



Queen of Sheba and King Solomon



Emperor Fasiledes' Main Castle © Yumo Tours

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HISTORICAL ETHIOPIA

9 days/8 nights

Hotels

Departs daily ex Addis Ababa

Tour cost per person:	Twin	Single
01 Jan-31 Dec*	\$3278	\$4962

*Surcharge will apply during religious festivals and the additional cost will not be known until the tour is booked. Please note, bookings to Ethiopia during festival time should be made at least 9-12 months in advance.

Price includes: All airport transfers, ground transportation and tours as per itinerary, accommodation on twin share basis, all meals (bed & breakfast only in Addis Ababa), entrance fees, park fees, services of a local English speaking guide. Internal flights with Ethiopian Airlines and applicable airline taxes.

Price excludes: Video/camera fees, all drinks, laundry, gratuities and items of a personal nature.

With an ancient Christian heritage, Ethiopia is a land of history, legend and a civilisation dating back thousands of years. It is also a country with breathtaking scenery, from towering mountains to the vastness of Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile. This tour uncovers the archaeological wonders of the northern route, including the giant stelae and tombs at Axum, reputed to be the ancient capital of Sheba, the medieval castles at Gondar and the famous rock-hewn churches at Lalibela. This highland region is generally above 4,000 feet (Addis Ababa is 8,000 feet), so the climate is very pleasant, although nights can be cold. October to May is the dry season and the most popular time to visit.

Day 1 Addis Ababa

Arrive Addis Ababa and transfer to the Hilton Hotel. Time permitting, visit the National Museum with its many historic and archaeological treasures, including the 3.2 million year old fossil hominid "Lucy".

Day 2 Axum

Fly to Axum and transfer to the Yeha Hotel. Visit the Stelae field, the 6th century tombs of King Kaleb and King Gebre Meskel, the ruins of the Queen of Sheba's palace, the church of St. Mary of Zion and the outside of the chapel said to contain the Ark of the Covenant.

Days 3/4 Lalibela

Fly to Lalibela and transfer to the Mountain View Hotel for 2 nights. Built in the 12th century as the "New Jerusalem" this holy city is still a place of pilgrimage and the churches are in use today. In the afternoon visit the first group of Lalibela's 11 churches carved from the rock "with the help of angels" and connected by labyrinthine passages and crypts. Next morning visit the cave church of Yimrehanne Kristos, then visit the second group of rock-hewn churches.

Days 5/6 Gondar

Fly to Gondar and transfer to the Goha Hotel for 2 nights. Surrounded by mountains and sometimes called "the Camelot of Africa" this once imperial city is known for its mediaeval castles and churches. After lunch visit the 16th century church of Debre Birhan Silassie, noted for its paintings. Next day take a morning excursion to Kossoye at the foot of the Simien Mountains for walks through spectacular scenery. This is "The Roof of Africa, with peaks rising up to 4620m, the fourth highest in Africa. In the afternoon tour the 17th century castle complex of Emperor Fasiledes.

Day 7 Bahar Dar

Fly to Bahar Dar and check-in to the Tana Hotel. Afternoon boat trip on Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile where local fishermen still use traditional papyrus boats. Visit mysterious island monasteries such as the Ura Kidane Mihret with its beautiful frescoes, or Azwa Mariam church.

Day 8 Addis Ababa

Morning excursions to the dramatic Blue Nile Falls, locally called the Tis Isat Falls - or "Smoking Water". Fly back to Addis Ababa and transfer to the Hilton Hotel for overnight.

Day 9 Tour ends

Transfer to the airport. Tour ends Addis Ababa.

EXTENSIONS

Experience some of Ethiopia's stunning scenery and wildlife in the Awash National Park, the Rift Valley and the Bale Mountains. Discover the rich culture of remote traditional tribes in The Omo Valley.

Festivals: The Ethiopian Orthodox Church has many religious festivals which draw huge crowds. Travelling at this time can be challenging but rewarding and bookings should be made at least 9-12 months in advance to avoid disappointment. Call us for details.



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Jinka Market - Omo Region

