



EASTERN TRANS AFRICA & GORILLAS, (ECR)

Nairobi to Cairo 92 Days, departing 17th January 2023



TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style: Overlanding

Route: Nairobi to Cairo

Duration: 92 Days

Transport: Overland Expedition Vehicle, Jeep, Private Bus, Boat, Ferry

Accommodation: Camping 26 nights
Basic Hotel 18 nights
Multishare Hostel 7 nights
Camping without facilities 11 nights
Comfortable Hotel 23 nights
Guesthouse 3 nights
Overnight Boat 1 night

Meals: Breakfasts x 86, Lunches x 40, Dinners x 40

Physical Challenge:

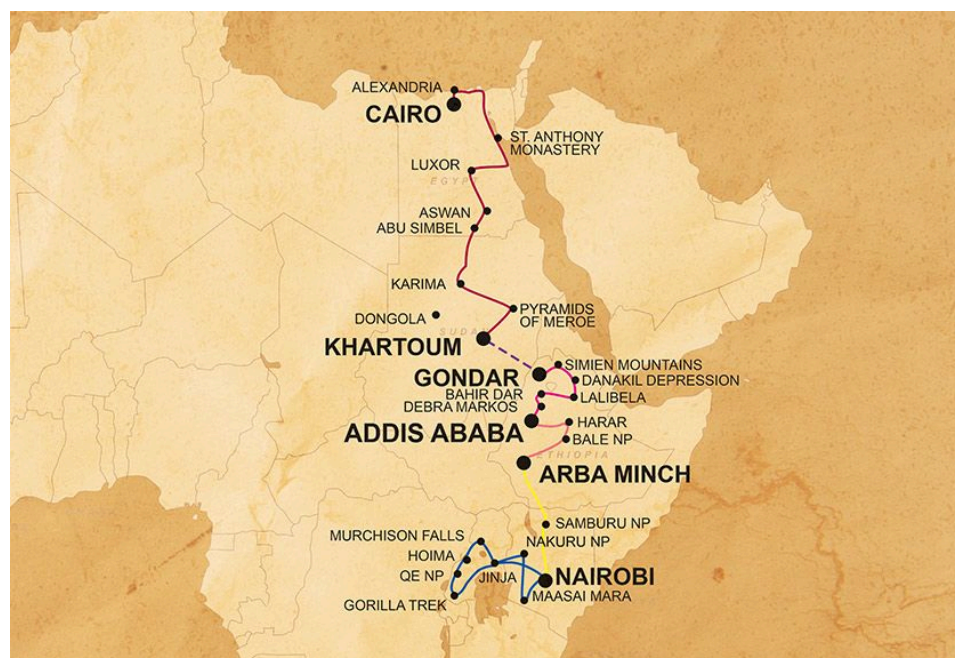


Depending on the trip, activities may include treks of 3-4 hours at altitude or across hilly terrain, multi-day treks at sea level, horseback riding, canoeing and other adventurous activities. A moderate level of fitness is required.

Lifestyle Challenge:



This is a trip for people with a real sense of adventure. You will be camping for the majority of the trip and the trip will include many long drive days and wild camps. The terrain may be very rough and the roads and facilities may be very basic or non-existent. The itinerary may be very flexible.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Nairobi (17th January 2023)

Border Information: If joining the trip in Nairobi, you will most likely enter Kenya at Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (IATA code: NBO).

Welcome to Kenya! There will be a group meeting at the joining hotel at 6:00pm. Please do not be alarmed if there is no welcome note, as this will often be a travelling day for the crew who will be joining you.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Nairobi before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Nairobi.

Accommodation: Wildebeest Eco Camp "A"

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the David Sheldrick animal orphanage

Entrance donations: 500 KES

Learn all about the different tribal groups of Kenya at the Bomas of Kenya cultural centre in Nairobi

Entrance: 10 USD

Visit the Langata Giraffe Centre in Nairobi

Entrance: 1,000 KES

Explore the museum at the site of the former home of Karen Blixen, the author of 'Out of Africa'

Entrance: 1,200 KES

Discover some of Kenya's ancient hominids at the National Museum in Nairobi

Entrance: 1,200 KES

Head out on a guided safari walk in Nairobi National Park

Entrance and walk: 50 USD

Day 2 - Kericho (18th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we will drive on to Kericho, throughout this drive you will have sights of the world famous tea plantations in the area.

Day 3 - Jinja (19th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border Information: Exit Kenya at Busia, enter Uganda at Busia.

Today we have a full day's drive across the border into Uganda as we travel to Jinja, the adventure capital of East Africa!

Day 4 - Jinja (20th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a free day to get involved in the many optional adventure activities available here, such as white water rafting, bungee jumping and boat trips on the White Nile!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Go on a boat trip to discover the source of the Nile where the river outflows from Lake Victoria

1.5 hours: 20 USD

Head out horse riding along the banks of the White Nile

3 hours: 80 USD

Full Day rafting Jinja

Full day tour: 140 USD

Shoebill tour with the Ugandan Rhino Fund

Shoebill: 35 USD

Day 5 - Nakitoma (21st January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we continue our journey and head north to the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary close to the town of Nakitoma. Here we will have the chance to track rhinos on foot with a local ranger!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Bird watching tour in Ziwa searching for shoebills

3hrs: 35 USD

Nakitoma Ziwa Night Walk

Night Safari: 35 USD

Rhino tracking with the Ugandan Rhino Fund

2hrs: 45 USD

Day 6 - Kaniyo Pabidi (22nd January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we continue to Kaniyo Pabidi in the Budongo Forest, in the southern part of the Murchison Falls NP. Here we will head out for our included chimpanzee tracking walk in the afternoon!

Please note that for conservation reasons the maximum group size to track the chimpanzees is 12 people, so if we have a large group we will split in half, one half going on the walk this afternoon and the other half going tomorrow morning.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Trek on foot in the Budongo Forest in search of habituated chimpanzees

Included

Day 7 - Murchison Falls NP (23rd January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

If we had to split the group for chimpanzee tracking, the other half of the group will head out for the walk this morning. When we are ready to continue, we will drive to the central region of Murchison Falls NP to reach our campsite.

