

ROUTE: HISTORICAL ROUTE BY AIR AND CAR BAHIR DAR, GONDAR, AUXUM, LALIBELA

DURATION: 6 DAYS

ITINERARY:

Day 1

In the early morning you depart from Bole Airport to Bahir Dar. On Lake Tana you enjoy a boat trip to a selection of the monasteries hidden on the islands and shores of this sacred lake including the one of Debre Maryam near the outlet of the Blue Nile River. In the afternoon we drive out to the Blue Nile Falls for a short hike in the area. Usually you finish the day with an unforgettable sunset over the lake. Overnight stay in Bahir Dar .

Day 2

The four-hour drive to Gondar will take you through rural villages, offering wonderful insights into the Amhara culture. Then you explore the sites of Gondar, like the Royal Enclosure, with six castles and several other buildings, Fasilidas's Pool, still used for Timkat celebrations, Ras Gimb Palace Museum and the Debre Birhan Selassie church, with the most famous ceiling in Ethiopia. Overnight stay in Gondar.

Day 3

You take the early morning flight to Axum where your guide picks you up and accompanies you to your hotel. Today will be a full day visiting the magnificent sites of Axum, including the famous obelisks and the archeological museum, the famous Queen of Sheba's palace, Ezana's inscription, King Kaleb's and King Bazen's tombs. You can also walk the St. Mary of Zion church, where the Ark of the Covenant is kept. Men only are allowed to enter the old church. Overnight stay in Axum.

Day 4

You take a morning flight to Lalibela, the most famous of all of the Ethiopian historical sites. After lunch, you start exploring the astonishing rock-hewn churches of Lalibela of the northwestern cluster of churches: Bet Medhane Alem, Bet Maryam, Bet Meskel, Bet Danaghel, Bet Mikael & Bet Golgotha. Overnight stay in Lalibela.

Day 5

At first you visit the wood and granite built church of Yimrehanne Kristos which is the most popular of the churches outside of Lalibela. Thereafter you return to Lalibela and continue to visit the Southeastern Cluster of churches: Bet Gabriel-Rufael, Bet Merkorios, Bet Amanual, and Bet Abba Libanos. Finally, you will visit the most famous of all the churches: Bet Giyorgis, constructed in honor of the patron saint of Ethiopia, Saint George. Overnight in Lalibela.

Day 6

After a visit of the nearby monastery of Na'akuto La'ab you proceed to the airport for the return flight back to Addis Ababa.