

## ONFIRMED ETHIOPIA AND ZANZIBAR ITINERARY FOR MR HARRIS AND MS WORMLEIGHTON



Ethiopia is best known for its rich religious, cultural and historical heritage and your itinerary has been designed to give you a flavour of all these aspects of this fascinating country. A visit to Ethiopia is probably one of the most unique tours and the people, despite terrible poverty in certain areas, are friendly and well mannered. It must be noted, however, that the standard of accommodation in Ethiopia is often lower than that normally expected by western travellers and the infrastructure is quite often unreliable with an erratic domestic flight timetable and rough roads. An open mind and sense of humour as well as a realistic expectation of Ethiopia and genuine desire to see the richest historical heritage in sub-Saharan Africa, will ensure your enjoyment of this tour. You will be accompanied throughout your tour by an English speaking professional guide.

**16 Feb**

### **Departure**

Depart from London Gatwick on Ethiopian Airlines flight ET709 at 1855. Seats in Club Class. The flight duration is 9 hours 15 minutes inclusive of a one hour stop in Rome.

**17 Feb**

### **Addis Ababa**

Met on arrival at 0720 by our agents, Ethiopian Rift Valley Safaris in Addis and transferred directly to the Sheraton Hotel.



Set in mountainous countryside, 7,800 feet above sea level, the Sheraton Addis in Ethiopia is the first African hotel to join The Luxury Collection. The hotel stands opposite the National Palace and is only 7kms from Bole International Airport.

City tour with private guide if you are not too tired.  
Overnight on BB basis.

The name of this sprawling capital city means "New Flower." Founded by Emperor Menelik in 1887 and with a population of about 4 million, Addis Ababa is Africa's diplomatic capital with the headquarters for the Organization of African Unity located here. Impressive monuments of colonial architecture are scattered among stretches of sun-bleached shacks. Drive through "Mercato" the largest open market on the continent. Make interesting stops that include the National Museum, the Ethnological Museum and the Ba'ata Church known as Menelik Mausoleum. Enjoy souvenir shopping and visits to special art galleries.

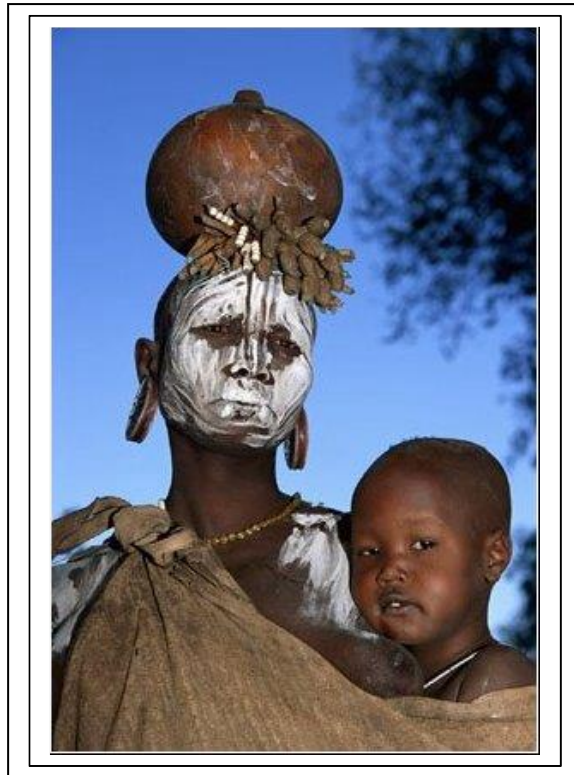
**18 Feb**

### **Fly to Jinka**

Transferred to Addis airport for departure of morning flight to Jinka. Met on arrival and drive to Jinka Resort Hotel.

If time permits you will visit the village of Bena people en route to the lodge.

The spectacular drive takes you across soft rolling hills with red soil and crops and woods. Encounters with different tribes along the way are expected, the Konso, Tsemai and Bena people. The Konso, a pagan people, erect eerie wooden totems over the graves of the dead and have numerous cults based around the breeding and veneration of serpents. Overnight Jinka Resort Hotel.

