

<b>Tour Package</b>	Bale & Simien Mountains Wildlife Tour
<b>Package Code</b>	ETH-ADV-01-003
<b>Mode of Transport</b>	Flight & Surface Drive
<b>Description</b>	Wildlife Tour
<b>Duration</b>	09 Days /08 Nights

*africa*  
**DISCOVERY**  
UNIQUE SAFARI & ADVENTURE TOURS



**WILDLIFE TOUR TO**

## SIMIEN & BALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARKS

# ETHIOPIA

## ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is truly a land of contrasts and extremes; a land of remote and wild places.

Some of the highest and most stunning places on the African continent are found here, such as the jaggedly carved Simien Mountains, one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites and some of the lowest, such as the hot but fascinating Danakil Depression.

Ethiopia is old; old beyond all imaginations. As Abyssinia, its culture and traditions date back over 3,000 years. And far earlier than that lived "*Lucy*" or Dinkenesh, meaning 'thou art wonderful', as she is known to the Ethiopians, whose remains were found in a corner of this country of mystery and contrasts.

Many people visit Ethiopia - or hope to do so one day - because of the remarkable manner in which ancient historical traditions have been preserve. In addition, indeed, the ceremonies and rituals of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church open a window on the authentic world of the Old Testament. In no other country is it possible to find you so dramatically transported back in time or to participate with such freedom in the sacred rituals of an archaic faith.



*The Landscape of Northern Ethiopia*

## **SIMIEN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**

The Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP) offers Ethiopian's unique opportunities to experience and understand the wonderful country. It is a place of learning, recreation and fun where Ethiopians can connect with our past and appreciate the natural, cultural and social forces that shaped Ethiopia.



The Simien Mountains are a stunning mountain range in Northern part of Ethiopia; UNESCO has classified the SMNP as a "World Heritage Site" since 1978. It is home to several endemic flora and fauna, including the Gelada monkeys, which live in large troupes of up to 200 individuals and can very often be closely observed; the Walia ibex, a large mountain goat and the rare Ethiopian wolf, a highly endangered species. The combination of altitudinal variation and isolation of the Simien Mountains National Park offers a habitat to a wide range of animals and plants and place of rare and endemic species.

The following is a compilation of data on some prominent endemic species found in the Park.

### **Gelada (*Thempithecus gelada*)**

The Gelada baboon, also called '*The Bleeding Heart Baboon*', as result of the distinctive, bright red, heart shaped patch on its chest. The Gelada is endemic to Ethiopia, found on most of the highland plateaus of the Simien Mountains, inside and outside the Park, and their total number has been estimated

at more than 9000 animals. The gelada Social System consists of hierarchy of Social groupings. The basic group is a reproductive units of the breeding male of 1to 4 and female of 1to 10 and their depending young.



*Gelada in Simien Mountains*

Due to the absence of natural enemies, the population is still on the increase. The baboons live in herds of 100 to 200 animals, and their occurrence has been reported from most highland areas above 3000 m asl, the Gelada feed predominantly on fresh shoot of grass and to a lesser extent on a grass roots and seeds.

As the Gelada Monkey is not too shy, the animals can easily be approached. The main diet of the Gelada baboon consists of grasses and roots. This has led to conflicts with peasants, who fear extensive destruction of their crops.



*Close look of Gelada at Simien Mountains*

## **Walia ibex (*Capra ibex walia*)**

The Walya ibex has become a national symbol, it is endemic to the Simien Mountains, and is one of the most endangered mammal species in the world. Walya ibex live on the steep slopes and grassy ledges of the escarpment towards the eastern parts of the Park and beyond.



*Walia ibexin Simien Mountains*

## **Ethiopian wolf (*Canissimensissimensis*)**

The second large mammal found in the Park is the Ethiopia Wolf. This species is endemic to Ethiopia. It was already rare in the Simien Mountains



*Ethiopia Wolf.*

## BALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Ethiopia is one of the top 25 biodiversity-rich countries in the world and the Bale Mountains have one of the highest incidences of animal endemism of any terrestrial habitat on earth; the park itself holds 26 percent of Ethiopia's endemic species.



In addition to a wealth of endemic, unique and endangered mammals, Bale Mountains is home to a wide range of bird species. Rated by the African Bird Club as the number four birding spot in Africa, the Bale Mountains are home to over 300 species of birds – six of which are endemic to Ethiopia and 11 to Ethiopia and neighboring Eritrea.

