ETHIOPIA, SIMIEN MOUNTAINS TREK & LALIBELA

Superb walking and trekking holiday in the Simien Mountains of Ethiopia, plus visits to Gondar and Lalibela

- Trek to the summit of Ras Dashen (4543m), Ethiopia’s highest peak
- Includes visits to Gondar’s castles & the UNESCO rock hewn churches of Lalibela
- Extraordinary wildlife, up close, including Ethiopia’s Gelada Baboons
- Fantastic value holiday to Ethiopia with all meals included

HOLIDAY CODE SIM

Ethiopia, Trek & Walk, 12 Days

6 nights camping, 5 nights hotel, 11 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 12 dinners, max group size: 16, 6 days trekking, max altitude - 4543m

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Introduction

Ethiopia is a land full of surprises. With a wealth of superb trekking and a rich cultural heritage to explore, this exceptional walking holiday allows us to experience some of the finest mountain scenery in Africa, notably in the World Heritage, Simien Mountains National Park. This highland area, in the northern part of Ethiopia, includes the country's highest summit, Ras Dashen (4543m). The area comprises of several major plateaux, dramatic escarpments and pinnacles which are characteristic of the range, giving it the name ‘Africa's Grand Canyon’.

We access this northern region by way of a short internal flight from Addis Ababa to the ancient capital of Gondar. This latter is a wonderful, historically important, city with an unusual collection of 17th century castles and churches. Six days of trekking takes us through a land of natural wonders and of rare wildlife, including the Simien Mountains red fox, the strikingly-maned Gelada baboon and the majestic lammergeier or bearded vulture. Trekking through villages, notable for their carefully tended farmland and friendly people, our trekking reaches its climax at the summit of Ras Deshen (4543m), where the views can extend northwards to Eritrea. A 2-day visit to explore Lalibela, famed for its collection of amazing UNESCO-listed churches, carved out of solid rock, is a great way to end this exceptional adventure holiday trekking in the Simien Mountains, Ethiopia's National Park. Providing a variety of experiences, Ethiopia is an adventure travel destination for the trekking connoisseur to explore.

Is this holiday for you?

This trip involves straightforward trekking on good trails which are the paths used by local people as they travel between their villages. We head west to east on the high escarpment of the Simien Mountains. There are several longer days of up to 8 hours trekking that include a considerable amount of ascent and/or descent (over 1500m). You should be comfortable with walking on good trails but with some steep ascents and descents for typically 5 or 6 hours each day (or more) for several days continuously. The optional ascent of Ras Dashen is a demanding day, particularly because of its reasonably high altitude, and the walking time is 10 to 12 hours long. The upper part of the climb includes some simple scrambling. Trekking at altitudes above 3000m does make greater demands on the body than similar terrain at lower elevations, and even fit and active hikers may find this quite challenging. When on trek we camp. Whilst in Gondar and Lalibela we stay in hotels and will see the cultural side of this fascinating country.

Holiday Itinerary

Day 1: Meet at the group hotel in Addis Ababa. A single transfer from Addis Ababa Airport is provided.

Meet at the group hotel in Addis Ababa. A single timed transfer is provided. KE Land Only services begin with lunch and afterwards we set off on a city tour which includes its museums, churches and, depending the day of the week the ‘mercato’. It is an interesting start to our holiday. At an altitude of over 2200 metres, in the foothills of Mount Entoto, Addis Ababa is one of the highest capital cities in the world. On account of the need to acclimatise, we will take it easy on our first day in the country. Overnight at the group hotel.