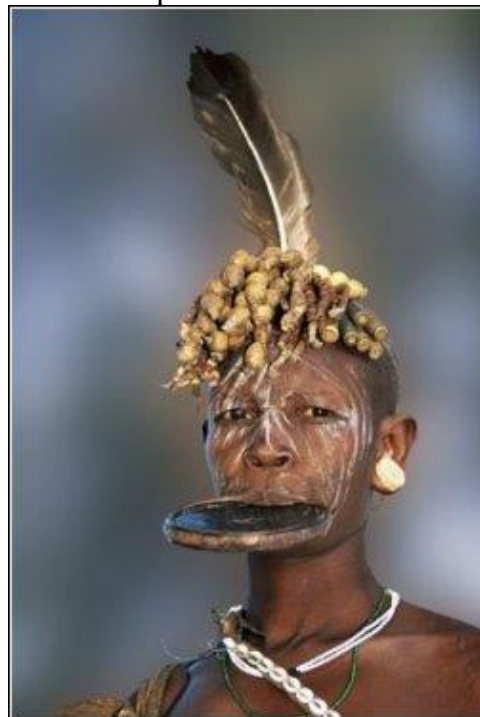


**19 Feb**

### **Drive Murulle via Mursi to Murelle**

Depart from Jinka to visit a Mursi Village, The insertion of wooden and terracotta discs into the ear lobes in a widespread custom and Mursi women also progressively split and stretch their lower lips to make rooms for similar discs there too. Periodically the young men of the Mursi and Surma tribes engage in ritual stick fighting.

These are people who farm the land and breed livestock. They live in almost complete isolation from the outside world.



Continue to Mago National Park which lies along the east bank of the Omo River. Within the 2162 sq km of this park, 56 species of mammals have been recorded, occasionally elephant are seen. Continue to Murelle.

Located on the bank of one of Ethiopia's greatest rivers, the Omo, Murulle Explorer's Lodge accomodates 16 guests. There are 8 bungalows, each having a private bathroom and shower, and screens on all windows.

A garden of delicious fruit and vegetable varieties serve the kitchen and there is always freshly baked bread. Meals usually have an Italian flavour and there is an assortment of cold drinks.



From the shady veranda you will be able to see hundreds of birds in the towering tree canopy and hear the echoing calls of fish eagles and colobus monkeys, or be amused by the antics of a troop of baboons on the opposite bank.

**20 Feb**

**Drive to Turmi for Market day, overnight Murelle**

Drive to the village of Turmi, with picnic lunch en route, where Monday is the local market day.

This is the central village for the Hamar people and on occasion the Hamar can be observed as they perform a spectacle called cattle jumping, a ceremony that constitutes a right of passage for young men. The Bena and Hamar people are mainly pastoralists and this area of the south can be considered 'open woodland' with patches of agricultural activity. Return in the afternoon for dinner and overnight at Murelle Explorer's Lodge.

**21 Feb**

**Drive to Arba Minch**

Drive to Arba Minch with picnic lunch en route, visiting the villages of the Erbare, Konso and Derashie people. Overnight at Swaynes Hotel.

Depart early on the drive, where you will see the terrain will subtly transform. Watch for varieties of birds along the road such as long crested eagles and rollers.



Arba Minch, whose name means "Forty Springs" lies at the southern end of Ethiopia's Great Rift Valley overlooking Lakes Abaya and Chamo. This is a centre for exploring the Chenchas, home of the Dorze people that are famous for their bee hive shaped houses and their weaving skills. This is the gateway to the magnificent Omo Valley scenery.

Swaynes Hotel is located in beautiful Arba Minch. It boasts a spectacular hilltop setting overlooking the forest of Nechisar National Park and two lakes in the Rift Valley basin (Chamo and Abaya).



**22 Feb**

**Drive back to Addis**

Drive back to Addis via the Rift Valley lakes, picnic lunch en route. Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel.

