

ROUTE: SIMIEN MOUNTAINS TREKKING TOUR

DURATION: 9 DAYS

ITINERARY:

Day 1

The first day we just have to cover the distance to Gondar, of course with several stops on the road whenever desired.

Day 2

Gondar to Buyit Ras / Sankaber. By car we drive to Buyit Ras. Here you start your 3-4 hour hike which passes close to the escarpment edge. Nearing Sankober, you have beautiful views on both sides of the escarpment ridge where you see the endemic Gelada baboons. Overnight stay: Camping in Sankober.

Day 3

Sankober to Geech. You start descending to a valley, through which the Wazla (or Koba) River runs. Coming out of the valley you will have views of the Jinbar River waterfalls falling into the Geech Abyss. Continuing along, you will cross the Jinbar River and ascend into the village of Geech. Total trekking time: 4-5 hours.

Day 4

Geech to Chenek. You have to start early as the total trekking time will be 7 – 9 hours. First stopover is the peak of Imet Gogo at 3926m. Here you'll have spectacular views over the lowlands – one of the highlights of the trip. As you continue to Chenek, you will pass Korbete Metia, a solid rock wall which opens up exposing beautiful views over the lowlands and the escarpment. This is also a good place for spotting lammergeiers. Overnight stay: Camping in Chenek.

Day 5

Chenek to Abikwa. The 6-8 hours hike first leads east up a valley to Mt. Bwahit. After crossing the Bwahit Pass, you come to a viewpoint offering wonderful views of the Mesheha River Valley as well as a first glimpse of Ras Dashen. From here, the path descends, passes through the village of Chiro Leba, and finally leads to the Mesheha River. Across the river, you climb back up the valley to the village of Ambikwa. Overnight stay: Camping in Ambikwa.

Day 6

Starting early, you continue up the valley to the village of Mizma, after which you will have a steep ascent to a ridge crest overlooking a large valley. The path then follows along the side of the valley, straight at Ras Dashen. You eventually reach a point where you see three distinct buttresses. The buttress on the left is the summit of Ras Dashen.. After a stopover at the highest point in Ethiopia, 4533 above sea level, you return to Ambikwa for overnight. Total trekking time: 8-10 hours.

Day 7

According to the day before yesterday you hike 6-8 hours to the Chenek-campsite.

Day 8

Drive from Chenek to Bahirdar with stops as desired.

Day 9

Drive from Bahirdar to Addis Ababa with stops as desired.