Please note that the roads leading into and around Murchison Falls are very poor and can be hazardous in wet conditions. If there has been heavy rain recently, it may not be possible to go into the NP beyond Kaniyo Pabidi - this is firstly for safety reasons on the drive in, and secondly due to the risk of extreme bogging that could cause us to miss the gorilla treks further along in our trip. We will always endeavour to reach the NP as per the itinerary; but when this is occasionally not possible, please respect the tour leader's decision in this matter. On these occasions we will be able to utilise this time with spending longer in Lake Bunyonyi.

Day 8 - Murchison Falls NP (24th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, we will head out early in the truck for a included morning of game driving around the northern area of the NP - we will take a local vehicle barge to get over the Nile and pick up a ranger to show us around in search of wildlife!

We will return to our campsite for lunch, and then embark on an included launch cruise on the Nile to spot wildlife from the water and to see the spectacularly-powerful Murchison Falls.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Launch cruise on the River Nile to the mighty Murchison Falls

Included

Head out game driving in our overland truck in Murchison Falls National Park

Included

Day 9 - Mpanga Forest (25th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we will make our way out of the NP and head South to Mpanga Forest via Kampala. This is a chance to experience a new environment as we camp in the forest near traditional communities. We will hopefully be able to visit the Mpambire drum making village to experience their ancient traditions and culture.

Day 10 - Queen Elizabeth NP (26th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we travel to the Queen Elizabeth NP, beautifully set between the Great Rift Valley lakes of Lake Edward and Lake George, undertaking a game drive on our way to the campsite.

During our time in the park we hope to see elephants, lions, leopards, buffaloes, Ugandan kobs and waterbucks.

Day 11 - Queen Elizabeth NP (27th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we are up early to go on a full day game drive making our way to visit the volcanoes and salt mines on the edge of the park. We will experience areas of the NP that are impossible to reach without a full days excursion!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Safari in QEII National Park

Included

Optional Activities

Queen Elizabeth NP Night Safari

Cost per vehicle: 100 USD

Day 12 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP (28th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we prepare for our Gorilla tracking by heading to Bunyoni and taking jeeps up into the mountains of Bwindi.

Day 13 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP (29th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Here we will go on what is undoubtedly the highlight of the trip - trekking to see the Mountain Gorillas in their natural forest habitat.

This region is one of the last remaining sanctuaries for the mountain gorilla. No more than 8 people per day can visit any one habituated family, and visits are strictly controlled to minimise the possibility of disturbance or transmission of disease to the animals.

Tracking gorillas in the dense forest can sometimes be wet, muddy and uncomfortable. The terrain is by no means easy either, so it can be pretty strenuous and often humid; however, the sheer thrill of coming across a habituated group of gorillas, dominated by a great male silverback, more than outweighs any difficulty. You need to be prepared and fit enough to walk at least 4 hours - uphill and downhill. We can usually get very close to the mountain gorillas, who are placid and gentle, and watching their movements is like seeing a mirror image of yourself! Once you find them, you will stay with the gorillas for one unforgettable hour!

When visiting the gorillas you will be assigned a trekking group and time on your permit. The group may be split up into different trekking groups during the day.

In Bwindi we will stay in a campsite that occasionally has some very special visitors, the incredible mountain gorillas!

Please note that the gorilla permits are paid for in full by the trip kitty - however, we have to purchase the permits in advance on the customers' behalf, so a higher deposit is charged on the trip price to protect us from losing this money in the event of cancellation - please see the notes at the end for further detail.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Trek out for this once in a lifetime experience - Gorilla Tracking with the endangered Mountain Gorillas in the Impenetrable Forest

Included

Day 14 - Lake Mburo (30th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we will make our way into the stunning Lake Mburo NP. This drive will take us across the equator - a prime moment for some photos!

In the afternoon we may have time for a walking safari or even a boat trip on Lake Mburo.

We will stay in an incredible campsite close to the lake where you may be lucky enough to see hippos leaving the water in the evening.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Boat trip on Lake Mburo

2 hours: 15 USD

Walking safari in Lake Mburo National Park

2 hours: 30 USD

Day 15 - Jinja (31st January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After waking up in the beautiful Lake Mburo NP it is time to head back to Jinja and all of the comforts that it has to offer. You may even have time for an evening activity here.

Day 16 - Nakuru NP (1st February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border Information: Exit Uganda at Malaba, enter Kenya at Malaba.

This is our base for tomorrow's excursion into Nakuru NP. If we make good time on the drive we may have the opportunity to take a walk around the working dairy farm where our campsite is, and to visit a local women's knitting collective.

Day 17 - Nakuru NP (2nd February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we head into Nakuru NP for an included half-day game drive in local safari trucks. Nakuru is a beautiful park with a large lake and many forested areas - it is teeming with wildlife and there is an excellent chance to see both black and white rhinos.

In the afternoon we will have the opportunity to take a walk around the working dairy farm where our campsite is, and to visit a local women's knitting collective.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Safari in Lake Nakuru National Park

Included

Optional Activities

Walk to explore a colonial dairy farm and visit a local women's knitting collective

Entrance: 5 USD

Day 18 - Masai Mara (3rd February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will be met by our 6-person 4x4 jeeps that will take us on our 2-night excursion to the Maasai Mara. We will load the jeeps with our personal gear and camping equipment and then head off to Maasai Mara, leaving our truck behind.

We will also be leaving our large bags behind (where they will be stored in a secure location in Nairobi), and advise you to bring along a smaller daypack for your personal gear for this trip that will need to be packed soon after the group meeting before we set off. You should pack clothing for 3 days (including a warm jumper or fleece and long trousers), a waterproof jacket, toiletries (including sun screen and insect repellent), your camera and charger, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, a small towel, a head torch, a water bottle, books and personal snacks, etc.

On arrival, we will have the chance for a short evening game drive in the Maasai Mara NP before heading to our campsite. The Maasai Mara is an incredibly scenic area and is one of the world's greatest places for wildlife spotting which is absolutely teeming with giraffe, buffalo, zebra, elephants, lions, cheetah, leopards, and other big game!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Head out on a phenomenal safari in 4x4s into the Maasai Mara - one of the best areas in Africa for wildlife and scenery

Included

Day 19 - Masai Mara (4th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will go out for the full day game driving in the NP before returning to our campsite for a second night. There is also the opportunity for a balloon flight over the savannah - demand for this activity is very high so you must reserve this at the time of booking your trip to avoid disappointment.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a hot air balloon flight to see the sunrise over the incredible scenery of the Maasai Mara (alternative to the scheduled game drive). This must be pre-booked through your sales consultant.

