

ICON
ADVENTURES®



Icon Adventures • Licence no. 31920

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Ethiopian Odyssey

DEPARTS:
When it suits you!

COST PER PERSON:
\$6795

INCLUDES:

- Return airfare from Australia to Ethiopia (ex-Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne)
- This trip can be done as add-on to the Ethiopian Discovery and Ethiopian Trek and Timkat trips. Call us for a price.
- All accommodation: double or twin share (single supplement available on request)
- All meals and drinks with meals included (excluding alcoholic drinks)
- All transfers and land transport by comfortable four-wheel-drive
- Knowledgeable English speaking guide
- Camping equipment (we recommend you bring your own sleeping bag)
- Village and national parks fees, boat trip costs etc
- Government taxes

Southern Ethiopia assaults the senses like few other places in the world.

There are huge lakes lying in the basin of the Rift Valley surrounded by lush hills. Here hippos and crocodiles are found as well as hundreds of species of birds, many of them endemic to Ethiopia.

There are diverse landscapes of rolling savannah, tropical forests and arid plains.

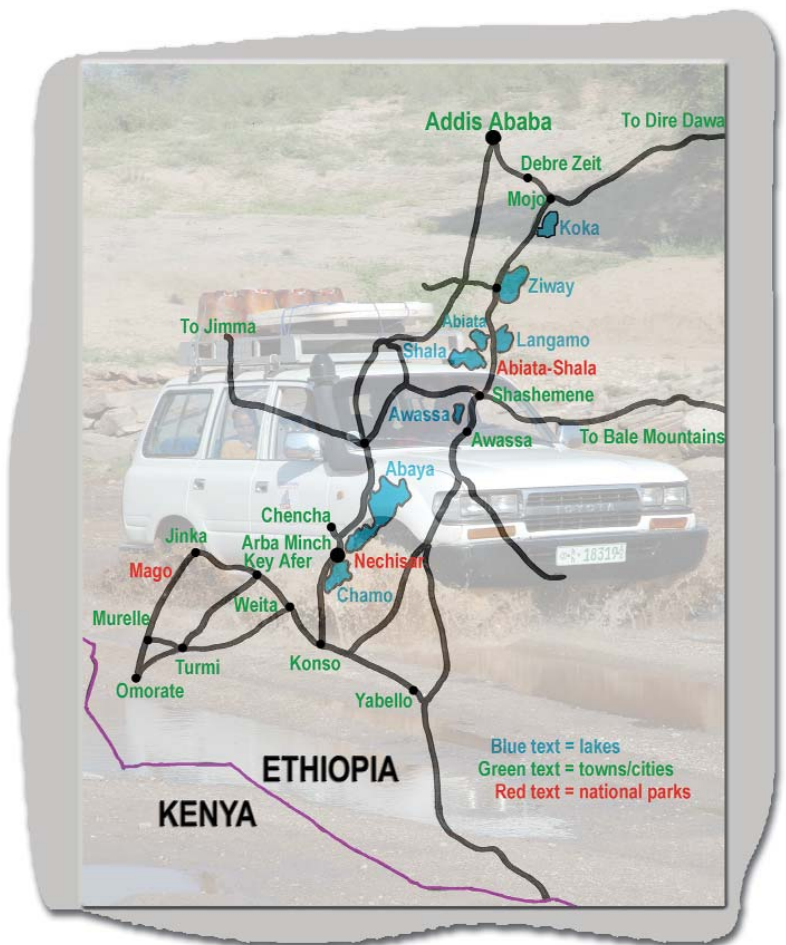
South Omo contains at least a dozen different tribes whose people are beautifully decorated and whose cultures have not changed for thousands of years.

The tour includes visiting the Rift Valley Lakes, remote and rarely visited national parks and mountainous Chencha for panoramic views.

We will visit some of Africa's most fascinating tribes. Meet the Dorze people with their six-metre high 'beehive' houses and the Karo tribe with their elaborate body painting and scarification. Visit the Mursi, reknown for their fierce stick-fighting and women with clay-plates in their enlarged lips.

Southern Ethiopia has some of the best tourist attractions on the African continent yet few people each year make the journey to see a land virtually untouched by time.

