

Cornell University

ETHIOPIA

Treasures of Abyssinia: A Tapestry of Man and God

MARCH 14 TO 28, 2019

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

We invite you to be among the thousands of Cornell alumni, parents and friends who view the Cornell Alumni Association (CAA) Travel Program as their first choice for memorable travel adventures.

If you've travelled with CAA before, you know to expect excellent travel experiences in some of the world's most interesting places. If our travel offerings are new to you, you'll want to take a closer look at our upcoming tours.

Working closely with some of the world's most highly-respected travel companies, CAA trips are not only well organized, safe, and a great value, they are filled with remarkable people. This year, as we have for more than forty years, we are offering itineraries in the United States and around the globe.

Whether you're ascending a sand dune by camel, strolling the cobbled streets of a 'medieval town', hiking a trail on a remote mountain pass, or lounging poolside on one of our luxury cruises, we guarantee 'an extraordinary journey in great company.'

And that's the reason so many Cornellians return, year after year, to travel with the Cornell Alumni Association. If you, like me, simply can't wait for your next travel adventure, I encourage you to register today for this or another of our remarkable travel offerings.

Warmly,

James A. Mazza '88
Associate Vice President for Alumni Affairs
Cornell University

YOUR ITINERARY

DAYS 1/2 ~ WASHINGTON D.C./ADDIS ABABA SHERATON HOTEL. (Meals Aloft; Welcome D)

Your journey begins as you board your plane this evening for your flight to Addis Ababa. Upon arrival next morning, you will be met and escorted to your hotel. Explore Addis Ababa this afternoon, including the magnificent Trinity Cathedral and the National Museum, where a plaster cast of “Lucy,” the 3.2 million-year-old Hominid, is displayed. At the Zoological National History Museum at AAU, see the wildlife attractions of Ethiopia in well-preserved specimens. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight and get your first taste of Ethiopian cuisine.

DAYS 3/4 ~ BAHIR DAR KURIFTU RESORT & SPA. (B,L,D, Daily)

Fly to Bahir Dar on the shores of Lake Tana, the largest lake in Ethiopia and source to the Blue Nile. Drive to the Blue Nile Falls, known locally as Tiss Falls. It is 328 feet wide and plunges 148 feet, giving rise to steam clouds and rainbows. Next morning, cross Lake Tana and visit the monastery of Ura Kidane Miheret and Azwa Mariam, located on the Zegue peninsula. In the afternoon, explore some parts of the city, known for its wide avenues lined with palm trees and a variety of colorful flowers. This city was awarded UNESCO Cities for Peace Prize for managing to address the challenges of rapid urbanization.

DAYS 5/6 ~ BAHIR DAR/GONDAR/SIMIEN MOUNTAINS SIMIEN LODGE. (B,L,D Daily)

Continue your exploration with a drive to Gondar, the capital of the Ethiopian empire under the reign of Emperor Fasilides in (1632-1667). After lunch, journey to the Simien Mountains, a stunning mountain range alive with exotic plant and animal life. The highest mountain in the park is Ras Dashen at 14,905 feet above sea level, and proudly carries the local moniker ‘The Roof of Africa.’ These spectacular segments of the Simien Mountain are considered the most beautiful landscapes in Ethiopia. They serve as home to endemic life like the highly endangered Ethiopian wolf, the Waliya ibex, and plants like Giant Lobelia. The days will be dedicated to exploring in the mountains.

DAYS 7/8 ~ TREKKING TO CHENEK/GONDAR GONDAR HILL RESORT. (B,L,D, Daily)

Drive to Gech, where you'll continue on foot towards Chenek. On the way, you stand a good chance of spotting Gelada baboons. Return to Gondar and enjoy a full day of touring in this wonderful city, which is set in a landscape of incomparable beauty. You will visit the Fasilides Castle, one of the most ornate buildings erected by Emperor Fasilides and his heirs. Later, proceed to the incredible Debre Birhan Selassie Church, a massive work of art covered wall-to-ceiling with intricate, jewel-colored paintings from Gondarian the period of Biblical and medieval historical scenes.

DAYS 9/10 ~ GONDAR/LALIBELA MOUNTAIN VIEW HOTEL. (B,L,D Daily)

Your flight this morning takes you to Lalibela. The city is home to 11 monolithic churches that were built in the twelfth century, distinct because they are carved out of the sparkling pink granite rock known to the region. Classified as one of the wonders of the world, each church has a unique architectural style; all are superbly carved and most of them are decorated with well-preserved paintings. The entire city may be described as a sculpture dedicated to the glory of God. Spend the next two days exploring these architectural marvels.

