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Experience. The Difference.

Tour Program 16th September to 11th October 2022 - Escorted by Sue Verrall

26 days /25 nights

Twin-share NZD\$17,595 per person. Single rate NZD\$18,735 per person.

Friday: Sep. 16th / Day 01: Arrive Addis Ababa.

Arrive in Addis Ababa- the third highest capital in the world lies between 2300 - 2500 meters, met by our representative and get transferred into your hotel.

Overnight: Hilton Hotel www.hiltonaddishotel.com

Saturday: Sep.17th / Day 02: Visit Merkato market

Today after breakfast driving to Mercato, the largest market area in Africa, where virtually every possible commodity is on sale, from livestock to computers. Walk through to see hand crafts skills, plastic recycle workers. In Merkato visitor should be good or wise at bargaining, there is a huge selection of Ethiopian arts and crafts.

Return to the hotel for lunch and rest until the pickup time for Ethiopian traditional food and music at Yod Abyssinia restaurant, be prepared for shoulder dance you might be invited to take part in the traditional ESKESTA – Shoulder dancing.

Overnight: Hilton Hotel www.hiltonaddishotel.com

Sunday: Sep. 18th / Day 03: Visit -Ethnological museum and Fly to BahirDar.

Today after breakfast visit Ethnological Museum, Ethnological Museum is housed in what used to be Haile Selassie's palace, in the area of the main building of Addis Ababa University. This exciting museum displays the precious and varied ethnic collections of Ethiopia. The museum gives deep insight into the diverse cultures of Ethiopia through the ethnographic objects of about 80 ethnic groups. There is even a bedroom of one of their great emperors. There are also collections of sacred arts. After lunch, transfer to the airport for Bahir Dar flight then check in to Kuriftu resort and spa for overnight, Bahir Dar is one of the Ethiopian's most attractive towns, with its Palm lined avenues, flamboyant trees and scenic location on the southern shore of Lake Tana. The Lake is the source of the Blue Nile and famous for its many monasteries.

Overnight: Kuriftu Resort and Spa www.kurifturesortspa.com

Monday: Sep.19th / Day 04: Boat trip of Lake Tana and excursion to Blue NileFalls.

After breakfast, you will have a boat trip over Lake Tana, it is Ethiopians largest lake. Today, the lake is most famous as the home of the monasteries established on some 20 of its 37islands. By boat travel across to Zeghe peninsula and visit the two churches of Ura Kidane Mehirat and Azuwa Mariam it was built in late13th and 14thcentury.The churches are known by their incredible jumble of murals



After lunch, drive to the Blue Nile Falls, some30-km from the town. A 20-minutes walk brings us to the falls themselves, which are at their most spectacular during and after the rainy season (from June to January). Here the Blue Nile, which contributes 85% of the main Nile flow, starts its long journey to the Mediterranean.



Overnight: Kuriftu Resort and Spa www.kurifturesortspa.com

Tuesday: Sep. 20 / Day 05: Drive to Simien Mountain National Park via Gondar /306km

Today after breakfast start drive to Simien Mountain National Park via Gondar; it is about **306km** km from Bahir Dar. Lunch box could be arranged or could have lunch in Gonder. Simien Mountains National Park is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Site since the late 1960s. On the way to Gonder, visit Awra Amba unique village, the fact that its members work together, is diligent, disciplined and self-confident makes the Awra Amba community distinct from other Amhara communities. Women have equal rights as men and there is no distinction in divisions of labor between men and women. All people in the community have no religion as distinct from most communities in Ethiopia. They believe in hard work and being good to people. They keep their houses and their surrounding clean. Theft is seen as very obscene. The village is unique not only for its attitudes toward gender, religion, and education, but for the social security it provides its members in need. There are formal committees to provide services which include: education, to receive guests, to take care of patients, the elderly and children, and community health. They have established a literacy campaign for adults, a library, and a preschool. Despite living in a culture which practice early marriage, the people of Awra Amba have decided girls should marry only after reaching the age of 18, and boys at or above 22 which is not so common in the rural area of Ethiopia. If time allows your guide could talk to the villagers to show you how to make Injera or else this could be possible to see between Bahir Dar and Gonder.

