**HISTORICAL ETHIOPIA**

**9 days/8 nights**

From $5708 per person twin share*

Departs daily ex Addis Ababa

*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

**INCLUSIONS**

All airport transfers, ground transportation and tours as per itinerary in air-conditioned minibus, accommodation on twin share basis, all meals (B&B only in Addis Ababa), entrance fees, park fees, services of local English speaking guide. Internal flights with Ethiopian Airlines and applicable taxes.

**EXCLUSIONS**

Video/camera fees, all drinks, laundry gratuities and items of personal nature.

With an ancient Christian heritage, Ethiopia is a land of history and legend with a civilization dating back thousands of years. It is also a country with breathtaking scenery, from towering mountains to vast Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile. This tour uncovers the archaeological wonders of the northern route, including the giant stelae and tombs at Asmara, reputed to have been the residence of the Queen of Shaba, the medieval castles at Gondar and the famous rock-hewn churches at Lalibela. This highland region is generally above 1,200m (Addis Ababa), so the climate is very pleasant, although nights can be cold. October to May is the dry season and pleasant, although nights can be cold. October to May is the dry season and

**Day 1 Addis Ababa**

Arrival transfer to the Golden Tulip Hotel which offers 90 modern ensuite rooms, a restaurant, bar and gym in the heart of Addis Ababa’s vibrant business district.

**Day 2 Gondar**

Fly to Gondar. Drive to Gondar, sometimes called “the Camelot of Africa”. This once imperial city is known for its medieval castles and churches. Visit the castle complex of Fasilides and the 16th century church of Debra Berhan Selassie. Next day, enjoy an excursion into the Simien Mountains National Park with optional walk if time allows. This is “The Roof of Africa”, with peaks rising up to 4620m, the fourth highest in Africa. Overnight at Mekele Lodge. BLD

**Day 3 Axum**

Fly to Axum. Visit the stela field, the 6th century tomb of King Kaleb, 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. Overnight at Sebene International Hotel. B LD

**Day 4 Lalibela**

Fly to Lalibela, built in the 12th century it is also known as “Africa’s Petra”. This holy city is still a place of pilgrimage and the churches remain in use today. Spend the next 2 days exploring Lalibela’s churches carved from rock called “the eighth wonder of the world”. Overnight at Mountain View Hotel. BLD

**Day 5 Addis Ababa**

Transfer to airport to fly back to Addis Ababa. Remainder of day at leisure. Overnight at the Golden Tulip Hotel. B

**Day 6/7 Addis Ababa**

Transfer to airport. Tour ends

**HISTORICAL ETHIOPIA TOUR**

**TRIBES OF THE SOUTH**

**8 days/7 nights**

From $5860 per person twin share*

Departs daily ex Addis Ababa

*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

**INCLUSIONS**

All airport transfers, ground transportation and tours as per itinerary in air-conditioned minibus or 4WD; accommodation on twin share basis, all meals (B&B only in Addis Ababa), entrance fees, park fees, services of local English speaking guide. Internal flights with Ethiopian Airlines and applicable taxes.

**EXCLUSIONS**

Video/camera fees, all drinks, laundry gratuities and items of personal nature.

Ethiopia is renowned for its fascinating tribal peoples who continue to follow ancient and traditional lifestyles, each with their own rich culture, customs, religious beliefs and body decoration. This tour visits the Omo Valley in southern Ethiopia which is home to fascinating tribes like the Mursi, whose women wear terracotta plates in their lower lips, the Tsayam, famous for their “bull jumping” ceremonies, and the Konso, with their intricate funereal traditions.

This itinerary can be combined with our “Historical Ethiopia” tour (page 150).

**Day 1 Addis Ababa**

Arrival transfer to the Golden Tulip Hotel which offers 90 modern ensuite rooms, a restaurant, bar and gym in the heart of Addis Ababa’s vibrant business district.

**Day 2 Arba Minch**

Fly to Arba Minch, and check into Paradise Park to visit the fascinating Mursi, who live in a market, but a place where large numbers of crocodiles and pelicans gather. BLD

**Day 3 Turmi**

Drive to Turmi (125 km) via Konso. a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its terraced hillside and intricately carved tombs, which locals use to decorate graves. This destination is a spectacular example of living cultural tradition that stretches back over 400 years. On Day 4, return to Murrle to meet the lively Karo tribe, whose people use ornate face and body art, elaborate headdresses and scarification to emphasise beauty and status. In the afternoon, travel to Omorate to enjoy interactions with the Geleb (Dassenech), pastoralists who celebrate a woman’s upcoming marriage with a long, drawn out ceremony where the entire tribe is invited to dress up in their finest clothing, dance and feast on slaughtered cattle. Overnight at the cheerful, well-designed Busko Lodge or similar. BLD

**Day 4 Six Jinka**

Drive to Jinka, stopping to interact with the Tsayam, agro-pastoralists whose young boys partake in a curious rite of passage known as “bull jumping”. On Day 6, enter Mago National Park to visit the fascinating Mursi, who live in low-slung straw huts. Mursi women are well known for wearing clay plates in their lower lips and earlobes. The larger the lip plate, the greater a woman’s value is when she is married. Mursi men are famed for their elaborate hairstyles and fierce dispositions, taking part in ritualistic battles that can last for days. Your accommodation is at the unique Eco-Omo Lodge, which features 20

safari-style tented suites set close to the edge of the Neri River. BLD

**Day 7 Addis Ababa**

This morning transfer to the airport and fly to Addis Ababa. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight at the Golden Tulip Hotel. B

**Day 8 Tour ends**

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight. B