Balloon: 595 USD

Day 20 - Nairobi (5th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a final game drive in the Maasai Mara in the early morning, before heading back to Nairobi and our campsite in Karen, arriving at about 4:00pm or 5:00pm. This is where we will meet our overland truck and start using the truck's camping equipment.

Day 21 - Nairobi (6th February 2023)

Border Information: If joining in Nairobi, you will most likely enter Kenya at Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (IATA code: NBO).

There will be a group meeting at the joining hotel at 6:00pm. Please look out for a note from your tour leader at the reception when you arrive giving more details about this important meeting - your leader will need to check your Ethiopia visa (please see below for details).

If you would like to explore Nairobi fully, we advise you arrive a day earlier, or arrive early in the morning to give yourself a full day before the meeting in the evening. Possible activities include visiting the Karen Blixen Museum, the National Museum and the Langata Giraffe Centre. Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Nairobi before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Nairobi.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Learn all about the different tribal groups of Kenya at the Bomas of Kenya cultural centre in Nairobi

Entrance: 10 USD

Explore the museum at the site of the former home of Karen Blixen, the author of 'Out of Africa'

Entrance: 1,200 KES

Visit the Langata Giraffe Centre in Nairobi

Entrance: 1,000 KES

Head out on a guided safari walk in Nairobi National Park

Entrance and walk: 50 USD

Discover some of Kenya's ancient hominids at the National Museum in Nairobi

Entrance: 1,200 KES

Day 22 - Naivasha (7th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we make our way to Naivasha, on the edge of a beautiful calm lake in the Great Rift Valley. Here we will have the chance to take an optional boat trip on the lake to spot hippos and African fish eagles, and also to visit the Elsamere Born Free Foundation at the old home of Joy Adamson.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Naivasha Elsamere

Included

Day 23 - Naro Moru (8th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have some free time for optional activities in Naivasha before we head through the hills of central Kenya through the area's beautiful scenery and tea plantations, to arrive at the small village of Naro Moru at the base of Mount Kenya.

Day 24 - Naro Moru (9th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a free day in Naro Moru to take optional walks around the lower slopes of Mount Kenya, explore the nearby Mau Mau caves, or take an optional game drive in the nearby Sweetwaters National Reserve.

Day 25 - Samburu Village (10th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will travel to the Samburu region near to the small town of Archer's Post, where we will visit a Samburu village. Here we will be shown around the village and their homes, play with the children and learn all about the way of life here for the Samburu people!

We will camp in the village in the heart of the community tonight, where there are no toilet or washing facilities.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit to Samburu tribal community and cultural project

Included

Day 26 - Samburu National Reserve (11th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we will enter the Samburu National Reserve, where we will enjoy game drives in the truck (breaking for a long lunch during the heat of the day).

Samburu is a stunning National Reserve and is a great opportunity to spot big game such as cheetah, leopards, lions, and buffalo. The Reserve is also home to other animals rarely seen in the NPs further south, such as Grevy's zebras, Somali ostriches and gerenuk ('giraffe-necked antelopes').

Please note that during very wet conditions we may need to use locally-chartered 4x4 jeeps rather than our truck to get a good game drive in - in this instance we may make this option available at extra cost.

Day 27 - Moyale (12th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have an early start to travel through the very rarely-visited region of northern Kenya, crossing the infamous Marsabit-Moyale road to the very northern border town of Moyale. The scenery today is spectacular as we travel through the black lunar landscapes near Marsabit and pass mountain greenery, spectacular craters, watercourses, bush country and termite mounds.

Please note that due to security issues in this particular area, we will sometimes be accompanied by two armed police escorts.

Day 28 - Konso (13th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Border information: Exit Kenya at Moyale, enter Ethiopia at Moyale.

For those on a longer combination trip starting in Cape Town or Victoria Falls, please play special attention to the visa notes in the information below.

Today we will cross the border into Ethiopia and have a full day of travel to Konso, home to the local Konso people and our gateway to southern Ethiopia.

Day 29 - Arba Minch (14th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will arrive in the town of Arba Minch, a small town overlooking Lake Chamo. On route we will visit Konso Village and a Cultural Centre.

Day 30 - Arba Minch (15th February 2023)

Border Information: If you are joining in Arba Minch, you will most likely enter Ethiopia at Arba Minch Airport (IATA code: AMH).

Welcome to Ethiopia! Today is the arrival day for those joining in Arba Minch, and will be a free day to explore the town.

There will be an important meeting with your crew at 6:00pm today. Look out for a note from them at the hotel reception letting you know where to meet.

Day 31 - Arba Minch (16th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have time for optional activities such as taking an optional boat trip on Lake Chamo to view the crocodiles that reside there (known locally as the crocodile market) or to take bike rides around the city.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Hire bicycles to explore the stunning surrounds of Arba Minch

Hire, Guide and Park fee: 400 ETB

Visit the fascinating village of Chinja to learn all about the culture of the Dorze people

Entrance: 300 ETB

Guide cost (per group): 200 ETB

Day 32 - Wendo Genet (17th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will head north to the small town of Awasa, where we can visit the local fish market.

After our visit we will head to Wendo Genet, a small town in the hills above Awasa, where we will stay for the night.

During our stay here we may have time to explore the region, go on an optional walk to some nearby waterfalls, or take a dip in the nearby hot springs.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Experience the true local culture at this fish market. If you would like to try the soup make sure you bring your own bowl!

Included

Day 33 - Bale Mountains NP (18th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will leave Wendo Genet and drive to the stunning Bale Mountains NP.

We will enjoy 2 full days to explore the NP.

Day 34 - Bale Mountains NP (19th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We will keep today completely free to head out for optional guided walks - there are several possibilities for routes, including highland routes up the hills and moorlands searching for mountain nyalas, or lowland walks through the forest areas to look for Bale monkeys!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Horse/mule treks or guided hikes through Bale Mountain National Park

Included

Day 35 - Bale Mountains NP (20th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive in the truck up to the Sanetti Plateau, all the way to the second-highest point in Ethiopia (the 4359m summit of Tulu Dimtu) to explore the primeval landscape and search for Ethiopian wolves.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Head up to the incredible Sanetti Plateau on a day trip with our overland truck stopping to explore the area on foot and search for Ethiopian Wolves

Included

Day 36 - Lake Ziway (21st February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will leave the Bale Mountains and head to the small town of Ziway.

