



Denver-Axum Sister Cities



Aurora-Adama Sister Cities

## ETHIOPIA 2020 DELEGATION VISITS

&

## TRAVEL ODYSSEY

SEPTEMBER 21 TO OCTOBER 6



# Ethiopia Travel Odyssey Itinerary

**21-Sep** Arrive Addis Ababa. *In'quan dehna metah* and "Welcome to Ethiopia". Our local tour agency, Ethiopia Odyssey, will be on hand to transport you to our airport hotel meeting place, where breakfast awaits. Depart at 11:00 AM for the short ride to Adama. After lunch, remainder of the day free for altitude adjustment and relaxation after a long flight. Evening welcome dinner for everyone on the tour.

**22-Sep** Today Adama sightseeing, including visits to the Wonji Sugar Factory, the local train station of the new, Chinese-built Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, and the Oromo Parliament Building, symbolizing Ethiopia's recognition of its diverse ethnic groups.

**23-Sep** Adama Sister City visits. This afternoon a refreshing soak at the Sodere hot springs.

**24-Sep** Adama-Addis Ababa.

**25-Sep** Addis sightseeing including Menelik's tomb, National Archaeological Museum (home of "Lucy"), Africa Hall, home of the Organization of African Unity, and a drive to Mt. Entoto for a panoramic view of the capital and visit to Menelik's palace. Also visit the merkato, Africa's largest open air market. This evening enjoy a traditional Ethiopian dinner followed by colorful folkloric singing and dancing highlighting Ethiopia's cultural diversity.

**26-Sep** Today Ethiopia celebrates the festival of Meskel, which commemorates the finding of the True Cross in the Fourth Century. Addis Ababa marks the holiday with a colorful parade of floats, music, and religious pageantry that culminates in the lighting of a huge bonfire. We will take in all the festivities from a special VIP viewing stand in Meskel Square. This will be an unforgettable day!

**27-Sep** Fly to Bahir Dar on the shores of Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile. Afternoon tour of the town.

**28-Sep** This morning we visit Tisisat Falls. Lake Tana is known for its island monasteries. This afternoon we will enjoy a boat trip on the lake to visit these ancient monasteries, decorated with wall paintings illustrating biblical stories accompanied by biblical verses written in Ge'ez, Ethiopia's ancient liturgical language.

**29-Sep** Drive through the scenic Ethiopian highlands to Gondar. The former "Camelot of Africa" contains the castles of the Royal Compound. Explore the castles and visit the Debre Berhan Selassie church.

**30-Sep** A fantastic day trip to Simien Mountain National Park. The drive snakes through the impressive Simien Mountains, "the roof of Africa." Ethiopia's most mountainous region offers spectacular scenery and is home to exotic birds and numerous game species like the Gelada Baboon, Walya ibex, and the Simien fox, animals found nowhere else in the world.

**1-Oct** This morning fly to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Lalibela, perhaps the most memorable stop on the historical circuit. Here, 11 unique rock-hewn churches were carved into the rugged mountainsides. Ethiopian Orthodox priests are everywhere, easily identifiable by their brightly colored umbrellas and ceremonial fly whisks. Enjoy an afternoon excursion to the rock churches.

**2-Oct** Travel through the countryside to the Yimrehane Christos ("Let God Lead Us") Church. This ancient church, built into a rock cave, is a center of pilgrimage. A great opportunity to see life in the Ethiopian countryside as it has existed for centuries. Free time in the afternoon.

**3-Oct** Fly to Axum, site of the ancient Axumite Empire and the cradle of Ethiopian Christianity. Afternoon visit to the Obelisk Park. The seven granite stelae, the tallest rising to 108 ft., mark the royal cemetery where the tombs of kings are still being excavated. The stelae imitate multi storied palaces and are decorated with carved doors, windows, and beams. We will visit the excavations and explore the tombs. Also visit the Axum Heritage Library, funded in part by the Denver-Axum Sister Cities Committee.

