



Addis Ababa

POP 4.5 MILLION / ELEV 2300M

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Yod Abyssinia (p53)
- ➔ Kategna (p51)
- ➔ Itegue Taitu Hotel (p52)
- ➔ Sana'a Restaurant (p51)
- ➔ Lime Tree (p51)

Best Places to Sleep

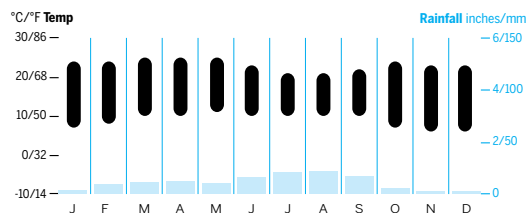
- ➔ Sheraton Hotel (p49)
- ➔ Caravan Hotel (p45)
- ➔ Arequ Guest House (p45)
- ➔ La Source Guest House (p45)
- ➔ Addissinia Hotel (p49)

Why Go?

Since its establishment in the 19th century, Addis Ababa (አዲስ አበባ) has always seemed like a magical portal, a gateway to another world. For the rural masses of Ethiopia it was, and is, a city whose streets are paved in gold; for a foreign visitor, the gateway of Addis Ababa is at the verge of an ancient and mystical world. And yet, Addis – Africa's fourth-largest city and its diplomatic capital – is also a traffic-choked, sprawling city of no discernible beauty that many foreign visitors try to transit as quickly as possible. But take note: by skipping out on the contradictions of this complex city you run the risk of failing to understand Ethiopia altogether. And apart from anything else, Addis is the best place in the country to sample Ethiopian food, and has some wonderful museums and places to stay.

When to Go

Addis Ababa



Jan The festivals of Leddēt and Timkat add colour and pomp to any visit to Addis.

Sep Light a bonfire during the Meskel festival on 27 September.

Nov Bring your running shoes for the Great Ethiopian Run held in late November.



Addis Ababa Highlights

- 1 Ethnological Museum** (p32) Delving into this excellent treasure trove.
- 2 National Museum** (p33) See Lucy, one of our oldest ancestors.
- 3 'Red Terror' Martyrs Memorial Museum** (p32) Staring in silent contemplation at this moving memorial.
- 4 Yod Abyssinia** (p53) Tickling your tongue with your first *injera* and *wat*.
- 5 Tomoca** (p54) Seeing what all the fuss is about at this time-worn coffee den.
- 6 Topia Tej Bet** (p55) Taking an initiation in the delights of *tej* (honey wine)

before heading out to sample the city's nightlife.

- 7 St George Cathedral & Museum** (p36) Visiting this fascinating religious museum.
- 8 Holy Trinity Cathedral** (p37) Mingling with pilgrims at the final resting place of Emperor Haile Selassie.