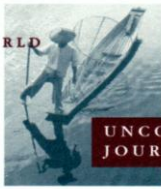


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UNCOMMON
JOURNEYS, LLC

Ethiopia: Journey into the Stone Ages and Medieval Past

September 23 - October 12, 2012



Between the shoulder of Kenya and the belly of Eritrea lies the ancient kingdom of Abyssinia, known today as Ethiopia. It is one of the few places in the world that has been inhabited since the dawn of mankind, embracing an unbroken chain of civilizations reaching into the remote past. The cradle of civilization was almost certainly here, and the first inhabitants were stone-age people who thrived along the rich shores of the many lakes created by the Great Rift, or last massive movement of the earth.

Our exploration of the Omo Valley reveals a stunning narration of Southern Ethiopia's ethnic diversity, where proud nations of Tsemay, Hamar, Karo, Mursi and Elbore tribes still live the way they have for centuries. In the historic North, churches and palaces reflect the architectural genius of history's masters, and speak softly of a bygone era. They are enduring monuments to Christianity and kings, emperors and legends, sheltering priceless relics from a powerful and religious ancient civilization.

But that's not all! The tour is scheduled to coincide with the Maskal Festival and ceremonies of the Ethiopian Orthodox faith. For anyone interested in tribal cultures, medieval history and religious pageantry, Ethiopia bestows all the rewards of visiting an exotic destination and its remarkable inhabitants.

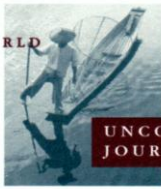
Tour Highlights

- Splendid processions of the Maskal Festival
- Stone Age Tsemay, Mursi, Karo, Hamar and Elbore tribes
- Axum, legendary home of the Lost Ark of the Covenant
- Hand-carved rock churches of Lalibela
- Medieval monasteries of Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile
- Salt caravans of the nomadic Afar tribe

Tour price: \$5850 Single supplement: \$583

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Tour Price

The tour price, based on a minimum of 6 participants, **includes** 17 nights of hotel accommodations, all meals, domestic airfare, ground transportation, airport transfers, entrance fees, tips of a group nature and the services of a tour leader and English speaking guide. The tour price **does not include** international airfare, visa (currently \$70), tip to local guide, airport departure tax, beverages and expenses of a personal nature.

A deposit of \$500 is required to register and secure a place on the tour. The deposit is fully refundable if notice is given 60 days prior to departure. The balance of the tour cost is due 60 days prior to departure.

Passport and Visa Requirements

A passport with six months validity and visa are required to enter Ethiopia.

Tour Leader

Debbie Jefkin-Elnekave is a travel photographer and tour leader who specializes in remote and exotic cultures. Her interests include history, architecture and landscapes, but she finds the greatest rewards in discovering, visiting and photographing indigenous cultures. Debbie's knowledge of Ethiopia, profound appreciation for the people, and desire to share this amazing country, ensure a very rewarding journey. For more information about Debbie, visit www.uncommonimages.biz and click on Video.

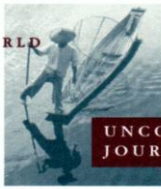
Waiver of Liability

Uncommon Journeys, LLC assumes no responsibility for accidents or injury to participants. You will be required to read, accept and sign an agreement which releases Uncommon Journeys, LLC from any responsibility of liability.

Please note: The rewards of travel and photography are even greater when we explore remote, uncharted regions. As such:

- ***Some of our accommodations are in very basic hotels, or "camping" in private, bungalow-style "tents" with private showers and toilets. There may or may not be hot water. A generator provides light in the evenings, but don't count on charging cameras, computers or electrical appliances while in the remote areas.***
- ***Ethiopia's Stone Age tribes are among the most exotic and photogenic in the world. They can also be among the most aggressive. Always get permission before taking someone's portrait, and be sensitive to the fact that some do not want to be photographed. Photographing someone against their will violates their privacy and is treated as a very serious infraction. It could result in the confiscation of cameras, and place the group at serious risk.***
- ***Several days require long drives over rough terrain in a Land Cruiser.***
- ***Ethiopia is dusty!***





Ethiopia: Journey into the Stone Ages and Medieval Past

2012 Itinerary

Days 1 and 2: Sunday, September 23 & Monday, September 24

Depart USA and travel to Ethiopia. (Note: You must book and pay for your own flights to Addis Ababa.)