The former Felasha village (Ethiopian Jews) at Wolleka, could be visited on the way to Simien mountains or the way back to Gonder, to buy some of the characteristic pottery sold there. (Most of the Felasha or Bait Israel as they prefer to be called was taken to Israel in the 1980s)

The Simien Mountains National Park presents perhaps the most dramatic scenery in Africa – great volcanic plugs, formed some 40 million years ago. In the Simien visitors can see the endemic Gelada or bleeding heart baboon, the Walia Ibex, the Ethiopian Wolf and rock hyrax, and endemic birds such as the Thick billed Raven, Black headed Siskin, White Collared Pigeon, Wattled Ibis, White billed Starling, Spot breasted Plover and White backed Black Tit. Cruising Lammergeyers are often seen. The park is also famous for its Afro- Alpine flora, meadows and grasslands punctuated by Giant Lobelia and Red Hot Pokers,



Overnight: Simien Lodge www.simiens.com

Wednesday. Sep.21st / Day 06: Excursion to Chenek

Today with packed lunch, walk to Chenek, about 5-6 hours. Cross valleys before coming to Chenek, this is situated on the escarpment among plenty of Giant Lobelias and wonderful views of the lowlands. Here one may be able to see the elusive Walia Ibex

It is located approximately 58km North-East of Debarq town hanging at an altitude of 3900m above sea level. Its annual mean temperature is 8.8 degree Celsius and accessible by vehicle. This camp site comprises of the scenic Mountain range impressive escarpment superb view points and Mountain submits such as Mount Buhit and varieties of plants and animal species.



Overnight: Simien lodge www.simiens.com

Thursday: Sep.22nd / Day 07: Drive to Gondar.

Today you will drive to Gondar stopping in Debarq to see grain milling and refreshments. Upon arrival check in to Goha Hotel, in the late afternoon you will have the city tour of Gondar you will start to explore the town Emperor Fasilidas founded Gondar as his imperial seat in 1636 and the city was both the capital and a great commercial center from 17th to the mid-19th century. Visit the Royal Enclosure or *FasilGibbi* within the compound and also the castles built by the various emperors of Gondar. A 2 km drive from the town center you will bring you to the bath of King Fasiledes, where, during at Timkat (Ethiopian Epiphany) a nearby river is diverted to fill an area the size of a small swimming pool. Worshippers plunge into the cold water in a re-enactment of the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan.



Continue drive 2 km to the north east of the Royal Enclosure to visit the Debre Berhane Selassie church, the only church that was saved from Mahdist invasion in the 1880s. According to legend, a swarm of bees routed the invaders. The walls and ceiling of this church are completely covered with murals - the angels' faces on the ceiling have become a common motif in Ethiopian design.



