



Ethiopia
LAND OF ORIGINS

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VISIT ADDIS, AFRICA'S DIPLOMATIC CAPITAL



Ethiopia: Beacon for African Unity



Ethiopia, the Land of Origins, is where the seeds of Pan Africanism were first sown. As the only African country that defied colonialism, Ethiopia has long been a powerful inspiration for the founding fathers of the movement. Going beyond providing inspiration, the country also offered support and training to African freedom fighters including Nelson Mandela.

At the core of Pan-Africanism lies 'Ethiopianism', a movement based on the ideals of dignity and defiance. Notable figures such as Marcus Garvey and W.E.B. Du Bois drew inspiration from Ethiopia's defiance against colonial rule, which reinforced the idea of African unity. Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie further cemented the country's Pan-African legacy by advocating for African solidarity and independence in his speeches and actions, notably during the formation of the Organization of African Unity in 1963. Today, Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa hosts the headquarters of the African Union.

Ethiopia embodies the spirit of freedom, unity, and Pan-African resilience.

Welcome to Africa's Diplomatic Capital!

As the home of the African Union, Addis Ababa proudly stands as Africa's diplomatic capital, where leaders from across the continent convene annually to deliberate on key continental issues. The African Union's modern edifice is a prominent feature of Addis Ababa's skyline, symbolizing the city's vital role in African diplomacy.

Beyond hosting the African Union headquarters, Addis Ababa also boasts a unique blend of historic and contemporary attractions worth exploring. For history enthusiasts, the National Museum of Ethiopia, the National Palace and Adwa Victory Memorial provide a fascinating glimpse into Ethiopia's rich past. The newly developed recreational centers such as Unity Park, Entoto Park, and Friendship Park are ideal spots for visitors to unwind in the midst of serene nature. Addis is also undergoing a dramatic transformation thanks to the corridor project, which is expanding green spaces and upgrading the city's road infrastructure to a whole new level. From bustling outdoor markets to vibrant coffee shops, traditional restaurants, and jazz clubs, Addis has much more to offer visitors!

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www.visitethiopia.travel

To plan your visit, meet licensed tour operators via

www.etoa.travel and www.stoa-ethiopia.org

Enjoy your stay!



EXPLORE ADDIS

Addis Ababa, beyond its unique place in Africa, is home to a myriad of attractions. Addis offers a captivating mix of historical landmarks, vibrant public parks, bustling markets, cultural restaurants, and more. In this vibrant city, iconic museums like the National Museum—home to globally renowned fossil remains—stand alongside newly developed public parks, creating a refreshing and dynamic urban environment. Mercato, Africa's largest open-air market, is also a key highlight of Addis where nearly everything can be bought or sold. The city's lively coffee shops, cultural restaurants, and jazz clubs also provide visitors with the perfect opportunity to savor Ethiopian flavors, immerse in local culture, and create unforgettable memories.



