

Southern Cultural Tour & Rift Valley - 11 days

- All year possible except mid-March, April, mid-May
- By road (cultural, different tribes)
- 8 days in hotel, 3 days of camping (below in hotel unless Camping noted)

Day - 1 – Excursion Addis Ababa – Debre-Zite - Ziway – Shashemeni – Awasa

Day - 2 – Awasa - Yergalem - Dila – Yabelo

Day – 3 – Yabelo – Debluk – Chew Bet – Yabelo - Konso

Day – 4 – Visit Konso afternoon to Jinka, camping

Day – 5 – Jinka – Mago National Park – Mursi village – Jinka, camping

Day - 6 – Jinka – Keyafer – Turmi Hamer tribe, camping

Day – 7 – Excursion to Omorati Dassanech tribe - visit Turmi market, camping

Day – 8 – Turmi – Wyto – konso – Arba-Minch

Day – 9 – Excursion to Dorze village afternoon boat trip on Lake Chamo – Arba-Minch

Day – 10 – Arba-Minch – Langanano

Day – 11 – Langanano – A. Shala N.Park – Ziway – Tiya – Melka-Kunture – Addis Ababa

Detailed Itinerary for Tour

In this tour, visitors will explore the cultural and natural complexity of Ethiopia's southern region, follow more than 8 rift valley lakes rich in fish species, Omo river, 2 national parks, over 20 different tribes with over 20 languages of which some are Africa's first inhabitants with indigenous languages different one another in ritual, wedding or hunting styles.

- Southern cultural tour with rift valley & historic sites - 11 days
- All year possible except mid-March, April, mid-May
- By road (cultural, different tribes)
- 6 days in hotel, 4 days of camping.

Day -1– Excursion Addis – Debre Zeit – Ziway – Awassa

Day -2- Awassa – Yergalem – Dila – Yabelo

Getting there : - 260kms, 8am – 3pm, including time for photo.

Sightseeing : - After breakfast, we drive to Awassa to see the “fish Market”, then visiting coffee farms by the road side and wondering the unpolluted natural vegetation and fruit trees, stop at many spots to see the birdlife for we are in the Yabelo wildlife sanctuary. Then will arrive at the Borena tribe town called Yabelo. Hotel.

Day - 3 - Yabelo – Borena (singing walls) – salt mine – Yabelo –Konso

Getting there: - 240kms 3h, round trip to the Salt mine and the “Singing walls” of the Borena people, Then another 100kms, 3h drive will reach us the famous hard working peoples village, Konso.

Sightseeing: - After driving further south for an hour, we will meet the “singing walls” hand dug water holes by the Borenas who has affection for their cattle. The

water is dug some 20 meters deep with stairs to enable them pass the bucket full of water to the other to let the herd get water. While fetching water from the hole singing and praising their cattle, is a very spectacular moment to watch. Then we will drive 30 minutes and reach the salt mine. Returning will have lunch at Yabelo then reach Konso early 4pm. Hotel.

Day – 4 - Konso – Jinka, camping

Morning:

Getting there : - All sites are in a close range, if visitors prefer, walking is the best to see the daily life of Konso people.

Sightseeing : - Right after breakfast, walking through grouped settlement to admire the deep rooted culture of Konso and visit their 1 million birr award winning from UNDP for conserving their land by way of terracing and mixed farming. The Konso have a rich indigenous culture, intensive form of agriculture, typical dance and weaving of a beautiful thick cotton blankets. We will also visit and see the current Konso tribal leader, inherited from his late father a young has become a leader. Camping.

After noon:

Getting there: - 130kms, 3hours including launch break at Weyto and stopping for photography.

Sightseeing: - Departing Konso is the beginning of the pastoralists land. Our journey begins by a visit to an Arbore house which the partition inside the house itself is unique and worth wondering. Arbore are also known for their dances and decorations. They speak Cushitic language. Then comes the Tsemai village and near Jinka and its surrounding is populated by the Ari tribes. Hotel

Day – 5 - Jinka - Mago N.Park – Mursi village – Jinka, camping

Getting there: - 160kms, 4hours round trip including Mursi village visit.