**4-Oct** Visit Yeha, site of 2,500 year old ruins of a Sabaen city. The high stone temple walls are decorated with Sabaen writing and animal reliefs. Return to Axum via the scenic route through Adua, where Ethiopia defeated an invading Italian army in 1896.

**5-Oct** Axum sister city visits. Fly to Addis Ababa.

**6-Oct** Last-minute shopping and touring. This evening transfer to the airport for late departures to Europe and the United States. Arrive USA next morning.

# DENVER/AURORA SISTER CITIES ETHIOPIA 2020

## TOUR APPLICATION

Name(s) as shown in passport (last, first, middle)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued/Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued/Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Sister Cities affiliation:  Denver-Axum  Aurora-Adama

Land tour: \$4000

Deposit: \$500 per person due with registration by personal check payable to "Denver Sister Cities Ethiopia 2020" or by credit card (additional 3.5% fee - \$517.50).

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature - Card Authorization \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON THE REVERSE SIDE

To register:

- Complete application online and pay by credit card at: [www.denversistercities.org](http://www.denversistercities.org) OR
- Complete application on line and send in your personal check; OR
- Print and return signed application (with Terms and Conditions) along with your payment.

Send to:

Denver Sister Cities International

2650 E. 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Denver, CO 80205

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## (Please Read Carefully)

COST: \$4,000 Land Only

Space is Limited – Early Booking Advised!

Land prices are per person based on double occupancy. Price includes:

- All domestic air flights within Ethiopia
- All transfers to/from airports in Ethiopia
- Hotels including all taxes and fees
- Three meals each day, except Sept. 21 (lunch and dinner only) and Oct. 6 (breakfast only)
- All ground transportation by bus
- Expert English-speaking tour manager and guides throughout the tour
- All taxes and service charges
- All activities named in the tour description
- All entrance fees
- Tips for luggage handling, hotel services, meal servers, and drivers in Ethiopia.
- \$250 tax-deductible membership fee and donation to Sister Cities committees.

Not Included: Drinks, telephone calls, laundry, personal items purchased, excess baggage fees, vaccinations and medications, passport/visa fees and international air flights to/from Ethiopia.

In the event a scheduled tour item must be canceled or changed due to circumstances beyond the control of the group organizers, every effort will be made to provide a comparable alternative. No refunds will be made.

Payments: A \$500 deposit is due at time of booking. The balance is due June 17, 2020. Payments may be by personal check or credit card (with additional 3.2% premium).

Cancellations: Cancellations received on or before June 17: \$100 penalty per person. After July 18, no refund. Tour participants are strongly advised to purchase tour cancellation insurance that covers cancellation for any reason.

Single supplement: Single tour participants may be accommodated with payment of a \$195 single supplement. Please contact the Tour Leader for details and arrangements.

Travel to Ethiopia: Make your own arrangements to arrive in Addis Ababa on or before Sept. 21. Ethiopian Airlines has several USA departures to Addis Ababa: Chicago, Houston, Newark, New York-Kennedy, Washington-Dulles. You can use their website (<https://www.ethiopianairlines.com/AA/EN>) or make arrangements through your preferred travel arranger.

Travel Insurance: Medical facilities are limited. Tour participants are urged to purchase travel insurance that covers medical and hospital expense and also includes medical evacuation when necessary. Minimum \$100,000 total coverage is recommended.

Air connections: Passengers are responsible for making their own way to Addis Ababa. Tour managers are not responsible for failure to take tour flights or for missed activities.

Required Documentation: United States citizens require a visa to enter Ethiopia, which is available at the airport upon arrival in Addis Ababa. Passengers are responsible for compliance with all medical and passport/visa requirements for entering Ethiopia. Please visit the Ethiopian embassy website for up-to-date requirements for non-US citizens.

I HAVE READ THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS WHICH APPLY AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE SAME.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_