



P.O. Box 277
Sebeta, Ethiopia
Phone : +251-11-338-0819
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+251-912-037211

www.mogilee-lodge-and-tours-ethiopia.com
reservation@mogilee-lodge-and-tours-ethiopia.com

OUR VISION

Mogilee is the lodge and touring group started by the Kulanu ambassador in Addis Ababa, Sam Tadesse, and his wife Menbi. We are dedicated to tourism excellence through a commitment to the betterment of the Jewish communities around Addis Ababa and North Shewa. All elements of Mogilee are designed for the utmost comfort of the guest and to support the Ethiopian Jewish community.

Furnishings inside the lodge were built using leather materials purchased from the Jewish tannery located in Chefe, North Shewa. The beautifully designed chairs, cushions, and couches are products of a collaboration between the artful eye and design talents of Menbi Tadesse, and the leather material treated and dyed by the Chefe craftsmen.

The gift shop, located on the Mogilee Lodge property, is filled with exquisite crafts made locally by the surrounding Jewish communities. This provides a market for handmade jewelry, including stars of David, beautifully crafted menorahs, hand-woven blankets and scarves, clay coffee pots and Kiddush cups, as well as leather goods.

In addition to providing a lodging place, Mogilee offers a variety of tours providing guests with unparalleled access to all that Ethiopia has to offer. Sam and Menbi have created tours specifically to learn about the Jewish communities, where interested guests can see firsthand how and where the crafts are made, while visiting and meeting with the indigenous Ethiopian Jews. The guests can visit the first openly Jewish synagogue in Kechene, Ethiopia started by the Ethiopia North Shewa Zionist Organization (ENSZO), while learning about their history and optionally participating in a Shabbat service. In addition to touring the Kechene workshops and temple, visitors can also elect to choose to visit the Jewish communities of the North Shewa region of Ethiopia, located approximately an hour's drive from Mogilee, and see the blacksmiths and tanneries.

*COME AND EXPLORE WITH US, THE ANCIENT JEWISH KINGDOM OF
ETHIOPIA, WHICH HAS THE OLDEST AND LARGEST INDIGENOUS JEWISH
POPULATION IN THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.*

MOGILEE TOUR SCHEDULE

JANUARY 4TH - JANUARY 10TH, 2010

Kechene/ Adadi Maryam / Melka Konture Tour

JANUARY 11TH - JANUARY 22ND, 2010

Historic/ Jewish Interest Tour

JANUARY 23RD - FEBRUARY 5TH, 2010

Omo Valley Cultural/ Wildlife Tour



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MLT-001 KECHENE/ ADADI MARYAM/ MELKA KONTURE TOUR

- Day 1 The expected arrival date to Addis Ababa will be the 3rd or 4th of January 2010. The group will be met at the airport and transferred to their hotel. Dinner will be provided in the hotel or outside restaurants depending on the group's preference.
- Day 2 Breakfast and a short meeting to discuss the group's agenda. Drive to Kechene to meet with the Bete Avraham and visit the synagogue. After lunch, tour the community and visit some weavers, potters and other artisans. Return back to the hotel. Depending on how the day goes, other activities may be added.
- Day 3 After breakfast, drive to Kechene. Continue discussions with the Bete Avraham. On the way back, drive to Entoto, the site of Emperor Menelik II's palace, when he moved the capital city from Ankober, Northern Shewa to Addis Ababa. As we enter the complex there is a small museum mostly about Emperor Menelik II. Then we enter St. Mary's Church and walk to the back to see the Emperor's house, constructed from wood and mud. At the same time, get a spectacular view of Addis from the height of Entoto.
- Day 4 After breakfast drive to Kechene and continue discussion with Bete Avraham leadership and ENSZO (Ethiopia North Shewa Zionist Organization). After lunch visit the Displaced Jews Development Association compound in Addis Ababa. These are Bete Israeli left behind by NACOEJ, when NACOEJ left Ethiopia in 2005.
- Day 5 After breakfast we drive to Fitcha. While the main focus is to visit the North Shewa Jews who are engaged as blacksmith, leather tanners, there are other historical sites that we may visit in Fitcha and its environ. Fitcha is mainly known as the site of Ras Kassa's house, where Emperor Iyasu was imprisoned in the 1920s after being overthrown by the future Emperor Haile Selassie. Ras Kassa's house apparently was destroyed during the Derg's time. Along the way we may visit Debre Libanos, what the Christians claim as the second Jerusalem. Debre Libanos was the center of learning for the Ethiopian Orthodox Church until 1937. In 1937 the Italians massacred the priest and deacons and buried them in mass graves fearing them as the center of resistance to Italian occupation of Ethiopia. The church has been rebuilt and it is revered by many Christians.
- Day 6 After Breakfast drive to Adadi Maryam, Melka Kunture and Tiya and back to Addis. To get to Adadi Maryam we drive towards Butajira and then to Melka Awash. Melka Awash is a town on the banks of Awash River. It is about 50 kilometers from Addis. The Awash River Gorge nearby also offers an interesting site seeing. The main attraction of the Awash River Gorge is the Melka Kunture Prehistoric Site. It is best known for numerous Stone-age artifacts unearthed from the river bed. Downstream there is a vast complex of caves. Adadi Maryam lies to the west of Butajira. It is home to a complex of rock hewn churches similar to those found in Lalibela. It is believed that these churches were built by King Lalibela in the 12th century. They served as his southern palace and office complex. If time allows, we will drive to Tiya to see the mysterious engraved stelae that stretch across southern Ethiopia. It is listed as one of the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Tiya is about 40 km from Melka Awash.
- Day 7 Last visit to Kechene and continue with the Addis Ababa tour including the National Museum.
- Day 8 Last minute shopping for souvenir. After dinner drive to the airport and depart for United States and other destinations.



