

Ethiopian Historical Christian Sites Tour

17 day, all-inclusive tour from October 25 2010

Led by *AngliCORD* CEO Misha Coleman Coleman

www.missiontravel.com.au

Experience enchanting Ethiopia: like nowhere else on Earth

Journey to ancient Christian wonders and experience first-hand the inspirational work of AngliCORD's local development partners during a 18-day tour of awe-inspiring Ethiopia.

Be part of the unforgettable and exclusive Ethiopian Historical Christian Sites Tour which AngliCORD is offering for the first time in 2010 through Mission Travel.

Meet inspirational Australian nurse Valerie Browning who lives with the nomadic Afar pastoralists in one of the remotest places on Earth. Witness the moving efforts of AngliCORD's partner REST to build hand-dug wells in the impoverished region of Tigray.

See the majestic 3000-year-old ruins of ancient Yeha and the medieval rock-hewn churches of World Heritage listed Lalibela. Journey by mule to the mountain-top monastery of Ashotan Maryam with its commanding views and church treasures. Revel in the chaos of bustling Addis Ababa and marvel at the gigantic obelisks of spectacular Aksum, which most Ethiopians believe is home to the Ark of the Covenant.

In the company AngliCORD's CEO Misha Coleman you can be part of a magical journey you'll never forget.

Only 15 places are available on this all-inclusive, once in a lifetime adventure, so sign up today!

For further information

Please call Mission Travel Group
Phone: 03 9889 0777 or 1300 554 654
Email: info@missiontravel.com.au



605 Camberwell Road, Camberwell VIC 3124

Ethiopian Historical Christian Sites Tour 2010

TOUR PRICE PER ADULT

Share Twin Accommodation AUD \$7399

Single Supplement AUD \$ 1499.00

Business Class upgrades available on application.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Airfare with Emirates to Addis inclusive of taxes
- Airfares -Domestic Addis- Mekelle- Axum Gondar Bahir Dar -Addis
- Accommodation and meal as per the itinerary
- All meals as per itinerary
- Luxury camping inclusive of cook
- All transfers
- English speaking guide
- Recent model Land cruisers with full options
- Local guides
- All entrance fee
- All transfers and excursion – boat
- Accommodation in Dubai
- Transfers in Dubai
- Ethiopian Visas

DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Travel Insurance
- Drinks as required
- Any not mentioned expenses and services

WHAT TO DO NEXT

A deposit of \$500 per person is required in order to secure a place on the tour.

Please contact our office if you would like a Tour Registration form.

If you would like to undertake further travel at the end of the tour. Mission Travel Group will be able to assist you with additional travel, please advise your needs when registering for the tour.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart Melbourne on Emirates flight EK 407 and EK 923 via Dubai to Addis Ababa- Ethiopia.

Day 2: Arrival in Addis approximately 11.30am. Overnight Addis

The name of the city in Amharic, means "new flower". Founded in 1886 by Menelik II, it is located at 2,500 metres above sea level in one of the highest parts of the Entoto mountain chain (3,000 m above sea level). It enjoys an excellent climate all year round, with an average temperature of 25°C.

Upon arrival to Addis, you will be met by our staff at the airport and transferred to Jupiter International hotel or similar. Dinner Included.

Day 3: Morning City tour in Addis. Then drive to Nazret for an Overnight in local hotel.

In the morning, we will have a tour of Haile Selassie's former palace which is now the home of the Ethnological Museum. Exhibits here represent the best of the arts and crafts of the country and gives an in-depth insight into the various peoples of Ethiopia.

Later, we drive to Nazret for the overnight. Overnight: Adama German Hotel or similar. Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 4: Drive to Mille or Geiga AFAR (approximately 5-6hours) early morning- Overnight in Mille or Geiga – PM Visit the project. Overnight stay camping . Breakfast Lunch and Dinner included.

Day 5: After breakfast we drive back to Addis for overnight. Long day of driving possible 7-8 hours.

Today, we drive back to Addis. Overnight in a 4 star Hotel. Breakfast Lunch and Dinner included

Day 6: Fly to Mekelle for some free time and AngliCORD Project visits

After an early breakfast, fly to the town of Mekelle. Today we will have some rest time and also visit some AngliCORD projects. Overnight Mekelle. Breakfast and Dinner included.

Day 7: Mekelle – AngliCORD presentation and site seeing and then Drive to Geralta.

After breakfast we will receive a presentation on AngliCORD's local projects. From the 8th to the 15th centuries, in this region hundreds of rock-hewn churches were carved and constructed out of one rock. Many of the churches are carved directly into the cliff walls of the 'Ambas' - typical Ethiopian mountains with flat tops and almost vertical sides. Along the way, we visit some of the churches.

Overnight at Geraltha Lodge. Breakfast and Dinner included.