The Bale Mountains are an area of supreme importance for numerous reasons. They sustain the life of many endemic and endangered species. Additionally, over 12 million people and their livestock – in the southeast region of Ethiopia, northern Kenya and Somalia – rely on the water that originates from the Bale massif.'





*Giant Lobelia at Simien Mountains*

The Bale Mountains National Park offers opportunities for unsurpassed mountain walking, horse trekking, and scenic driving. It also presents the chance to view many of the endemic mammals that reside within the park, specifically the mountain nyala and Ethiopian wolf, as well as birds such as the wattled crane and bearded vulture. However, perhaps the primary attraction of the Bale Mountains is the simple escape it offers from city life; into peace, serenity and beauty.

## **Ethiopian wolf (*Canissimensissimensis*)**

The Ethiopian wolf is the rarest canid in the world and Africa's most threatened carnivore. The closest living relatives of the Ethiopian wolf are grey wolves and coyotes. The Ethiopian wolf ancestor crossed over from Eurasia during the Pleistocene period less than 100,000 years ago, when sea levels were lower and Africa and the Middle East were connected. At the time, the highlands of Ethiopia were predominately Afroalpine grasslands and heathlands, and these habitats were ideal for many small mammals, particularly grass rats and molera



*Jeremie Goulet*

Ethiopian Wolves are long-limbed, slender canids. They have a black, bushy tail that can reach up to 40 centimeters in length, pointed ears, and a slender snout. They are tawny red with a white underbelly, blaze on their chests, and have white fur on their throats, which sweeps up and covers the underside of their muzzle. The female wolves tend to be paler in color than males and are smaller overall.



*Ethiopian Wolf*

Unlike other wolf species, these wolves are solitary hunters. Their diet consists mainly of the giant mole rats and common grass rats that are abundant in their habitat. On the rare occasion, they will hunt cooperatively to bring down young antelopes, lambs, and hares.

However, they are social animals and form packs of three to 13 individuals—this allows them to defend a territory with enough rodents to feed the entire group.

Ethiopian wolf packs are groups of extended family members, made up of all the males born into the pack during the previous years and one or two females. During breeding season, commingling between different packs is more common due to habitat saturation and the high potential for inbreeding inside the closely related pack. These interactions are highly vocal, and end when the smaller pack flees from the larger one. Adult wolves in a pack will help raise each other's pups. Wolf mothers give birth in a den they dug themselves, under a boulder or inside a rocky crevice. These dens usually consist of a highly utilized network of burrows, which can have multiple entrances and be interconnected. Pups are regularly shifted from one den to another



## OVERVIEW OF THE WILDLIFE TOUR

DAY	PLACE	ROUTES/ACTIVITIES	HOTELS/ LODGES
1	Addis Ababa	Arrive in Addis Ababa and transfer to hotel for stay over.	Golden Tulip Hotel, Addis Ababa
2	Simien Mountains National Park	Fly to Gondar town and drive to Simien Mountains UNESCO; world Heritage registered Site. Spend three days to explore the National park for Photography of Gelada Monkeys.	Simien Lodge
3			
4			
5	Debre ziet (Bishfotu)	Drive back to Gonder and transfer to Gonder Airport for the flights to Addis Ababa on you arrival in Addis Ababa you will drive 45 km to Debre ziet to stay over.	Kuriftu Resort, Debre Zeit
6	Bale Mountains National Park	Drive to Bale Mountain National park and spend three nights in the park for Photography of Ethiopian Wolves.	Bale Mountains Lodge
7			
8	Awassa	Drive from Bale Mountains National park to Awassa on the way visit Senekele game reserve to visit the endemic and endangered antelope species called Swayne's hartebeests.	Haile Resort Hwassa
9	Addis Ababa	Drive back to Addis Ababa and transfer to n the evening you will have a traditional Ethiopia dinner and enjoy live folklore music and dance and finally transfer to the Airport for international flight.	<b>DAY USE</b> Golden Tulip Hotel, Addis Ababa

## *Detail Itinerary for Simien Mountains and Bale National Park Wildlife Tour*

### **DAY 01: ADDIS ABABA**

Arrive at Bole International Airport, Addis Ababa and on your arrival at the airport you will be meet, greeted by our tour representative and transferred to your hotel for stay over.

