



Ethiopia Simien Mountains Private Hiking

Trails & Traditions in the Cradle of Humanity

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivalled Expertise

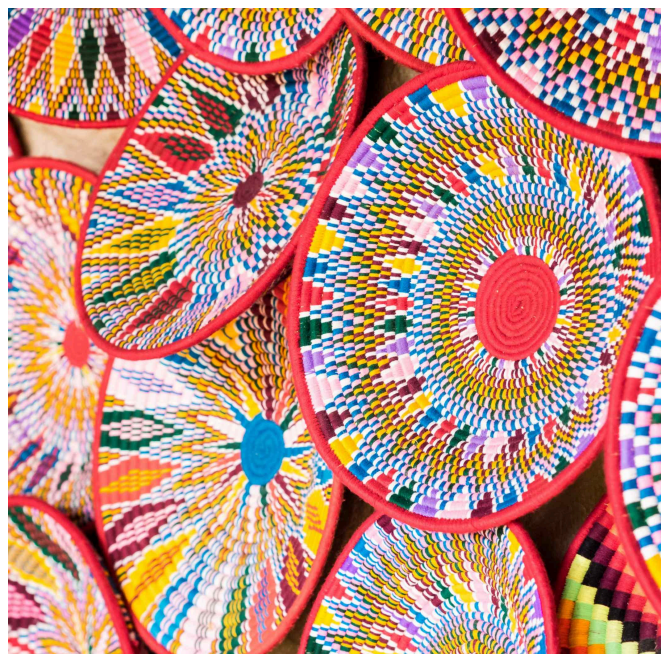
MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.



Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

MT Sobek's history is deeply rooted in Ethiopia. Join us in experiencing the magic of this enigmatic and exciting destination!

REASON 2

We trek further and farther off the beaten path of the Simien Mountains, accessing areas few visitors get to experience, led by expert local guides.

REASON 3

While Ethiopia remains relatively undeveloped, we've expertly designed the logistics and details of this tour to combine the best hikes, cultural experiences, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Strenuous hiking on diverse terrain and in varied altitudes, guided city tours, and visits to rock-hewn churches.



LODGING

An upscale city hotel and boutique lodges in stunning natural surrounds.



CLIMATE

Mild, sunny climate year around with average temperatures from 59°F-80°F. The dry season prevails Oct-May; the wet season is Jun-Sep.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

Please review your personalized itinerary carefully, as activities, lodging, and meals may vary from the online sample itinerary. Custom programs are designed for a personalized experience, and adjustments may be made due to availability, logistics, seasonal changes, or other factors. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Ethiopia Simien Mountains Private Hiking

Trails & Traditions in the Cradle of Humanity

On this thrilling Ethiopian adventure, discover “the cradle of humanity” and its spectacular wonders carved by nature, history, and time-tested tradition. Marvel at the fossilized remains of early hominids in Addis Ababa and trek the rugged ranges of Simien Mountains National Park, spotting unique wildlife along the way such as the Gelada baboon and Simien fox. Take in the majestic castles of Gondar, the former royal capital of Ethiopian Empire, dive deep into medieval past on a tour of Lalibela's magnificent rock-hewn churches, and partake in traditional coffee ceremonies.

10 Days

Start: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

End: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Departing: January, February, March, April, May,
October, November, December

Activities: Hiking & Trekking

Lodging: Comfortable Hotels

Group Size: 4-10 Guests

ACTIVITY:



Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

“

“I have taken 12 trips with MT Sobek. Each has left a positive imprint on me—widening my view of the world and its peoples.”

- Jane B.

The Itinerary

DAY 01

Arrive in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Arrive in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, and meet your MT Sobek representative outside the terminal building of Bole International Airport, for transfer to the hotel. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner at a traditional Ethiopian restaurant and enjoy a captivating folklore dance performance.

MEALS: Dinner

DAY 02

Explore Addis Ababa

Today embark on an Addis Ababa city tour, taking in the highlights. Admire the nation's art and archeological treasures at the National Museum, including the famous "Lucy" skeleton, partial fossilized remains of an early hominid. See the Trinity Cathedral Church, built to commemorate Ethiopia's liberation from Italian occupation, and the Ethnological Museum, one of Africa's finest museums set within the former palace of Haile Selassie (the last Emperor of Ethiopia), surrounded by beautiful gardens. Wander through Mercato, the largest open-air market in Africa, with its colorful stalls laden with coffee.

