

Dinknesh Ethiopia Tour

Member of ASTA, APTA, ATTA, ATA, JATA, ASA, ICTP & ETOA

DFD-09-Ethiopian Wildlife and Tribal Culture Safari

Duration= 14 days/13nights

Route = Rift valley, Omo valley and Bale Mountains

Transportation: - 4x4 vehicles

Minimum group size= 2 pax

Tour Dates	2018 Prices	Single room supplement
Feb14 – Feb 27,2018	USD 4,914	USD 414
May02 – May15, 2018	USD 4,374	USD 368
Jun13- Jun26,2018	USD 4,374	USD 368
Oct17-Oct 30,2018	USD 4,783	USD 403
Nov14-Nov 27, 2018	USD 4,783	USD 403

Itinerary

This itinerary is designed for those who love nature, wild life, and authentic culture. Most of the major National parks in the country that are famous for their wild life are included. Several of the National parks included are the most untouched ones and rarely visited by tourists, hence offering great wild life experience. Visit to several endemic mammals, including the Ethiopian Wolf, is included in the itinerary.

Interaction with the interesting Mursi, Hamar, Karo, and other Omo valley tribes is another focus of the itinerary.

Day 1: Arrival

Arrive in Addis Ababa Bole International airport and meet your guide in the airport the will be transferred to the hotel.

Overnight: Jupiter or Similar 4* Hotel

Day 2: Drive Addis – Chebera Churchura National park

After breakfast, drive from Addis Ababa to Chebera Churchura national park via Jimma, the capital of the former Kaffa province after which coffee is named. Late in the afternoon, enjoy game drive in the Park.

Overnight: First class camping gear with private cook and necessary camping gears



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Day 3- Chebera Churchura National park

Today will be an epic day in Chebera Churchura National Park. This park is one of the recent developments in Ethiopia, and it is the most untouched parks with great wilderness. So far, 37 larger mammals and 237 species of birds have been recorded in the different habitats (Highland & Rverine forest and savanna and bush lands) of the park. White- winged cliff chat, banded-barbet, wattled ibis, black-headed forest Oriole and thick billed Raven are endemic birds for the country. Common mammals include the African elephant, hippopotamus, Cape buffalo, lion, and leopard. The park appears to be the least disturbed and reliable ecosystem for the African elephant and Buffalo in the country.

Overnight: First class camping gear with private cook and necessary camping gears



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Day 4- Drive Chebera Churchura – Maze National Park

After early morning game drive, leave Chebera Churchura National park and drive to Maze National Park. Maze national Park is covered by savannah grassland with scattered deciduous broad leaf trees as well as river basin association along the main water courses. So far 39 larger and medium sized mammals and 196 birds' species have been recorded. The park is one of the three sites in the country where good population of the endemic Swayne's Hartebeest's population still survives. In addition, other mammals like Orbi, Bohor red buck, warthog, bushbuck, waterbuck, greater kudu, lesser kudu, bush pig, Anibus baboon, vervet monkey, leopard, and wild cats are among others common species.

Overnight: First class camping gear with private cook and necessary camping gears

Day 5 - Drive Maze – Mago National Park

After morning game drive, drive to Mago National Park. Our camp site is set in ideal location offering great opportunity to see the wildlife in the park late in the afternoon and early in the morning.

Overnight: First class camping gear with private cook and necessary camping gears



Day 6 - Excursion to Mursi tribal village

In the morning, make game drive in the park, and then drive to the village of the Mursi tribe to visit and appreciate the very authentic culture of Mursi tribe. They are renowned for the strange custom followed by their women who, on reaching maturity, have their lower lips slit and circular clay discs inserted.

Overnight: First class camping gear with private cook and necessary camping gears



Day 7 - Drive Jinka - Turmi

Drive from Jinka to Turmi, the settlement of the Hamar people. The women of the Hamar are known particularly for their striking, adorned with thick plaits of ochre-colored hair hanging down in a heavy fringe, leather skirts decorated with cowries, a dozen or more copper bracelets fixed tightly around their arms. And the men are noted for the initiation ceremony of Jumping over the Bulls. Catching this interesting ritual is entirely a matter of chance. On the way you will visit the most colorful traditional market in the Omo Valley called Key Afer, here you will see the Hammer, Tsemay, Bena and the Ari ethnic groups with their untouched cultural dressing style.

Overnight: Buska Lodge



Day 8 - Turmi – Murulle - Turmi

In the morning, you will make an excursion trip to Murulle - the village of Karo people, who are the tribe with the least in number of members, and known for their body paintings they indulge before important ceremonies. The most striking thing about Karo people's symbolic and ornamental expressions is the painted body and face decorations. This is an elaborate process, which ranges from fine and elaborate details to rough, but striking paintings traced with the palms or fingers. The most beautiful expression is in the facial and chest paintings that combine white (chalk), black (charcoal), yellow, ochre, and red earth. They often imitate the spotted plumage of a guinea fowl. Karo woman scarify their chests to beautify themselves. The complete scarification of a man's chest indicates that he has killed an enemy or a dangerous animal. The scars are cut with a knife or razor blade and ash is rubbed in to produce a raised effect. The wearing of a grey and ochre clay hair bun also indicates the killing of an enemy or a dangerous animal. We also visit Dus, a typical settlement with open public meeting grounds and dancing place. The people living here have shelters called shuppa, where they pass the hottest hours of the day playing a Karo board game called Ware.

In the afternoon, visit the Hamar village or attend the bull jumping ceremony if there is one. The Hammer people are noted for their 'Bull Jumping' Ceremony where boys jump lines of bulls to show the community that they are old and matured enough to carry the responsibility of marriage. Hammers have remarkable hairstyles made from ochre, water, and binding resin. They rub the mixture into their hair then twist the strands repeatedly to create coppery-colored locks. This is a sign of wealth and welfare. Hammers are considered to be masters of body decoration.