**23 Feb**

**Fly to Axum; city tour**

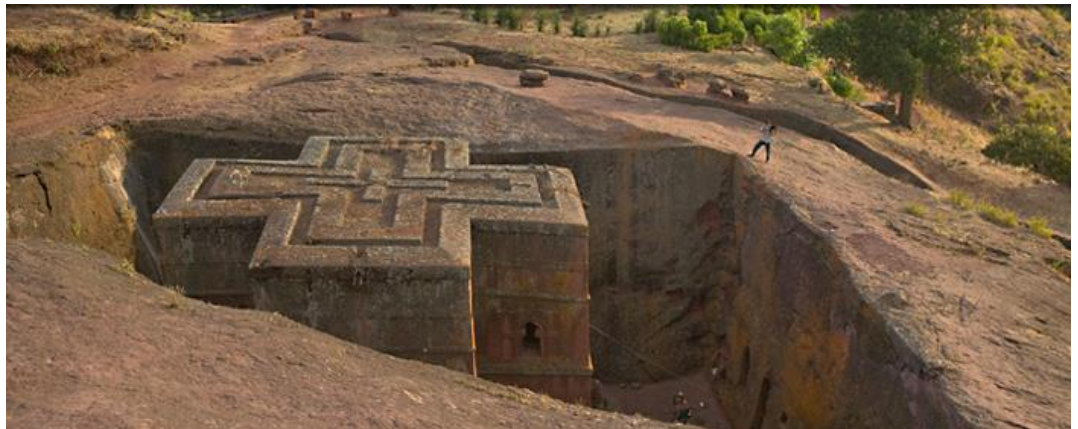
After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Axum. Arrive Axum at 9:40am local time. Transferred to the Remhai Hotel and settle in. Guided tour of the city of Axum, cradle of Ethiopia's 3000 years old civilization.

In its heyday in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Axumite Kingdom was one of the four great powers of the world ruling the two southern sides of the Red Sea. The glory of the Kingdom can still be pictured as you gaze on the colossal rock stelae, the stonework of royal tombs and the legendary bath of the Queen of Sheba. The 17<sup>th</sup> century Church of St. Mary standing near to the ruin of an earlier 4<sup>th</sup> century church and is the country's oldest and holiest Christian shrine. Another small sanctuary is said to be the last resting place of the original Ark of the Covenant, admittedly one of the most precious relics of Judeo-Christian tradition. Enjoy the interesting archaeological museum. Overnight at the Remhai Hotel.

**24 Feb**

**Fly to Lalibela**

Morning flight to Lalibela. Met and transferred to the Roha Hotel.



Lalibela is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the first and the second group of Ethiopia's famous rock-hewn churches built in the 12-13<sup>th</sup> century and attributed to King Lalibela. There are no less than 1000 churches in the Lasta region of Lalibela some hidden in enormous caves, but it is exceptional to find 11 churches of such master craftsmanship in one locale. These brilliant feats of engineering and architecture are often referred to as the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

Dinner and overnight at Roha Hotel.

**25 Feb**

**Lalibela**

Half day mule excursion out of Lalibela to Asheton Mariam Church or driving excursion out of Lalibela to NaakutoLaab Cave Church and visit the second group of rock-hewn churches. Overnight at the Roha Hotel.

**26 Feb**

**Fly to Gondar**

Depart from Lalibela in the morning on flight to Gondar.

Founded by Emperor Fasilides in the 17th century Gondar has been called the "Camelot of Africa" because of its castles and fortress-like battlements.

By European standards the Gondar castles may not be elaborate but their very presence in Africa makes them a rare and imposing sight. Ambassadors of the Indian Moguls of the Ottoman Empire and of Louis XVI of France were once entertained here.

Visit the baths of Fasilides and the Debre Birhan Selassie Church famous for its "winged angels" that adorn the ceiling. Pay a short visit to the Weleqa Village, which had once been a center for a substantial Felasha population. Almost all of them have been airlifted to Israel in the 1980's, but today some individuals there still claim descent from the Felasha. Dinner and overnight at the Goha Hotel.

The Goha Hotel is situated on a hill with a panoramic view of the town and its monuments. Giant lammergeyers, which have a spectacular ten-foot wingspan, are often seen from the terrace, soaring on the rising air currents.

**27 Feb**

**Bahir Dar**

Morning flight to Bahir Dar and transferred to the Tana Hotel. After a quick lunch depart on a boat excursion on Lake Tana to visit one of the monasteries, Ura Kidane Mehret.

Lake Tana also hosts some of the most protected historical and religious sites in Ethiopia on the many sacred islands that dot its surface. Dak Island is said to have been the resting place of the biblical Ark of the Covenant for many centuries, and an ancient Jewish altar stone lends credence to this claim. Some of the most beautiful of the famous and unique Ethiopia church paintings have survived untouched by the outside world in the churches on the many islands.

Overnight at the Tana Hotel.

**28 Feb**

**Bahir Dar**

After breakfast, you will be driven to the Blue Nile Falls. Afternoon flight to Addis. Met and transferred to the Sheraton Hotel for overnight on BB basis.