We make a reasonably early start today and return to the airport for the internal flight to Gondar, which was formerly the capital of Ethiopia. On arrival, we make the short transfer to the hotel for lunch, before our afternoon sightseeing tour. Gondar, founded by Emperor Fasilidas around 1635, has become one of Ethiopia's largest and most impressive cities, with its walled Royal Enclosure which contains several well-preserved and very medieval-looking castles, dating from as early as 1650. The castles are unusual for the Horn Of Africa, deriving their architectural style from the Moors and the Portuguese. Additionally, Gondar has dozens of churches, the most important being Debre Berhan Selassie (Trinity Church of the Mountain of Light), which has an impressive hilltop location. The yellow-robed priests here explain the story of the many carvings, including 80 winged cherubs on the interior ceiling, and paintings by the famous Haile Meskel. We overnight in Gondar.

Day 3: Transfer to Debark (2700m). Drive onto Senkaber. Optional afternoon walk.

In the cool of the morning, we make the scenic 2 to 3 hour drive from Gondar to Debark. Debark is a small market town at an altitude of 2700 metres close to the boundary of the Simien Mountains National Park. Its colourful and busy market area is surrounded by corrugated-iron-roofed buildings and an odd, small lighthouse-like structure, the minaret of the local mosque. Before entering the park, we have to register at the park headquarters just outside town. Here we are joined by our park guide and armed scouts - one of the park regulations. We have time for some last-minute buying of provisions and then complete our drive to Senkaber where we camp for the night. En route, we pass through pretty country, the foothills of the Simien Mountains, with carefully tended fields, open pasture with grazing horses, stands of trees and distant rocky peaks. At the high-point of the road, there are superb views across the weirdly eroded foothills of the range and we may also be lucky enough to spot our first lammergeiers (bearded vultures) and gelada baboons of the trip.

Day 4: Trek via the Michwahtis Valley with views of the Jinbar River to Geech Camp (3600m).

Our first day of trekking. We meet our muleteers and the trek equipment is loaded onto their mules. Starting out, we descend in to the Michwahtis Valley and begin the climb up the other side, making a short diversion to see one of the most impressive sights in the Simien Mountains, where the Jinbar River plummets into the Geech Abyss. On our left-hand side the land rises up steeply to a high plateau and there are eroded pinnacles and steep cliffs, the home of gelada baboons, ibex and Egyptian vultures. There is, however, a good trail and we are likely to be sharing it with groups of local people travelling between their villages. After a couple of kilometres, we have to ford the chilly Jinbar River. Lunch is usually taken by the river before trekking at further 2-3hrs, through fields of barley, and open hillside (3600m) with scattered groups of giant lobelias, to reach our next camp. Geech camp will be our base for the next 2 nights. As an optional afternoon stroll, the viewpoint at Kadadit (hole in the rock) is 20 minutes away to the north.
Day 5: Day hike to the small peak of Imetgogo (3925m). Return to Geech.

We will leave our camp set up at Geech and make a day hike to one of the finest viewpoints in the area, the promontory and small peak known as Imetgogo (3925m). This is actually a spur protruding from the escarpment and is reached after a couple of hours' pleasant walking. The last part of the ridge is quite airy and leads by way of an easy scramble to the summit. Here, the views are spectacular indeed, stretching across to the lowlands and including the jagged summits of the escarpment edge, and on a clear day over to our goal - Ras Deshen. This is a great place for watching lammergeiers and we may even be lucky enough to see them going about their business (dropping bones amongst the rocks to break them and so reveal the marrow - their preferred food). Today is a good day to take things steadily, which will help the acclimatisation process, whilst enjoying one the most dramatic trekking days imaginable, as we return to camp by following the edge of the escarpment. We should also see gelada baboons today. These remarkable creatures, with their lion-like manes can be quite approachable.

**Day 6: Trek to the panoramic viewpoint of Inayte (4070m). Continue to Chenek (3600m).**

Our route today takes us along the edge of the escarpment, descending at one point into an open, grassy valley filled with 3 and 4 metre tall giant lobelias. At all times, the cliff edge is close on our left-hand side and there are ever-changing views and glimpses of the valley below, often through narrow clefts between spurs. The high point of our walk is at Inatye (4070m) and the path can be muddy and interspersed with tree roots. We continue across tussocky moorland, and then descend on a steep and rocky path to the camping place at Chenek, which is bounded by a semi-circular ring of cliffs. The Chenek campsite offers superb views across to the opposite escarpment.