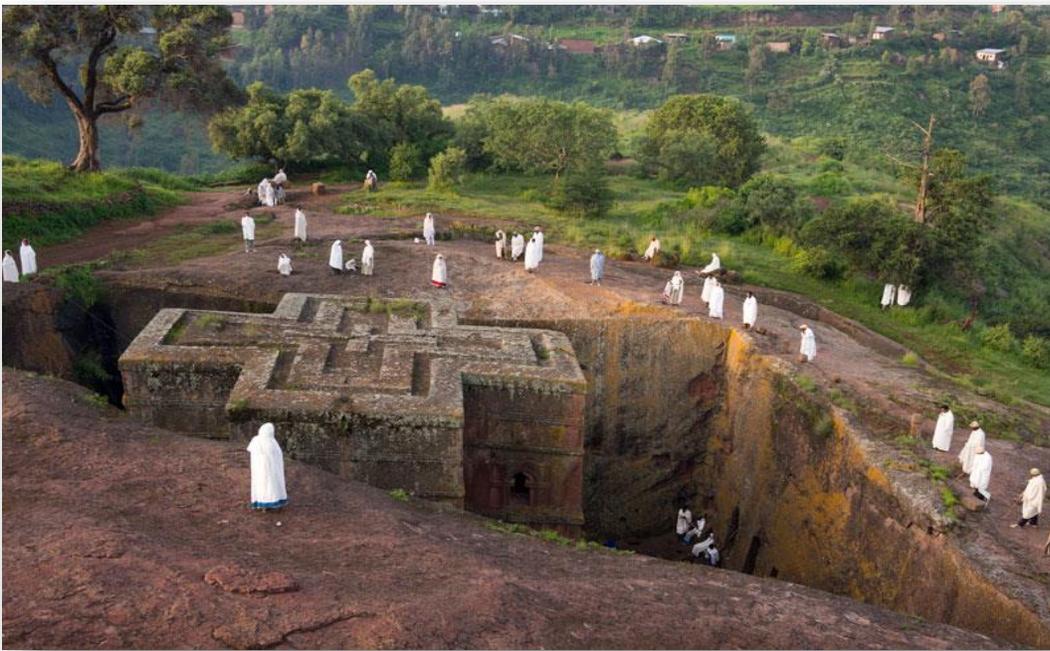
Overnight: Goha Hotel www.gohahotel.com

Friday: Sep. 23rd / Day 08: Fly to Lalibella.

Up on arrival, check in to Maribella hotel and take few minutes to refresh and start to explore the town, visit the internationally renowned rock Hewn churches known as 'Eight wonders of the world' the Lalibella rock hewn churches, physically praised from the rock in which they stand, these towering edifices seems to be superhuman creation in scale workman ship and concept. Some are sculpted out of solid volcanic rock. Others are connected by long underground tunnels and mazes. Some are quarried enlargements of caves.

Before lunch, you will visit the first group of six churches lies in rock cradles one behind the other: Bet Golgotha, Bet Mikael, Bet Mariam, Bet Meskel, Bet Danaghel and Bet MedhaneAlem.

Bet MedhaneAlem, the largest one is built like a Greek Temble. In a corner there are three empty graves symbolically dug for biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Back to the hotel for lunch and resume the sightseeing of the remaining in town churches which are



Bet Giyorgis possibly the most elegant of all the Lalibela churches, lies somewhat isolated in the southwest part of the village on a sloping rock terrace. It can only be reached through a tunnel. The group of four, south of the Jordan River, comprise of Bet Emanuel, Bet Mercurios, Bet Abba Libanos and Bet Gabriel-Rufa'el.

Bet Emanuel's elaborate exterior is much praised by art historian.

Dinner and overnight Maribella hotel www.hotelmariabella.com

Saturday: Sep. 24th / Day 09: Excursion to Yemerehane Christos

Morning after breakfast you will drive to the cave church of Yemerehane Christos, built by the king of the same name before the reign of King Lalibela.



The church is constructed inside a cave, with alternating levels of wood and stone. A 40-km trip from Lalibela followed by a 20-minute hike brings you to this beautiful church, the finest example of its kind in Ethiopia.

Overnight: Mountain View Hotel www.hotelmaribela.com

Sunday: Sep. 25th / 10: Drive to Kombolcha 325 kms.

Today after breakfast, head to Kombolcha via Woldiya, Hayk and Dessie, en route there is an interesting landscape and farmhouses. En route visit Nakuto Le'ab church, which is located 6km from Lalibela town the monastery accredited to Nakuto Le'ab consists of attractively simple church built around a shallow cave in which serve the holy pool are fed by natural springs. Then after having lunch at Weldiya drive to Hayk and visit Hayk Estifanos church (not open for women) your guide will try to find local home visit when the locals prepare coffee or food.

Overnight: Yegofe View Hotel www.yegofeviewhotel.com

Monday: Sep. 26th / Day 11: Kombolcha – Bati Market – Awash

Today, you will visit the vibrant Bati Market, the second biggest market in Ethiopia after the one in Addis Ababa – Mercato. This is held every Monday. Here, like in Senbete, people belonging to different ethnic groups merge all together to sell, buy and exchange things. The market is huge, chaotic and covers entire hillside. It is one of the most interesting markets in Africa. Finally, drive to Doho Lodge for the overnight. www.doholodge.com

Awash Doho lodge.