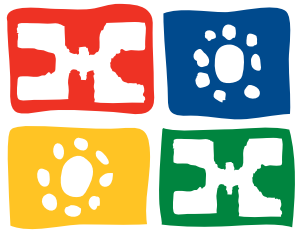
Don't hesitate to call James Holden on 0403 418 263 or Chris Ramsey on 0439 208 303 if you have any questions about the itinerary.



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Itinerary

Date	Activity	Overnight
DAY 1	An early start and our journey begins by heading south-west of Addis Ababa in a comfortable four-wheel-drive. We'll see the Oromo and Gurage tribes with their circular houses with thatched roofs surrounded by enset plants (false banana). We overnight in Arba Minch at the Bekele Mola hotel, which overlooks the very scenic Lake Chamo.	Bekele Mola Hotel Arba Minch
DAY 2	Morning drive to Chencha, which is a small highland town perched at nearly 3000 metres above sea level. From here we'll get fantastic views of the Rift Valley and we'll meet the Dorze people, who are known for their beehive-shaped houses measuring up to six metres tall. Afternoon boat ride on Lake Chamo where we will hopefully see hippos and crocodiles. Overnight again in Arba Minch.	Bekele Mola Hotel Arba Minch
DAY 3	From Arba Minch we drive to Jinka visiting the Derashe, Tsemay and Benna peoples on the way, each with their individual hair and clothing styles. If day 3 is a Thursday we can visit the very colourful market for the Tsemay and Erbore people at Key Afer, which is on the way to Jinka.	Jinka Resort Hotel, Jinka
DAY 4	After an early breakfast we drive to Mago National Park, a large reserve of savannah similar to the game parks of East Africa. Here we visit the Mursi tribe, whose women are famous for their unique disc plates in their lower lips. The Mursi are also masters of body painting. We then drive back to camp in Mago National Park for the night.	Jinka Resort Hotel, Jinka
DAY 5	The next day we drive to Murelle on the eastern bank of the Omo River. Here we will visit the Karo tribe with their elaborate body decoration and scarification. Overnight at the leafy Murelle campsite where black and white colobus monkeys are commonly seen.	Campsite, Karo village
DAY 6	Morning drive from Turmi to Omorate. Here we cross the River Omo by dug-out canoe and visit the Dasanech tribe who live in small domed huts made from woven twigs. After driving back to Turmi for lunch, we'll attend the weekly market of the Hamar people (Mondays only).	Campsite, Murelle
DAY 7	Drive from Murelle into Hamar country around Turmi. The Hamar are striking people: the men are tall and wear short cloth wraps and bright beaded jewelry around their necks; the women plait their hair with red clay and wear ornate leather skirts. We also visit the Nyangatom tribe at Kangate, west of Dasanech. They have a reputation of being fierce warriors but they are also famous for their storytelling and singing.	Campsite, Turmi
DAY 8	Today we visit Erbore people with their terraced agricultural land and who play an important role as middlemen in trade between the Omo River and the Konso highlands. One interesting cultural practice is that young Erbore women shave their heads until they are married. After lunch we will visit Gargesiyo, a traditional and very old Konso village.	Edget Hotel, Konso
DAY 9	Drive to Yirgalem via Yebello, visiting the Sidamo people in their lush surrounds on the way and view coffee plantations in the country where it was first discovered. We'll also explore the archeological sites of Tutiti and Tutufela, where there are ancient stellas surrounded by coffee plantations. Overnight at Yirgalem, where there are many endemic species of birds.	Aregash Lodge, Yirgalem
DAY 10	Morning drive to the town of Awassa to visit the biggest fish market in Ethiopia. Drive up to Mount Tabar for panoramic views of the town and lake Awassa. In the afternoon we'll drive to Wendogenet forest with its endemic animals and birds. The forest also has a natural spa where you can take a relaxing swim.	Wendogenet Hotel
DAY 11	Our first stop today is Abiata-Shalla national park where we will see gazelles, dik diks and other animals. Shalla Lake, which is formed by hot springs, is famous for having many species of aquatic birds. Overnight at the very pretty Lake Lagano.	Lake Lagano Lodge
DAY 12	Late morning drive to Addis via the Rift Valley lakes where there are more excellent bird-watching opportunities, including marabou stork, black egret, pelicans and flamingoes. In the evening we'll have a traditional Ethiopian feast of spicy stews (wots) served on 'plates' of large spongy flatbread (ingera). There will also be traditional music and we'll have a chance to watch and/or join in with Ethiopian dancing.	Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa
DAY 13	Morning at leisure or shopping at the Mercato, Piazza or Churchill Road. International flights leave in the evening.	On plane



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Live to travel: travel to give

Our philosophy

At Icon Adventures we are serious about responsible travel. We aim to respect the culture of the communities we visit and protect the unique environments in which they live. Above all, we want to ensure that your travel experience is unforgettable for all the right reasons.