**01 Mar**

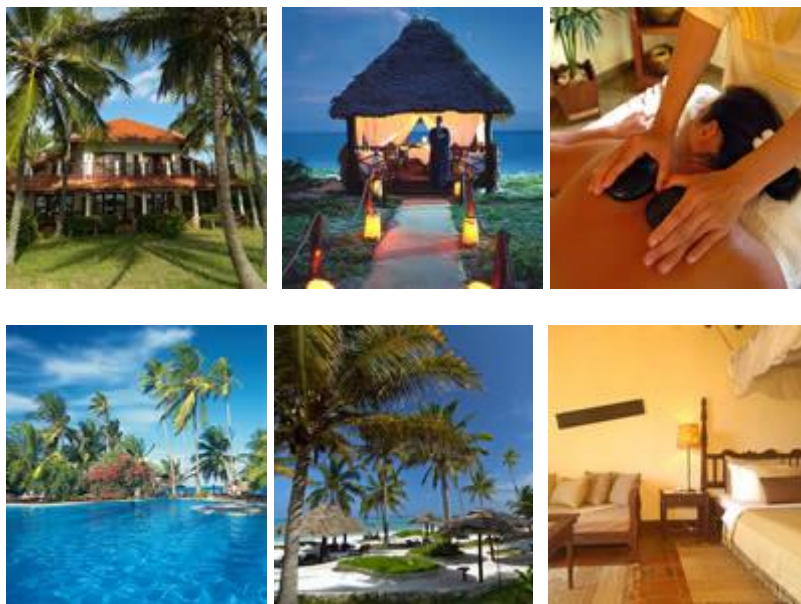
**Breezes Hotel, Zanzibar**

Transfer to Addis airport for departure of Ethiopian Airlines flight, ET805, at 1010 to Dar es Salaam. Seats in Club Class. The flight will stop en route at Kilimanjaro airport. Arrive Dar es Salaam at 1440.

Met on arrival and assisted with connection on to Coastal Aviation flight departing at 1645. Arrive Zanzibar at 1705.

On arrival you will be met and driven to Breezes Beach Club (a journey of about one hour) for seven nights on a half board basis in a Suite.

Breezes Beach Club is situated along a pristine, untouched beach stretching as far as the eye can see. Stroll for miles on a white sandy beach, dine in candlelight overlooking the ocean, fall asleep to the sound of the waves, savour the taste of exotic spices and delicacies from the Indian Ocean and enjoy an excellent variety of dining and recreational facilities. Activities available include windsurfing, pedal boats, canoes, sailing and scuba diving.



Breezes has recently opened the excellent Frangipani Spa. The international team of professional therapists offers a wide variety of facial, body and hand & foot treatments, as well as specialised massage techniques.

The hotel can organise a number of excursions on Zanzibar among which are :

Stone Town : Visitors can explore the heritage and history of the famous Stone Town, now designated a World Heritage Site. This includes visits to the city market, the old Anglican Church located on the site of the old Slave Market and the National Museum of Zanzibar (nominal fee paid by clients if they wish to enter the museum). Later visits to the Old British Consulate, the Old Fort dating back since 1700, House of Wonders and Livingstone House give visitors an insight into Zanzibar's rich history.



Spice Plantations and Farms: Visits to the spice plantations will dazzle your senses with fresh spices. On the way visitors can stop at the old Sultan Rest House to view the Persian Baths built in 1850 by Seyyid Said bin Sultan (first Sultan of Zanzibar) for his wife Princess Shehzard. A unique opportunity to visit the local farms and talk to farmers who will show you the traditional spices and fruits of Zanzibar.

### **Suites**

Located on upper floor of bungalows with large balcony and sun beds. The Suites have a walk in dressing room and larger bathroom with large terrace, private sunbathing area, and a covered outdoor lounge area.

### **08 Mar**

#### **Departure**

Transfer to Zanzibar airport for departure of flight at 1300 with Coastal Aviation. Arrive at 1320. Connect with departure of Ethiopian Airlines flight at 1540. Touch down en route at Kilimanjaro Airport, arrive Addis at 2000. Remain in transit and depart again on Ethiopian Airlines flight at 2330. Seats in Club Class.

### **09 Mar**

Arrive London Gatwick at 0500.