Day 37 - Lake Ziway (22nd February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will take an optional boat trip across Lake Ziway to Tulu Gudo Island, where we will have a short guided tour of the ancient monastery there and view some of the old religious manuscripts.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a boat trip across Lake Ziway to Tulu Gudo Island and explore the old Coptic monastery on the island

Tulo Gudo Island trip (price per 10 pax): 3,700 ETB

Monastery entrance: 1,000 ETB

Day 38 - Awash NP (23rd February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

In the morning we will leave early and head for Awash NP.

In the afternoon we will take a park scout out with us to explore the surrounding area and to try to find game or just to enjoy the stunning scenery of this lovely NP. We overnight in the lovely Awash Falls Lodge; who said luxury was not part of overlanding! This is a stunning place to experience a great little NP .

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Head out with a scout to explore the trails of this National Park.

Included

Day 39 - Harar (24th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a long drive east through the mountains to the ancient trading city of Harar.

Day 40 - Harar (25th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a free day in ancient Harar and will have an included guided city tour of the walled city of Harar (Harar Jugol). Enjoy its colourful markets, mosques and shrines. In the evening you can visit the Hyena Men who feed the hyenas every night just outside the walls of the city.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a guided tour for half of the day through the winding streets of this ancient city.

Included

Witness Harar's tradition of feeding wild Hyenas by hand each evening just outside the city walls

Included

Day 41 - Harar (26th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Our final day in this incredible city is a free day to explore this amazing city on your own. It is one of the most important historic sites on this trip and one not to be missed.

Day 42 - Addis Ababa (27th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a long drive West through the mountains to the capital city, Addis Ababa

Day 43 - Addis Ababa (28th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a free day in Addis Ababa and will organise an included guided tour of the city including visiting St. George's Cathedral, The Menelik mausoleum, The national Museum and the colourful city market.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Enjoy a full day city tour of Addis Ababa

Included

Optional Activities

Visit Africa Hall - a symbol of African independence and optimism

Entrance: Free

Explore the fascinating Ethnological Museum one of the best museums in Africa set in a former palace of Haile Selassie

Entrance: 100 ETB

Visit the Menelik Mausoleum, built to serve as the tombs of emperors and princes

Entrance: Free

Stroll through the Addis Ababa Mercato - one of the largest markets in Africa

Entrance: Free

Visit the St. George's Cathedral (Giorgis Cathedral), built to commemorate Ethiopia's victory over the Italians in 1896

Entrance: 100 ETB

Visit "Lucy" one of the oldest complete hominid skeletons ever found at the National Museum

Entrance: 10 ETB

Day 44 - Addis Ababa (1st March 2023)

Border Information: If joining in Addis Ababa, you will most likely enter Ethiopia at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport (IATA code: ADD).

There will be a group meeting at the joining hotel at 6:00pm. Please look out for a note from your tour leader at the reception when you arrive giving more details about this important meeting.

If you are travelling to the Sudan and have arranged to pick the visa up in Addis Ababa, you will need to arrive at least 2 working days early to collect the visa.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Addis Ababa before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Addis Ababa.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the Menelik Mausoleum, built to serve as the tombs of emperors and princes

Entrance: Free

Visit "Lucy" one of the oldest complete hominid skeletons ever found at the National Museum

Entrance: 10 ETB

Visit Africa Hall - a symbol of African independence and optimism

Entrance: Free

Stroll through the Addis Ababa Mercato - one of the largest markets in Africa

Entrance: Free

Visit the St. George's Cathedral (Giorgis Cathedral), built to commemorate Ethiopia's victory over the Italians in 1896

Entrance: 100 ETB

Explore the fascinating Ethnological Museum one of the best museums in Africa set in a former palace of Haile Selassie

Entrance: 100 ETB

Day 45 - Debre Markos (2nd March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

We will start our journey today with a drive to the small town of Debre Markos. En route we will drive to the bottom of the dramatic Blue Nile Gorge and up the other side!

Day 46 - Bahir Dar (3rd March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will complete our drive to Bahir Dar, a small town on Lake Tana, the source of the mighty Blue Nile.

Day 47 - Bahir Dar (4th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

On our first full day in Bahir Dar, we will have an included boat trip on Lake Tana to visit the famous old monastery of Gabriel Ure Kideth and to visit the spot where the lake outflows into the start of the Blue Nile.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Boat trip on Lake Tana from Bahir Dar to visit the monasteries

Included

Day 48 - Bahir Dar (5th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

On our second day, we will head off in the truck to visit the Blue Nile Falls and take a short walk around the area to the historic Portuguese Bridge. We will have some free time in the afternoon to take optional visits to some other spots around Bahir Dar such as the 'Hippo bridge' and the Tigray war memorial.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the stunning Blue Nile Falls just downstream of Bahir Dar

Included

Day 49 - Awra Amba (6th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive to the ideological village of Awra Amba. Run by the infamous Zumra Nuru the village operates with the belief that everyone is equal and should have a say in how their home is run. We will take a tour of the village and camp on the outskirts.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the Utopian village or Awra Amba and see a place where all people are seen as equal

Included

Day 50 - Lalibela (7th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a full day's drive through the beautiful scenery of central Ethiopia to reach the small medieval town of Lalibela.

Day 51 - Lalibela (8th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

On our first day in Lalibela, we will have an included full-day guided tour of the world-famous 13th-century rock churches of Lalibela. Our guide will be able to explain the fascinating history of Lalibela and its churches, and there will be plenty of time to explore, absorb the haunting atmosphere inside the churches, and take plenty of photographs of the incredible architecture and the religious rituals within.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided tour of the ancient rock churches and monasteries at Lalibela

Included

Day 52 - Lalibela (9th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

On the second day, we will have a free day for further exploration or optional activities. We will have opportunity to hike up the nearby mountains to the Asheten Monastery, visit the Yemrehana Kristos cave church outside the town, or freely explore the Lalibela churches again at your own pace.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a tour to visit Yemrehana Krestos, an 11th-century stone and wood church, built in the Axumite style

Entrance: 300 ETB

Guiding for half day (cost per group): 100 ETB

Transport: 300 ETB

Explore the highlands of Lalibela on foot possibly walking to the nearby Asheten Monastery

Mule, Guide and Entrance: 500 ETB

Day 53 - Mekele (10th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Leaving Lalibela behind us, we have a full days drive through increasingly mountainous scenery to reach the town of Mekele.