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MLT-002 HISTORIC/ JEWISH INTEREST TOUR

- Day 1 Drive from Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar: We start early from Addis Ababa. Along the way we will stop at Mertule Maryam, site of Emperor Susenyos' coronation. Emperor Susenyos was converted into Catholicism by the Portuguese and for some 16 years Ethiopia's state religion was catholic. For us the main attraction is that the site is considered as the center of Ethiopian Judaism and it is so identified by the National Museum in Addis Ababa. Also, Weyzazirt Kidhane Mihret located 15km past Mota may be of interest to visitors. It contains some 17th century paintings.
- Day 2 Bahir Dar – Lake Tana Boat Tour: The boat ride in Lake Tana will take us to Tana Kirkos, where the Ark of the Covenant sat for almost 900 years.
- Day 3 Drive from Bahir Dar to Gondar: Along the way we can visit Beles Melka and where the Kemant reside. The Kemant claim to be Jews who arrived to Ethiopia during the time of Avraham. They maintain the same tradition as of the time of Avraham. They worship in the woods.
- Day 4 Tour Gondar and its environs: We will visit with the Bete Israeli waiting for Aliya. We will tour the famous palace and castle of Emperor Fasiledes and the various historical churches scattered around. We will also visit the Bete Israel village Ambober.
- Day 5 Drive from Gondar to Axum: Along the way we will see and make a stop at the foot of Simien Mountain. Once upon a time it was a strong hold of Ethiopian Jews. From the mountain they resisted attempts of several kings and emperors to convert them into Christianity at the behest of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. The Simien Mountain National Park also offers hiking, camping and wild life and bird watching.
- Day 6 Tour Axum: Axum is an important holy city for Ethiopian Christians. It also houses the true Ark of the Covenant. It was the capital of Ethiopia from ancient times.
- Day 7 Drive from Axum to Mekele.
- Day 8 Drive from Mekele to Lalibela.
- Day 9 Tour Lalibela: Lalibela was the capital of Ethiopia during the reign of the Jewish King, King Lalibela. The rock hewn structures, which now have been converted into church complexes, were constructed by King Lalibela. The structures formed his palace and office complexes for his government. We will also visit the Jewish village on the outskirts of Lalibela.
- Day 10 Drive from Lalibela to Kombolcha: The Yegof Forest on the ridge overlooking Kombolcha supports a population of Menelik's bushbuck, vervet monkey, leopards, and other mammals.
- Day 11 Drive from Kombolcha to Addis Ababa: We drive past Dessie and Debre Berhan. We could also visit Makdala Hill where Emperor Tewodros fought the British in 1868. He was betrayed by the future Emperor Yohannes and chose to commit suicide instead of capture by the British.
- Day 12 Depart to the United States from Addis: Relaxation and Departure to Washington, DC



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MLT-003 OMO VALLEY CULTURAL/ WILDLIFE TOUR

