Ethiopia: Cradle of Civilization

15 days for $6,497 total price from San Francisco
($5,895 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 Falls. 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,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 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 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.  

Day 8: Simien Mountains National Park  We spend a full day on safari in this incredible natural setting. As we explore, we may encounter the Walla 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.  

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.  

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 boasts a host of UNESCO archaeological sites.

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.  

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.  

Day 12: Lalibela  We begin today at the Asheton Maryam monastery carved into the rock face 13,000 feet above Lalibela. 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.  

Day 13: Lalibela/Addis Ababa  We return to Addis Ababa by air today, arriving at our hotel midday. Tonight we celebrate our Ethiopia adventure at a farewell dinner.  

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

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

Post-Tour Extension  

June 3-9, 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 tribespeopel 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  

• Gratuities for hotel and lodge staff, including dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers  

• $100 frequent traveler credit towards your next Cal Discoveries/Odysseys Unlimited tour ($200 after 3 tours; $300 after 10 tours)  

• Call lecturer’s participation cannot be guaranteed and is contingent upon a minimum number of paying travelers  

Activity Level 3 | 🌟 🌟 🌟 🌟 (see pg. 5)
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2021, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities
Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on “On Your Own” optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price
Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations and inoculations; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment
A deposit of $500 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

Cancellations and Refunds
If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing to Cal Discoveries Travel. Refunds for
cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

For all tours (except as noted)

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<td>95 days or more:</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<td>94-65 days:</td>
<td>25% of tour price</td>
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<td>64-45 days:</td>
<td>50% of tour price</td>
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<tr>
<td>44-30 days:</td>
<td>75% of tour price</td>
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<td>29-0 days:</td>
<td>No refund</td>
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For Journey through Vietnam, Machu Picchu to the Galapagos, Patagonian Frontiers, Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Ethiopia: Cradle of Civilization

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Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. Trip cancellation insurance is available from CAA and information will be sent after you reserve. You may research travel insurance online at travelinsure.com/calalumni. If due to unforeseen circumstances Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Pre-Departure

After reserving your tour, you will receive pre-departure mailings that include a detailed itinerary, visa requirements, and reading list. We will send your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers) two to three weeks before departure.

Single Travelers

We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

Changes to Your Reservation

We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other 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 to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.

Required Information

Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit tsa.gov), as well as for our international travel partners: your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender (for details, please visit tsa.gov). In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Travel Documents

A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all tours in this catalog. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you the appropriate information after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these
documents. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

**Smoking**
For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. has a No Smoking policy (including e-cigarettes and vaping) on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

**Health and Medical Issues**
We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, Cal Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

**Air Transportation**
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 tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour **“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, Cal Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

**Responsibility**
The liability of Cal Alumni Association (CAA), as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. CAA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase 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. CAA 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. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.
One traveler per room, whether an alumni or friend, must be a current Cal Alumni Association member at the time of departure to participate in Cal Discoveries Travel offerings. Payment of $60 for seniors 65 years and over and $75 for others establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other Association benefits. Memberships are for individuals only, and are non-refundable and non-transferable. A traveling pair and their children under 21 years of age may travel on one membership. Please make dues payable to CAA by separate check, or, if you prefer, provide a VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express number with expiration date for payment. You can also enroll online at alumni.berkeley.edu/join.

**CAA MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

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**Method of Payment**

- Check ☐
- American Express ☐
- Discover ☐
- MasterCard ☐
- VISA ☐

Account # ___________________________________________ Security Code ___________ Exp. Date ___________

Name of Cardholder ________________________________________________________________

Signature ____________________________________________________________ Date ___________

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 90 days prior to departure and can be paid by check or credit card.