DAYS 11/12/13 ~ LALIBELA/AXUM/GHERALTA GHERALTA LODGE. (B,L,D Daily)

Take a short morning flight to Axum, the ‘city of legends.’ Axum is known for its immense history and lore. It is littered with the ruins of palaces, underground tombs, mysterious monolithic stelae, and many historical relics. The founding of the Empire of Axum in the 5th century BC is often taken as the starting point of the Ethiopian civilization. After lunch, explore Axum and continue your journey to Gheralta. You will have two full days in the Gheralta area to discover the Gheralta Cluster churches, visiting the marvelous houses of worship that dot this remote and inspiring landscape. A visit will be organized to the churches of Dugem Selassie, Mariam Korkor, and Daniel Korkor, some requiring stamina and physical ability to reach them. (A visit to Mariam Korkor & Daniel Korkor require minimum of 1.5 hour walk one way to the church in a very steep road. If you are not physically fit for the challenge, these visits can be substituted with easily accessible ones.)

DAYS 14/15~ MEKELE/ADDIS ABABA/WASHINGTON D.C. (B,L,D; Meals Aloft)

Today you drive to Mekele where you'll catch a short flight back to Addis. You have the rest of the day to explore the capital and do some last-minute shopping. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner with traditional Ethiopian food, music, and dance before transferring to the airport for your flight home. A dayroom is provided at the SHERATON HOTEL. Next morning, your journey comes to an end as you arrive home.



An Ethiopian depiction of St. George slaying the dragon

Did you know ...

Ethiopian children do not share a surname with their parents, instead take their father's first name as their last name.



The beautiful landscape of the Gheralta region



A group of gelada baboons high in the Simien Mountains



Simien Mountains and valley around Lalibela



Priest at Asheton Mariam Monastery in Lalibela



Ethiopian wolf in the Simien Mountains

YOUR JOURNEY COSTS

**MARCH 14 TO 28, 2019
PRICES PER PERSON**

- \$5,495 land only, double occupancy.
- \$1,795 single supplement.
- \$2,290 international air from Washington D.C., roundtrip, including fuel surcharges & airline taxes (subject to change) as well as internal air within Ethiopia.
- \$790 internal flight if international air is not purchased through Classic Escapes.



Church of Mariam in Axum

YOUR JOURNEY COSTS INCLUDE

- Superior or best available accommodations throughout as indicated or similar.
- All meals, starting with dinner on day 2 and ending with dinner on day 13.
- All wildlife viewing by private 4WD, minibus or coaster bus.
- Complimentary bottled water in vehicles and with meals.
- Specialist guide throughout.
- A host from the Cornell Alumni Association Travel Program will accompany the group with a minimum of 15 travelers.
- All applicable hotel/lodge taxes and gratuities for baggage handling.
- All entry fees.
- Complimentary emergency evacuation insurance.



Traditional Ethiopian cuisine served on injera bread

“Ethiopia always has a special place in my imagination and the prospect of visiting Ethiopia attracted me more strongly than a trip to France, England, and America combined. I felt I would be visiting my own genesis, unearthing the roots of what made me an African.”

—Nelson Mandela



Traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

Kathy Pluas at Classic Escapes
800.627.1244
kathyp@classicescapes.com

CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL

HOW TO BOOK: Fill out and sign the enclosed reservation form and send it, along with the relevant deposit to: Classic Escapes Inc. 58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside NY, 11377. Upon receipt of your signed reservation form and deposit, we will, subject to availability, reserve your spot on the tour. You may consider your booking confirmed when you receive a confirmation notice and invoice from us.

RATES: Rates are based on the minimum number of guests outlined in this document, plus airfare costs, currency exchange rates and other factors and are subject to change. Though it is rare for Classic Escapes to make a price adjustment after promotion of an itinerary, we do reserve the right to assess a surcharge if the minimum is not met, or if increases are forced upon us by airlines or other partners or because of changes in currency exchange rates.

INSURANCE: It is a condition of booking, that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependents/traveling companions for the duration of their trip. Classic Escapes, including their representatives, employees and agents will take no responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guest's dependents or traveling companions.

