

# Northern Ethiopia

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Four Sisters (p83)
- ➔ Ben Abeba (p129)
- ➔ Wude Coffee (p70)
- ➔ Black Rose (p118)
- ➔ Karibu Kitchen & Bar (p118)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Limalimo Lodge (p92)
- ➔ Gheralta Lodge (p115)
- ➔ Wukro Lodge (p115)
- ➔ Korkor Lodge (p115)
- ➔ Hotel Maribela (p129)

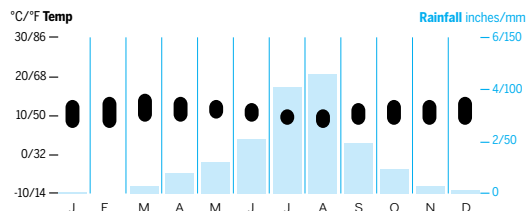
## Why Go?

For most visitors to Ethiopia, it's all about the north. More than anywhere else on Earth, northern Ethiopia has the ability to wow you day after day after day.

Known as the Historical Circuit, there are over two millennia's worth of ancient treasures scattered about, from giant obelisks and hidden tombs at Aksum to a collection of castles in and around Gonder, to unique churches in Lalibela, Tigray, Lake Tana and many other places. Not to be outdone by human mastery, Mother Nature really let her creative juices flow here. The Danakil Depression, an esteemed destination among adventure travellers, features a permanent lava lake and a bright-yellow sulphuric plain, while the Simien Mountains wrinkle the land with canyons and peaks with a beauty you'll struggle to find anywhere else in Africa.

## When to Go

### Gonder



**Jan** Time for Timkat, the festival celebrating Jesus' baptism. Big in Gonder and Aksum.

**May-Sep** The rainy season doesn't stop travel, but it makes trekking tough.

**Oct** The best time to travel. The rain's mostly gone, but the land remains green and gorgeous.

# Northern Ethiopia Highlights

## 1 Lalibela (p120)

Immersing yourself in the mind-blowing rock-hewn churches.

## 2 Simien

**Mountains** (p86)  
Trying not to lose your balance as you trek along the endless Abyssinian abysses with gelada monkeys for company.

## 3 Danakil

**Depression** (p119)  
Smelling the sulphur and staring in disbelief at the thermometer in this otherworldly land.

## 4 Aksum

(p93)  
Dreaming of hidden treasure in the gloom of ancient Aksumite tombs beneath glorious stelae.

## 5 Debre Damo

(p106)  
Marvelling at the enduring power of faith as you climb to this ancient monastery.

## 6 Gondar

(p75)  
Roaming the hallowed halls of the royal retreats, admiring the church paintings at Debre Berhan Selassie then dining at Four Sisters.

## 7 Rock-hewn

**Churches of Tigray** (p107)  
Staring from Abune Yemata Guh then climbing to the monastery at Maryam Korkor.

## 8 Menz-Guassa

**Community Conservation Area** (p131)  
Seeing an Ethiopian wolf in pristine habitat on a community trek far from the crowds.