Overnight: Buska Lodge



Day 9- Drive Turmi – Arba Minch

Drive from Turmi to Arba Minch visiting the Arbore, noted for their jewelries and the Konso people who are noted for their tradition of making traces for the protection of erosion. The Konso land is registered as one of the world heritage sites in the country in 2011.

In the afternoon, have a remarkable boat ride on the southernmost Rift Valley Lake of Ethiopia – Lake Chamo. Boat trip on Lake Chamo is among the best anywhere in Ethiopia. One can spot many Hippos and the world's most spectacular concentrations of Giant Crocodiles (It is locally called as "Crocodile Market"). The water

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birds are great the scenery is truly unforgettable. Fishing for Nile Perch and many other species by locals on their traditional boat is by far the best in the country. You will also watch various low land water birds like the African Fish Eagle, Great White Pelicans, egrets, etc.

Overnight: Paradise Lodge or similar hotel

Day 10 - Drive Arba Minch – Awassa

After breakfast, drive to Chenchu to visit the Dorze people who are known for weaving tradition and for their beautiful huts made of bamboo. Then head to Awassa visiting the Alaba village for their painted houses.

Overnight: Taddesse Enjori or similar Hotel

Day 11 - Awassa- Bale Mountains National Park

In the morning, visit the fish market at Lake Awassa. Then drive to the world famous Bale Mountains National Park. At the park headquarters in Dinsho we search the trails for the colorful Chestnut-naped Francolin, Ground scrapper Thrush (of the distinctive, endemic race *simensis*), the secretive Abyssinian Ground-Thrush, vocal Abyssinian Catbird, and the endemic White-backed Black-Tit. We also hope to see a variety of mammals, including Mountain Nyala- now entirely restricted to the Bale Mountain massif, Menelik's Bushbuck and Warthog, unusual at this high altitude. Further drive to Goba for overnight

Overnight Goba Wabishebele or similar hotel



Day 12 – Full day Sanetti Plateau Wildlife Excursion

Today will be a day of great contrasts with amazing scenery and birding. We will depart early, and ascend the Bale massif onto the Sanetti Plateau, which is between 3800m and 4377m above sea level. Once we reach this unique plateau, we will be driving on Africa's highest road, passing close to the summit of Ethiopia's

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second highest mountain. This habitat is termed “Afro-alpine moorland”, and is characterized by Jibrra or Giant Lobelias, which tower like monolithic giants over the rich tussock grasslands and extensive cushions of yellow Everlasting flowers. This site is an Important Bird Area of immense importance, supporting seven globally threatened species and nearly all of Ethiopia’s Highland biome species. The grasslands are estimated to support an incredible biomass of 4,000kg of rodents per hectare. This obviously attracts an array of raptors and we should see Steppe and Golden Eagle, Augur Buzzard and elegant Pallid Harriers courting over this green sea.

They share this abundant food source with the plateau’s most celebrated resident, the **Ethiopian Wolf**, crowned with the unenviable title of “the world’s rarest canid.” We should enjoy excellent photographic opportunities in this unique mountain wonderland. Finally, we will reach the escarpment of this elevated plateau and stare down, through the clouds, at the vast Hareenna Forest below. This remarkable forest is the largest intact forest block in Ethiopia and the largest protected Afro-alpine forest on the continent. It still supports populations of lion and the only surviving forest-dwelling African Wild Dogs. Although unlikely that we will see either of these species, the descent through this breathtakingly beautiful moss-draped forest is inspirational.

Overnight Bale Mountains lodge

Day 13 – Drive to Langanu

After breakfast, we drive to Lake Langanu. Here we can enjoy watching several water bird species in and around the lake, and the ever spectacular sunset. Lake Langanu is bilharzias free and suitable for swimming.

Overnight Sabana beach Resort

Day 14 – Drive to Addis Ababa

After breakfast, drive back to Addis visiting the Rift Valley Lakes of Langanu, Abiyatta, Shalla, and Ziway.

In the afternoon, make city tour of Addis Ababa that includes:-

National Museum:-It comprises of many archaeological and historical findings including the famous complete hominid fossil remain of ‘Lucy’ locally known as ‘Dinknesh’ meaning wonderful. Visiting this museum is having a good summary for your visit to the historic Ethiopia.

Merkato:-It is the largest open-air market in Africa. Here you will be presented with confusing, but fascinating, glimpse of the vast range of goods and artifacts available from all parts of the country and you will enjoy the Ethiopian trade exchange tradition in the open air, you can purchase anything you desire here.

Trinity Cathedral:-a beautiful church with a baroque style of European architecture which is unique to both Ethiopia and Africa and is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Here you will find scripts of the imperial families, statues done by a Greek sculpture, Stained glass window paintings from the Old and New Testament in the Bible and coffins of Emperor Haile Silassie-I; the founder of the church, and his wife.

In the evening before departure, have a fare well dinner party at one of the best traditional restaurants where you will see the folkloric dancers of the people of Ethiopia, and taste the variety of Ethiopian meals. Then, be transferred to the airport for your departure

Price inclusive of:-

- Accommodation on a twin room sharing basis

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- All meals out of Addis, and only breakfast in Addis
- All entrance fees
- Transfer in and out service
- First class camping gears
- Cook for the camping days
- All ground transportation
- Professional English speaking guide
- Portage fees
- All local guides
- Scouts
- Government tax

Price exclusive of:-

- Lunch and dinner in Addis
- Any alcoholic drinks
- Personal expense like souvenirs, laundry, etc
- Tips
- Any expense which is not stated in the 'Included List' above