

October 11 - 18, 2026

8 DAYS, 7 NIGHTS

ETHIOPIA

(CULTURAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCE)



Cultural Travel with Sisters Traveling Solo

When you book a cultural travel experience with Sisters Traveling Solo you support **women-owned tour companies** and **small woman-owned businesses or charities whose mission it is to help women** in the country we are visiting. Culturally-themed trip experiences focus on the local people, history and food while economically empowering the women who lend their service and expertise. The local tour partner is a native of the country we are visiting.

Country Overview

Ethiopia is a land of ancient civilizations, spiritual depth, and breathtaking landscapes. From the bustling capital of Addis Ababa to the sacred rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, Ethiopia offers a travel experience rooted in history and culture. As one of Africa's oldest nations, it remains one of its most unique—uncolonized, unfiltered, and unforgettable. Whether wandering through vibrant open-air markets or witnessing early morning mass in centuries-old churches, Ethiopia will challenge and inspire you at every turn.



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (5-nights)

The capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa is a vibrant, high-altitude hub that sits at the heart of the country's cultural and political life. Known as the diplomatic capital of Africa, it offers a rich mix of history, tradition, and rapid modernization. From the bustling alleys of Merkato—the largest open-air market on the continent—to iconic institutions like the National Museum and Selassie Cathedral, the city introduces travelers to the depth and diversity of Ethiopian heritage.

Lalibela, Ethiopia (2-nights)

Often referred to as Ethiopia's "New Jerusalem," Lalibela is a sacred and awe-inspiring destination carved into the heart of the Lasta Mountains. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to a remarkable collection of 12th-century rock-hewn churches, still active and deeply revered today.



General Information:

CURRENCY:	Currency: Ethiopian Birr (ETB)
CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE:	1 USD = 137.59 ETB
AIRPORT CODE(S):	Arrival: Addis Ababa Bole International Airport (ADD) Depart: Addis Ababa Bole International Airport (ADD)
PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS:	Review passport requirements https://travel.state.gov/
VISA REQUIRED?	Check www.visahunter.com
HISTORICAL WEATHER TEMPERATURE	55°F–75°F (dry season, mild temperatures)

Tentative Itinerary



DAY 1 - ARRIVAL

Arrive at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport (ADD), Ethiopia's main gateway. If a transfer has been arranged, look out for our local driver holding a sign that says Sisters Traveling Solo in the arrivals area. Once all travelers in the transfer group have arrived, the driver will depart for the hotel. In the evening, we will all get together for a welcome dinner. Over dinner, we will get to know each other.

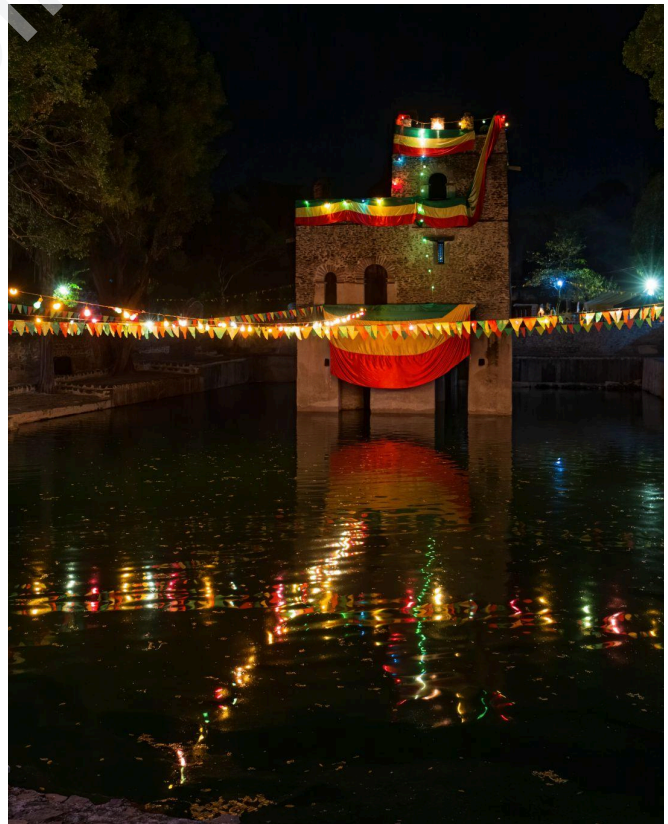
Meal(s) Included: Dinner

Hotel Check-In: 3 PM local time.

DAY 2 - CITY HIGHLIGHTS

Begin your day with a guided visit to Merkato, the largest open-air market in all of Africa. This sprawling marketplace offers a lively, colorful introduction to local commerce and daily life in Addis Ababa. In the afternoon, continue your exploration with a visit to the IES Ethnographic Museum, located within the former palace of Emperor Haile Selassie. This museum offers deep insight into Ethiopia's rich cultural tapestry, featuring traditional clothing, artifacts, and displays representing more than 80 different ethnic groups that call the country home.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast, Lunch





DAY 3 - HISTORICAL SITES OF ADDIS ABABA

Start the morning at the National Museum of Ethiopia to see the famous remains of “Lucy,” one of the oldest hominid skeletons ever discovered. Then continue to Selassie Cathedral, one of the most important churches in the country, known for its iconic copper dome and as the final resting place of Emperor Haile Selassie and his wife.