Doho Lodge @ hot springs is situated at the fabulous northern edge of Awash National Park. Its restaurants and beds are built with comfort but local style. Natural hot springs, lakes, untouched forests and typha reeds added its natural beauty. Wild animals like Lions, Leopards, Hippos, Waterbucks, Lesser kudus and Warthogs are among the larger mammals. The lodge is neighbored by Awash National Park and Allideghe Wildlife Reserve. Game driving and bird watching is super than any sites in the country. Above all, enjoying the natural hot springs of showering, bathing and swimming is breath taking.

The lodge is located 246 km east of Addis Abeba, 22 km north Awash town with the shortcut road and 36 km along the asphalt road of Semera- Djibouti and with only 6 km gravel road.

Tuesday: Sep. 27th / Day 12: Full day in Doho lodge, visit the nearest Afar village etc. O/n. Doho lodge.

Wednesday: Sep. 28th / Day 13: Drive to Dire Dawa.300km.

After early breakfast, drives to Dire Dawa on the way admire the landscape which is changing now and then, up on arrival check in to Samrat hotel. And after lunch if it is not late, visit the largest market of Dire Kefira, often attended by rural Oromo and Afar in traditional garb and Ethiopian-Djibouti railway station.

Overnight: Samrat hotel www.samrathotels.com

Thursday: Sep. 29th /Day 14: Excursion to Harar

After breakfast, drive to Harar en route visit the Awadai chat market and then proceed to Harar the medieval walled city of Harar stands amid green mountains, on the east wall of the Great Rift Valley near the Somali border. Harar's heritage is almost entirely Muslim and Oriental; with its 90 mosques and shrines. Harar is considered to be the fourth most sacred center of the Islamic world. Its Islamic character is best expressed in the Grand Mosque (ALJAMI), which dominates the town. Rightly renowned for its intricately worked filigree jewelry of Silver, Gold, and Amber.



City tour of Harar includes; the Harari Museum, Rimbaud House, the 16th century grand Mosque with its elegant twin towers and slender minaret, the church of Medhane Alem, which houses a gallery with traditional religious art works, the tomb of Abu Said an early Muslim ruler, and the colorful Shoa Gate Market where one can shop indigenous handicrafts and jewelries. And, recently UNESCO registered Jegol within the wall of Harar as a world heritage site. Finally, drive back to Dire Dawa for the overnight.

Overnight: Samrat hotel www.samrathotels.com

Friday: Sep. 30th / Day 15: Drive to Nazareth

After breakfast drive to Nazareth via Awash and Methara. En route enjoy the interesting geological formations, with much evidence of past volcanic activity – perfectly formed volcanic cones and caldera.

Overnight: Safari Lodge

Saturday: Oct. 01st / Day 16: Drive to Bale Mountain National Park. About 300km.

Today after breakfast drive to the Bale Mountains National park, a journey that is both scenic and exciting. Climbing through forests, fields, little villages and banana groves, we reach open grassy upland where Blue-winged Geese, Rouget's Rails and Abyssinian Long claws introduce us to the long list of Ethiopian endemic birds to be found in the area. Approaching the park the scenery becomes increasingly spectacular.

Entering the park you will encounter the first of many mammals including the endemic Mountain Nyala (a magnificent antelope unique to these hills), look for a few more of the endemic birds such as Abyssinian Long-eared owl, White-backed black Tit, Abyssinian catbird, Black-winged Lovebird, Golden-backed woodpecker and, if very fortunate, maybe even Black-headed Siskin.



Bale Mountain National Park, it is known for their wildlife. Over 60 mammals Species and 260 bird species have been recorded here. Amongst an interesting collection of upland birds we are likely to see eleven of Ethiopians 29 endemic: Blue winged Goose, Rouget's Rail, Spot-breasted plover, white - collared pigeon, Black-winged Lovebird, Golden-backed woodpecker, Abyssinian Long claw, Abyssinian Catbird, White-backed Tit, Black-headed Siskin and Thick-billed Raven.

Overnight: Bale mountain lodge [www.balemountainlodge](http://www.balemountainlodge.com)

Sunday: Oct. 02nd / Day 17: Exploring Senetti and Harena forest.

After breakfast, you will explore Harean forest and its area and observe the endemic Ethiopian Wolf, the Giant Molerat, beautiful landscapes and different birds and much more.

