



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Ethiopia: Cradle of Civilization

January 22-February 5, 2021

15 days for \$5,997 total price from Washington, DC
(\$5,395 air & land inclusive plus \$602 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
six-time honoree
Travel & Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Members of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear VMFA Members,

Join VMFA on an exclusive 15-day small group tour to Ethiopia – a place like no other. On this unparalleled journey, experience the fascinating history, extraordinary wildlife, and rich culture of one of Africa’s most beautiful countries.

Begin your voyage sightseeing in diverse Addis Ababa, including Lucy’s 3.2-million-year-old bones in the National Museum. Upon arrival on the shores of Lake Tana, visit the Weyto people, travel by boat to see ancient churches, and admire the Blue Nile Falls. Tour Gondar’s evocative 17th-century castle complex. With two nights in Simien Mountains National Park, admire this spectacular UNESCO landscape. Explore Axum’s famed archeological sites, then discover Lalibela’s incredible rock churches. Your journey concludes back in Addis Ababa. You have the option to extend your stay and encounter Southern Ethiopia’s traditional tribes and two national parks with a 6-day/5-night post-tour extension.

Space on this exciting program is limited and will fill quickly. Your deposit is fully refundable up until 95 days before departure. Book risk-free today!

Sincerely,

Adele “Hutch” Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel

VMFA RESERVATION FORM – ETHIOPIA: CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____(\$500 per person) for ____ person(s) on **Ethiopia: Cradle of Civilization**, departing **January 22, 2021**. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. **Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765.**

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request an air upgrade to _____

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

Post Tour “Southern Ethiopia” Extension: Please sign me/us up

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Ethiopia: Cradle of Civilization, January 22-February 5, 2021**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

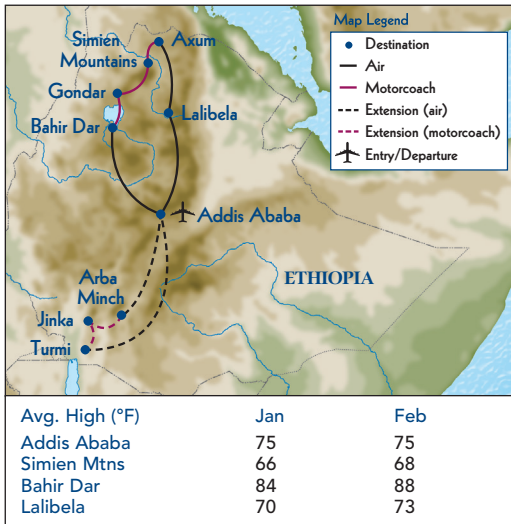
Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

Ethiopia: Cradle of Civilization

15 days for \$5,997 total price from Washington, DC

(\$5,395 air & land inclusive plus \$602 airline taxes and fees)

Travel with us to a land apart, where man first walked the earth, where age-old cultures still resonate, and where a profound spirituality colors everyday life. From ancient rock-hewn churches and legendary sites to breathtaking landscapes and endemic wildlife, Ethiopia offers our small group a journey befitting of its noble – and epic – history.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Day 2: Arrive Addis Ababa We arrive in the Ethiopian capital (“Addis”) and transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times may vary, we have no scheduled activities or meals planned for today.

Day 3: Addis Ababa This morning we meet our fellow travelers at a briefing about the journey ahead then set out to explore this exciting, diverse capital. Tour highlights include the National Museum, where we see casts of the 3.2-million-year-old fossilized hominid Lucy, one of man’s earliest ancestors. We also visit Holy Trinity Cathedral, a national landmark and resting place of Emperor Haile Selassie, his wife, and other notables. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at our hotel. *B,L,D*