- Day 1 Airport pickup and transfer to hotel: You will be picked up from the airport and driven to your hotel. Dinner will be provided in the hotel restaurant
- Day 2 Drive from Addis to Awassa: This is a drive through the Rift Valley going south towards Kenya. We pass through Debre Zeit a town known for its crater lakes; and proceed to Ziway. Lake Ziway is one of the Rift Valley lakes with a surface area of 430 km². On Lake Ziway on the Tullo Gudo Island there is Maryam Zion Monastery where the Ark of the Covenant was kept safely away from the Italian occupiers between 1937 and 1941. It was also the place where the Ark of the Covenant was hidden during the war between the Jewish Empress of Ethiopia, Yodit and the Christian rebels around the 9th century. From Ziway we pass through Langanu. There are several tourist hotels and lodges around Lake Langanu. Across from Lake Langanu we have Lake Abiata and Lake Shala known for flamingos and other birds. From Langanu we drive to Shashemene. Shashemene is home of the Rastafarian community. 20km from Shashemene is Wondo Genet where Emperor Haile Selassie had a private lodge, where you can bathe and take a shower in the hot natural spring water. From Shashemene, Awassa is a short drive. The main attraction of Awassa is its lake (Lake Awassa) and the morning fish market on the banks of the lake at Amora Gedel.
- Day 3 Drive from Awassa to Arbaminch: The drive to Arbaminch passes through Wolamo Sodo. There is nothing significant about Wolamo Sodo. Stay over night in Arbaminch.
- Day 4 Tour of Arbaminch: Arbaminch offers the Rift Valley lakes Chamo and Abaya. Nechisar National Park also offers a variety of wild animals including zebra, gazelles, foxes, etc. Once upon a time there were plenty of crocodiles along the shores of Lake Chamo and Lake Abaya today you can only find a few wild crocodiles. However, there is now a crocodile farm worth visiting. One can also see hippos around the two lakes. We can also take a detour to Chenchu to visit the Dorze people, renowned for cotton weavers and their tall beehive-shaped dwellings.
- Day 5 Drive from Arbaminch to Mago National Park through Jinka: We drive to Jinka and make a stop to visit the South Omo Research Center & Museum. It is an excellent anthropological museum regarding the South Omo people. From there we drive straight to the Mago National Park and set camp. The Mago National Park is located on the eastern bank of the Omo River and ranges in altitude from 450 to 2,528 meters above sea level. We tour the park to view wild life and also drive to the Mursie village, whose women have the custom of expanding their lower lips using disks that gradually get larger and larger.
- Day 6 Drive from Mago National Park to Turmi: We drive to Turmi. Along the way we pass through a vast meadowland with shrubs and “umbrella” acacia trees. We pass through the village of Omorate on the Omo River. We encounter the Galeb people, who use the river to bathe and wash their clothes. We arrive to Turmi and camp overnight in a square under mango trees.
- Day 7 Tour Turmi: Turmi is well known for its Monday market. If we arrive on a Monday we visit the colorful markets of the Hammer, Karo and Dassanech tribes respectively. These tribes are famous for their hairstyles, and ornaments.
- Day 8 Drive from Turmi to Yabello: We drive to Yabello. Along the way we visit the Konso village to see their famous Totems (grave markers), land terraces and unique houses. En route, visit the village of Erboke tribe. Stay overnight in Yabello.
- Day 9 Drive from Yabello to Awassa: Stay overnight in Awassa.
- Day 10 Drive from Awassa to Addis.
- Day 11 Addis: Relaxation, shopping and Departure to Washington, DC



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MLT-004 BALE NATIONAL PARK, AWASH NATIONAL PARK & HARRAR TOUR

- Day 1 Drive from Addis to Wondo Genet. This was once Emperor Haile Sellassie's relaxation place. It is now converted into resort hotel. There is hot spring shower for those interested. Stay overnight
- Day 2 After breakfast drive from Wondo Genet to Bale Dinisho Park. Stay overnight.
- Day 3 Bale National Park trekking and looking for wildlife, then drive to Senati Plateau to look for the Ethiopian Red Fox, etc. Stay overnight in Goba.
- Day 4 Drive to Awash National Park through scenic Arsi. Stay overnight in Awash and do some sight seeing and look for wildlife. Once there were lions in this park.
- Day 5 Drive from Awash to Harrar. It said that the city of Harrar was occupied by the Turks during the Ottoman Empire. Some of the resident of the city claim ancestry from the Turkish settlers. It was also the strong hold of Ahmed Granne. Stay overnight in Harrar and after dinner visit the hyena man feeding the hyenas by hand.
- Day 6 Tour the city of Harrar and surrounding towns. Emperor Haile Sellassie grew up in Harrar while his father Ras Mokonnen was governor of the province. Stay overnight in Harrar.
- Day 7 Drive from Harrar to Nazeret. Stay overnight.
- Day 8 After breakfast drive to Soderie, the hot springs resort. Take a hot shower or just visit and continue driving to Addis. Stay overnight in Addis
- Day 9 Relaxation, last minute shopping, dinner and airport transfer for departure.