Day 54 - Danakil Depression (11th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast meet your 4 x 4 vehicles and drive to Hamed Ella. On the way you will pass through the beautiful Tigre Villages and the escarpment of the Afar depression, this is commonly known as the cradle of mankind and is part of the Great East African Rift Valley. Along the way you will see camel caravans going to the traditional salt mine or to the North Eastern highlands of the country, loaded with salt bars in the old traditional way. We will also stop at Brehalle where we will get our permits and scouts for the trip into the Danakil Depression.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Journey out on an incredible 2 day/1 night excursion to the Danakil Depression

Included

Day 55 - Mekele (12th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

On the second day we drive to Dallol. Here in Dallol you will visit the beautiful land covered by salt, sulfur and different minerals that gives the area a spectacular colour. We will then continue on to Lake Asale to witness the beautiful salt flats.

This is an extremely intense environment and a very adventurous three days, certainly a once in a lifetime experience. However, if you feel like your personal fitness can not withstand this pressure then there is a chance this may not be the trip for you.

Today we will make our way back to Mekele ending our time in the stunning Danakil Depression.

Day 56 - Axum (13th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will visit one of the famous rock-hewn churches of Tigray (either the Abraha Atsbeha or Wukro Chirkos church), then continue through the increasingly breathtaking mountain scenery of the Adwa mountains to reach the ancient town of Axum in the far north of Ethiopia.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the Tigray rock-hewn churches at Mekele

Included

Day 57 - Axum (14th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have an included half-day guided tour of the incredible historical sites of Axum, the capital of the once-mighty Axumite Empire - included in this tour will be seeing the Stelae Field, the Tomb of King Kaleb, and the Palace of the Queen of Sheba. We will have a free afternoon to make optional visits to other places such as the Church of St. Mary of Zion, the supposed resting place of the Ark of the Covenant.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided tour of palaces and temples in historic Axum

Included

Optional Activities

Visit the Church of St Mary of Zion at Axum

Entrance: 200 ETB

Visit the ancient temple in Yeha, the oldest standing structure in Ethiopia

Entrance: 100 ETB

Day 58 - Debarak (15th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Leaving Axum behind us, we continue our journey with a full day of driving through the foothills of the Simien Mountains to reach the small village of Debarak. The roads here are very tough, but we are rewarded with more truly breathtaking scenery!

Debarak is the gateway to the Simien Mountains NP, and on arrival we will have a briefing from our local mountain guide explaining the various trekking options that we will have during our excursion starting the following day.

Day 59 - Simien Mountains NP (16th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today marks the start of our 3-day excursion into the Simien Mountains NP. The area is home to some of Africa's most jaw-dropping mountain scenery and is a great opportunity to enjoy some incredibly beautiful treks and breathtaking views!

The area is also home many indigenous animals, and during our time here we hope to spot Lammargeyer vultures, geladas, Walia ibex, and (if we are very lucky) klipspringers and Ethiopian wolves.

We will spend 3 nights in the incredible Simien Mountains NP. On each day we aim to provide an option for a long trek (of 5-8 hours), a short trek (2-5 hours) or no trekking.

Please note that we must keep a flexible itinerary in the Simien Mountains, as our options will largely be determined by the weather.

Please also note that the camping areas in the NP are very basic, and are essentially wild camps with long drop toilets. Please also note that the food and provisions available in Debarak and the NP are very limited, and it is also likely to be very cold at night (often dropping below freezing), so please be prepared! You will need to bring a suitable sleeping bag and mat with you from home to ensure you are ready for this environment.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

2 days of guided treks in the Simien Mountains National Park

Included

Day 60 - Simien Mountains NP (17th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we once again have the choice between joining a short trek or a long trek. Each one will have a guide and a superb route showing off the best the Simiens have to offer.

Day 61 - Simien Mountains NP (18th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This is our final day of trekking in the National Park. Once again there will be a choice between short and long routes as we soak in the final moments of the mountains.

Day 62 - Gondar (19th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we head back out to the mountains to Debarak, and then finally join the tarmac road again to reach the ancient royal city of Gondar!

Day 63 - Gondar (20th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today, we will have an included half-day guided tour of the historical sites of Gondar, including Gondar Castle, the King Fasilades' Baths and the Debre Birhan Selassie church.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Learn all about medieval Ethiopia on a half-day guided tour of the castles churches and baths of Gondar

Included

Optional Activities

Enjoy a tour of the local Dashen brewery in Gondar

Tour: 8 USD

Day 64 - Gedaref (21st March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Border Information: Exit Ethiopia at Metema, enter Sudan at Metema.

Today we will leave Ethiopia behind us and drive to the small town of Gedaref, en route to the Sudanese capital of Khartoum.

Day 65 - Khartoum (22nd March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a full day's drive to Sudan's capital of Khartoum.

Day 66 - Khartoum (23rd March 2023)

Border Information: if joining in Khartoum, you will most likely enter Sudan at Khartoum International Airport (IATA code: KRT).

There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm - please look for a note from your leader at the hotel reception when you arrive with more details about this important meeting. Your leader will need to collect your passport in order to get everyone's visas registered the following morning.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Khartoum before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Khartoum.

Day 67 - Khartoum (24th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today will be free to independently explore Khartoum, including possible optional visits to the impressive Grand Mosque and the bustling Omdurman market.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Witness the spectacular Whirling Dervishes of Omdurman

Entrance: 1,000 SDG

Minibus for up to 10 people out to the site: 500 SDG

Explore Omdurman market in Khartoum

Visit: Free

Visit the various interesting museums of Khartoum - the Presidential Palace Museum the National Museum and the Ethnographic Museum

Entrance Presidential Palace Museum: Free

Entrance Ethnographic Museum: 1,000 SDG

Entrance National Museum: 1,000 SDG

Learn all about the Islamic Mahdist era with a visit to the Khalifa House Museum and the Mahdi's Tomb in Omdurman

Visit: 15 USD

Witness the confluence of the Blue and White Niles at 'The Mogran' near Khartoum

Visit: Free

Day 68 - Musawwarat (25th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will head out of Khartoum to explore the Kushite temples of Naqa and Musawwarat.