**Stay over** *Golden Tulip Addis Ababa*

(<https://addis-ababa.goldentulip.com/en-us/>)

**Room Type:** *Double / Twin Room Hotel*

**Meal Board Type:** *Full board*

### **DAY 02: SIMIEN MOUNTAINS**

On your arrival at Gondar Airport, you will greet and meet by our representative and transfer to Simien Mountain National Park.

Simien Mountains National Park is Ethiopia's most popular hiking destination, its highest peak *Ras Dashen* 4,543 Mts (14,900feet) above sea level, making it the fourth highest mountains in Africa. Simien Mountains was recognized as UNESCO world heritage site and famous for being home of 22 large, 13 small mammals and the three of which, the Walia Ibex, the Gelada monkeys and Ethiopia Wolves are some indigenous mammals in the Mountains and also it has 57 tree species, variety of herbaceous plants, about 180 bird species have been recorded.



*Social grooming of Gelada monkeys Edge of the cliff before sunset*

The drive from Gondar to Simien Mountains is 130 km, after driving the first 100km in very good asphalt road there will be a short stop at Debarq town for National Park office for an entrance fee and for Guide and scout/Ranger appointment.

Then you will drive to the lodge for 22km in a gravel road, after Check in the lodge, you will have a break, then you will drive to Chekwanit viewpoint area to spot Gelada Monkeys with the spectacular scenery of the mountains and rerun to the lodge.



*Gelada monkeys Edge of the cliff before sunset*

In the evening, you will see documentary movies about the mountains in the lodge's bar while enjoy fire in the bar chimney.

*Overnight: Simien Lodge (<https://simiens.com/>)  
Room Type: Single/Double Room  
Hotel Board Type: B, L&D*

### **DAY 03: SIMIEN MOUNTAINS**

In the morning the car will drop you around sankaber campsite, you will walk over the escarpments to spot large groups of the Gelada monkey; you can be too close to get Gelada monkeys for a good pictures and enjoy Lammergeyer Vulture gilding over the escarpment.

Sankaber Campsite area is area covered with Afro-montane forest dominated by Juniper, *Haginiaabyssinica*, St John's wort, Giant heather and the like.



*Male Gelada in Simien Mountains*

Around the waterfall area, you will have a picnic Lunch and one-hour break while enjoying the scenery and you will spend more time to photography the Geladas with most spectacular scenery of the mountains drive back to the lodge.

**Overnight: Simien Lodge (<https://simiens.com/>)**

**Room Type: Single/Double Room**

**Hotel Board Type: B, L&D**

## **DAY 04: SIMIEN MOUNTAINS**

In the morning, you will drive to the Chennek camps site area (3,620m). At chennek there are again excellent views of the mountains and you should see more Gelada monkeys wither an amazing scenery. Around chennek camp site area, you will spend more time to photography the Geladas with most spectacular scenery of the mountains If times allow you will drive from Chennek to BwahitPass 4,200mt, the second Summit in Ethiopia. The Bwahit pass provide a good prospect on to the impressive rock formation of *Imet Gogo* and Inatiye and more chance to see walia Ibexes ( *Capra ibex walia*) it is endemic to the simien Mountain and is one of the endangered mammals species in the world and in the late afternoon transfer back to Simien Lodge.





*Gelada around sankaber area*

## **DAY 05 : GONDER-ADDIS ABABA –DEBRE ZEIT(*Bishoftu*)**

In the morning, you will drive back to Gonder then transfer to Gonder Airport for the flight to Addis Ababa. At arrival in Addis Ababa Airport, our tour representative will wait you and you will drive to Bishoftu (Debre zeit) town for 45 km from Addis Ababa for stay over.

Bishoftu(Debre Zeit) lying 47 Km south east of Addis Ababa, along its route of highway to Awash Nation Park. It was formerly known as Debre-Zeit. Bishoftu (Debre Zeit) is a resort town, known for five crater lakes: LakeBishoftu, LakeHora ), Lake Bishoftu Guda, Lake Koriftu and the seasonal Lake Cheleklaka. Kurftu Resort has great atmosphere, good weather, and peaceful environment. It is known for the best spa and services.

