

Northern Ethiopia Itinerary

Saturday Nov 2

Arrive in Addis. Met at Bole airport from international flight, check into hotel and enjoy a tour of Addis. Visit Selasie and National Museum. Dinner and orientation.

Sunday Nov 3

Morning flight to Lalibella. Transfer from airport to Tukul hotel. Visit some of the rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela. Free time to shoot and wander village.

Monday Nov 4

A visit out of Lalibela which includes visiting both Yemerehane Kirstos church and Bilbala Church. Visit the remaining rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela. Stay in Tukul Hotel.

Tuesday Nov 5

Pick up from Tukul hotel drop to trail head Ahun tengeng. Lunch along the way at local Ethiopian restaurant. 2h30 min trek across undulating countryside, passing several villages. Over night at remote guesthouse, Kurtain Washa, at 3,600meters above a gorge.

Wednesday Nov 6

Half Day Trek - Kurtain Washa to Melkidefer. Lovely 3-4 hour walk alongside growing gorge. Good chance to see Gelada, baboons and hyrax, a local Ethiopian animal.

Have local lunch near cliff face - enajra and vegetable wots + coffee/tea. Afternoon trek to Melkidefer to Aina Amba - a 3-4 hours walk along escarpment with great views to the north. Overnight at guest house Aina Amba. Snack and local thyme tea upon arrival.

Thursday Nov 7

Half Day Trek - Aina Amba to Waro Mikael. 3hr walk - great chance to see Gelada, baboons, and Lammergeyers, famous bearded vulture. Mostly on the flat. Lunch with a community near cliff view. Enjara, vegetable wots, tea and coffee. Trek in the afternoon from Waro Mikael to Boya Mikael. 3-4 hour walk across the plateau, see the Shepherds and farmers going about their daily lives. Can walk to the escarpment in various places to see the views. Overnight in Boya Mikael guest house, with spectacular views of the lowlands and growing gorges to the west.

Friday Nov 8

Half Day Trek from Boya Mikael to Dufti Mariam. The walk to Dufti Mariam is 3-4 hours, follows the escarpment edge for a while then enters an interesting valley just back from the escarpment. Lunch with local community. Afternoon trek from Dufti Mariam to Yadukulay. The walk takes you along a spur of the plateau and down a quite steep path into the valley below, over the river and up the small hill on which the community guest house is perched. walk for about 4 hour. Overnight

in guest house - Yadukulay. Yadukulay is perched on a small hill in a valley and so has great 360 degree views up the valley, off the cliffs and down the valley. The dining tukul is the top floor of a ground + 1 building, with the store and guards room below.

Saturday Nov 9

Short walk to Taja trail head. 2-hrs drive. Fly to Addis Ababa. For those coming on the tribal extension we will continue on to Jinka with a local flight. The afternoon will be spent walking the packed village lanes of the Aari village. These very rural people are friendly, some homes are brightly painted, they do pottery, grow sorghum and daily life is easily photographed. We will spend the night in Jinka.

****For those ending their experience here we will have a hotel set up for you as well as an airport transfer.*

Omo Valley Extension

Sunday Nov 10

Early morning we will drive two hours through the Mago National Park to visit a Mursi Village. The women wear Circular clay lip plates and the men are garbed in large towel like wraps. They are a nomadic tribe. Their homes

are thatched straw and sticks. Their culture is still very strong and their ways very different. An open mind is a must! The afternoon will be spent in the markets of Jinka. Great place to photograph, vibrant and colorful with many bars, stores selling woven baskets and day to day items. We will also visit Omo Child Center www.omochild.org in the afternoon. The director, Lale Labuko who is the only western educated Kara tribe member and a National Geographic Emerging Explorer will give us a tour and we will have a question and answer period. Overnight in Jinka

Monday Nov11

Early breakfast then drive to Turmi. Proceeding further into the scenic Weito lowlands, we will be visiting an Arbore tribal village located at the northern edge of Mount Buska. The Arbore women are absolutely stunning, they have extremely dark skin and strong features. Prior to marriage the women have their heads shaved. They wear dark robes, colorful beads and their huts are fabricated from tree branches. We will work on our portraiture skills in this village. Arriving in Turmi late in the afternoon, we will be spending the night at the Buska Lodge which will be our base for the next few days. These round shaped tukul lodges have porches and are on the bank of a stream. If you like shooting star trails this is your mecca as there is little light pollution.

Overnight in Turmi

Tuesday Nov 12

Departing Turmi at 5:00 AM, our photography group will head to Dus, the friendliest villages of the Kara tribe.

Settled on the banks of the Omo River, this tribe is known for their creative and decorative body chalk painting.

Many of the Kara women have pierced lips and insert nails and pins. We will enjoy watching and photographing kids diving off the bank of the Omo River. Hopefully we will shoot a cattle and goat drive which is iconic. Dust swirling,

men with guns and long herders stick driving their herd to the water. Overnight in Turmi.

Wednesday Nov 13

Starting off from Turmi at 4:30 Am we will be heading to Kangaten, home to the Nyangatom tribe that historically are said to be a split group from the Toposa tribe of South Sudan. Settled on the other side of the Omo River, we will be crossing the Omo River where we will be able to access and visit remote tribal villages. The women are topless and wear many strands of heavy beads, the girls are playful and love to have their images taken. Afternoon there is time to explore Turmi and experience life of the Hamar tribe by the river or relax. Overnight in Turmi.

Thursday Nov 14

Departing Turmi at 5:00AM, we will be heading to Omorate, home of the Dassanach tribe who are said to be descendants of the Turkana tribe in North Kenya. We will photograph the women cooking by fire, grinding corn meal and the men with their flock. We will try to continue further south to Lake Turkana to see and photograph the small wooden fishing boats and Dassanach people fishing. Overnight in Turmi

Friday Nov 15

We will work our way back to Jinka visiting an Arbore tribal village located at the northern edge of Mount Buska along the way. The Arbore women are absolutely stunning, they have extremely dark skin and strong features. Prior to marriage the women have their heads shaved. They wear dark robes, colorful beads and their huts are fabricated from tree branches. We will work on our portraiture skills in this village. Final night together. Overnight in Jinka

Saturday Nov 16

Fly back to Addis in the morning. We will return to Addis early in the afternoon and go to a Fair Trade home goods store that has the highest quality fabrics/ shawls/ linen.. Those leaving on late night flights will be driven to the airport. We can arrange for a hotel for those leaving on the 17th depending on flights.