Sightseeing: - Morning visit to Mursi village who primarily were pastoralists, now move between wet season and dry season. Their language is east Sudanese branch of the Nilo-Saharan language family. Some of them practice flood retreat cultivation by the bank of Omo river. They collect honey from traditionally made hives that one frequently sees in the park. The Mursi women are known for their clay lip plates as decoration.

Afternoon: - After lunch, visit ethnological museum of the tribes around Omo at Jinka.

Day – 6 - Jinka – Keyafer – Turmi Hamer tribe, camping

Getting there: - 128kms, 5hours.

Sightseeing: - Departing after breakfast from Jinka, before arriving at Turmi, we will visit the Benna villages on the road. Also the Karo live on the east bank of the Omo river. Their number is around 1000 only. They are closely related to Hamers. After they lost so many cattle turned to agriculture. They exchange pots for cattle with Hamers. They are famous for their body painting with chalk imitating the spotted plumage of Guinea-fowl. Karo women are also known for the scarification of their chest to beauty themselves and be attractive to their men. The scarification of a Karo man is done when he kills an enemy or a dangerous animal. Like the Hamers,

The wearing of grey and ocher clay hair with ostrich feathers shows a man's bravery. Crossing these village we will arrive the Hamer land Turmi, camping.

Day – 7 - Turmi Hamer village – Omorati – Turmi market, camping

Getting there: - 144kms, 4hours of round trip including 1hour visit crossing Omo to visit Dassanech.

Sightseeing: - After breakfast, we will drive for one and half hour to Omorati village then cross the Omo river to visit the Dassanech village. Around midday back to Turmi, then after lunch free visit to the famous and fascinating weekly market of Turmi. In this market Hamer, Bena, Karo and Tsemai tribes meet to exchange news and their needs. Hamers, whose language belongs to the south-eastern omotic group, are some 30,000 in population. The Hamers are a large number of group of agro-pastoralists cultivating sorghum, millet and some tobacco and cotton, with herding of cattle, sheep and goats. They also collect wild honey. They are fine potters and enjoy body decoration. They are known for their colorful beads they wear.

Day – 8 - Turmi – Weyto vally – Konso – Arbaminch

Getting there: - 250kms, 8am-4pm, enjoying the landscape and meeting different tribes on the way will arrive Arbaminch. Hotel.

Sightseeing : - Departing Turmi, will stop for lunch at Konso then to Arbaminch. Hotel.

Day – 9 – Excursion to Dorze village afternoon boat trip on Lake Chamo – Arba-Minch

Getting there: - 30kms round trip to Chencha, after lunch 1 hour boat trip to Lake Chamo and a visit to crocodile farm in town.

Sightseeing: - Morning - After breakfast we will drive to Chencha, Dorze village. Free walk visit in the market. Once warriors, who have now turned to farming and weaving. They produce the colorful toga-like robes known as shmmas which are worn throughout Ethiopia as traditional close. Hotel at Arbaminch.

After noon - A boat trip on lake Chamo to see the famous “crocodile market” where the giant African crocodiles and hippos taking sun bath on the shore. These lakes are rich in fish species, like fighting tiger fish, giant Nile perch, barbell are few among many found in this splendid lake, hotel

Day – 10 – Arba-Minch – Langano

Getting there: - 155kms, 6 hours drive including lunch break at Sodo and photos.

Sightseeing: - Picturesque road crossing different tribes and different landscape.

Day - 11 - Lake Langano – Abijata & Shala lake N.Park – Ziway – M.kunture & Tiya – Addis Ababa

Getting there: - 160kms, 6hours including lunch break and a visit to Lake Shala.

Sightseeing: - After Langano we drive into the park to see the spectacular view of the flamingos, pelicans and many other large birds. Then to Tiya and Melka-Kulture proto historic sites, listed as world heritage by UNESCO.