Day 69 - Karima (26th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will head north to visit the incredible and haunting Meroe pyramids of the Kushite era. We will then continue on to Karima.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the ancient Kushite temple of Naqa

Included

Visit the Meroitic temple complex of Musawwarat

Included

Day 70 - Wawa (27th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Over the next 3 days we will journey through the remote areas of Northern Sudan and the vast Sahara Desert. En route we will visit many ruined temples of the Kushite era, including the Nuri pyramids and the pyramids at Jebel Barkal mountain near the town of Karima, the Deffufa of Kerma near Dongola, and the Temple of Soleb near Wawa.

On all of these nights we will wild camp out in the remote deserts, which is the true highlight of travelling overland through Sudan!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided visit of Meroe Pyramids

Included

Day 71 - Dongola (28th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we continue on our journey visiting the relics of the Kushite era on our way.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit to the Kushite temples and climb to the summit of the distinctive Jebel Barkal mountain

Included

Explore the ancient Kushite Royal Pyramids at Nuri near Karima

Included

Day 72 - Wawa (29th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Over today we continue our journey into the heart of Sudan, visiting the incredible and haunting Nuri pyramids and Meroe pyramids of the Kushite era. We will then continue south to visit the Kushite ruins at the sites of Naqa and Musawwarat.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the ruins of the Temple of Soleb

Included

Visit the pre-Kushite Temple of Deffufa a 5500 year old Nubian archaeological site built by the Kerma civilisation

Included

Day 73 - Wadi Halfa (30th March 2023)

Today brings our journey in Sudan to an end. We will spend the morning driving into the city. In the afternoon we have free time to spend in the city itself or exploring the hill surrounding us.

Day 74 - Wadi Halfa (31st March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Our final day in Sudan gives us time to explore the city of Wadi Halfa and enjoy the sights and sounds of Sudan for one last time.

Day 75 - Abu Simbel (1st April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Border Information: Exit Sudan at Qustol, enter Egypt at Qustol.

Today we will cross the border into Egypt, and take the first available transport ferry across to the west side of Lake Nasser and the small village of Abu Simbel. Here we will have an included visit to the phenomenal Temples of Ramses and Nefertari, with a possibility to visit the sound and light show after sunset (if it is running).

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the awe-inspiring world-famous Temple of Ramses II and Temple of Nefertari in Abu Simbel

Included

Optional Activities

Watch the fantastic Sound and Light show at the Abu Simbel Temples

Entrance: 60 EGP

Day 76 - Aswan (2nd April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we continue our drive to Aswan, where we will have 3 full days to enjoy to wealth of history and culture that Aswan has to offer, and to make optional visits to Philae Temple, Elephantine Island, the Nubian Museum, and the Aswan Dam.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the Philae Temple a beautiful Ptolomaic-era temple to Osiris on an island near Aswan

Boat and Entrance: 110 EGP

See the spectacular Sound and Light show at the Philae Temple

Price: 33 EGP

Visit the controversial Aswan High Dam

Entrance: 30 EGP

Take a boat trip out to Elephantine Island to explore its ruins and Nileometers, and to the beautiful botanical gardens on Elnabatat's Island

Trip: 90 EGP

Explore the Tombs of the Nobles near Aswan the rock-hewn tombs of nobility all the way from the Old Kingdom to the Roman era

Entrance: 40 EGP

Visit the the fortress-like 7th-century Monastery of St. Simeon

Entrance: 25 EGP

Visit the Nubian Museum a fantastic showcase of Nubian culture and civilisation

Entrance: 20 EGP

See the colossal Unfinished Obelisk near Aswan, which would have been the largest obelisk in the world had it been completed

Entrance: 30 EGP

Explore the nearby Fatimid cemetery a rare window into the 10th and 11th-century Fatimid Caliphate era

Entrance: Free

Visit the incredible Roman-era Temple of Kalabsha constructed in tribute to Mandulis the Nubian sun god

Entrance: 50 EGP

Explore the locally-made abstract sculptures showcased at the Aswan Sculpture Park

Entrance: 40 EGP

Enjoy more time on a Nile felucca

Sunset felucca cruise: 25 USD

2-day felucca trip to Kom Ombo: 100 USD

Day 77 - Aswan (3rd April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have full day in Aswan to visit as many of the historical sites as possible! Museums, Obelisks, Tombs and Temples are commonplace here. Which ones will you choose to visit?!

Day 78 - Nile Felucca (4th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will board a traditional felucca sailboat for an overnight adventure exploring the Nile by boat.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Discover the River Nile by boat on an afternoon and overnight felucca trip

Included

Day 79 - Luxor (5th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning we start our journey north through Egypt and visit the incredible Temple of Edfu, an awe-inspiring temple dedicated to Horus built during the Ptolomaic era, which is considered to be the best-preserved cult temple in Egypt.

After this we will head to Luxor, a beautiful modern town built on the site of the Ancient Egyptian capital of Thebes, where we will spend 3 nights exploring the incredible historical sites here.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a guided tour of the Ptolomaic-era Temple of Horus at Edfu considered to be the best preserved temple in Egypt

Included

Day 80 - Luxor (6th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have an included guided tour around the world-famous Karnak Temple, which is walking distance from our hotel. This temple contains some remarkably preserved painted walls and many awe-inspiring pillars and obelisks, and was the centre of religious life in Thebes. Our tour will last about 2 hours, and then we will have free time for the rest of the day to explore the temple independently, and to visit the other sites in Luxor such as the smaller Luxor Temple in the town centre, and the small but beautiful Luxor Museum, which is filled with priceless treasures from the area.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided tour of Karnak Temple Luxor

Included

Optional Activities

See the Sound and Light show at the Karnak Temple

Entrance: 100 EGP

Explore the colossal 18th-Dynasty Temple of Luxor

Entrance: 65 EGP

Visit the fascinating Luxor Museum of Antiquities

Entrance: 80 EGP

Learn all about the process and techniques of mummification at the Luxor Mummification Museum

Entrance: 60 EGP

Day 81 - Luxor (7th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

On our final day here we will have an included tour to the West Bank, which will encompass the Hatshepsut Temple and the phenomenal Valley of the Kings, the location of the tombs of the Pharaohs of the New Kingdom of Ancient Egypt.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the phenomenal royal tombs at the Valley of the Kings on the West Bank of the Nile

Included

Visit the impressive Temple of Hatshepsut, built to honour one of Egypt's most influential Pharaohs

Included

Optional Activities

Visit the world-famous tomb of the Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings the only Egyptian royal tomb ever discovered undisturbed

Entrance: 150 EGP

Day 82 - Marsa Alam (8th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive to the beautiful southern Red Sea village of Marsa Alam. We will also have an included visit to the remarkably preserved Temple of Hathor at Dendara en route.