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RESERVATION FORM

Please complete this form and email it to reservation@mogilee-lodge-and-tours-ethiopia.com

TRAVELER INFORMATION

Full Name : _____

Mailing Address : _____

Billing Address : _____

Telephone Number : _____

E-mail Address : _____

Desired Departure Date (*from Country of Origin*) : _____

Desired Departure Date (*from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*) : _____

TOUR PACKAGE SELECTION¹

(prices shown are per person in US dollars)

- MLT-001 Kechene/North Shewa/etc. Tour \$805
- MLT-002 Historic/Jewish Interest Tour \$1,595
- MLT-003 Omo Valley Tour \$1,620
- MLT-004 Bale Mountain Trekking Tour. \$1,280

PAYMENT METHOD

CREDIT CARD

Card Type : VISA MasterCard AMEX

Name on Card : _____

Credit Card Number : _____

Expiration Date : _____

Credit Card Security Code : _____

PAYPAL

¹ Prices shown include ground transportation, accommodations, three meals per day, and entrance fees. Any alcohol is not included. These are suggested tour packages. If you have other preferences, we can package and price them for you.

ESSENTIAL TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR ETHIOPIA

VISA AND IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

Visa applications may be obtained at Ethiopia's diplomatic missions overseas. However, nationals of 33 countries are now allowed to receive their tourist visas on arrival in Ethiopia at the regular charge.

The list includes:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, citizens of United Kingdom and United States. For China including passports issued in Hong Kong (SAR China) and MACAO (SAR China), Visa is available on arrival.

The application form is available online from the Ethiopian Embassy website. More information is available at <http://www.ethiopianembassy.org/services/visa.shtml>

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Prior to entry, visitors should be in possession of a valid health certificate for yellow fever. Vaccination against cholera is also required for any person who has visited or transited a cholera-infected area within six days prior to arrival in Ethiopia. Please check with your doctor for any other recommended inoculations.

Although we have comprehensive insurance for our vehicles and passengers, in the case of an accident it is advised that you obtain MEDEX Insurance for medical evacuation to better/specialized hospital facilities outside of the country. More information is available at <http://www.medexassist.com/>

We also recommend a few medical/health items to bring with you. These items include mosquito/insect repellent, anti-bacterial hand lotion, sun block, allergy medication (if necessary), bee sting kit (if allergic), and medicine for indigestion/diarrhea. If you are on any regular medication, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THE PROPER DOSES.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY

Ethiopia uses 220 volts running at 50Hz AC. The most common type of plug is Type C (European 2-pin). Adapters for this style will be supplied. They are also available in most universal socket adapter kits.

CLIMATE/CLOTHING

There are two major seasons: the dry season prevails from October through May; the wet season runs from June to September. We recommend that you bring a variety of light, medium, and heavy weight clothing. The weather ranges from cool and chilly in the evenings and nights to warm and hot during the day and afternoon. Please bring comfortable walking and/or hiking shoes. A hat or other head gear is also recommended for protection from the sun. Binoculars are good idea for wildlife/bird watching. Women are advised to bring scarves, and long dresses/pants for entry into places of worship and sacred sites.

CURRENCY

Travelers are advised to bring traveler's cheques and cash. Travelers cheques are best taken in US Dollars or Pounds Sterling and cash is best taken in US Dollars. Euros can also be exchanged. Most merchants and businesses, such as shops and restaurants, do not accept credit cards. However, some major credit cards are accepted at major hotels.

The local currency is the Ethiopian Birr (ETB), made up of 100 cents. Birr notes are available in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100. Visitors may import an unlimited amount of foreign currency but this must be declared on arrival to the customs authorities on the appropriate blue-colored form.

Foreign currency may only be exchanged at authorized banks and hotels, and a receipt must be obtained. Currency exchange on the black market is highly discouraged. Visitors may change back any surplus Ethiopian Birr to cash at the airport before departure.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL INFORMATION REGARDING ETHIOPIA

<http://www.ethiopianairlines.com/en/travel/traveltips.aspx>

<http://www.africaguide.com/country/ethiopia/info.htm>

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1113.html

<http://www.tourismethiopia.org/pages/travelinfo2.asp>