

Ethiopia Trip
December 27, 2016 - January 8, 2017
email questions: askwyn@gmail.com

DATE	ITINERARY	Time	FLIGHT	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	HOTEL
27-Dec-16	Travel to Ethiopia					
Tuesday	Fly from Minneapolis to Washington DC		TBD			
12/28/2016	Travel to Ethiopia					
Wednesday	Fly from Washington DC to Addis Ababa		TBD	10:30 AM		
12/29/2016	Addis Ababa					
Thursday	Addis Ababa arrival				7:10 AM	
	Customs					
	National Museum: -It comprises of many archaeological and historical findings including the famous complete hominid fossil remain of 'Lucy' locally known as 'Dinknesh' meaning wonderful. Visiting this museum is having a good summary for your visit to the historic Ethiopia.					
	Lunch at the Restaurant nex to the Museum					
	Ethnological Museum: -It is found in the main campus of the Addis Ababa University by the Institute of Ethiopian Studies with the aim to preserve the country's historical and cultural heritages. It has complete collections that describe almost all the tribal groups in Ethiopia. Here you will have an overview about the history, culture and traditions of the people of Ethiopia. The collections include the nomadic tribal groups that are now living just as man's forefather lived thousands of years back.					
	Dinner at the Hilton	7:30 PM				
	Order Room Service for 5:00 AM					Hilton Hotel 2
12/30/2016	Bahir Dar/Gondar					
Friday	Room Service - Breakfast	5:00 AM				
	Leave for the airport	6:00 AM				
	Fly to Bahir Dar.		ET126	7:50 AM	8:50 AM	
	Boat trip on Lake Tana.					
	On arrival, meet your driver and head out on Lake Tana to the Zege Peninsula and its famous monasteries. While on board our private boat, keep an eye out for a variety of bird species and the traditional tankwa crossing the lake. After a short hike through local villages and coffee farms, we reach the monastery of Ura Kidane Meret, is home to an important collections of crosses and crowns dating back to the 16th century.					
	The painted maqdas, colorful and well-preserved, tell stories of the Ethiopian saints. The second monastery we visit, Azwa Maryam, is a small and pleasant site with gardens and a humorous young priest. WE WANT TO GO TO TANA KIRKOS OR TANA CHIRKOS ISLAND.					
	Lunch in Bahir Dar or at the Abayminch Hotel	12:00 PM				
	After lunch in Bahir Dar, embark upon a scenic drive to Gondar, the first capital of the Ethiopian empire, founded in 1635 by the Emperor Fasilidas. Gondar is best-known for its collection of 17th century castles and palaces.					
	Dinner at the Mayleko Lodge	7:30 PM				Mayleko Lodge 2
12/31/2016	Gondar/Dabark					
Saturday	Breakfast at the Mayleko Lodge	7:30 AM				
	Sort all of the bags into destination groups	8:30 AM				
	Drive to Gondar	11:00 AM				
	Lunch at the Goha Hotel	12:00 PM				
	Sightseeing tour of Gondar.					
	Spend the afternoon exploring the Royal Enclosure and its buildings. The fortress, which is surrounded by a 300-foot-long wall, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The oldest and most impressive structure in the compound is the two-story palace of Emperor Fasilidas, built of solid basalt stones. Other royal buildings of interest include the library of Emperor Yohannes I, the House of Song where royal ceremonies took place, the elegant reception and banquet hall of Emperor Bakaffa, and the palace of the king's wife. Also visit the nearby bath of King Fasiledes, where modern-day Timkat ceremonies are performed. Finally, view the Church of DebreBirhan Selassie, an imposing structure with brightly coloured ceilings.					
	Afternoon, drive to Dabat/Dabark					
	Dinner at the Sona Hotel	7:30 PM				Sona Hotel 2
1/1/2017	Dabat/Wekin/Debark					
Sunday	Breakfast at the Sona Hotel	7:30 AM				
	Visit Dabat/Wekin/Debark					
	Lunch at the Sona Hotel	12:00 PM				
	Visit with evangelists, town leaders.					
	Dinner at the Sona Hotel	7:30 PM				Sona Hotel 2
1/2/2017	Dabat/Wekin/Debark					
Monday	Breakfast at the Sona Hotel	7:30 AM				
	Visit Wekin schools.					
	Lunch at the Sona Hotel or somewhere in Debat	12:00 PM				
	Dabat/Wekin/Debark					
	Visit Mud Hut Rural Priest Family					
	Dinner at the Sona Hotel	7:30 PM				Sona Hotel 2
1/3/2017	Dabat/Wekin/Debark					
Tuesday	Breakfast at the Sona Hotel	7:30 AM				
	Climb Wekin Mountain or Visit Village(s)			9:00 AM	12:00 PM	
	Lunch at the Sona Hotel	12:00 PM				
	Drive to Shire for overnight.			1:00 PM	5:00 PM	
	Dinner at the Gebar Shire Hotel	7:30 PM				Gebar Shire Hotel 2
1/4/2017	Shire/Axum					
Wednesday	Breakfast at the Gebar Shire Hotel	7:30 AM				
	Visit sponsored children from world vision.			9:00 AM		
	Drive to Asgeday Tsibilia ADP World Vision					
	Lunch with World Vision	1:30 PM				
	Drive to Axum			2:00 PM	5:00 PM	