Meskel Square

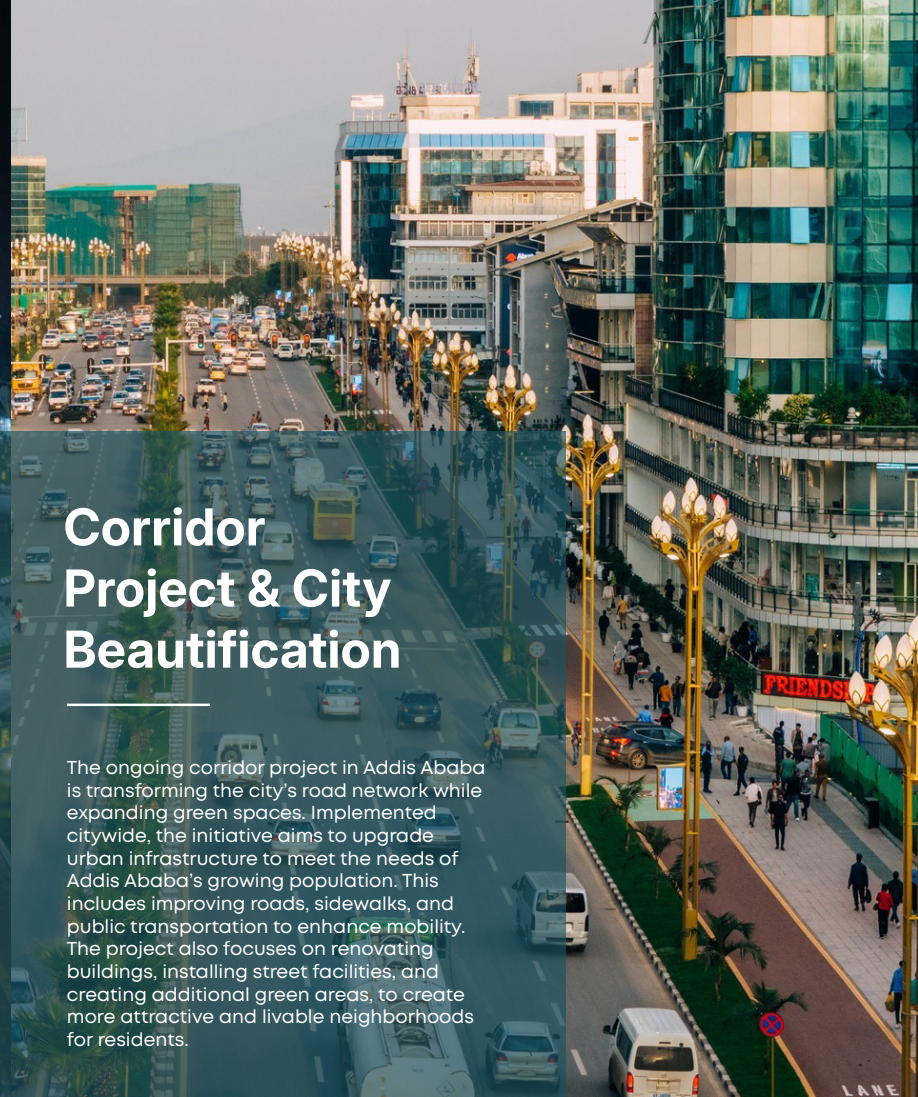
Meskel Square is a vibrant and historic public space in the heart of Addis Ababa. Known for its large open area, the square serves as a central hub for major public gatherings, parades, and celebrations. Its central location and expansive size make it an ideal venue for large-scale events, attracting thousands of people during public occasions. The square is particularly significant during the annual Meskel Festival, an Ethiopian Orthodox Christian holiday commemorating the discovery of the True Cross. Meskel Square underwent a major renovation a few years ago, equipping it with integrated facilities, including an underground parking space that accommodates up to 1,400 vehicles at a time. The renovation also included the installation of massive LED signboards and the addition of retail facilities.





Sustainable Urban Transformation in Addis

As a bustling metropolis and the heart of African diplomacy, Addis Ababa is undergoing a dramatic transformation befitting its stature. The city is rapidly modernizing while striving to preserve its unique character. Sustainable infrastructure projects are underway throughout the city, including the creation of green spaces and parks, as well as the redevelopment of slums. The Addis Ababa City Administration is actively building livable neighborhoods to improve the lives of the city's residents.



Corridor Project & City Beautification

The ongoing corridor project in Addis Ababa is transforming the city's road network while expanding green spaces. Implemented citywide, the initiative aims to upgrade urban infrastructure to meet the needs of Addis Ababa's growing population. This includes improving roads, sidewalks, and public transportation to enhance mobility. The project also focuses on renovating buildings, installing street facilities, and creating additional green areas, to create more attractive and livable neighborhoods for residents.

The National Museum of Ethiopia

The National Museum of Ethiopia is probably one of the standout museums in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of its numerous and priceless collections. The museum keeps important paleontological, historical, and cultural artifacts including the iconic 3.2 million year skeleton, Lucy, discovered in Ethiopia half a century ago.



The Palace Museum

The National Palace, a historic landmark in Addis Ababa, was built in 1955 to commemorate Emperor Haile Selassie's Silver Jubilee. Over the decades, the palace has served as the dwelling of Ethiopia's heads of state. More than just a building, the Jubilee Palace is a living relic, reflecting Ethiopia's royal heritage and an iconic feature of Addis Ababa's landscape. Recently, the palace underwent a restoration, initiated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), and reopened as a Palace Museum. The historic site now stands as one of the city's newest attractions.

EMERGING TOURIST SITES IN ADDIS



Entoto Park

Enclosed in a vast expanse of land at the peak of Addis Ababa, Entoto Park is one of the city's newest attractions initiated as part of the 'Dine for Sheger' projects. The mountain range that hosts the beautiful park is rightly dubbed 'The Lung of Addis Ababa' for the lush eucalyptus forest that covers the area, making the park especially ideal for visitors who are into nature. Thanks to the myriad of recreational facilities and the natural charm of the place, Entoto Park has become one of the must-visit parks in Addis. Some of its amenities include playing grounds, cinema, restaurants, cafes, artificial lake, art galleries, spas, sports centers and other facilities where visitors can enjoy a number of indoor and outdoor activities.



Adwa Victory Memorial

A Tribute to the Shining Victory of Ethiopians

Adwa Victory Memorial is the newest museum in Addis Ababa, showcasing the government's commitment to amplify the legacy of the Adwa Victory. The museum houses an array of statues, weapons, uniforms, and personal objects of Ethiopian patriots. This modern edifice also includes conference halls, multipurpose buildings, an amphitheater, and a library among others.





