



## **Overseas Tour 02/18 – Ethiopia and Djibouti – Friday 19th to Monday 29th October 2018**

This tour has been over six months in the planning, and numerous potential obstacles have just about been resolved. The agreed programme is as follows: -

**Friday 19th October** – Overnight with Ethiopian Airlines flight ET701, departing London Heathrow at 21.00. (Airbus A350)

**Saturday 20th October** – Addis Ababa Bole International arrive 06.35. (7 hrs 35 mins flight). Road transfer to the Nexus Hotel. Free day to explore Addis, and doubtless ride the two line light rail system. Overnight at the four star Hotel Nexus.

**Sunday 21st October** – 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.

**Monday 22nd October** - Morning drive towards Harar, the oldest historical and cultural town in East Ethiopia. On the way, enjoy beautiful scenery and visit the "Aweday Chat market". Chat is a mild narcotic green leaf chewed by many, and even exported to the Yemen and Djibouti. Later, proceed to Harar itself. For the remainder of the day, we explore the ancient walled city of Harar, with its five gates and unique Harari houses. The narrow paths within the walls are only open for pedestrians, and cars are not used. After a break for lunch, we will visit the Harar Cultural Museum, Rimbaud House, the Palace of Ras Makonnen, and more, before driving back to Dire Dawa. O/n Samrat Hotel.

**Tuesday 23rd October** – Morning visit to the old metre gauge station and facilities in Dire Dawa. Transfer 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 star plus Hotel les Acacias for overnight.

**Wednesday 24th October** – Full day visit to the Moucha Islands by boat. These offshore islands lie 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. Overnight at the Hotel les Acacias.

**Thursday 25th October** – Full day programme 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. Overnight at the Hotel les Acacias.

**Friday 26th October** – Transfer back to Djibouti Nagad Station, for the scheduled 08.00 departure, all the way back to Addis Ababa, due to arrive 20.40. Immediate transfer to the Hotel Nexus for overnight.

**Saturday 27th October** – Addis Ababa cultural tour, including the Adadi Mariam rock hewn church, the Tiya stone megalith, and the Melka Kunture stone tools archaeological site. Overnight at the Nexus Hotel.

**Sunday 28th October** – Full day tour of further historic and cultural sites, probably in the area around Bishoftu/Adama, to the southeast of Addis. Alternatively, further self exploration of Addis, and the light rail system. Overnight at the Hotel Nexus.

**Monday 29th October** – Early transfer to Bole International Airport. Ethiopian Airlines flight ET710 departs 09.00, due to arrive London Heathrow at 14.00 local the same day.

The land arrangement only price will be £1300.00. Single occupancy supplement is available at £300.00. These prices are based on a minimum group size of 25 persons.

The above land only price includes –

- 1) Hotel accommodation, basis sharing in twin rooms.
- 2) Meal plan - half board basis throughout the tour.
- 3) All ground transportation, transfers, and excursions by bus.
- 4) Entrance fees where appropriate at all historic/cultural places.
- 5) An expert English speaking local guide throughout the tour.
- 6) The boat trip to the Moucha Islands in Djibouti.
- 7) One beverage per person during lunch and dinner.
- 8) One bottle of water per person per day when on the bus.
- 9) Government Taxes and service charges.

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 tour, please send a deposit of £200.00 per person immediately, payable to 'LCGB', as bookings will probably close at the end of July. We are already near to the minimum number of participants required.

**RECOMMENDED FLIGHTS, TO BE BOOKED ONLY WHEN TOUR FULLY CONFIRMED, AND MINIMUM NUMBERS ACHIEVED -**

Friday 19th October, Ethiopian Airlines flight ET701, departing London Heathrow at 21.00.

Monday 29th October, Ethiopian Airlines flight ET710, departing Addis Ababa at 09.00, due to arrive London Heathrow at 14.00 local time the same day.

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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