Day 8: Explore the Tigray Churches. Overnight Geraltha Lodge

The rock-hewn churches of the Tigray region are one of Ethiopia's most

enchanting and fascinating sites. Many of them are carved into sheer cliff faces which take effort to reach, perhaps to protect the treasures that many of them hold in terms of paintings and artefacts, or to provide the solitude necessary for religious meditation. Isolated and mysterious, the churches are still used today and if lucky enough to visit when a religious festival is taking place, an unparalleled place to witness

Overnight at Geraltha Lodge or similar. Breakfast and Dinner included.

Day 9: Axum Visit the sightseeing in Axum via Adwa and Adigrat.

The legends narrated in the Kebra Nagast "Book of Kings" recount how the city of Axum as early as the 10th century B.C was already the city in which the Queen of Sheba resided. It is recounted that the son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon brought the Ark of the Covenant to Axum and it remains there to this day, preserved in a sanctuary. A visit is organized to the steles: granite monoliths dating from pre-Christian times and decorated with symbolic engravings. In ancient times, there were seven steles, now one of them was in Rome, Mussolini brought it there during Italy's occupation of Ethiopia and has been returned recently and re-erected.

Dinner and overnight stay in the same hotel as the previous evening. Breakfast and Dinner included.

Day 10: Fly to Lalibela. Visit the first group of churches.

In the morning you will be transferred to the airport to fly Lalibela, located at 2,600 meters above sea level. It contains 11 monolithic churches that were built in the twelfth century and are carved out of the pink granite rock; they have been classified as one of the wonders of the world.

Upon arrival you will visit the church of Nakuto Leab and proceed to the hotel, after check in you will visit the first group of churches. Dinner and overnight stay in Mountain View or Roha hotel. Breakfast and Dinner included.

Day 11: Excursion to Asheton Maryam church on a Mule. Afternoon second group of churches and local school or community project visits.

In the morning, you will have an excursion to nearby churches of Asheton Maryam, on a mule and hiking offering a spectacular view and in the afternoon you will have a visit of the 2nd and 3rd group of churches. The entire city may be described as a sculpture dedicated to the glory of God. The day is dedicated to visiting the churches and the city itself. Dinner and overnight stay in a same hotel. Breakfast and Dinner included.

Day 12: Fly to Gondar. Afternoon city tour. Overnight at Goha or the new Quara hotel

Gondar was once the capital city of the Ethiopian empire, which began in 1632 with the reign of Fasilidas. In Gondar, there are a dozen castles built by various emperors over the course of 236 years. The city seems more European than African and also has Islamic influences. In the afternoon,

we visit the palaces, residences and baths of Fasilidas; afterwards, we visit the church of Debre Berham Selassie (Light of the Trinity), which is located at the summit of a hill and surrounded by fortified walls.

Breakfast and Dinner included.

Day 13: Gondar – Bahir Dar

In the morning we will drive to Bahir Dar sightseeing en route, upon arrival transfer 7 kms to the lakeside hotel called Tana (3*star), which is situated, in center of the city just nearby the Market place.

Then we drive to the spectacular water falls called Blue Nile Falls (30kms from Bahir Dar). Tissa Abay is the small town where we get off the vehicle and are expected to walk the uphill for about 20-30 minutes to reach the best view point of the falls which has 45 meters deep and up to 400 meters wide during the rainy season (end June, July, August & September). Overnight at Tana or Summer Land Hotel. Breakfast and Dinner included.

Day 14: Bahir Dar / Late evening fly back to Addis

Bahir Dar is a pleasing city located at 1,800 meters above sea level on the shore of Lake Tana, the largest lake in Ethiopia. There are 37 islands on the lake and 30 of them have churches and monasteries of considerable historical and cultural interest.

The afternoon is free, with the possibility of a city tour which includes Bezawite Mariam Church and the Palace and visiting the market, where you can find the typical hand-woven capes and scarves made of good local cotton. In the evening, fly back to Addis. Overnight in 4* Hotel. Breakfast and Dinner included.

Day 15: Addis – Morning Visit Fistula Hospital in Addis.

After breakfast, we plan to visit the Fistula Hospital made famous by doctors, Reginald and Catherine Hamlin. We return to our hotel for a late check out and transfer to the International airport for our return. Depart Addis on EK 724 at 7.30pm arriving in Dubai at 12.40am

Day 16: Dubai- Early morning arrival and transfer to our hotel.

A full day of rest and leisure is ahead of you. Tonight we embark on a farewell dinner and debrief discussion. Dinner will be either based around a dunes safari or a dinner cruise in Dubai.

Day 17: Depart Dubai

We will check out of our hotel and be transferred to the airport to catch flight EK 406 departing at 10.10am from to Dubai to Melbourne.