*Stay over at Kuriftu Resort, Debre Zeit (<https://kurifturesorts.com/bishoftu/>)*

*Room Type: Double Room*

*Hotel Board Type: B, L&D*

## **DAY 06: BISHOFTU – BALE MOUNTAINS**

Early morning drive 230 kilometers to Bale mountains national park. The drive takes you from the rift valley plain field climbing up on the southeastern escarpment of the rift valley to the Bale- Arsi massif. Bale mountain national park is a wildlife paradise, home to more locally endemic species of mammals than any other area of equivalent size on the planet. Our stop at Dinsho (Bale Mountains N.P. Head Quarter) and walk 1 to 2 hours will offer us to exhibit the unique mammals like Mountain Nyala and Menelik Bushbuck. Less obviously, 26% of Ethiopia's endemic species (including one primate, one bovid, one hare, eight species of rodent, and the entire global population of the giant molerat) found in the park. Six of the 18 birds endemic to Ethiopia found in Bale Mountains National Park, as well as 11 of the 14 birds endemic to Ethiopia and Eritrea. Finally drive to the lodge crossing sienatti Plateau and Harena Forest.

*Stay over at Bale Mountains Lodge <http://www.balemountainlodge.com/>  
Room Type: Twin/Double Room  
Hotel Board Type: B, L&D*

## **DAY 07: SENATTI PLATEAU, BALE MOUNTAINS**

For the next two days you will spend on the Senatti plateau for scenic attraction and presents the chance to view one of the endemic and endangered species especially Ethiopian Wolves.



*Bale Mountain Ethiopian Wolf*

The highest peak in the park (the second highest in Ethiopia) is Tulu Dimtu (the Red Mountain) with an Altitude of 4,377m belongs in this Senatti plateau moorland. One of the largest Afro Alpine Moorland with Giant mole rat and Ethiopian Wolf. Many rodents themselves are endemic: Giant Mole Rats pop out from burrows whilst Blix Grass Rats scuffling around finding food, whilst they attracting the attention of plateau raptors. Here can also be seen Golden Eagles, Lammergeyers and many other species of birds.

Then you will visit Harena Forest. The vegetation and topography across Bale is extremely diverse with the largest afro montane moorland in Africa, alpine moorlands and the Harena secondary rainforest - all occurring within one park. The Harena forest vegetation invites you to explore - beautiful secluded waterfalls surrounded by trailing vines and framed by white and purple orchids and wild pink roses are very pretty; the high open hillsides are dotted. Species found in the Harena forest and juniper forests includes Mountain nyala, Meneliks bushbuck, reedbuck and warthogs and this plateau is reach in bird life.



*Mountain Nyala inside the park*

***Stay over at Bale Mountains Lodge*** <http://www.balemountainlodge.com/>

***Room Type: Twin/Double Room***

***Hotel Board Type: B, L&D***

## **DAY 08: BALE MOUNTAINE–AWASSA via SENKELE GAME RESERVE**

Early morning you will drive to Hawassa (*Awasa*) en-route visiting Senkele Game Reserve.

Senkelle Swayne's Hartebeest Sanctuary is located 48km west of Hawassa, it covers an area of 54km<sup>2</sup>. The sanctuary originally established to protect the endemic and endangered antelope species called Swayne's hartebeests. The open acacia woodland of the reserve is quite scenic and some of the animals are easily spotted, specially the Swayne's hartebeests, the population of which is currently estimated at between 600 and 800. The sanctuary harbor other wild animals including Bohor, reedbucks, greater kudus, orbis antelopes, spotted hyenas, serval and civet cats, caracals, warthogs, common jackals as well as 91 species of bird.

After visiting the Sanctuary you will drive to Awassa to stay over in Haile Resort and in the evening you will walk around the Lakeside and visit the colorful Fish market ('*Amora Gedel*') and finishes the by enjoying amazing sunset over Lake Awassa.

*Stay over at Haile Resort Hwassa*  
*Room Type: Twin/Double Room*

*<http://www.hailehotelsandresorts.com/hawassa-resort>*  
*Hotel Board Type: B, L&D*

## **DAY 09: AWASSA - ADDIS ABABA**

After a relaxing morning, you will drive 279 km to Addis Ababa through Ethiopia Great Rift Valley lakes and will stop for lunch at Lake ziway. On you arrival in Addis you will check in the hotel for day use. In late afternoon where you can do some shopping for souvenirs and finally you will be taken to a farewell dinner tradition Ethiopia food and enjoy Folklore music and dance; you will be transferred out to Bole International Airport for return flight back home.