**Day 7: Hike across the slopes of Amba Bhawit (4477m). Descend to the village of Ambiquo (3200m).**

To reach the village of Ambiquo at the foot of Ras Dashen, we must initially climb up above our camp towards Amba Bwahit (4477m), the second highest mountain in the range. The route follows a pleasant valley with a clear stream and lots of lobelias and provides us with great views back to our camp of the night before. After 1½ hours we reach a rocky ridge, and the high point of today at 4202m. The views extend across the vast valley of the Meshawa River, and through to Ras Deshen in the wall of cliffs and peaks on the skyline at the far side of the valley. We may be lucky enough to spot the Walia Ibex here. We then take a well-trodden path down into a farmed valley, where oxen are still used to plough the land. After passing through the village of Chiro Leba we cross the Meshawa River and climb steeply to the village of Ambiquo (3200m) where we will camp for the night. With over 1000 metres of descent, followed by another 500 metres of ascent to Ambiquo, today will be a long day.

**Day 8: Ascent of Ras Dashen (4543m), Ethiopia's highest peak, return to Ambiquo camp (3200m).**
Today's optional climb to the highest point in Ethiopia, the summit of Ras Dashen, requires a pre-dawn start. The first couple of hours we use our torches as we climb slowly and steadily through giant lobelia forests. We pass a tiny village called Mizma (not seen on the ascent in the dark) and arrive at an area of open pasture where herds of cattle and goats are tended by shepherds. The triple-summited bulk of Ras Dashen looms above and it is far from obvious which of these is the highest. Finally, after 7 to 8 hours of ascent, we reach steeper, rocky ground and make the short and easy scramble to the cairned summit. We will take some time to rest on top and congratulate ourselves on summiting the highest mountain in Ethiopia. On a clear day the views are fabulous and can extend all the way to Eritrea. We descend along the same path, and it takes around 3-4 hours to get back to our campsite in Ambiquo. This is a great summit day.

**Day 9:** Walk out to the roadhead and drive to Gondar for a well earned freshen up.

Having reached our summit goal and trekked for several days through the beautiful Simien Mountains it's time to head back to reality. We have a last chance to see lammergeyer as we trek out to the roadhead. We retrace our steps to the village of Chiro Leba. Our vehicle meets us here. We say our farewells to the trek crew start our 4 - 5 hour drive out of the Simien Mountains back to Gondar where we check back into our hotel. We have a well earned shower and cool drink before dinner.

**Day 10:** Fly to Lalibela. Sightseeing tour of the rock hewn churches including a visit to Bete Giyorgis.

We take a morning flight to the ancient city of Lalibela. This is one of Ethiopia's holiest cities and a centre of pilgrimage for much of the country. It was built in the 12th century to be the 'New Jerusalem' following the capture of Jerusalem by Saladin, and was laid out to resemble that city. Lalibela is most famous for its rock-hewn churches which are literally carved out of the surrounding rock, and which date back to the 12th century. In all there are 11 'rock churches', assembled in four groups. Bete Giyorgis (the Church of Saint George) in the Western group is the best known and most impressive. Described as the eighth wonder of the world the church is carved in the shape of the cross and stands 12m high in a square cut 'hole' in the rock outcrop from which it is carved.

**Day 11:** Free day for further exploration of Lalibela and the UNESCO listed churches.

It is impossible to see all that Lalibela has to offer in a single day and we have scheduled a second day for sightseeing in and around this fascinating town.

**Day 12:** Fly to Addis Ababa. Use of hotel day room. A single transfer to Addis Ababa Airport is provided.
After breakfast, we transfer to the airport and take the short flight back to Addis Ababa where, we have the use of day-rooms at the group hotel. Time permitting, we might be able to go to the mercato or market. Addis's central produce market is the largest in East Africa and has an array of fascinating goods and colourful people. It is a great place for exploration and people watching. KE Land Only services end with a celebratory dinner in the hotel's restaurant. A single, timed group airport transfer is provided in the evening.

