



## **Tour 04/19 Ethiopia / Djibouti LCGB Tour (10 days)**

### **1. Itinerary:**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September:** Early arrival in Addis Ababa, after overnight Ethiopian Airlines flight from LHR.

Morning -Upon arrival at Bole International Airport you will be met by a Welcome Ethiopia Tours representative and taken to your reserved hotel for early check-in. Everyone will then visit the Djibouti Embassy for the visa application process. We are assured that yellow fever certificates will not be required.

Afternoon Free to explore Addis, and doubtless ride the two-line light rail system. (Welcome Ethiopia Tours representative will pick up the passports during the afternoon from the Djibouti embassy).

Hotel: Nexus Hotel, Addis Ababa.

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October:** Addis Ababa – Dire Dawa (train)

Transfer to Furi-Lebu Station, the Addis terminus of the new railway. The station is to the southwest of the city, some 45 minutes away by road. Scheduled departure is at 08.00, 446 kms to Dire Dawa, due to arrive at 15.35. On arrival there will be time to have a look around the new station at Dire Dawa, which again is located outside the town, and see the train depart towards Djibouti. Road transfer to the four-star Samrat Hotel, in the city centre, which is only some half a mile from the old metre gauge station. Hotel: Samrat Hotel, Dire Dawa.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October:** Dire Dawa - Harar (60 km)

Morning drive towards Harar, the oldest historical and cultural town in Eastern Ethiopia. Driving from Dire Dawa to Harar will take around 1 hour. We then start our discovery of the 16th century walled city of Harar, the fourth most important city in the Islamic World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will visit the home of Arthur Rimbaud, renowned French poet who lived in Harar, the National and Harari museums; the house of Ras Mekonnen (the father of Haile Selassie); traditional Harari homes and many more interesting places.

Evening: In the evening we will see the "Hyena Man" feeding the wild hyenas that gather nightly in the town. Hotel: Wonderland Hotel, Harar. Note this is only a two-star establishment, but is apparently the best available!

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October:** Harar - Dire Dawa, and on by train to Djibouti.

Morning: We drive back to Dire Dawa to visit to the old metre gauge station and facilities, before transferring back to the new station for the scheduled departure of the train to Djibouti at 15.50, due to arrive Nagad station at 20.40. (292 kms). There will be a lengthy stop at the border for Djiboutian customs and immigration checks. Again, the new station is located outside the city, and there will be an immediate road transfer to the three stars plus Hotel les Acacias for overnight. Hotel: Hotel les Acacias, Djibouti City.

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October:** Day trip to the Moucha Islands -

Full day visit to Moucha Islands by boat. These offshore islands are some 15 kms from the mainland, and were occupied by the British from 1840 to 1887. These days the main island is essentially a small tourist/holiday resort, which will hopefully make for a nice break. Hotel: Hotel les Acacias, Djibouti.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October:** Visit to Lake Assal and tour of Djibouti City.

Full day program by road, including Lac Assal and a Djibouti city tour. The Djibouti city tour speaks for itself, whilst Lac Assal is a crater lake in central/western Djibouti, some 65 miles from the city. It is a saline lake, which lies 155m below sea level in the Afar Triangle, making it the lowest point on land in Africa, and the third-lowest point on Earth after the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Hotel: Hotel les Acacias, Djibouti City.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October:** Djibouti City – Addis Ababa (train)

Transfer back to Djibouti Nagad Station, for the scheduled 08.00 departure, all the way back to Addis Ababa, due to arrive 20.40 (738kms). Immediate transfer to the Hotel Nexus for overnight. Hotel: Nexus Hotel, Addis Ababa.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October:** Southern Circuit Cultural Tour and the Rift Valley.

Addis Ababa cultural tour, including the Adadi Mariam rock hewn church, the Tiya stone megalith stele field, and Melka Kunture stone tools archaeological site. We can return to Addis via Lake Zway in the Great Rift Valley, where we can have lunch at the lake. There is an option for a boat ride on Lake Zway, where a great variety of water birds as well as hippos may be observed. Drive back from Lake Zway to Addis Ababa. Hotel: Nexus Hotel, Addis Ababa.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October:** Addis Ababa City Tour

Depending on interests, we have various sightseeing options in Addis Ababa, including Mount Entoto, with the best views over the capital, plus -

- St. George's Cathedral, where paintings by the famous Ethiopian artist Afework Tekele and other ecclesiastical wealth and cultural heritage of the past are displayed.
- Trinity Cathedral: this is the burial place of members of the imperial family and noted patriots; the cathedral is the most magnificent of its kind in the country, ornamented with carvings, mosaics and other artistic works.
- The Mercato, the largest open-air market in Africa, and of course further self-exploration of the two-line light rail system. Photographic permissions have been promised for both the light rail and the Ethiopia/Djibouti Railway.

Evening: In the evening you will be invited to a memorable farewell dinner in one of Addis Ababa's traditional restaurants with cultural songs, dances and traditional food and drinks. You will then be transferred back to your hotel. Hotel: Nexus Hotel, Addis Ababa.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October:** Departure -

Transfer to Bole International Airport. Ethiopian Airlines flight ET710 departs 11.00, due to arrive London Heathrow at 17.00 local the same day. End of tour.

## **2. Provided Services:**

9 nights with breakfast in mentioned hotels. All mentioned transfers, sight-seeing, compulsory local guides, and entrance fees according to the program. Ground transportation in comfortable air-conditioned Toyota Coaster bus and Toyota High-roof minibuses with fuel, insurance and experienced tour drivers. Comfortable air-conditioned coach in Djibouti. Private boat trip to Moucha Island (lunch on the island included) Train tickets: Addis Ababa/Dire Dawa, Dire Dawa/Djibouti City and Djibouti City/Addis Ababa in regular seats - open configuration, not compartments. Qualified, professional English-speaking guide for the entire journey, experienced in both Ethiopia and Djibouti. Cultural Dinner in Addis on the last evening, with music and dance from all regions of Ethiopia.

Not included in the price:

- International air tickets
- Visa fees for Ethiopia and Djibouti (50 USD each)
- Lunch / Dinner and beverages (except where mentioned)
- Personal expenses for souvenirs, laundry, minibar etc.
- Personal tips, and all other expenses, not listed above

**3. Basic tour price - £1350.00 per person.** (based on a minimum group size of 20 pax)

**Single supplement - £130.00.** (Charges to LCGB are in Euros, so please be minded of Brexit !!)

Additionally, return flights will need to be booked in due course by participants from London Heathrow to Addis Ababa, ideally using Ethiopian Airlines. These should be booked direct, although assistance will be given for those without internet access. Recommended flight details will follow.

**FLIGHTS SHOULD BE BOOKED ONLY WHEN THE TOUR IS FULLY RE-CONFIRMED, AND MINIMUM NUMBERS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED.**

All participants must hold current LCGB membership. (Bookings can be accepted from non-members, and temporary membership can be arranged). Travel insurance is mandatory and is a requirement for participation on the tour.

**To secure a place on this attractive ground-breaking tour, please send a deposit of £500.00 per person immediately, payable to 'LCGB'.** Deposits will, of course, remain fully refundable until we have sufficient participants, and the tour is confirmed as definitely running.

All bookings should be accompanied by the latest version of the Overseas Study Tours Booking Form, available online at - [http://www.lcgb.org.uk/images/OTBF\\_2018.pdf](http://www.lcgb.org.uk/images/OTBF_2018.pdf) Please note that sae's are not required if you are generally contactable by email.

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