

ROUTE: DANAKIL

DURATION: 4 DAYS

ITINERARY:

Day 1

Mekele to Hamedela. Our first stop is the village of Berhale at the beginning of the Danakil Depression which is one of the most inhospitable regions of the world. The desert has several points lying more than 100 meters below sea level. En route you see long caravans going to the salt mines and others coming out of the Danakil with their salt loaded camels. (3-4 hrs drive) Overnight stay: Camping in Hamedela

Day 2

Hamedela to Dodom. The 80 km distance may take about 6 hrs passing through changing landscape of solidified lava, rock, sand and occasional palm lined oasis. We pass several small hamlets scattered here and there in the desert land of the Afar people, before reaching Dodom, Here we start an approx. 3 hrs. trek close to the Erta Ale carter lake. Camels transport all the camping materials and some food, sleeping materials, mattresses and water, to the rim of the volcano, After dinner in our camp we proceed to the crater lake where we spend an unforgettable evening watching the dramatic action of the boiling lava.

Erta Ale ranks one of the most alluring and physically challenging natural attractions anywhere in Ethiopia. It is a shield volcano with a base diameter of 30 km and 1km square caldera at its summit. Erta Ale contains the world's only permanent lava lake. Overnight stay: Camping near the carter lake.

Day 3

Dodom to Hamedela. We will rise with the sun and start a walk around dried pits and small craters before hiking back to Dodom for breakfast before driving to Lake Afdera. This salt water lake is located more than 100 metres below sea level. It is surrounded by picturesque salt flats where the Afar people obtain the salt by evaporating the water. Overnight stay: Camping in Hamedela.

Day 4

Hamedela to Mekele. In the morning we drive to meet the salt mining Afar people. You observe them breaking and cutting the rectangular salt slabs with ancient tools and loading their white gold on their camels in the heat of the desert. We drive ahead to Dallol and visit another unique landscape formed by volcanic activity: the magnificent sulphur springs with their big variety of eye-catching colours and shapes. Finally we just have to cover the way back to Mekele.

Cost

\$850 per person.

The price Includes:

- All Entrance fees and licenses as per the program.
- Accommodation and all meals throughout the tour.
- Bottles of water for the trip.
- Surface Transport expense with four wheel drive Land-cruiser including fuel expense and drivers allowance.
- Local guide service for the afar region as per the program.
- Cooking, camping equipment.
- Scout and police service in Afar Region as per the program.
- Camel and camel tires in Afar Region as per the program.
- Minimum of 2 cars per trip with local security.

For the duration of the trip we are responsible for all meals, water, entrance fees, accommodation, security and transportation.