

## Itinerary: Cultural Route

### ITINERARY IN SUMMARY

DATE		ACCOMMODATION	MEALS
Day 1	Arrive Addis Ababa	Capital Hotel	L-D
Day 2	Fly to Arba Minch	Paradise Lodge	B-L-D
Day 3	Arba Minch - Jinka	Buska Lodge	B-L-D
Day 4	Jinka – Turmi	Buska Lodge	B-L-D
Day 5	Turmi -Jinka	Eco Omo Lodge	B-L-D
Day 6	Jinka	Eco Omo Lodge	B-L-D
Day 7	Fly to Addis	Capital Hotel	B-L-D
Day 8	Departure	-	B

### ITINERARY IN DETAIL

#### Day 01, Arrival at Addis Ababa

L- D

Up on arrival meet with our representative and get transferred to your hotel.

Addis Ababa (“New Flower), and Ethiopia’s capital city! The city lies in the central highlands at a Welcome to Addis Ababa “New Flower”, Ethiopia’s capital city which is located at 2,700m above sea level. It is a pleasant city with wide avenues, interesting museums and one of the largest open-air markets in Africa, “Merkato”. It was founded by Emperor Menelik II in 1887, who selected the site because its location within the Entoto hills has long been the center of Shoan politics.

It is Africa’s diplomatic capital with headquarters for the Organization of African Union and the United Nation Economic Commissions for Africa. The capital is rich in impressive statues and monuments of different architecture, several of which are just in the middle of the turnarounds. After you have some rest start explore Addis Ababa, drive to Entoto Hills – best introduction place to Addis Ababa. Mt. Entoto is the highest peak in Addis Ababa 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. It is a historical place which 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 muse-um as well as Menelik II palace.

In addition to its historical significance as one 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 offers fresh Ethiopian coffee. Also, if you have an interest in Ethiopian traditional clothes, with time availability possible to stop by at Shero Meda Market. There is a wide variety of beautiful fabrics, shawls, scarves, dresses, tops and jewellery with lots of choice and really good for gift ideas. Drive back to the city for a visit to the Ethnographic Museum and the National museum. Have Lunch at Lucy’s Gazebo Restaurant (Traditional and international cuisine) located next to National Museum. 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. Then visit, the Ethnographic Museum, with its two main sections covering local crafts and on regions and people, 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 bedroom and bathroom. Finally visit Merkato, located in western Addis Ababa and is the largest open-air market in Africa, offering an array of colors, aromas, costumes, produce and jewellery.

**Accommodation: Capital Hotel**

#### Day 02, Fly to Arba Minch

B-L-D

Today, you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight to Arba Minch. Arba Minch, ("Forty Springs"), which is the largest town in Southern Ethiopia. The town lies at an elevation of around 1,300m in the foothills of the Rift valley wall, above a cliff overlooking the mountains that separate the lakes of Chamo and Abaya. With mountains rising to almost 4000m to the west, it is difficult to think of a more perfectly situated town anywhere in East Africa. In Arba Minch, whenever you walk and at whatever time of day, there are stunning views in all direction.

In the afternoon, you will drive to Dorze people at Chencha (about 35km away). The Dorze are famous for their huge beehive huts which are among the most distinctive traditional structures to be seen anywhere in Africa. Every Dorze compound is surrounded by enset (false banana) and other crops. In addition to this some of the country's best-woven cotton comes from this village Chencha and the Shama (traditional) cloth produced around Chencha is regarded to be the finest in Ethiopia. After soaking all this up, you'll drive back to Arba Minch for an overnight stay.

**Accommodation: Paradise Lodge**

#### Day 03, Boat trip on Lake Chamo / Drive to Turmi

B-L-D

In the morning, after breakfast you will take a boat ride on Lake Chamo. You're almost guaranteed to spot hippos and crocodiles, as well as a large variety of aquatic birds. Later you will drive to Turmi.

**Accommodation: Buska Lodge**

#### Day 04, Turmi

B-L-D

After having breakfast you'll drive to the village of Kolcho and visit the Karo tribes. They are considered masters of body painting, in which they engage when preparing for a dance, feast or celebration. After lunch drive to Omorate, it is about 75km, cross the Omo River by Canoe and visits the Dhasanech villages (Galeb tribe). Later in the afternoon you'll drive back to Turmi to visit one of the smaller villages that lie outside the Hamar towns of Turmi. Incredibly neat and constructed entirely from mud, wood and thatch, one of the most striking aspects of these small villages –which typically consist of a few extended families across perhaps 10-15huts –is the total absence of non –organic or western artefacts.

**Accommodation: Buska Lodge**

#### Day 05, Drive to Jinka(140km, 3hrs drive)

B-L-D

Today you'll drive to Jinka via Dimeka and Key Afar (140km, 3hrs drive). After taking a rest at Jinka, you'll visit the recently-opened south Omo research centre and museum, which is perched on a hill overlooking the town centre and offers an attractive view. The anthropological museum provides a useful overview of the various cultures of south Omo.

**Accommodation: Eco Omo Lodge**

#### Day 06, Jinka

B-L-D

Morning excursion will take you to Mursi villages, 70kms/away about 1½-2hrs drive/way); the Mursi has become a cultural symbol of the Lower Omo Valley. They are the most renowned of the Omotic - speakers, famed for their practice of inserting large clay plates behind the lower lips of their women, as well as for their colourful dresses.

**Accommodation: Eco Omo Lodge**

#### Day 07, Fly to Addis

B-L-D

On this day you will catch a flight back to Addis Ababa, up on your arrival in Addis Ababa you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in.

**Accommodation: Capital Hotel**

**Day 08, Departure**

**B**

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back home.

-----**End of services**-----

**Tour Package:** the package cost for the above program in Twin/Double room sharing basis comes to

Based on 2pax = **USD 3600.00/person**

Based on 4pax= **USD 3105.00/person**

**S.R.S** (Single Room Supplement) is **US282.00/ person**

- *Domestic flight for the sector of ADD-AMH-ADD is **USD200.00 per person** and if they use Ethiopian Airlines for international flight they will be eligible to get discount for domestic sector and it will be **USD350.00 per person***

**TOUR PACKAGE 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

**TOUR PACKAGE 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. A strict luggage restriction on domestic flights 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.

## **LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE:**

### **Domestic Flights**

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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.

### **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.