Our team receives ongoing training to ensure high levels of environmental care. From off-setting carbon emissions to packing-out rubbish, our aim is to minimise the environmental impact of your visit.

We recognise that we have an opportunity to make a positive economic impact on the communities we visit. We always choose locally owned operators/suppliers who employ local people and offer reasonable working conditions and payment to local staff.

Icon Adventures supports a number of outstanding local community projects which promote environmental conservation, education and sustainable economic development.

Ethiopian community projects we support

- Australian African Children's Aid and Support Association (www.aacasa.org.au)

AACASA provides food, education and health care to orphaned and vulnerable children. It also offers child-care facilities and training to young single mothers so they can support themselves and their children.

- Ethiopian school desk project

Icon Adventures provides desks and chairs for some of the most isolated and poorly resourced schools in Ethiopia. These are manufactured in a local workshop in Debarq and transported to schools in the Simien Mountains. This is an ongoing project: your booking means we can purchase a desk and bench seat which will seat three children.



LEFT: Chris Ramsey (left) and Simiens guide Israel (right) with a Debarq workshop employee and the first batch of desks destined for schools in the Simien Mountains.



RIGHT: James Holden handing over a large amount of baby formula for orphanages to AACASA representative in Ethiopia, Lakew Gebeyahu. The formula was donated by Icon Adventures and our travellers.

A percentage of profits from this tour goes to the Ethiopian projects we support

Extra information

Southern Ethiopia is very different to the north of the country, not only the landscape but the culture. The north sees more tourists but the peoples' tradition and orthodox religion means they give a great deal of respect to visitors. In the remote parts of the south tribal religions dominate and because the people see less visitors they rarely miss an opportunity to make a few birr. The tribes are very welcoming but you will be asked for money (generally one or two birr per photo) when you take photos in the villages. The best way to deal with this is with good humour and plenty of one birr notes! Also remember that the tribes have been living virtually untouched for thousands of years and some cultural practices may seem harsh by Western standards.

Vaccinations: Please consult your nearest travel doctor for the most up-to-date recommendations for vaccinations for travelling to Ethiopia. These may include: typhoid, polio, tetanus, smallpox, hepatitis A and B, yellow fever. Your travel doctor may also recommend that you take anti-malarial medication.

Essential items to bring: Sunscreen is very important. If you are taking anti-malarial tablets, these can make your skin more sensitive to the sun. A broad-brimmed hat is also very important. We also recommend that you bring your own sleeping bag (rated to zero) and mat for camping.

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Booking form

To secure your spot on the Ethiopian Odyssey tour, please complete this form and fax it to: **07 3103 4606**

Or post to: **Icon Adventures, PO Box 1121, Toowoomba QLD, 4350**

For booking information or specific enquiries about this itinerary, please contact **James Holden on 0403 418 263.**



A percentage of profits from this tour goes to our Ethiopian projects

- Ethiopian Odyssey tour @ \$6795* per person (twin share)**
- Please advise me of single supplement or business class options**

PASSENGER 1

PASSENGER 2

FIRST NAME	.....	.....
SURNAME	.....	.....
HOME ADDRESS	.....	.....

DATE OF BIRTH	.....	.....
TELEPHONE	.....	.....
MOBILE	.....	.....
EMAIL	.....	.....
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME	.....	.....
EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER	.....	.....

SIGNED: PASSENGER 1 PASSENGER 2
DATE

Please send your deposit of \$1500 per person to secure your booking

Payment options (please tick preferred option):

- Cheque:** Please make cheques payable to Discover Africa (postal address is at the top of this form).
- Direct deposit:** Discover Africa Icon, BSB: 013 533, account number: 480 560 778 (ANZ, Bendigo). Please use your surname and the code SEO as the reference when making a direct deposit.
- Credit card:** We accept credit card payments over the phone. Please call 03 5441 8811 (a small fee applies).

* Price may be subject to change due to increased flight or other costs or variations in exchange rates.
Full terms and conditions are available at www.iconadventures.com



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