We will have 2 days in Marsa Alam to relax on the beaches, enjoy many optional activities on the Red Sea, or to take an optional overnight camel safari out into the nearby deserts of Wadi-el-Gamal!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

See the remarkably well-preserved painted murals in the Temple of Hathor in Dendara

Included

Day 83 - Marsa Alam (9th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will continue to enjoy the activities on offer in Marsa Alam. There are plenty of options for once in a lifetime experiences, both on land and in the sea!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take an evening camel safari in the Wadi-El-Gamal desert with the option of sleeping out under the stars

Day trip: 100 EGP

Overnight trip: 300 EGP

Head out scuba-diving through the coral reefs of the Red Sea

Price: 60 EUR

Head out on a small yacht for a fishing trip on the idyllic waters of the Red Sea

Price: 70 EUR

Head out for a sunset quad biking trip into the deserts near Marsa Alam

Half-day super safari (jeep, quads, camels): 60 EUR

Sunset quad biking trip: 35 EUR

Explore the coral reefs of the Red Sea from a 'semi-submarine', a boat designed with huge underwater viewing windows

Price: 40 EUR

Visit the fascinating traditional camel markets of Shalateen on the remote coastal border with Sudan

Visit to camel market: 33 EUR

Snorkel through the crystal clear waters of the Red Sea searching for dolphins and other marine life

Sharm El Luli or Dolphin House: 60 EUR

Abu Dabab: 15 EUR

Surfing or kite-surfing on the Red Sea near Marsa Alam

Kite surfing bay fee per day: 60 EUR
Kite surfing equipment rental per day: 79 EUR

Day 84 - Marsa Alam (10th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Our final day in Marsa Alam. This is the time to enjoy relaxation on the beach before we continue our journey towards El Quseir.

Day 85 - El Quseir (11th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will spend some more time at Marsa Alam, before heading up the coast to explore the nearby Ottoman fort at El Quseir.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the Ottoman Fort at El Quseir

Included

Day 86 - Zafarana (12th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will travel up the stunning coast of the Red Sea and into the Eastern Deserts, visiting the ancient Coptic Monastery of St. Anthony en route.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the ancient Coptic Monastery of St. Anthony in Egypt's Eastern Deserts

Included

Day 87 - Port Said (13th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will head further north, and follow the Suez Canal to its northern outflow into the Mediterranean Sea at Port Said.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the Military Museum

Entrance incl camera permit: 7 EGP

See the famous and influential Suez Canal near Port Said

Price: Free

Day 88 - Alexandria (14th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will follow the Mediterranean coast across the Nile Delta to reach the bustling city of Alexandria, where we will spend 2 nights exploring the sights. We will have the chance to visit the beautiful modern Alexandria Library, explore several historical sites, and to go diving in the Mediterranean.

Day 89 - Alexandria (15th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have the chance to visit the beautiful modern Alexandria Library, explore various historical sites, and to go diving in the Mediterranean.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Explore the ancient underground catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa

Entrance: 35 EGP

Visit the incredible Citadel of Qaitbey a 15th-century defensive fortress on the mouth of the Eastern Harbour

Entrance: 25 EGP

Scuba diving around the incredible submerged port of Heracleion in the Mediterranean Sea

2 dives: 800 EGP

Take a trip out to the incredibly moving war cemeteries of El Alamein the site of one of the most influential battles of World War II

Entrance to cemetery (not incl transport to and from Alexandria): 50 EGP

Explore the incredible 2nd-century Roman amphitheatre of Kom El Dikka

Entrance to main site: 15 EGP

Entrance to the Villa of Birds: 10 EGP

Visit the Bibliotheca Alexandria the incredible modern Library of Alexandria

Entrance: 70 EGP

Stroll through Montaza Palace and extensive gardens in the Montaza district of Alexandria.

Entrance to the gardens: 5 EGP

See the interesting collections and exhibits at the Alexandria National Museum located in a restored Italian-style palace

Entrance (incl camera permit): 65 EGP

Head to the Mustafa Kamal Necropolis with tombs from the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC.

Entrance: 15 EGP

Visit Pompey's Pillar, one of the largest columns ever constructed in the Roman era.

Entrance: 20 EGP

Day 90 - Cairo (16th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today is our final drive day to the colossal, bustling Egyptian capital of Cairo. We will aim to arrive in the later afternoon. Please note that if the traffic is particularly heavy, we may not be able to safely drive right up to the hotel due to parked cars blocking the streets; in this instance we may have to take the truck directly to a parking area and take taxis to the hotel.

Day 91 - Cairo (17th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will set off in a local chartered minibus for an included full-day guided tour to Memphis, the pyramids at Saqqara, the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx.

We will aim to be back in Cairo for around 4:00pm today.

Tonight is the last night of the trip so we will go out for our final night group meal together!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided full day tour with visits to the Giza Pyramids and Sphinx as well as the ancient 3rd Dynasty necropolis of Saqqara (including Djoser's Step Pyramid, the oldest complete stone building ever built in the world), the site of Dashur with the fascinating Red and Bent Pyramids and the remains of Memphis, the old capital of Lower Egypt.

Included

Optional Activities

Explore the interior of the Pyramids at Giza.

Entrance to Khufu Pyramid interior: 120 EGP

Entrance to Menkaure Pyramid interior: 40 EGP

Entrance to boat reconstruction: 40 EGP

See the stunning Sound and Light show at the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx

Price: 120 EGP

Day 92 - Cairo (18th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Border Information: if finishing in Cairo, you will most likely exit Egypt at Cairo International Airport (IATA code: CAI).