***---End of Tour---***

## PACKAGE PRICE

<b>VEHICLES TYPE:</b> <i>New Toyota Safari vehicles (Land Cruiser 4WD)</i>			
<i>No of Pax</i>	<i>Type of Cars</i>	<i>Price in USD</i>	<i>SRS in USD</i>
<b>01 Pax</b>	ONE Safari Cars (4 WD)	<b>\$ 4,640</b>	
<b>02 Pax</b>	ONE Safari Cars (4 WD)	<b>\$ 2,870</b>	<b>\$ 590</b>
<b>04 Pax</b>	ONE Safari Cars (4 WD)	<b>\$ 2,340</b>	<b>\$ 590</b>
<b>06 Pax</b>	<b>TWO Safari Cars (4 WD)</b>	<b>\$ 2,390</b>	<b>\$ 590</b>



### **THE ABOVE PRICE INCLUDES:**

- *Full board Hotel accommodation at best available Hotels on Single/Double room basis*
- *All transfer in and transfer out services from Airports*
- *All ground transportation with New Brand Land cruiser and Mini bus for Addis Ababa.*

- *New Converted safari car for Simien Mountains and Brand Land cruisers for Bale mountains National Park and Senkele wildlife Reserve.*
- *Experienced **English Speaking Local Guides** for Simien Mountains and **English Speaking Escort Guides** from Addis Ababa to Bale mountains National Park and Senkele wildlife Reserve.*
- *Experienced driver & driver allowance*
- *All fuel expenses and lubricants expense*
- *Local guide's fee and Scout fee where needed.*
- *Community & village Visit fee*
- *All entrance fees.*
- *15 % Government tax*

***ALL PRICE EXCLUDES:***

- *International, Domestic flights and Visa fee*
- *All extra Activities Such as Ballooning in Gheralta & cooing class in Gonder or Lalibela*
- *Any alcoholic drinks*
- *Any video or camera fee*
- *Porter fees at airport*
- *Laundry service Tips and any expense of Personal items like, internet, fax, telephone*

**REGARDING OUR VEHICLES:**

Ethiopian Adventures is the only tour operator in Ethiopia operated by full safari cruisers.

This should eliminate the bench seat. Each reclining seat will have electricity charging port and USB port for camera and phone charging. There will be large windows for photography, improved suspension, long-range tanks, fridge and many more features.



## ***GENERAL NOTES AND CONDITIONS***

### **GUIDE**

*The Northern Ethiopia tour program designed based on experienced, professional and knowledgeable Local Guide at each destination. The local tour Guides are not only responsible for the Guiding service at the site but also responsible for the welfare of clients at the destination, from scheduled of client's arrival at the destination to the scheduled of Client's departure.*

*However if Clients prefer to have one escort Guide service for their entire trip we can assign one escort Guide from Addis Ababa to accompanied the clients with additional cost, that include Escort Guide per dime and domestic flights cost as well.*

## **CARS**

*Ethiopian Adventures is the only incoming tour operator to own purpose built safari car in Ethiopia. Every client gets an individual reclining seat with electrical charging points for recharging cameras and phones. A larger windscreen giving better forward visibility and larger side windows for photography also improves vision. A fridge is a nice touch for cool drinks. The Car seat capacity is for a maximum four clients, each gets individual seats at the back and two front seating spaces next to the driver for guide and Scout. The tour programmed is designed based on the new safari Cars but an advance booking is requires to secure the cars for the program since we have three cars.*

*In case the car is not available, we will assigned other new brand standard LX Land cruisers for maximum seat capacity 03 Clients to guarantee window seat for each client with one Guide seats. If the client's number is four, there we assign two cars with additional costs.*

## **Meals:**

*The package price designed with full board Meal options (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner) on the tour itinerary. Please inform if you have any special dietary requirements or restrictions when booking the tour.*

## **Optional Programs:**

*We include optional experiences that are not included on the package price if the itinerary. This may include Ballooning in Gheralta Mountains and Cooking Class in Gonder or Lalibela etc. clients are under no obligation to purchase any options.*