	This simple frontier town is in fact a city of great importance as the ancient capital of Ethiopia. According to local legend, Axum was home to Queen Sheba and the current resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. As we explore Axum, and its ancient relics, our sense of adventure and imagination guides us through this mysterious and historic place. On arrival, we get our first glimpse of the history of this area with a city tour that includes the Archeological museum of Axum and the Cathedral of St. Mary of Zion. The original church was built by Emperor Fasiladas, founder of Gonder, in 1665. It's thought that this church is built on the original foundations of a temple						
	build by King Ezana or King Kaleb in the 4th or 6th centuries, making this the oldest Christian site in Africa. Keep your eye out for the guarded chapel, which is said to be the home of the Ark of the Covenant. The modern St. Mary's of Zion cathedral dates from the 1960s when Emperor Haile Selassie had it build. The architectural style is painfully out of place in the ancient city, but the contrast between the buildings on the site is fascinating. We also spend time exploring the on-site museum under the church, which houses many of Ethiopia's priceless relics (the museum was recently opened to both women and men, photography is not allowed).						
	Today we continue our visit in Axum. We visit the famous 'Stele field' (4th Century AD and UNESCO World Heritage Site, the ruin palace and tomb of King Kaleb and King Gebre Meskel (5th and 6th Century AD) and the residence of the legendary Queen of Sheba (9th century BC). The North Stelae Park contains over 120 stelae, some are upright, some are buried and others have been removed. The Rome Stelae, the tallest at 25m high, was shipped to Italy in 1937 under orders from Mussolini, but has since been returned and re-erected.						
	Dinner at the Yeha Hotel	7:30 PM					Yeha Hotel 2
1/5/2017	Axum						
Thursday	Breakfast at the Yeha Hotel	7:30 AM					
	Lunch at the Yeha Hotel	12:00 PM					
	Dinner at the Yeha Hotel	7:30 PM					Yeha Hotel 2
1/6/2017	Axum/Lalibela						
Friday	Breakfast at the Yeha Hotel	7:30 AM					
	Depart for Airport	8:15 AM					
	Fly to Lalibela		ET123	11:15 AM	11:55 AM		
	After breakfast, transfer to the airport and fly to Lalibela. The small town of Lalibela is situated high in the Lasta Mountains and is arguably one of the most important religious and historical sites in all of Africa and the entire Christian world. Ethiopia was the first country to adopt Christianity as a state religion, and the Ethiopian Orthodox religious practices root lies in Judaism and areas of the country practiced.						
	Visit the Church hidden in the cliff						
	With your guide, spend the day exploring the first group of Lalibela churches. There are no less than 200 churches in the Lasta Region. These brilliant feats of engineering and architecture are often referred to as the "Eighth wonder of the world". The churches are said to have been constructed during King Lalibela's reign during the 12th and 13th centuries when Lalibela (then known as Roha) was the capital of the Zagwe dynasty.						
	Lunch at the Roha Hotel	1:30 PM					
	Many different theories exist as to how they were built and by whom, and speculation ranges from angels and the Knights Templars. Legend has it that King Lalibela was exiled to Jerusalem and returned to Ethiopia to build a new Jerusalem.						
	Dinner at the Roha Hotel	7:30 PM					Roha Hotel 2
1/7/2017	Lalibela/Addis Ababa						
Saturday	This is Christmas Day in Ethiopia						
	Attend the Sunrise Church Service			5:50 AM	7:15 AM		
	Breakfast at the Roha Hotel	7:45 AM					
	Depart for Airport	8:00 AM	(8:15 okay)				
	Fly to Addis Ababa		ET120	10:40 AM	11:40 AM		
	Lunch at the Hilton	1:00 PM					
	The day will be at leisure at the Hilton with possible shopping for coffee or last minute ideas in Addis Ababa.						
	Dinner & Dance Show at Yod Abyssinia Restaurant	7:00 PM					
	Depart for Airport	9:30 PM					
1/8/2017	Travel Home						
Sunday	Fly to Washington D.C.		ET706	1:00 AM	6:20 AM		
	Customs						
	Fly to Minneapolis		TBD				
	Trip Summary						
	Price includes:						
	* Accomodation on a twin room sharing basis. * All meals out of Addis and only breakfast in Addis.						
	*All entrance fees as per the itinerary. *All transfer in and out services. *12 seat bus in Addis Ababa and Lalibela.						
	*Ground transportation using one 4 x 4 from Bahir Dar to Axum. English speaking driver/guide.						
	*Separate vehicle for luggage from Addis to Dabat.						
	*Portage fees. * All local guide fees. * Scout fees, where applicable. * Boat hire in Lake Tana.						
	* Bottled mineral water; 1 lt. per person per day other than the beverage served during each meal. * Government tax.						
	Price does not include:						
	*International airfare. * Lunch and dinner in Addis. * Any alcoholic drinks. * Personal expense such as laundry, etc. *TIPS.						
	*Any expense which is not stated in the "Included List" above.						