Overnight: Bale MountainLodge www.balemountainlodge.com

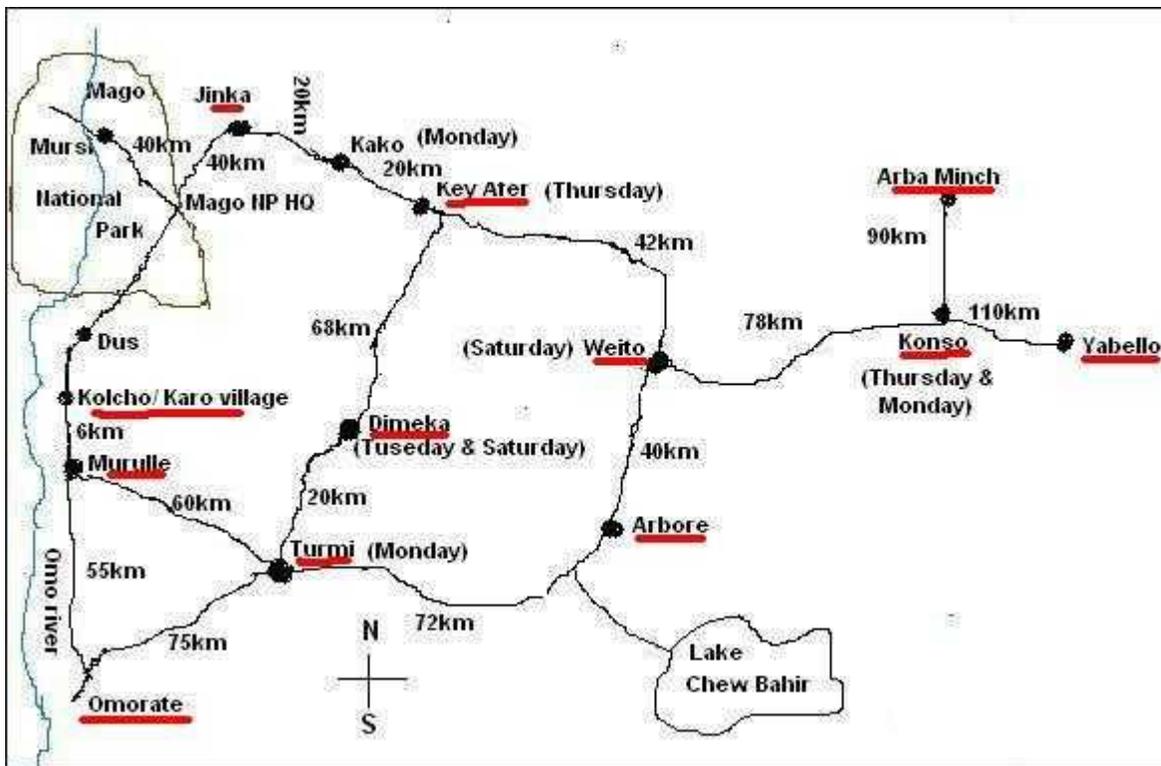
Monday: Oct. 03rd / Day 18: Visit Senate plateau and Dinsho then proceed to Awassa. About 360 km.



Morning drive to Sanetti Plateau between 3,500-4,500m this wild alpine plateau has been known as “Middle earth” for centuries. It is the largest single expanse of Afro-Alpine moorland with many species of mammals and 260 species of birds. We will watch for the comical giant mole rats as they dive down their burrows and the Ethiopian wolf as they hunt. At this high altitude we walk slowly as we inspect the impressive Giant lobelia with their spires reaching 4-5 m. then drive to Awassa, Lake Awassa is a beautiful freshwater lake, set amongst hills and abundant vegetation, quite unlike the alkaline lakes to the north. In the afternoon relax on the shore of Lake Awassa.

Overnight: Haile resort www.hailerresort.com

RoughMapofLowerOmoValley



Tuesday: May Oct. 04th / Day 19: Drive to Arba Minch.

Today after early breakfast visit Fish Market in Awassa then drive to Arba Minch through the rolling hillsides of Wolayta. Stop for lunch and refreshments in Sodo and turn south, and skirt the western shores of Lakes Abaya and Chamo, the southern most of Ethiopia's Rift Valley Lakes, before arriving in Arba Minch, or "40 springs".