MEALS BLD

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**Holiday Information**

**What's Included**

- An experienced professional English speaking local guide
- Internal/domestic flights and associated airport transfers (see Internal flights)
- Addis Ababa Airport transfers as described
- Accommodation as described
- All meals
- Once on trek a full service including food and all equipment
- All land transport involved in the itinerary

**What's Not Included**

- Travel Insurance
- Ethiopian Visa cost
- Tips for staff
- Internal/domestic flight surcharge if not flying internationally with Ethiopian Airlines (see Internal flights)
- Airport transfers other than those described
- Departure tax on leaving Addis Ababa Airport
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

**Joining Arrangements & Transfers**

Airport transfers are provided for all clients on the Land Only start and finish dates of the itinerary.

The main group transfer is timed to meet passengers arriving on the Ethiopian Airlines flight from London Heathrow on Day 1. On the last day of the Land Only itinerary, the main transfer will be back to Addis Ababa Airport in time for the check-in of the late evening Ethiopian Airlines flight to London Heathrow, in the night of Day 12/13.

The main group transfer is accompanied by the guide. Any airport transfers outside of these times are with a driver.

If you have additional nights at the group hotel (pre or post trip) you will also have an included transfer back to the airport for your flight home.

Land Only clients should not book flights out of Addis before the evening of the last day of the itinerary.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.
Meal Plan

All meals are included from lunch on Day 1 until dinner on Day 12.

Food & Water

Food on trek is prepared for us by our trained cooks. Breakfasts consist of bread and jam, porridge, omelette or pancake, tea and excellent Ethiopian coffee. For lunch we normally have a rice or pasta based dish with fruit or a dessert which is carried by the cook crew. Dinner is a 3-course meal of soup, followed by pasta, rice or potatoes with vegetables or meat, and a tasty sauce. A local speciality is Injura, a flat bread made from a grain grown in the highlands called Tef. It's served in a big basket, and eaten with an array of different lentil and meat curries.

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. If you are on a trekking or cycling holiday, water is supplied to fill up your individual bottles. This will be boiled, filtered or provided in large jerry cans or 5 litre bottles. Additionally you should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water when in towns or where water is not supplied. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot provide special diets. Due to the nature of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

During this trip you will spend 1 night in Addis Ababa, 2 nights in Gondar and 2 nights in Lalibela. We use simple and comfortable tourist class hotels. We have 6 nights camping. There are fixed toilets at each campsite. You will have a full trek crew who will set up camp and cook for you, and pack animals to carry the bags and equipment.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single hotel rooms and/or single tents are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel are available on request.

Internal Flights

Included in the land only package are 3 domestic Ethiopian Airlines flights. These domestic flights are priced in conjunction with the international Ethiopian Airlines flights into Addis Ababa. If you are not arriving into Addis Ababa with Ethiopian Airlines, the domestic flights included in the land only itinerary will be subject to a surcharge of approximately $280 imposed by Ethiopian Airlines. To avoid this surcharge we strongly suggest that you choose to fly with Ethiopian Airlines internationally. If you have any questions please contact the KE office.

It is sometimes necessary to issue international and domestic tickets on booking or a few weeks after, and therefore we require full payment for flights at this stage. We will contact you if this is needed.
Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be accompanied by an experienced English-speaking local guide. There will also be a full trek crew to cater to the group’s needs.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 3500 metres. This is not something that you should worry about; the human body is quite capable of adapting to a very wide range of altitudes, but it is important that we follow some simple rules in order to acclimatise successfully. Before coming on this holiday you should read the advice on [trekking at high altitude](#). You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

Spending Money

Approximately $200-250 per person (or equivalent in GBP or Euros) should be allowed for tips, soft drinks, snacks and miscellaneous expenses. Alcoholic drinks, souvenirs and optional activities are additional so you may wish to budget for these.