In the afternoon, enjoy a guided walk through Entoto Park—a lush, elevated green space offering panoramic views over the capital. The park features cultural pavilions, coffee houses, and local artisans at work. Optional: Experience local jazz at the African Jazz Village in the evening.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 - FREE DAY

Today is your day to explore or relax at our hotel.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast

DAY 5 - FLIGHT TO LALIBELA

Fly to Lalibela in the morning and begin your journey through one of Ethiopia’s most sacred sites. Spend the afternoon exploring the first half of the famed 12th-century rock-hewn churches—massive structures carved directly into the mountain stone. Lalibela is considered a pilgrimage site, often referred to as the “New Jerusalem,” and these churches remain active places of worship for Ethiopian Orthodox Christians.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast



DAY 6 - LALIBELA EXPLORATION + COOKING CLASS

Start the morning by exploring the remaining rock-hewn churches, ending your tour at Bete Giorgis, the most iconic of the group, known for its perfect cross shape carved into the ground.

In the afternoon, participate in a traditional Ethiopian cooking class. Learn how to prepare injera, the country's signature sourdough flatbread, along with a variety of vegetarian dishes. The experience concludes with a traditional coffee ceremony.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast, Lunch (cooking class)

DAY 7 - RETURN TO ADDIS ABABA + LOCAL MARKETS

Fly back to Addis Ababa and spend your last full day visiting Shiromeda Weaving Market and the artisan stalls near the Post Office district. These areas are ideal for picking up traditional scarves, pottery, and handmade goods.

Time permitting, guests may also visit a handmade pottery workshop to watch local artisans at work.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8 - DEPART ETHIOPIA

As your Ethiopia adventure comes to a close, we bid you farewell. With memories to last a lifetime and stories to tell, depart for home or your next destination, enriched by the experiences shared in this extraordinary city.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast

What's Included:

4-Star Accommodations: Experience comfort and convenience with a 7-night stay at 4-star hotels in both cities.

Guided City Tour of Addis Ababa – History, Culture, and Markets: Discover Addis Ababa through a curated experience that includes a walk through Merkato, the largest open-air market in Africa, as well as visits to the National Museum (home of the famous fossil “Lucy”), Selassie Cathedral, and the IES Ethnographic Museum.

Entoto Park Experience – Panoramic Views and Local Artisans: Visit Entoto Park, a peaceful green space in the hills overlooking the capital. Enjoy the scenic views and explore cultural pavilions and artisan shops that reflect Ethiopia’s diverse heritage.

Two-Day Rock-Hewn Churches Tour – UNESCO World Heritage Site: Spend two full days exploring Lalibela’s breathtaking 12th-century rock-hewn churches. Walk through narrow passageways, descend into subterranean sanctuaries, and visit iconic Bete Giorgis—Ethiopia’s most famous cross-shaped church.

Unity Park Visit – History and Majesty in the Grand Palace: Tour the presidential palace grounds now open to the public at Unity Park. View royal halls, historical artifacts, and exhibits showcasing Ethiopia’s natural and cultural legacy.

Traditional Ethiopian Cooking Class in Lalibela: Learn how to make injera and vegetarian dishes in a hands-on class led by local chefs. The class concludes with a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, giving you a deeper appreciation for the country’s culinary and communal traditions.

Inter Country Domestic Flight – Roundtrip: Enjoy a quick and scenic flight between Ethiopia’s capital city and the sacred town of Lalibela. This flight replaces what would otherwise be a long overland journey, giving you more time to explore and experience both destinations with ease and comfort.

Evening Cultural Outings – Live Music at Fendika and African Jazz Village: Experience Ethiopia’s musical soul with evening visits to two iconic cultural venues. Enjoy traditional music, dance, and storytelling at Fendika Cultural Center and the vibrant jazz scene at African Jazz Village.

Artisan Shopping Experience – Shiromeda Weaving Market & More: Shop for handmade scarves, woven goods, and one-of-a-kind souvenirs during a guided visit to Shiromeda Market and the local artisan district near the post office.

Private Ground Transportation Throughout: All in-country transportation is included, with a private driver and guide ensuring smooth transitions between activities and destinations.

Airport Transfers – Arrival (trip start date) and Departure (trip end date): Group airport transfers to and from Addis Ababa Bole International Airport (ADD) are included for travelers arriving and departing within the designated travel window.

Meals Included - Meals as listed in above itinerary.

Tours & Activities - Tours and activities as listed in the trip itinerary.

What's Not Included: International flights, gratuity, travel visa, travel insurance, airport transfers, or any other cost not listed in the “what’s included” section.