

## Festival and Events

### [Timket \( Epiphany \) and Ethiopian Christmas combined with the Historic North \( 16 days \)](#)

#### Itinerary 4-1

Day 1 City tour of Addis, which includes the Ethnographic museum, National museum and the church of the Trinity cathedral. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 2 Fly Lalibela, On arrival a tour to the rock hewn churches of Lalibela. Overnight, Hotel

Day 3 Full day in Lalibela, where you witness the colourful ceremony of Christmas

performed by the priests and deacons. Christmas is celebrated as a double festival in

Lalibela, because king Lalibela is honoured and celebrated in a big procession where there will be a congregation of thousands of pilgrims coming from all over the country. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 4 (Jan 8th) Drive to Mekele, On the way enjoy the amazing scenery, the countryside and the people. Overnight, hotel.

Day 5 (Jan 9th) Drive to Hawzien, one of the most striking sites in Ethiopia. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 6 (Jan 10th) Day in Hawzien, visit some of the most famous churches in the Gheralta

Clusters. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 7 (Jan 11th) Drive to Axum, on the way visit Nejash mosque, the monastery of Debre

Damo and the temple of Yeha. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 8 (Jan 12th) Day in Axum, a city tour of Aksum which includes the archaeological sites and the church of Saint Marry of Zion. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 9 (Jan 13th) Drive to the Simien Mountains National Park through a stunning landscape. Overnight, Camping or Simien Lodge.

Day 10 (Jan 14th) Full day in the National Park, enjoying the wildlife and the scenic beauty of the area which can involve few hours walk depending on interests. Overnight, Simien Lodge.

Day 11 (Jan 15th) Drive to Gondar, On arrival a city tour of the medieval castle enclosure and the Church. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 12 (Jan 16th) Drive to Bahir Dar, on the way enjoy the landscape and the countryside. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 13 (Jan 17th) Day in Bahir Dar, an excursion to the Blue Nile Falls and the monastery on Lake Tana.

Day 14 (Jan 18th) Fly back to Addis, on arrival attend the preparation for Timket. The Eve of Timket is called Ketera and on this particular day of the year, all Tabots (a replica of the Arc of the Covenant) from the churches in town will be carried to the area where the festival takes place and there will be a crowd of thousands of people along the main streets singing and dancing accompanying the procession by the priests and deacons. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 15 (Jan 19th) Full day in Addis, this day you attend the Timket festival (epiphany) one of the biggest Ethiopian Orthodox Christian festival celebrated in public where there will be about a 100,000 people to attend the festival. Timket is a festival which is celebrated for the commemoration of Christ's baptism by the River Jordan. There is a big procession on that day

where priests carry Tabots (a replica of the Arc of the covenant) and walk back to each individual churches from where the Tabots are brought a day before, to the place where the ceremony takes place. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 16 (Jan 20th) Departure.

## Ethiopian Easter combined with the Historic North

( 14 days )

### Itinerary 4-2

Day 1 City tour of Addis. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 2 Fly Addis to Bahirdar, on arrival, a visit to the Blue Nile Falls and in the afternoon visit the island monasteries of Lake Tana. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 3 Drive to Lalibela, en route enjoy the amazing and ever changing scenery all the way to Lalibela.

Day 4 full day in Lalibela, in the morning visit the famous rock hewn churches of Lalibela. Late in the evening there is an opportunity to attend the vigil on the eve of Easter, which is one of the special occasions for Ethiopian Orthodox Christians.

Day 5 Easter day, spend the whole day in Lalibela where you will have the chance to experience the local way of celebrating Easter with the locals in a local Family house (if one is interested, there is the chance to experience the local food and drinks which is prepared for special occasions like this one). In the remaining part of the day, visit one of the monasteries outside Lalibela. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 6 Drive to Mekele. On the way enjoy the amazing scenery, the countryside and the people. Overnight, hotel.

Day 7 Drive to Gheralta, one of the most striking sites in Ethiopia. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 8 Full day in Gheralta, visiting the Rock churches of Tigray.

Day 9 Drive to Aksum, on the way visit the 7th century Muslim settlement in Ethiopia, and the oldest historical site in Ethiopia at Yeha. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 10 Full day in Aksum. a city tour of Aksum which includes the archaeological sites and the church.

Day 11 Drive to the Simien Mountains National Park through a stunning landscape.

Overnight, Camping or Simien Lodge.

Day 12 Full day in the National Park, enjoying the wildlife and the scenic beauty of the area which can involve few hours walk depending on interests.

Day 13 Drive to Gondar. On arrival a city tour of the medieval castle enclosure and the Church. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 14 Fly back to Addis.

## Meskel combined with the Historic North ( 14 days )

### Itinerary 4-3

Day 1(September 27th) Arrive Addis early in the morning and transfer to a hotel, before lunch a city tour of Addis which includes the National museum the Ethnographic museum and the Trinity Cathedral. In the afternoon, attend Meskel festival which is celebrated in the famous Meskel Square which is named after the festival. Meskel means a cross in the local language and the festival is about a commemoration of the finding of part of the true cross which Christ was crucified on, by one of the ancient Queens called Ileini. The people celebrate it by firing huge bundles of wood followed by dancing and singing around the fire.

According to the local legends and believes, part of this true cross is believed to be kept berried underground in the courtyard of one of the most famous monasteries in the country called Gishen Mariam.

Day 2 Fly Addis to Lalibela. On arrival a tour to the rock hewn churches of Lalibela.

Overnight, Hotel

Day 3 Full day in Lalibela, visit the remaining churches and one of the monasteries outside Lalibela.

Day 4 Drive to Mekele. On the way enjoy the amazing scenery, the countryside and the people. Overnight, hotel.

Day 5 Drive to Gerealta, one of the most striking sites in Ethiopia. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 6 Full day in Gerealta, visiting the Rock churches of Tigri.

Day 7 Drive to Aksum, on the way visit the 7th century Muslim settlement in Ethiopia, and the oldest historical site in Ethiopia at Yeha. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 8 Full day in Aksum. a city tour of Aksum which includes the archaeological sites and the church of St. Marry of Zion.

Day 9 Drive to the Simien Mountains National Park through a stunning landscape.

Overnight, Camping or Simien Lodge.

Day 10 Full day in the National Park, enjoying the wildlife and the scenic beauty of the area which can involve few hours walk depending on interests.

Day 11 Drive to Gondar. On arrival a city tour of the medieval castle enclosure and the Church. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 12 Drive to Bahir Dar, on the way enjoy the landscape and the countryside. Overnight, Hotel.

Day 13 Full day in Bahir Dar. An excursion to the Blue Nile Falls and the monastery on Lake Tana.

Day 14 Fly back to Addis.

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