

Ethiopia – Tribes of the Omo Valley

Tour Code ETS

Departing 7 July 2011

This comprehensive 13 day tour concentrates on Southern Ethiopia's beautiful Omo Valley, home to an intriguing mix of many small and distinctive tribal groups. We encounter many including the Karo, the Mursi and the Hamar – all of whom have retained their own unique customs and traditions. On this journey of discovery in comfortable 4x4 vehicles we explore stunning National Parks, picturesque tribal villages and colourful local markets. We are able to witness age-old customs and practices that remain part of everyday life in a captivating region



Face painting, Karo tribe
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ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Addis Ababa - Monday 7 July

Evening departure from Heathrow Terminal 3 for overnight flight on Ethiopian Airlines arriving directly into Addis Ababa

Day 2 Drive to Lake Awasa – Tuesday 8 July

After early morning arrival into Addis Ababa airport we board comfortable 4x4 vehicles and head south. Our destination is the Rift Valley lakes area and we arrive at Lake Awasa, set in a volcanic caldera and home to abundant bird life, hippo and civet monkey. Overnight at the Wabishebelle hotel (B,L,D)

Day 3 Visit Awasa Fish market. Drive to Arbaminch – Wednesday 9 July

This morning we visit the Awasa fish market before continuing to Arba Minch, set amidst green hills close to the Rift Valley lake of Chamo in the Nechisar National Park. Two nights at the new Paradise lodge wonderfully located overlooking Lake Chamo (B,L,D)

Day 4 Visit Dorze people. Boat trip on Lake Chamo in Nechisar National Park – Thursday 10 July

This morning we drive to Chencha, home of the Dorze people, set high up in the Gughe Mountains where we see the traditional Dorze beehive shaped bamboo huts. This afternoon we take a boat trip on Lake Chamo to see hippos and some of the largest crocodiles in Africa (B,L,D)

Day 5 Drive to Turmi via Weito – Saturday 11 July

This morning we leave for Turmi, the principal town of Hamar country. We stop at Weita to see the Tsemai and Arbore peoples at the busy colourful Sunday market. The Tsemai are farmers and pastoralists who grow sorghum and maize. Three nights stay at the Turmi lodge (B,L,D)

Day 6 Visit the Turmi weekly market. Visit Hamer people – Sunday 12 July

This morning we visit the Dasanech tribe in Omorate before visiting the weekly colourful Monday market at Turmi, the most colourful and famous in the region. This afternoon we will visit some of the surrounding Hamer villages to meet the Hamer tribes with their beautiful body decoration and hopefully see some traditional dancing (B,L,D)

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Day 7 Drive to Murulle. Visit Karo people. Visit Demeka market – Monday 13 July

This morning we drive to Murulle to visit a Karo village with their famous practice of face and torso paintings and extravagant hairstyles. They are considered the masters of body painting and decorate their bodies with chalk paint often imitating the spotted plumage of a guinea fowl. In the afternoon we visit the weekly market at Demeka before returning to our lodge at Turmi (B,L,D)

Day 8 Drive to Jinka. Visit Ari and Bana peoples – Tuesday 14 July

This morning we head for Jinka. Along the journey we stop at the village of Key Afer to visit the weekly markets of the Ari and Bana tribes. Later we drive into the highlands to Jinka. Two nights stay at the Jinka resort hotel (B,L,D)

Day 9 Drive into Mago National Park to visit the Mursi peoples – Wednesday 15 July

This morning we drive into the Mago National Park and undeniably a highlight of our Omo Safari will be the visit to a Mursi village, famous residents of the South Omo valley who wear clay lip plates. We return to Jinka in the late afternoon (B,L,D)

Day 10 Visit Borena people at Yabello – Thursday 16 July

We visit the cultivated homelands of the Konso people this morning before arriving in Yabello to spend the afternoon visiting a nearby village to encounter the Borena tribe. Overnight at the Yabello Mobil hotel (B,L,D)

Day 11 Drive to Yirga Alem. Visit Sidamo tribe and coffee region – Friday 17 July

Today we drive to Yirga Alem situated in the finest coffee growing regions of the country and home to the Sidamo tribe. We spend the afternoon walking in the area and visiting a Sidamo village. We spend the night at Aregash Lodge, in a perfect rustic highland location teeming with abundant bird life (B,L,D)

Day 12 Drive to Addis Ababa – Saturday 18 July

We drive to Addis Ababa this morning and spend a cultural afternoon visiting to the fine Ethnographical Museum housed in Addis Ababa University and the Trinity Cathedral, resting place of Haile Selassie. We drive up into the Entoto hills to enjoy panoramic views across the capital before enjoying a farewell dinner and cultural dance show. Overnight at the Ghion hotel (B,L,D)

Day 13 Fly to London – Sunday 19 July

After a leisurely breakfast we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London via Rome with Ethiopian Airlines. We arrive at Terminal 3 Heathrow airport in the evening (B)

Cost £1995.00 per person in a twin room (excluding international flights)

Single supplement charge £250.00



Price includes –

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- ▶ Specialist Ethiopian guide; Samson Tilahun
- ▶ All transportation in A/C 4WD Land cruisers with experienced drivers
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees and boat excursions
- ▶ Best available hotels and designated lodges on a full board basis
- ▶ Overnight stay at the eco-tourism lodge at Aregash
- ▶ Traditional Addis restaurant dinners plus cultural dance show on final evening
- ▶ Gratuities to porters, restaurant waiters and camp staff
- ▶ All airport transfers

Not included – travel insurance, visa fees, departure taxes, drinks, guide and driver gratuities, international flights with Ethiopian Airlines (cost from £520.00)