



Addis Ababa

POPULATION: 3,384,569 ALTITUDE: 2300M

Includes »

Sights	32
Activities.....	42
Festivals & Events	42
Sleeping.....	43
Eating	50
Drinking.....	53
Entertainment.....	55
Shopping	56
Information	57
Getting There & Away	58
Getting Around.....	60
Around Addis Ababa	61

Best Places for Culture

- » Ethnological Museum (p32)
- » National Museum (p33)
- » St George Cathedral & Museum (p36)
- » Bole Rd restaurants & bars (p51)
- » 'Red Terror' Martyrs Memorial Museum (p36)

Best Places to Stay

- » Stay Easy (p49)
- » Itegue Taitu Hotel (p43)
- » La Source Guest House (p48)
- » Addis Regency (p44)

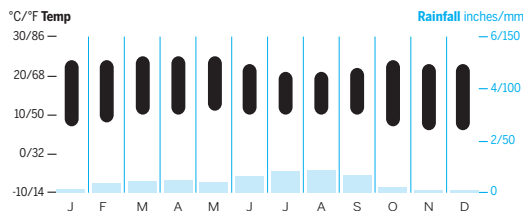
Why Go?

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; and for a foreign visitor, the portal of Addis Ababa is at the verge of an ancient and mystical world.

For both these groups, Addis – Africa's fourth-largest city and its diplomatic capital – is a place of contrasts: the shepherd from the countryside bringing his flock to a city market; the city priest with the business investments; the glossy nightclubs with the country-girl prostitutes. Despite this merging of worlds, many foreign visitors try to transit Addis as quickly as possible. But take note: by skipping out on the contradictions of this happening city you run the risk of failing to understand Ethiopia altogether.

When to Go

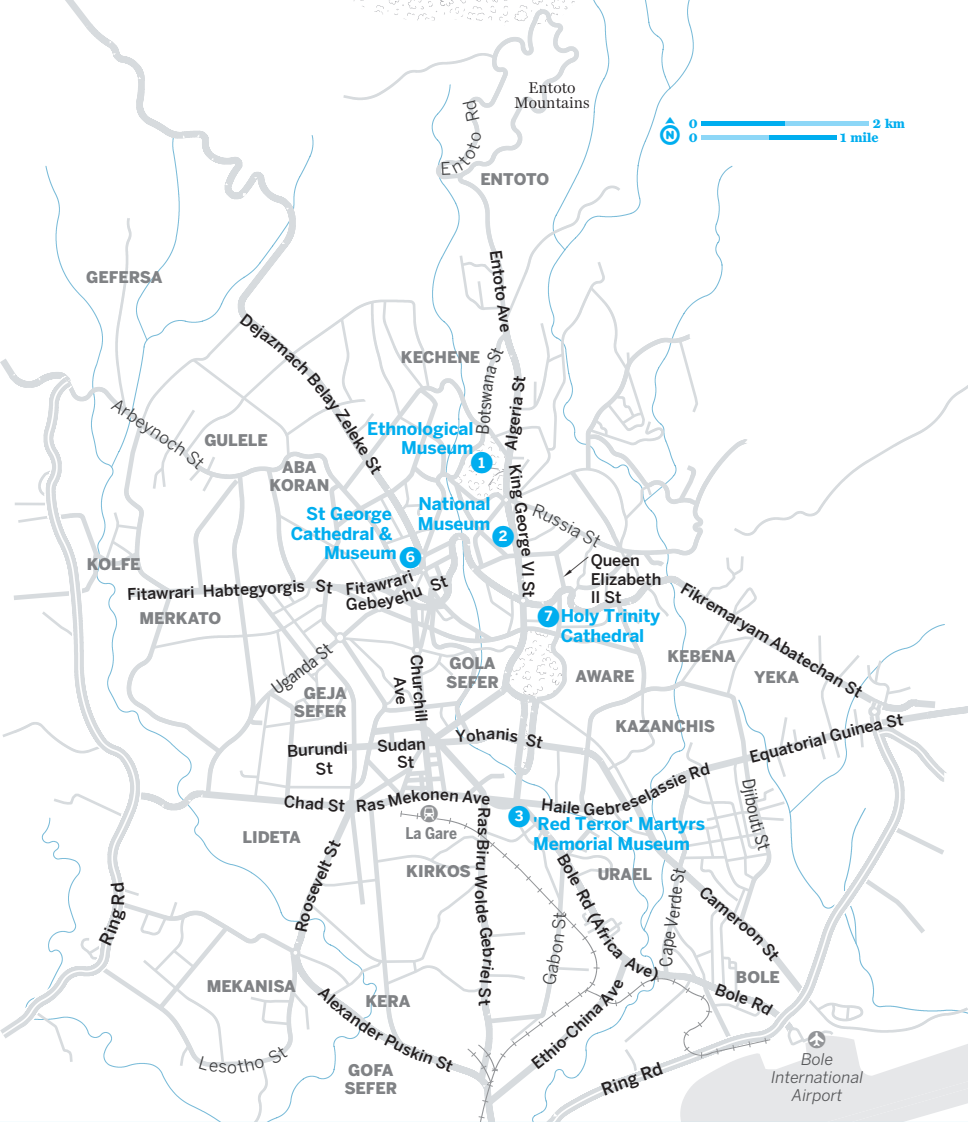
Addis Ababa



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

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

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



Addis Ababa Highlights

- 1 Delve into the treasure trove that is the astounding **Ethnological Museum** (p32)
- 2 Peer back through the ages at the **National Museum** (p33), home of Lucy, one of our oldest ancestors
- 3 Stare in silent contemplation at the moving

'Red Terror' Martyrs Memorial Museum (p36)

- 4 Tickle your tongue with your first *injera* (flatbread) and *wat* (tripe stew) and satisfy your rumbling tummy in Ethiopia's best restaurants (p50)
- 5 Throw back a *tej* (honey wine) or sip on a cool cocktail

as you kick-start a night on the tiles Addis style (p53)

- 6 Visit one of the most interesting religious museums in Ethiopia: **St George Cathedral & Museum** (p36)
- 7 See the final resting place of Emperor Haile Selassie in the **Holy Trinity Cathedral** (p36)