The September departure also includes the annual Meskel Festival.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Cultural touring

DAY 03

Fly to Gondar & Drive to the Simien Mountains

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Gondar and then continue overland into the Simien Mountains National Park. Ethiopia's most popular place for trekking, this spectacular landscape has jagged mountain peaks, deep valleys and a dramatic escarpment with views over the rugged lowlands. Check in at the Simien Lodge, and head out for a short hike in search of the endemic gelada baboons. Return to the lodge for dinner and drinks.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour 10-minute flight transfer and 3-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Short acclimatizing hike



DAY 04

Spot Wildlife on a Scenic Escarpment Trek

After breakfast, head back out to Simien Mountains National Park for a scenic trek along the escarpment. These mountains are a nature lover's dream, fantastically rich in wildlife, including the iconic red-chested gelada baboon that only exists in Ethiopia. Hiking with these cliff-dwelling monkeys that hang out in large groups is an absolute treat for wildlife lovers. Along the way, explore more of the park's unique flora, fauna, and geology. Return to the cozy comforts of Simien Lodge for an evening atop the escarpment.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 3-7 hours/9-10 miles hiking with 1,200' elevation gain and loss

DAY 05

Lodge-to-Lodge Trek in Simien Mountains National Park

Today explore the Simien Mountains on an extraordinary lodge-to-lodge trek. With its altitude, varied terrain and weather, the full-day hiking adventure is challenging but the rewards make it worthwhile. Hike above plummeting gorges and in the shadows of towering pinnacles, following routes as old as time. Look out for lammergeier vultures, tawny eagles, and thick-billed ravens; the park features over 180 species of birds. Arrive at the Limalimo Lodge to enjoy dinner by a roaring fire.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 7-8 hours/9-10 miles hiking with 1,200' elevation gain and loss



Hike in an Acacia Forest

Kick off the day with yoga and a hearty breakfast, then set out to explore more of the Simiens with its myriad ecosystems. Dropping off from the escarpment, witness these ecosystems changing from high mountain desert into acacia forest. Enjoy a 2-hour hike through the forest, a prime habitat for birding. In the afternoon, opt for a 30-minute hike to the local community, to learn traditional beer brewing, cooking and coffee making. Or unwind at the lodge, with more yoga, a massage, or simply soaking in the views.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 2-3 hours/2-3 miles hiking with 500' elevation gain and loss



Explore the Castles & Churches of Historic Gondar

After breakfast at the lodge, drive back from the Simien Mountains to Gondar, the former royal capital of the Ethiopian Empire. Have lunch at the traditional Four Seasons Restaurant and set out on a tour of this historic city first founded in 1636 by Emperor Fasilides. Take in the Fasil Ghebbi (Royal Enclosure), with its magnificent castles, and Fasilides Bath, where on January 19 during Timket (Epiphany) hundreds celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ by bathing in the sacred pool. Visit the 18th-century Debre Birhan Selassie Church, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its gorgeous sacral art.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Cultural touring



Fly to Lalibela & Visit the Magnificent Yemrehanna Kristos Church

Today after breakfast, fly from Gondar to the town of Lalibela. Check in to your hotel, enjoy lunch, and head out to the rarely visited Yemrehanna Kristos, one of Ethiopia's best-preserved late Axumite churches. Set inside a large cave on a juniper tree-dotted ridge 26 miles outside Lalibela, this spectacular church predates the nearby rock-hewn churches of Lalibela by nearly a century.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour flight transfer and 30-minute private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Cultural touring



Discover the Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela

Spend today marveling at the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, the crown jewel among Ethiopia's sights. Ringed by courtyards and trenches and connected via a tangled maze of passages, this series of 11 monolithic churches - designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO - was built during the 12th and 13th century. Take in this mind-blowing treasure, including the most famous Church of St. George, also known as Bete Giyorgis, carved out of solid volcanic tuff. Enjoy a farewell dinner and coffee ceremony at Ben Abeba Restaurant, known for its Scottish-Ethiopian cuisine and marvelous views.

MEALS: Breakfast | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Cultural touring



Fly Back to Addis Ababa & Depart from Ethiopia

This morning after breakfast, fly back to Addis Ababa and check in to the day room at a hotel near the airport.

Interested in more opportunities to experience Ethiopia's stunning rock-hewn churches? Call us for a three-day extension options to Gheralta.

MEALS: Breakfast



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa

Centrally located in Meskel Square, the Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa is the perfect upscale spot to unwind after a long flight. Head over to the infinity pool and spa to relax before adventuring into the heart of Ethiopia. Each room offers complimentary Wi-Fi, coffee/tea maker, hair dryer, and flat screen TV.

Simien Lodge

This gorgeous mountain lodge sits right on the doorstep of Simien Mountains National Park, with majestic vistas in every direction. Comfortable rooms inside circular huts come with floor heating and traditional Ethiopian decor. The restaurant with a circular fireplace serves international favorites and Ethiopian fare, while the cozy bar claims to be the highest place to get a drink in Africa.

Limalimo Lodge

Perched dramatically on the edge of a cliff in Simien Mountains National Park, this gorgeous boutique lodge features 12 en-suite rooms in wooden buildings strewn around the grounds. The bar and restaurant atop a hill showcase remarkable views of the lowlands. Lounge in one of the hammocks between acacia trees and come evening, curl up around the fire pit.

Gondar Hills Resort

The Gondar Hills Resort is an eco-lodge situated on the top of a mountain overlooking the lush valley below. Designed using traditional stonework to mimic the architecture of the surrounding medieval castles, each room's French windows open up to picturesque views of mountains or rivers with a private garden.

Mezena Lodge

This upscale lodge has an unbeatable location for visiting the churches of Lalibela. The well-appointed rooms are housed inside individual huts dotted across a scenic garden with outstanding mountain views. The all-day restaurant and bar, an outdoor swimming pool, and a sauna round out the stellar facilities.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: January, February, March, April, May, October, November, December

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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