traditional and tribal cultures than Ethiopia. Our typical cultural expedition takes you into this remote region of the African continent where you will be immersed into an array of tribal lifestyles and biblical like living museums, where we will enjoy 'street level culture', with a fascinating blend of cafes, bars, sidewalk musicians, small galleries and bistros, where it is hard to draw the line between participant and observer, or between creativity and its creators. So, why not join Origins on the most amazing cultural expedition of your life, to see people and lifestyles totally unaffected by the western world that you will feel nothing but sheer privilege at being able to travel amongst them. HOWEVER, If you are inconvenienced by spartan accommodations or are apprehensive in unfamiliar situations, then this expedition is not for you !

In Addis Ababa we will explore this historic city and experience the delicious national food dishes. Gondar which in the 16th Century was the second largest city in Africa ! In the daytime we seek out the endemic wildlife of the Simien Mountains, and at night in Bahir Dar enjoy the Amharic singing and dancing of the Mini Fogera. Lalibela the "The New Jerusalem" were as a "fly on the wall" you will experience the living museums in the heart of the Ethiopian coptic church.

A step back in time...

A journey through Ethiopia's historic route is a trip back in time. From the reign of King Solomon, Ethiopia, then known as Abyssinia, was the epicenter of religious mystique and the supposed resting place for the Arc of the Covenant. Rumours and mystery are interwoven with history and heritage: the Knights Templar, the so-called Crusaders, came here in search of their Holy Grail. From Scottish explorer James Bruce to Hollywood movie mogul Steven Spielberg (Raiders of the Lost Ark) Ethiopia has a story all of its own and a magnetic attraction that crosses all cultures and boundaries.

A visual feast...

Although Ethiopia's rich cultural history may be the primary focus - the sheer breathtaking beauty of this country's scenery overwhelms your senses and embeds itself in your mind's eye. Every journey is a visual feast. The spectacular highlands are a haven for endemic and endangered species such as the Simien Wolf, the Walia Ibex, the Gelada Baboon and the Lammergeyer Vulture. Your journey becomes a quest to absorb and understand the myths and religious crusades that have dominated this land: from the incredible rock-hewn underground churches of Lalibela 'A prayer in Stone' to the dizzying heights of the Simien Mountain Range described by one writer as 'the chess pieces of the Gods' - the experience is multi-dimensional and intense.

Cultural Crossroads...

Ethiopia lies at the northeastern corner of the African continent in an area known as 'the Horn of Africa'. Its intriguing blend of African and Eastern tribal civilizations and tangible aura of religious worship make it a cultural crossroads and spiritual meeting point. This is truly a multi-ethnic state: many distinctions have been blurred by intermarriage but many also remain - an astonishing 83 languages are spoken - falling into 4 main language groups: Semitic, Cushitic, Omotic and Nilo-Saharan (and there are 200 different dialects!). There are many festivals and ceremonies: religious, and ancestral and traditional attire is displayed to match.

Visas

A valid passport is required by all visitors and visas are required and currently cost US\$20 for a single tourist visa, valid 90 days from issue date. We recommend you process your application in good time. Alternatively you can get one on arrival at Bole International if you entry into Ethiopia is via Addis Ababa - it takes around 20 minutes to process. Should you be arriving into Ethiopia by any other route (i.e via the Omo River) then you must obtain your visa in advance from your country of origin.

Fact file

- * Located in the North East corner of the African Continent, The 10th largest country in Africa
- * Time zone: GMT +3hours. Julian calendar which consists of 12 months of 30 days each and a 13th month of 5 or 6 days.
- * Ethiopia extends over an area of 1,112,000 square kilometers
- * Population estimated at 65 million, divided into more than 80 ethnic groups
- * National Dish is injera a flat sour dough pancake made from a special grain called teff.
- * Traditionally Ethiopian's drink Tej (a honey mead) or Coffee with meals
- * Main ethnic groups: Oromo, Amhara, Tigray, Somali, Guragie, Sidama, Wolaita, Afar, Hadiya and Gamo.
- * Geographically dominated by the central plateaux rising to 2,000-3,000 metres above sea level
- * Ras Dshen at 4,453 metres is the summit of Simien Mountains (the fourth highest mountain in Africa)
- * The country is highly fertile and crossed by many rivers – the Blue Nile is the most prominent.
- * Eastern Ethiopia is bisected by the Syrian-African Rift, crossing from North to South creating a series of Rift Valley lakes
- * Endemic wildlife to view in the highlands includes: Gelada Baboon, Walia Ibex, Simien Wolf and the Lammergeyer Vulture

