

ROUTE: DANAKIL AND LALIBELA

DURATION: 14 DAYS

ITINERARY:

Day 1

Arrival at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, transfer to the hotel and welcome dinner. Overnight stay: hotel in Addis Ababa.

Day 2

We start driving into the Rift Valley and arrive in Awash by evening. Beside lunch, there are a few stops planned along the way to realise changing landscape and get an introduction into its geological formation. Overnight stay: hotel or guesthouse in Awash.

Day 3

In the morning we explore Awash National Park by car before continuing our drive through the Rift Valley to the small town of Logiya. Overnight stay in a hotel or camping in Logiya.

Day 4

We drive along the main road from Logiya to Serdo, then we turn northward through a volcanic desert landscape into the Danakil depression. Overnight stay: camping near Lake Afdera.

Day 5

First you might explore the salt works before we drive onward to the Erta Ale's base camp which is finally a proper off-road drive through the Afar desert. Overnight stay: camping at Erta Ale base camp.

Day 6

We start in the early morning our ascend to Erta Ale's summit which is a hike of approx. 3 h, 10 km and 500 m of altitude. After breakfast on the rim we organize a group tour around Erta Ale's caldera. After lunch is free time to relax and / or explore the area on your own. Overnight stay: camping on the caldera rim of Erta Ale.

Day 7

Full day and night to explore Erta Ale's caldera area independently. Overnight stay: again camping on the caldera rim of Erta Ale.

Day 8

Second full day and night on Erta Ale to observe the volcanic activity Overnight stay: again camping on the caldera rim of Erta Ale.

Day 9

We descend quite early from Erta Ale back to the base camp. After breakfast we continue our journey by car to the village of Hamed Ela. Overnight stay camping in Hamed Ela.

Day 10

We focus on discovering the colourful landscape of the hydrothermal system at Dallol. We offer two visits – one around sunrise and one for sunset; last not least to avoid the Overnight stay again camping in Hamed Ela.

#### Day 11

In the first half of the day we drive through the glistening wide plane of Assale salt lake. You can watch the Afar people cutting salt and loading their camels. We stop at the colourful acid ponds near Dallol. In the afternoon we leave the Dallol area and drive up to the highlands to Mekele. Overnight stay: hotel in Mekele.

#### Day 12

Today we just have to cover the 400 kms distance to Lalibela which is one of the most historic towns in Ethiopia. The entire world famous rock hewn churches are listed as UNESCO world heritage site. Overnight stay: hotel in Lalibela

#### Day 13

The whole day is for visiting the unique rock hewn churches of Lalibela. Overnight stay again hotel in Lalibela

#### Day 14

Flight from Lalibela to Addis Ababa.