Please visit the website to enroll – <http://www.travelguard.com/classicescapes/>. For any questions you may have on insurance, contact Travel Guard at 1-866-385-4839 and refer to ARC #71298.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Neither Classic Escapes (the Company), nor any person or agent acting for, through, or on behalf of the Company shall be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any cause whatsoever

and without restricting the generality of the foregoing shall particularly not be responsible for loss or damage arising from any errors or omissions contained in its brochure or other literature, loss or damage caused by delays, sickness, theft, injury, or death. In addition the Company shall have the right at any time at its discretion to cancel any trip or the remainder thereof or make any alteration in route, accommodation, price or other details and, in the event of any trip being rendered impossible, illegal or inadvisable by weather, strike, war, government or interference or any other cause whatsoever, the extra expenses incurred as a result thereof shall be the responsibility of the passenger. The Company may at its discretion and without liability or cost to itself at any time cancel or terminate the guest's booking and in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing it shall be entitled to do so in the event of the illness or the illegal or incompatible behavior of the guest, who shall in such circumstances not be entitled to any refund.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: You must be in good physical and mental health. It shall be your duty to inform us in case you have any medical condition that may affect your ability to enjoy and pursue fully the services of Classic Escapes. By registering for a Classic Escapes service/program, you certify that you do not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for yourself or others.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification: The following per person fees are applicable on this tour:

- Up to December 9, 2018, \$300 handling fee, plus \$250 non-refundable deposits given to overseas suppliers.
 - December 10 to December 29, 2018, deposit is forfeited.
 - December 30 to January 8, 2019, less 50% of tour cost.
 - After January 8, 2019, no refund is possible.
- on to any fees imposed by airlines.



Ethiopian locals along the side of the road en route to Gondar



Ruins of Axum



RESERVATION FORM: (Please Print)

TOUR CODE: 19AFL0314/CORNELL

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) to hold _____ place(s) on the Classic Adventure to Ethiopia departing on **March 14, 2019**.

Cost is \$5,495 per person, double occupancy, land only. Additional international air from Washington D.C. is \$2,290 including departure taxes and fuel surcharges (subject to change).

Final payment due date is December 9, 2018. All final payments are required to be made by check or money order only.

I would like to charge my deposit to my credit card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Name on Card _____ Card Number _____ EXP _____ CVN _____

NAME (as it appears on passport): ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. _____

Date of Birth (M/D/Y) ____/____/____

NAME (as it appears on passport): ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. _____

Date of Birth (M/D/Y) ____/____/____

NAME FOR NAME BADGE IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE:

1) _____ 2) _____

STREET ADDRSS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBERS: HOME: () _____ OFFICE: () _____

MOBILE: () _____ FAX: () _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

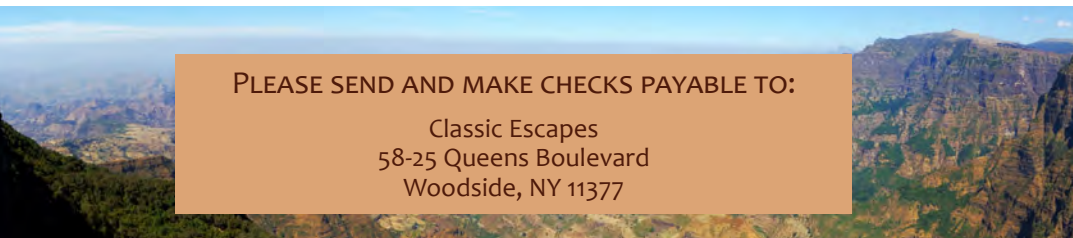
- ☐ The two of us above are sharing a room and, where possible, would like a room with:
☐ ONE ☐ TWO Beds (Make one selection only)
- ☐ I am sharing with _____ (form sent separately)
- ☐ I need assistance in securing a roommate. I understand if Columbia Alumni Association or the tour operator cannot locate one for me by final payment date, I agree to pay the additional single supplement amount. I prefer to share with: ☐ Smoker ☐ Non-smoker
- ☐ I desire single accommodations, if available, and will pay the single supplement additional cost of \$1,795.
- ☐ Please make my/our round trip air reservations on the group flights from Washington D.C. via Ethiopian Airlines.
- ☐ Please make domestic round-trip air reservations for me from my home city: _____ to connect with the group flights and let me know the additional cost.
- ☐ I/We will make own air arrangements and will provide you with an itinerary before trip departure. I understand I will be billed \$790 for the main trip for the internal air within Africa.
- ☐ I certify that I have not recently been treated for, nor am I aware of any physical or other condition or liability that would create a hazard to myself or the other members of this tour.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU OBTAIN TRAVEL INSURANCE. RESERVATIONS ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO TOUR CONDITIONS AND WILL BE CONFIRMED ONLY IF ACCOMPANIED BY COMPLETED FORM SIGNED BY THE TOUR PARTICIPANT(S).

I/WE HAVE READ THE CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL ON THIS BROCHURE AND UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS STATED HEREIN:

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



PLEASE SEND AND MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Classic Escapes
58-25 Queens Boulevard
Woodside, NY 11377

ETHIOPIA

Treasures of Abyssinia:
A Tapestry of Man and God

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