You can take your money in pounds sterling, dollars or euros. However USD are most readily exchanged in Addis and the rest of Ethiopia. You should take USD bills which are dated after 2001, and they should be not be marked or ripped. There will be the opportunity to change money into local currency on arrival at the airport and your local leader will advise the best places to change money en-route. Additionally, you will be able to get currency from bank ATMs in some of the towns that we will visit. Credit cards are useful and it is a good idea to carry one in case of emergency.

Guidance On Tipping

Tips are the accepted way of saying ‘thank you’ to your local guides and to your support crews and drivers. They do not form part of their wages. KE always pays local crews the best rates of pay, no matter what country they are in and any tips they receive are seen as a personal thank you from group members. For your trek crew we recommend that you give a tip if you feel that their services have met your satisfaction. As a rough guide we suggest a tip of $100-150 per person (in Ethiopian birr). Your KE guide will assist with the collecting and distributing of these. You may also want to tip your tour guide at the end of your holiday and should allow some additional money for this.

Free KE Gift

Kit Bag

**We recommend a kit bag on this holiday**

KE is in the process of changing suppliers for our own kit bags and these will not be available until June 2020. If you are travelling before this date, we do recommend that you source a duffle bag, or similar, to help with transportation during your expedition.

If you are travelling after this date, we can supply a KE kit bag for your holiday. However, we are trying to make every area of KE the most sustainable it can be. If you have travelled with us before and have a kit bag with plenty of life left in it, we'd be very grateful if you didn't automatically order a new one for every holiday you book. Thanks in advance for helping us with our commitment to responsible travel.
You can request a kit bag once your booking has been confirmed by emailing us at sales@keadventure.com. Please note delivery outside of the UK will be charged. Postage charges are: Europe £6 / America £16 / Rest of world £22.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage, which should be a soft bag such as the KE kit bag, and a daypack. Please keep the weight of your kit bag which you take on trek to 15kg as it will be carried by pack animals. It is possible to leave extra baggage in the hotel in Gondar. On the Ethiopian Airlines domestic flights the baggage limit is 20kg, or 23kg if in conjunction with the Ethiopian Airlines International flights. For other international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status and so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

Recommended Outdoor Retailers

Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from Cotswold Outdoor - our ‘Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer’. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 15% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

General Information

Passport & Visas

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required for visits to countries outside the EU. The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. Please check the relevant embassy or consulate for other nationalities. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Visa requirements and charges are subject to change without notice. If you are travelling outside the EU you should have at least 2 blank pages in your passport for each country that you visit.

Visa Ethiopia

UK and USA passport holders do require a visa. The visa fee is $50 and is obtainable online prior to travel or on arrival. To obtain the evisa you need a passport size photograph and a scanned copy of your passport. You can
Health & Vaccinations

Severe Allergies

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as ‘adrenaline auto-injectors’ are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you specific require any vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella), along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A certificate of yellow fever vaccination is required if travelling from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and for travellers having transitted for more than 12 hrs through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dentist check up. A good online resource is Travel Health Pro.

Dengue Fever

Dengue fever is a known risk in places visited. It is a tropical viral disease spread by daytime biting mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you take precautions to avoid mosquito bites.

Zika Virus

Zika virus has been confirmed as active in this country. It is a tropical viral disease spread by daytime biting mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you take the usual precautions to avoid mosquito bites. The mosquitoes that transmit ZIKV are unlikely to be found above 2,000m altitude. For more information, visit the website of the National Travel Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) at https://travelhealthpro.org.uk

Currency

The Ethiopian unit of currency is the Birr.