Day 4: Addis Ababa/Bahir Dar Early this morning, we transfer to the airport for the flight to Bahir Dar on the shores of Lake Tana, origin of the Blue Nile. Upon arrival, we visit the Weyto people to watch them craft the small papyrus vessels used on the lake for centuries. We travel the lake ourselves this afternoon en route to the Zege Peninsula, known for its round grass-roofed churches with magnificent murals. We see the Azoa Maria and Ura Kidane churches, both typical examples of ancient Ethiopian orthodox architecture, then visit the 14th-century Ura Kidane Mehret, a monastery deep in the forest, known for its fine frescoes, manuscripts, and golden ecclesiastical objects. Along the way, we may see some of the monkeys and birdlife that call the forest home. *B,L,D*

Day 5: Bahir Dar After a visit to the city’s hand-craft market, we depart for the Blue Nile Falls, one of Ethiopia’s most popular sights. We hike up to the falls, where we’re rewarded with beautiful views of the fabled cataract that measures more than 1,300 feet wide and 150 feet high. The rest of the day is at leisure to relax or explore as we wish. *B,D*

Day 6: Bahir Dar/Gondar We travel north by coach today to Gondar, the former royal capital known especially for its evocative castle complex. Upon arrival, we have lunch then explore the 17th-century enclosure

Small Group Tour Highlights

Visits to multiple UNESCO sites • Historic, natural, and cultural heritage of Northern Ethiopia • National Museum with Lucy remains • Visit with Weyto people • Lake Tana cruise • Churches of Bahir Dar Peninsula • Blue Nile Falls • Gondar’s Fasil Ghebbi ruins • Two-night stay in Simien Mountains National Park • Palace of Queen of Sheba • Archaeological sites of holy city of Axum • Rock churches of Lalibela

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Addis Ababa		
2-3	Addis Ababa	Sheraton Addis	Deluxe
4-5	Bahir Dar	Kuriftu Resort & Spa	Sup. First Class
6	Gondar	Mayleko Lodge	Sup. First Class
7-8	Simien Mtns National Park	Simien Lodge	First Class
9-10	Axum	Sabean International Hotel	First Class
11-12	Lalibela	Maribela Hotel	First Class
13	Addis Ababa	Sheraton Addis	Deluxe
14	Addis Ababa/Depart for U.S. (overnight flight)		
15	Arrive U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: We see the extraordinary landscape of the Simien Mountains during our two-night stay.



We experience the beauty of Blue Nile Falls in Bahir Dar on Day 5.

of castles, palaces, and stables of Fasil Ghebbi, now a UNESCO site. We also tour the Debre Berhan Selassie Church, fancifully decorated in murals whose angels' faces have become motifs of Ethiopian art and design. *B,L,D*

Day 7: Gondar/Simien Mountains National Park

A stunning landscape of saw-toothed peaks and canyon-like gorges, sharp precipices and rugged escarpments awaits as we arrive midday at our lodge in this exotic park. We spend the afternoon exploring the park; later, we join in a discussion on the social behaviors of the gelada baboon found here, the last survivors of an ancient species. *B,L,D*

Day 8: Simien Mountains National Park

We spend a full day on safari in this incredible natural setting, a UNESCO site and home to rare and endemic wildlife. As we explore, we may encounter the Walia ibex and Simien fox, as well as the friendly gelada baboons. We drive up to Sankaber (altitude 10,564 ft.), where we're rewarded with views of the breathtaking landscape of gorges, valleys, and the country's highest waterfall. *B,L,D*

Day 9: Simien Mountains/Axum

This morning we depart by coach for Axum (approx. 7 hours), stopping en route for lunch and arriving late afternoon. We dine tonight at our hotel in this historic capital. *B,L,D*

Day 10: Axum

A major trading power from about 400 BCE to the 10th century, the Kingdom of Axum brought Christianity to Ethiopia. Today's Axum, the kingdom's former capital and Ethiopia's holiest city, boasts a host of UNESCO archaeological sites, many of which we see on our full-day tour. We explore Stelae Park, site of giant stelae and obelisks which proclaimed the kingdom's might, including the Obelisk of Axum, the largest single piece of stone erected

anywhere on earth. We also see several royal tombs, and visit St. Mary of Zion Church, purported site of the Ark of the Covenant. *B,L,D*

