

Welcome to Ethiopia & Djibouti

Ethiopia is like nowhere else on the planet – a beautiful country blessed with a peerless history, fabulous wildlife and some of Africa's most soulful peoples.

Nature's Bounty

Ethiopia is one of Africa's most beautiful countries and its landscapes are epic in both scale and beauty. Here is a place where you can trek more than 3000m above sea level or visit the lowest place on the African continent, the Danakil Depression. In between are lush highlands and stirring deserts, vertiginous canyons, sweeping savannah, vast lakes and high plateaus. Lying at the convergence of three tectonic plates, Djibouti offers a unique geological landscape including the vast salt lake of Lac Assal and the bizarre lunar landscape of Lac Abbé.

Historical Wonders

The only African country to have escaped European colonialism, Ethiopia has retained much of its cultural identity and its story is one of Africa's most fascinating. It all begins with Lucy, one of our most celebrated ancient ancestors, moves effortlessly into the realm of ancient Aksum and then takes on power and passion as Christianity takes centre stage. And unlike so many other places in Africa, the ancients here left behind some extraordinary monuments to faith and power which serve as focal points for so many wonderful journeys. In neighbouring Djibouti, you'll have the chance to marvel at exceptionally well-preserved rock engravings hidden in the mountains.

Outdoor Adventures

Welcome to Africa's most underrated wildlife destination. The Ethiopian wolf is the ultimate prize – the sighting of a lifetime. There are gelada monkeys across the high northern plateau as well as other primates, while watching the extravagantly horned and sure-footed walia ibex cling to a rocky precipice is one of the great sights in nature. The birdwatching, too, ranks among the best in Africa. In Djibouti, there's superb hiking in the Goda Mountains, awesome whale-shark spotting in the Gulf of Tadjoura, as well as stunning diving amid coral-encrusted wrecks off Djibouti City.

Peoples with Proud Traditions

When it comes to human cultures, Ethiopia has an embarrassment of riches. There are the Surmi, Afar, Mursi, Karo, Hamar, Nuer and Anuak, whose ancient customs and traditions have remained almost entirely intact. A highlight of any trip here is witnessing one of the many festivals that are an integral part of the traditional culture, from age-old ceremonies marking rites of passage to Christian celebrations of singular passion, the impact upon those who witness such events can provide travel memories to last a lifetime.



Why I Love Ethiopia

By Anthony Ham, Writer

In a lifetime of travel in Africa, I've never been anywhere quite like Ethiopia. It has all the essential elements that call me back here time after time – wildlife you just don't find elsewhere, epic landscapes of rare beauty, an endlessly fascinating historical tale that provides depth and context to any journey through the country. But there is something else at large in Ethiopia; a spiritual dimension that infuses every aspect of travel here and brings ancient stories and landscapes to life in a way that I've never encountered anywhere else on the continent.

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