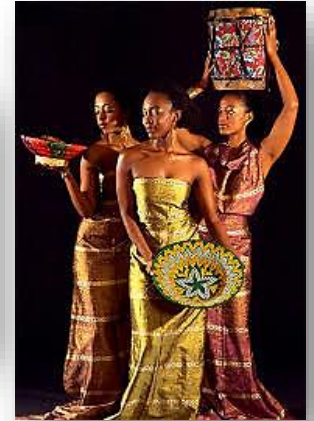
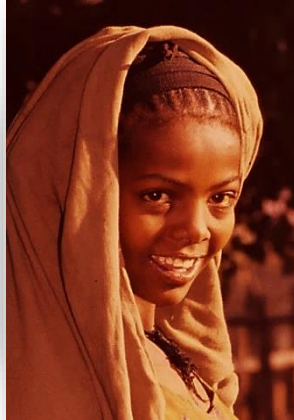
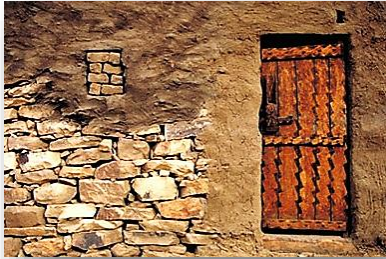


Ethiopia: Journey into the Ancient Past

January 17 – February 5, 2024



Ethiopia, former Kingdom of Abyssinia, is a “must visit” for anyone intrigued by ancient history, captivated by timeless cultures, inspired by religious pageantry and exhilarated by geological marvels. The tour begins with the Timket (Epiphany) processions and ceremonies of the Ethiopian Orthodox faith. Our exploration then takes us to the majestic, bio diverse Simien Mountain Range. We continue to the Omo Valley, the cradle of civilization, where proud nations of stone age tribes maintain lifeways of the centuries. Last, but by no means least, is the ultimate adventure seeker’s dream: the salt flats, Erta Ale Volcano and geothermal fields of the Danakil Depression. You must see Ethiopia to believe it. Then again, we’ve seen it and we *still* can’t believe it!

Tour Highlights

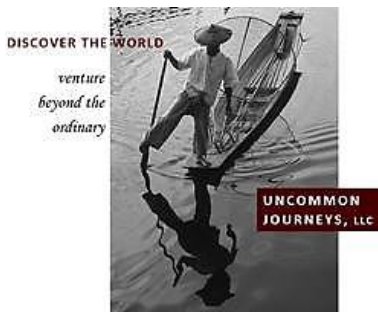
- Splendid processions of the Timket (Epiphany) ceremonies
- Monolithic hand-carved rock churches of Lalibela
- Simien Mountains, the most spectacular of the diverse Ethiopian landscapes
- Stone age tribes and markets of the Omo Valley
- Salt flats, geological marvels and nomadic lifestyle of the Danakil Depression

Tour price per person, based on double occupancy *

8 participants:	US\$10,900
9 participants:	US\$10,700
10 participants:	US\$10,200
11 participants:	US\$10,100
12 + participants:	US\$ 9,900
single supplement:	US\$ 1,685

* There is a \$352 discount if you fly Ethiopian Airlines internationally.

Physical fitness is required for moderate intensity walking over rugged terrain.



Ethiopia: Journey into the Ancient Past

January 17 – February 5, 2024

Tour Price

The tour price is based on a minimum of 8 participants. It includes 19 nights of accommodations, all meals from breakfast on January 18 through breakfast on February 5, domestic airfares, ground transportation, airport transfers, entrance fees, gratuities, and the services of a tour director and local guide. The tour price does not include international airfare, visa or alcoholic beverages.

Payments and Cancellation Policy

A US\$500 deposit is required to reserve a place on the tour. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure. In accordance with hotel, supplier and airline policies, cancellation fees apply. Travel insurance is recommended.

- All payments are fully refundable if Uncommon Journeys cancels the tour.
- All payments are fully refundable before September 17, 2023.
- US\$200 cancellation fee if participant cancels between September 17 - October 17, 2023.
- All payments are non-refundable after October 17, 2023.

Tour Director

The tour is organized and led by Debbie Jefkin-Elnekave. Her knowledge of Ethiopia, profound appreciation for the people and customs, and passion for sharing this amazing country, ensure a very rewarding journey.

International Flights

You must book and purchase your own airline tickets to Addis Ababa. | Many flights arrive in and depart from Addis at odd hours, some in the middle of the night. | You must arrive in Addis no later than the morning of January 18 and depart no sooner than the morning of February 5. | Depending on your point of origin, you may cross the international dateline, so plan accordingly. | Many airlines that service Ethiopia do not offer daily flights.

Passport and Visa Requirements

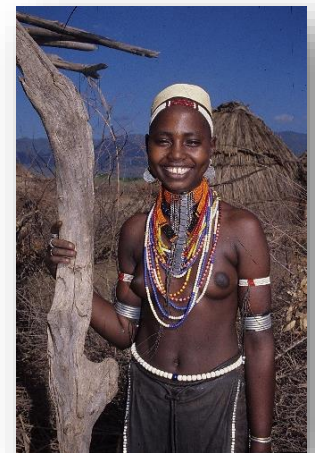
A passport with 6 months validity and a visa-on-arrival are required to enter Ethiopia.