Electricity Supply & Plug

We recommend you check if you require an adaptor for your electrical items at: http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/

Preparing For Your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on a trekking trip getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. We suggest that you adopt a weekly
exercise regime. Regular hiking in hill country is the best preparation. Jogging, squash and swimming are also good for developing cardio-vascular fitness as well as improving stamina. Before departure, we suggest that you try to fit in a number of long walks in hilly country. There is little you can do to prepare for the altitude other than having previous altitude experience but if you have a good level of fitness this will help.

Climate

Ethiopia has a wet season from June to September and a dry season for the rest of the year. Following the wet season, the country is lush and green, with lots of flowers and growing crops. Thereafter, the country dries out progressively until the next rains. The climate of the Simien Mountains has been likened to the perfect English summer day. At altitudes of around 3000m and above, we can expect temperatures of around 15°C to 20°C, falling close to freezing point at night and with frosty mornings a possibility. As we descend to the lowlands we will find daytime temperatures of 25°C to 35°C.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign & Commonwealth Offices' Travel Aware campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use. We have pledged to AITO’s Project Protect that 70% of our agents stop using single use plastic bottles.

Books

• Ethiopia. The Bradt Travel Guide.
• Lonely Planet. Trekking in East Africa.
• In Ethiopia with a Mule. Dervla Murphy
• The Sign & The Seal. Graham Hancock
Maps

Simen Mountains Trekking Map. 1:100,000. University Of Berne.

Detailed topographic map with contours at 100m intervals and hill shading to show relief. Hiking trails are shown and symbols denote spectacular viewpoints etc. Coverage includes the town of Debark and the peak Ras Dejen. On the reverse are photographs and notes on the local geography, flora & fauna. Also, trekking route descriptions, illustrated with vertical profile diagrams.

Flight Information

Flight Inclusive Or Land Only?

On our website we display a UK Flight inclusive package price and Land only package price for the majority of our holidays.

Flight Inclusive Notes

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London (Heathrow) to Addis Ababa airport with Ethiopian Airlines. Outbound flights will depart the UK in the late evening, arriving in the morning of the following day. Return flights will depart Addis Ababa airport in the very early hours after the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK later the same morning. Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

To avoid paying more for your flight, we recommend that you book as early as possible, especially during peak times as there are only a limited number of seats available at the advertised price. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures, we will contact you with an alternative quote. We are also able to quote for premium, business and first class seats. Please be aware that you may be asked to pay for your flights in advance of your final holiday balance. Remember if you book a package including flights with KE you will benefit from full financial protection.

Land Only Notes

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Addis Ababa International Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel. Please refer to the 'Joining arrangements & transfers' for further details.

Flights SHOULD NOT be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Why Choose KE Adventure Travel?

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Operating since 1984, KE Adventure Travel has some of the most experienced staff in the business, with the proven ability to set up and operate a worldwide programme of adventures. Everyone has adventure travel at heart and joins at least one trip a year. It is this depth of experience that makes KE stand out from other adventure travel operators. When you contact KE, by phone or e-mail, or visit our office, you will find the help and advice you need, from someone who has actually done the trip and can give you the benefit of their first-hand experience.

KE can guarantee the very best in trip support, excellent food, a good standard of hotel and other accommodation, plus the back up of one of the most respected companies in the business. Client satisfaction is at the top of our
agenda and almost 50% of our bookings each year come from repeat business. If you are looking for adventure then look no further than KE.

Group Tour Leaders

All of our holidays are accompanied by an experienced leader, some of whom have worked with KE groups for many years. Many are professional guides and instructors with an unrivalled knowledge of the areas in which they work. In many parts of the world, we recruit local guides with appropriate training and experience. In addition to having the technical skills to ensure your safety, KE expects its leaders to be active members of the group. A leader should be fun to travel with and ready to share with you their enthusiasm for adventure travel and their knowledge of the area. Alongside the group leader, there will be a local support crew, which could be just a driver, or a complete team of guides, drivers, porters, mule-herders and cooks. The hard work of our support crews, along with the fascinating insight they can offer into their local culture, is integral to providing you with the very best adventure travel experience.