En route visit the home of the Dorze people at Chench, renowned cotton weavers whose tall beehive-shaped dwellings are among the most distinctive traditional structures to be seen anywhere in Africa. The main occupations of the region are subsistence farming and weaving. The *shama* cloth produced

around Chenchas is regarded to be the finest in Ethiopia: plain white *gabbi* robes and brightly colored scarf-like *netalasa* sold along the roadside.

Overnight: Haile resort. [http:// www.haileresort.com](http://www.haileresort.com)

Wednesday: Oct.05th / Day 20: Drive to Konso , 100 km.

Early in the morning after breakfast enjoy the boat trip on Lake Chamo, as one of the best features of the park. Attraction of the boat trip includes view in go for large number of hippos and crocodiles from a very close range..There is a good place to watch large number of crocodiles on the shore of Lake Chamo. The place known as "Azo-Gebeya" meaning Crocodile Market. And then proceed to Konso.

Konso, named after the Konso people, is known for its religious traditions, waga sculptures, and nearby fossil beds (the latter an archaeological site of early hominids). The site was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List on September 30, 1997 due to its purported universal cultural significance of terracing agricultural practice. The Konso live in an isolated region of the basalt hills. The area is made up of hard rocky slopes. A Konso village maybe fortified by a stone wall used as a defensive measure, their village is located on hilltops and is split up into communities, with each community having a main hut. In order to enter a Konso village, you must pass through a gate and a series of alleys. These paths are part of its security system, keeping the village difficult to access. O/n Kanta lodge.



Thursday: Oct.06th / Day 21: Today being Thursday (the only day for Key Afer market) visit the Market at Key Afer with its plentiful chances of taking photos of different tribes who attend the market . And then drive to Turmi for the overnight. Overnight Buska lodge.

www.buskalodge.com

Friday: Oct. 07th / Day 22: Turmi –Murulle – Kolcho, it's about 66km

In the morning drive to Kolcho Village via Murulle which is 66km or 2 hrs drive from Turmi and on a very good view of River Omo to visit the Karo village. Among the people living along the Omo, the Karo excel in face and body painting.



In the afternoon visit the Hamar village. The Hamar are a fine looking people, both men and women take great pride in their appearance, shaving and coloring their hair, oiling their bodies and decorating themselves with beads and bracelets worn around arms and legs.



Overnight: Buska Lodge www.buskalodge.com

**Saturday: Oct. 08th / Day 23: Drive to Jinka.
125 km.**

Today after breakfast drive to Jinka and visit Demeka market and South Omo Research Center (Museum), which it will give you enough information about the tribe who live in Lower Omo ,then drive to Yetnebersh village to visit Ari tribe and visit how they make local liquor made of Sorghum, Garlic and maize and how they make a pot.

Overnight: EcoOmoLodge www.eco-omolodge.com

Sunday: Oct. 09th / Day 24: Jinka – Mago National Park – Mursi and fly back to Addis Abeba.

Morning after breakfast drives to Mago National park; in the park you may see the following animals Bushbuck, DikDik, Baboons and Colobus Monkeys. Then drive to Mursi tribe who are known by body scarifications and (among the women) the wearing of lip plates, then drive to the airport for your flight back to Addis Abeba.



Overnight: Hilton Hotel www.hiltonaddishotel.com

Monday: Oct. 10th ADDIS ABABA

We have a morning visit to the Fistula Hospital, then a Gem stone establishment.

The Fistula Hospital was established in 1974 by the NZ/Australian Drs Reg and Katherine Hamlin where they perfected the intricate operation to cure women suffering from a fistula A Fistula affects so many women and this expertise has enabled the training to be spread world-wide with many specialist fistula hospitals established.

A newly established trade in Gems available –Opals, Beryl, Garnet, Quartz, Tourmaline and distinctive Emeralds.

Tuesday 11th Oct HOMEWARD JOURNEY BEGINS TODAY

Addis Ababa - Pack your bags, have a swim, do some last minute shopping before we drive out to the airport to board with our flight home.