Waiver of Liability

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

Preserving the Ethiopian Cultures

Much of the world has been taught by well-intentioned but misguided tourists to beg for money, candy, pens, toys, lipstick and trinkets. These handouts belittle the people, erode the local culture, perpetuate a negative stereotype of patronizing foreigners, and create reliance on begging. They also encourage parents to exploit their children by sending them out to beg from tourists instead of to school. We are determined that our presence will not endanger the gracious Ethiopian way of life. In order to preserve the culture and dignity of the people, we enforce a strict policy against handouts. If you feel it would be difficult to comply with our policy, you should reconsider before signing up for the tour. On the other hand, if you share our philosophy of sustainable tourism and our commitment to preserving these gentle cultures and dignified way of life, we look forward to sharing our love of Ethiopia and the trip of a lifetime with you.

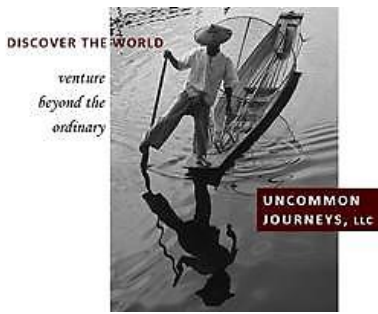


The Fine Print

The rewards of travel are greatest when we venture off the beaten path and explore remote regions. Please note...

- Our accommodations are the best available, but many are extremely basic by Western standards.
- There are 3 nights of very basic camping.
- Our destinations lie at altitudes ranging from below sea level to 4,000 meters (13,000 feet).
- There are several days of moderate intensity walking, sometimes on rocky, rugged terrain.
- The tour includes several days of long drives in air conditioned 4 x 4 vehicles.
- Ethiopia is dusty!

P.O. Box 791020, Pā'ia, Maui HI 96779 | (808) 214-6053 | www.uncommonjourneys.biz



Ethiopia: Journey into the Ancient Past

January 17 – February 5, 2024

Day 1 | Wednesday, January 17 | Arrive Addis Ababa

Depending on flight schedule, arrive late on January 17 or in the wee hours of January 18.

Day 2 | Thursday, January 18 | Addis Ababa

An afternoon city tour is followed by an evening of traditional dinner, music and dance. It's the perfect introduction to Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage.



Day 3 | Friday, January 19 | Lalibela

Lalibela was the capital of a 12th century dynasty, and today serves as an important pilgrimage site. We arrive in time for Ketera, the eve of Timket, (Epiphany). Priests bearing sacred icons, manuscripts and crosses converge onto the ceremonial grounds for holy mass, kinetic dancing, chanting, drumming and trilling ululations.

Day 4 | Saturday, January 20 | Lalibela

Yesterday's revelry is transformed to a peaceful calm this Timket morning, as if someone has waved a magic wand over the town. Following mass, the devout are anointed with holy water to commemorate Christ's baptism, and the



treasured icons are returned to the churches. The worshippers depart, and the dust settles once again across Lalibela, and across the delicate surface of history.

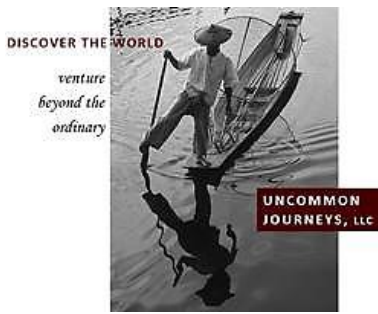


Day 5 | Sunday, January 21 | Lalibela

We'll visit hand-carved rock churches that reflect the genius of history's architectural masters, and shelter priceless relics from a powerful, devout, remote civilization. Among them is Yemrehanna Kristos, one of the best-preserved from the 11th & 12th century Axumite period.

Day 6 | Monday, January 22 | Lalibela → Gondar

Gondar, former capital of the Ethiopian Empire, contains architectural structures marked by Hindu, Arab and Baroque influences. Our tour includes Emperor Fasilides's 17th century castle and bath.



Ethiopia: Journey into the Ancient Past

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Days 7 – 9 | Tuesday, January 23 – Thursday, January 25 Simien Mountains

Of this biodiverse geological wonder, Rosita Forbes wrote, “A thousand, thousand years ago the old gods must have played chess with those stupendous crags, for we saw bishops, castles, an emerald knight, and far, far away a king, crowned with sapphire and guarded by a row of pawns.” We’ll trek the escarpments in search of gelada baboons, klipspringer, Menelik bushbucks, giant lobelias and more. Non-trekkers will enjoy communing with nature in the environs of our sustainable ecolodge.



Day 10 | Friday, January 26 | Addis Ababa

Days 11 – 14 | Saturday, January 27 – Tuesday, January 30 Omo Valley

Inhabited since the dawn of mankind, the Omo Valley was most certainly the cradle of civilization. It embraces an unbroken chain of diverse ethnicities, including the Hammer, Karo, Omorrate, Dassenech, Tsemay, Erbore and Konso tribes. Our exploration includes their villages and markets.

Days 15 – 18 | Wednesday, January 31 – Saturday, February 3 | Danakil Depression

If ever a place left us jaw in hand, spellbound, speechless and amazed, that place is the Danakil Depression. The Dallo salt flats, Erta Ale Volcano, geothermal fields and camel caravans are the ultimate adventure seeker’s dream.



Day 19 | Sunday, February 4 | Fly to Addis Ababa

Day 20 | Monday, February 5 | Departure