Post-Tour Extension

February 4-10, 2021

Southern Ethiopia

6 days/5 nights for \$1,995 total price

Single Supplement: \$395

Encounter the tribes and traditions of the southern Omo Valley, along with the wildlife of two national parks.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Air transportation Addis Ababa/Arba Minch/Jinka/ Addis Ababa
- 5 nights' accommodations: 2 nights in Arba Minch at Haile Resort (Sup. First Class); 1 night in Jinka at Eco-Omo Lodge (First Class); 1 night in Turmi at Paradise Lodge (First Class); 1 night in Addis Ababa at Sheraton Addis (Deluxe)
- 14 meals: 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing, including visit with Dorze people; cruise on Lake Chamo; walking safari in Nechisar National Park; Konso UNESCO site; Mago National Park; excursion to Mursi village; visit with southern tribespeople in Omo Valley UNESCO site
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private van transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Airport transfers
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Please note that guests on the extension will leave Addis Ababa on Day 14.



WHEN THE NILE KNOWS A
SECRET, THE DESERT WILL
SOON KNOW IT TOO.”

– ETHIOPIAN PROVERB

Day 11: Axum/Lalibela We fly today to Lalibela, renowned for its 11 monolithic rock churches dating from the 7th to 13th centuries, and as a revered center of Ethiopian Christianity. We see these UNESCO sites for ourselves as we visit the churches, some carved into the rock and others freestanding. Highlights include Bet Medhane Alem, which resembles a Greek temple; Bet Emanuel, with its elaborate exterior; and elegant Bet Giyorgis. *B,L,D*

Day 12: Lalibela We get an intimate look at Ethiopian culture today, as we attend a traditional coffee ceremony, a time-honored ritual that reflects traditional hospitality. The country’s major export, Ethiopian coffee compares to the best in the world, and holds a position of prominence in local life. Later we travel about 1½ hours outside the city to the remarkable cave church of Yemrehanna Kristos, set in a cavern and

decorated with elaborate carvings and murals. *B,L,D*



Hamar tribe member (optional extension)

Day 13: Lalibela/Addis Ababa We return to Addis Ababa by air today, arriving at our hotel midday. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we gather to celebrate our Ethiopia adventure at tonight’s farewell dinner. *B,D*

Day 14: Addis Ababa/Depart for U.S. We depart for the airport and our return flights to the U.S. *B*

Day 15: Arrive U.S. We arrive in the U.S. and connect with our flights home.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 12 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels and lodges
- 32 meals: 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 11 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all park entrance fees
- Mineral water while on tour
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private coaster bus transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



We visit the rock churches of Lalibela on Day 11.

Tour Departs: January 22, 2021

Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York	\$5,697
Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Washington, DC	\$5,997
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Miami, Philadelphia	\$6,097
Denver, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa	\$6,197
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,795

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$602, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,295. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip international flight: Business Class – \$5,195 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,795 per person addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking on uneven terrain. You must be in good physical condition in order to participate on the tour. In addition, the relatively high elevations (6,000 ft. to 8,500 ft. at most venues – with the Simien Lodge at 10,800 ft.) could pose problems for guests with certain health conditions. You should consult your personal physician if you have concerns.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

For further information, contact VMFA Member Travel at

804-340-1519



GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: full refund; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 64-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Responsibility: The liability of VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of our operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

COVID-19 and Planning Future Travel: We understand that travelers may have some concerns about booking future tours based on the current COVID-19 pandemic. As we look forward, we are hopeful that conditions will be favorable for international travel. However, the safety and security of our guests are always our top priorities and, should U.S. authorities – Department of State and the CDC – deem it unsafe to travel to any of the destinations in the brochure, we would cancel the trip no later than 45 days before departure. In the event of cancellation on our end due to COVID-19 concerns, we will refund all participants in full.

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VMFA Travel
200 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23220-4007



JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE
VMFA TOUR TO ETHIOPIA!

Reserve risk-free: Your deposit is fully
refundable up to 95 days before departure