SCIENCE MUSEUM

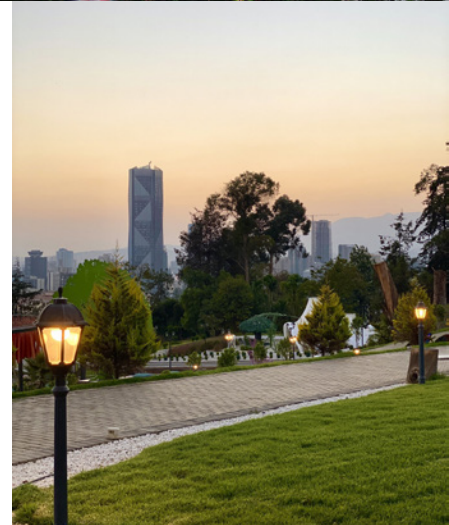
One of the newest additions to Addis Ababa's skyline, the Science Museum has become a prominent landmark in the city. The museum showcases facilities and exhibits that highlight innovations in healthcare, aviation, manufacturing, robotics, and more. It also features a three-dimensional installation of the solar system, along with various exhibits on space science technologies and other cutting-edge advancements.

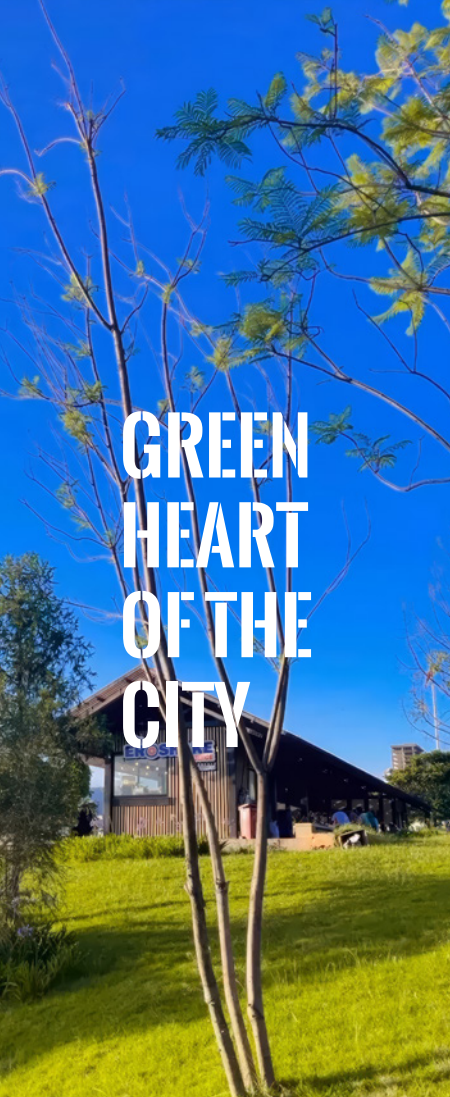
These are just some of the museums in Addis Ababa. For more, please visit

<https://visitethiopia.travel>

UNITY PARK

Located inside the Grand Palace at the heart of Addis Ababa, Unity Park features a bonanza of historical, natural and cultural attractions. Built as part of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's 'Dine for Sheger' scheme, the sprawling park includes recreational facilities such as zoos which harbor black-maned Ethiopian lions, ostriches, peacocks, cheetahs, wild dogs and gelada baboons, among others. From historical buildings dating back to the time of Emperor Menelik II, to different pavilions showcasing the unique cultures of Ethiopia, and an aquarium featuring a beautiful collection of aquatic animals, Unity Park offers quite a spectacle for tourists seeking a myriad of attractions in one place.





GREEN HEART OF THE CITY



FRIENDSHIP PARK

Friendship Park is a beautiful new park built a stone's throw away from the Grand Palace. This vast green space has stairways, running alongside meticulously designed flower belts crossing the park's hilly landscape. An artificial lake sheltering fish and ducks also sits at the center, adding beauty to the park, besides dancing water fountains which are open on special occasions. Friendship Park also has additional amenities for visitors to enjoy.



JAZZ Night

NIGHTLIFE IN ADDIS

One of Ethiopia's epic innovations, Ethio Jazz has a tradition going back to the 1950s. "Ethio-jazz," is a unique fusion of the eerie rhythms of ancient Ethiopian cultural music with the soulful undertones of jazz and the funky bounce of Afrobeat. Marked by eerie and ancient-sounding tones, typical of traditional Ethiopian music, Ethio-jazz also displays the undertones of soulful jazz. This innovative music genre is getting more and more popular among Ethiopians and international tourists alike. Mama's Kitchen around Wollo Sefer is the standout place in Addis to enjoy Jazz music to the fullest. There is also a scheduled performance at Ghion Hotel and few other places in town.