Sustainable Tourism

Since we ran our first trip in 1984, we have been committed keeping the world's most beautiful places pristine by minimising our environmental impact. Recognising the fragility of the world’s wilderness environments, we keep our groups small and operate according to a ‘Mountain Code’, which is provided to all groups, trek leaders, agents and staff. We make sure that our local staff are well treated and well paid, we respect indigenous cultures, take care to protect the environment of the places we visit and take every opportunity to make a positive contribution wherever we travel. Our philosophy of ‘leaving nothing but footprints’ has been integral to KE's approach right from the start over 30 years ago. In recognition of our efforts we are proud to have achieved the highest award of 5 Stars for Sustainable Tourism by AITO.

We continue to travel responsibly, and more information on our policy, practice, and specific projects can be found at www.keadventure.com, and on the website of our partner charity the Juniper Trust: www.junipertrust.co.uk. KE’s Mountain Code is issued to our staff, trek leaders and overseas agents, and we recommend it to our clients, too!

Booking Your Holiday

The easiest way to make your booking is online. You will need to pay a deposit at the time of booking. This is normally £200 but for some holidays with special permit fees or internal flights, this may be more. The amount of deposit required for an individual holiday is given on the dates and prices page of the holiday. Late bookings will require full payment. We cannot confirm any booking until we receive your fully completed booking form.

Adventure Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining any of our trips that you are insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs, air ambulance and helicopter rescue services). We also strongly recommend that you take out holiday cancellation insurance, as all deposits paid are non-refundable. Please ensure that your insurer is aware of your KE Adventure itinerary and can agree to cover the activities being undertaken. You will then need to advise us of your policy details and complete an Insurance Declaration Form.

CAMPBELL IRVINE DIRECT travel insurance is available to EU residents and will cover the majority of KE Adventure holidays. It has been designed to provide cover for activities normally excluded by other insurers such as trekking, mountain biking and climbing. Please note that certain activities may attract a higher premium. In addition ‘Campbell Irvine Direct’ cannot provide cover for KE climbing trips above 6000m. Cover for these can be obtained through either the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) or Snowcard.
TRAVELEX is a USA based insurer offering travel insurance, which can be used by US citizens and US residents only. KE recommends the "Travelex Select" package for our holidays. If your holiday involves using mountaineering equipment (ropes, harness or crampons), for climbing or glacial travel, you should consider the "Adventure Plus Pak" optional upgrade on the Travelex Select Plan. Please refer to the 'Description of Coverage' for a summary of the terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the applicable Protection Plan. This policy will also cover KE climbing trips above 6000m.
Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the ‘baggage allowance’ section for further details.

You Should Bring The Following Items:

• Hiking boots
• Sandals (for a couple of rivers crossing when on trek)
• Trainers
• Socks
• Walking socks (2 or 3 pairs)
• Trekking trousers
• Underwear
• Thermal baselayer shirts
• T-shirts and/or casual shirts
• Fleece jacket or warm jumper
• Lightweight waterproof jacket & overtrousers
• Down jacket
• Sunhat
• Warm hat
• Sunglasses
• Thermal gloves
• Water bottles 1 Litre (x2) - We encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic
• Water purification tablets
• Sleeping bag (comfort rating -5°C)
• Headtorch and spare batteries
• Daypack 30 litres
• Selection of dry bags (to keep contents of trek bag dry)
• Antibacterial handwash
• Washbag and toiletries
• Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
• Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

The Following Items Are Optional:

• Sleeping bag liner
• Thermarest (note: foam camping mats are provided)
• Small trekkers towel
• Trekking poles (recommended)
• Insect repellent
• Camera
• Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
• Travel clothes
• Spare laces
• Repair kit – (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
• Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)
Note:

Night time temperatures can drop to below freezing, so you need to ensure your sleeping bag and clothing are adequate for these conditions.

Please note: This document was downloaded on 27 Feb 2020, and the trip is subject to change.