This morning we will head out on our final activity, an included half-day guided visit to the Egyptian Museum. We will go to the museum by metro or by taxi, and be shown around the vast and breathtaking collection of historical relics and treasures, including the sarcophagus of Akhenaten, the mummy of Ramses II and of course the incredible golden mask of Tutankhamun!

Please do not book flights out of Cairo before about 6:00pm if you would like to make sure you have enough time to fully explore the museum before the trip ends.

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Cairo. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact the Sales Team if you are interested in booking extra nights of accommodation in order to fully explore and take part in some of the optional activities listed below.

Accommodation:

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided tour of the Cairo Egyptian Museum

Included

Optional Activities

Entrance to the distinctive Cairo Tower the tallest building in North Africa (when open)

Entrance: 70 EGP

Entrance to the Mummy Room in the Egyptian Museum which displays the mummies of some very important Pharaohs such as Akenaten Ramses II and Hatshepsut

Entrance: 100 EGP

Visit The Pharonic Village - a showcase of various scenes of everyday life in Ancient Egypt

Entrance: 150 EGP

Explore the medieval Islamic fortress of the Cairo Citadel built by the warrior Saladin and the beautiful Ottoman Mosque of Muhammed Ali Pasha

Entrance: 50 EGP

Explore the scenic Al Azhar Park an oasis of beautiful greenery within Cairo built in tradition Islamic style

Entrance: 7 EGP

Discover the exceptional collection of art from all over the Islamic world at Cairo's Museum of Islamic Art

Entrance: 50 EGP

Visit the collection of Egyptian Coptic Christian heritage at the Coptic Museum and the nearby Hanging Church

Entrance to museum: 50 EGP

See the 9th-century Nileometer on Rhoda Island which was once used for carefully measuring the height of the Nile during the annual flood

Entrance: 15 EGP

ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and it sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons; climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

Drive Times

Drive times are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. These are the approximate number of hours that the vehicle will be in motion, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors.

Accommodation and Meals Included

The type of accommodation and included meals are listed for each day of the itinerary. These listings show our intention and on most departures the listings will be accurate. However due to the flexible nature of overland itineraries, climatic, bureaucratic or road conditions may demand changes to our listed intentions or groups may simply decide to amend the plans from time to time.

Optional Activities

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an

endorsement or recommendation. Certain activities may not be available on your particular visit and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination. It is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there. Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. The prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed. If you partake in any optional activities, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities. For more information around activity safety and insurance, please see the Essential Information document.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact us on our out of office hours number. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564

A FEW RULES

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, or carrying weapons may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

ISSUES ON THE TRIP

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk.

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

IMPORTANT NOTES

OVERLANDING LIFESTYLE

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity.

On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc. Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out! For more details of how an overlanding trip works, please see the Essential Information document.

SAFETY STANDARDS

We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards. For more information, please see the Essential Information document

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN REMOTE AREAS

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available, and communications may be sparse. We do not carry satellite phones on our regular trips. Therefore, if you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

VISAS, HEALTH, INSURANCE & MONEY

Before you travel there are vital things to consider such as:

- Any visas needed for your trip
- Any vaccinations needed (please consult your GP or travel clinic)
- Organising your local payment (the kitty)
- Buying travel insurance (insurance is compulsory to be allowed to join our trips)

For more information on these topics, please see the Essential Information Document.

ALTITUDE WARNING

Warning - this trip goes above 2800m.

Please note that this trip spends time above 2800 metres/9200 feet where it is possible for travellers to experience some adverse effects on your health due to the altitude, potentially including Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) and High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE). Because of this it is very important that you make yourself aware of the cause and effects of travelling at altitude and monitor your health during this trip.

For further information please [download our AMS information sheet](#) or refer to the following website: www.high-altitude-medicine.com. If you are starting your trip in a destination above 2800m/9200ft we strongly advise reading this information prior to arrival. Your leader will also hand you a copy of the AMS information sheet during your trip as well as holding a short meeting prior to travelling to altitudes above 2800m/9200ft for the first time.

Some travel insurance companies will stipulate a maximum altitude limit. Please ensure that you are covered and if necessary pay the additional premium of extended cover.

GORILLA TREK NOTES

To track the gorillas you will need a permit. In order for us to confirm this permit we require the following:

1. Passport details at the time of booking
2. A non refundable trip deposit payment of GBP500 at the time of booking (higher than our usual trip deposit)

Please be aware that we cannot confirm your place on a gorilla trip without your passport details. Please also note that the cost of the permit is still covered entirely by the kitty as is normal for a cost of this type. The deposit mentioned is simply a higher trip deposit to protect Dragoman against cancellations, as we have to pay for the permits in full in advance and our tour leaders collect this amount back from the kitty.

The likelihood of seeing gorillas is virtually guaranteed; however, they are wild animals so we can never say that the chance is 100%.

KENYA NOTES

UGANDA NOTES

ETHIOPIA NOTES

ETHIOPIA NOTE

Please note that accommodation prices in Ethiopia may significantly increase during late December and January due to several national holidays surrounding Coptic Christmas; this may push the price of the kitty up an extra **USD50** per person. We will endeavour to negotiate and save money on the ground where possible, but please be aware that we are likely to need extra money in the kitty for trips over this time.

Please also note that we must keep a flexible itinerary in the Simien Mountains, as our options will largely be determined by the weather. The camping areas in the Simien Mountains National Park are very basic, and are essentially wild camps with long drop toilets. The food and provisions available in Debark and the National Park are very limited, and it is also likely to be very cold at night (often dropping below freezing), so please be prepared by bringing suitably warm clothes, and a 4-season sleeping bag and sleeping mat.

SUDAN NOTES

SUDAN NOTE

The British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently has no travel warnings in place that will affect this trip for British clients.

Non-UK clients should check the travel advice of their own governments, as this may be different to the British FCO advice. Australia and New Zealand currently advise 'against all travel' to all areas of Sudan outside of Khartoum. Canada advises against all travel to Sudan and the U.S asks travellers to carefully consider the risks of travel to Sudan.

We therefore ask that all non UK travellers check their insurance policy carefully to ensure they are still covered for this trip (as travel to these areas may invalidate some insurance policies). All non UK clients will need insurance that will remain valid throughout the entire trip before they are able to travel with us.

Please note that there are no ATMs in Sudan (at least none that will work for non-Sudanese cards), so please bring plenty of USD cash with you.

EGYPT NOTES

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 23rd April 2021**