Day 3: Tuesday, September 25 Arrive in Addis Ababa



Day 4: Wednesday, September 26 Addis Ababa

Today we observe the Maskal Festival (Finding of the True Cross), ushering in Tseday, the season of golden sunshine and brilliant yellow maskal daisies. The rites date back 1600 years, and are said to be directly connected to the legend of Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great. The festivities begin with processions of flaming torches from various directions that converge onto the ceremonial grounds for several hours of brass bands, kinetic dancing, merrymaking, bonfires and gun salutes. The priests, resplendent in fine brocade vestments, are like icons from a medieval past.

**Day 5: Thursday, September 27
Addis Ababa → Arba Minch**

Day 6: Friday, September 28 Arba Minch → Jinka

Day 7: Saturday, September 29 Jinka

Drive to a village of the Mursi tribe, where women are distinguished by terracotta lip plates and earlobe disks. They slit their bottom lips lengthwise and remove their bottom teeth in order to accommodate the terracotta disk. The Mursi subsist on milk and cows' blood, practice shamanism, and believe that harmony of nature follows harmony of society.



**Day 8: Sunday, September 30
Jinka → Turmi/Omo Valley**

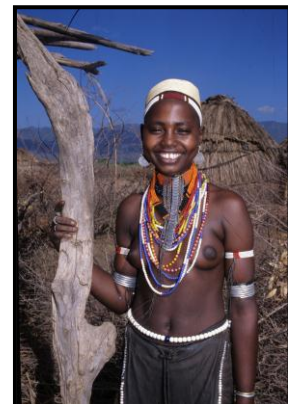
Visit a village of the endangered Karo tribe, with a population numbering less than 600. Scarification, body painting and exuberant dances are hallmarks of their society. The men paint themselves with white chalk, yellow mineral rock, iron ore and charcoal. These colors are believed to transform the body and release the spirit. Their makeup is of great importance because it enables men to exhibit their beauty and attract a wife.



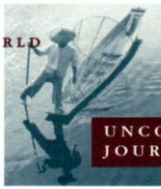
Day 9: Monday, October 1 Turmi/ Omo Valley

This morning we visit the friendly, elegant Elbore, one of many tribes belonging to the Borana ethnic group. Our afternoon visits will introduce us to the Hamar tribe.

The women wear elaborate hairstyles concocted from red ochre and clarified butter, aluminum jewelry and wrap around skirts of animal skins embellished with cowrie shells. They are agro-pastoralists, skilled in pottery and beekeeping.



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Day 10: Tuesday, October 2 Turmi/Omo Valley → Arba Minch
Drive to Arba Minch.

Day 11: Wednesday, October 3 Arba Minch → Addis Ababa
Drive to Addis Ababa and enjoy a traditional Ethiopia dinner.

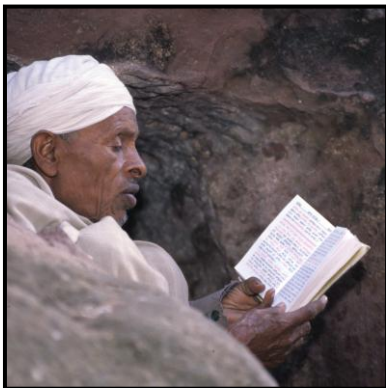
Day 12: Thursday, October 4 Addis Ababa → Bahir Dar

Day 13: Friday, October 5 Bahir Dar

Today we explore the villages around Bahir Dar and visit the Blue Nile Falls. Dropping over a ¼ mile wide and 150 foot deep chasm, it is a miracle of nature and vision of grandeur. Note: if the dam is closed, we will not be able to view the falls.

Day 14: Saturday, October 6 Bahir Dar → Lalibela

Fly to Lalibela, the former capital of a 12th century dynasty. We visit rock-hewn churches built during that period, which still stand in testimony to the power of the Ethiopian Orthodox faith, which is practiced by half of Ethiopians.



Day 15: Sunday, October 7
Lalibela
Continue our exploration of Lalibela.

Day 16: Monday, October 8 Lalibela → Axum

Visit historic sites of Axum, an important stop on caravan routes dating back 2000 years. Our stops include several 10th century obelisks, each carved from a single piece of stone, and the ruins of the Queen of Sheba's

palace. Her son, Menelik I, reputedly brought the Ark of the Covenant to Axum from his father, King Solomon of Jerusalem. It is said to be sheltered in the Cathedral of St. Mary of Zion.



Day 17: Tuesday, October 9 Axum → Mekele

Drive to Mekele, our base for visiting the Afar nomads, who wrest a living from salt mines, using camels as beasts of burden.

Day 18: Wednesday, October 10 Mekele

Today's excursion takes us to Ahmed Alla salt extraction village, where we witness firsthand the importance of salt mining to the survival of the Afar people.

Day 19: Thursday, October 11 Mekele → Addis Ababa

Day 20: Friday, October 12 Departure