CULTURAL RESTAURANTS

Addis Ababa offers a diverse culinary scene, catering to a wide range of tastes. Cultural restaurants in the city treat guests to diverse cuisines which showcase distinct flavors from different parts of the country. While 'injera' is a staple in many Ethiopian households, dairy and meat products are more prominently featured in the diets of nomadic and semi-nomadic populations. The cuisine of the southern parts of Ethiopia revolves around the Enset plant, a versatile ingredient that serves as the base for numerous dishes. Besides cultural restaurants that serve popular local dishes, Addis Ababa also hosts restaurants that serve international cuisine including Italian, Indian, and Chinese dishes.

MARKETS & SOUVENIR SHOPPING



Merkato

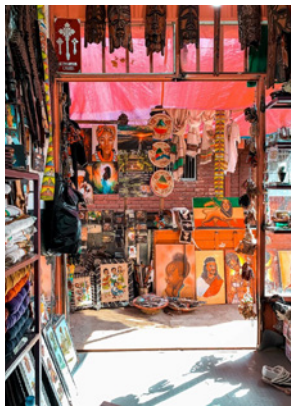
Africa's Largest Open Market

Located in the heart of Addis Ababa, Merkato is a dynamic and sprawling marketplace renowned as the largest in Africa. It is a vibrant center of trade where thousands of vendors sell a wide array of goods, from traditional Ethiopian spices and textiles to modern electronics and household items. The market is filled with the sounds of bargaining, the aroma of fresh coffee, and the sight of colorful fabrics. Merkato is not only a place for commerce but also a cultural melting pot, where people from different regions of Ethiopia converge, making it one of the must-visit places in the city.



Shiromeda

Located around Sidist Kilo area, Shiro Meda is a vibrant market that offers a unique shopping experience for those seeking authentic Ethiopian souvenirs. Unlike the bustling Mercato, Shiro Meda provides a more relaxed atmosphere to explore a wide range of traditional handicrafts and textiles. Visitors can immerse themselves in the colorful world of Ethiopian fashion, with stalls brimming with vibrant fabrics, intricately embroidered dresses, and stylish accessories. From the delicate handwoven scarves to the bold leather bags, there's something to suit every taste. In Shiro Meda, visitors can also find exquisite silver jewelry, hand-carved wooden sculptures, and colorful paintings that capture the essence of Ethiopia. The market is also a great place to purchase unique home decor items, such as woven baskets, colorful tapestries, and intricately patterned rugs.



Muya Ethiopia

Muya Ethiopia is renowned brand celebrated for its exquisite collection of handmade home decor and fashion accessories. It produces authentic, high-quality handmade home goods like cushion covers, runner rugs, and cotton throws. Tourists can watch the artisans at work in their workshop located around Sidist Kilo, and purchase these unique items as keepsakes. Founded with a vision to showcase the rich heritage of Ethiopian weaving, the company has become a global ambassador of the country's artistic prowess. By blending traditional techniques with contemporary designs, Muya creates stunning pieces that resonate with both local and international clientele.





Ker Ezhi

Known for its handcrafted leather products, Ker Ezhi Ethiopia is a leading company in Ethiopia's leather goods industry. It caters to both the local and international markets, transforming Ethiopia's finest leather into well-crafted products including bags, purses, and shoes. Ker Ezhi Ethiopia's products are available in various stores it operates in Addis Ababa, including its store in the duty-free zone at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport.



Tibeb Leather Works

Tibeb Leather Works is one of Ethiopia's emerging producers of high-quality leather products. The company serves both local and international markets, offering a diverse range of products, including bags, leather journals, accessories, and customized corporate stationery bundles. It is renowned for its high-quality, handcrafted leather items, created by skilled artisans. Tibeb's products are available for purchase at its stores located in the Bole Atlas and Sarbet areas of Addis Ababa.



For Extended Stays

BISHOFTU

Located just a short distance from Addis Ababa, Bishoftu is rapidly emerging as a popular tourist destination within the vicinity of Addis. Bishoftu boasts a number of lakes and stunning natural beauty which makes the stay of tourists enjoyable. The city's proximity to Addis Ababa makes it an ideal destination for weekend getaways or longer vacations. Its growing popularity is driving the development of new hotels, resorts, and recreational facilities, making it an increasingly attractive option for tourists.



ADAMA

Just a one-hour journey southeast of Addis Ababa is the dynamic city of Adama. Located in the Rift Valley, Adama offers a warmer escape from the cooler highlands. With its dry climate and abundant sunshine year-round, Adama is a cherished weekend retreat for visitors and residents alike. With its ample hotel accommodations, the city has also become a preferred conference center near Addis Ababa. In recent years, it has emerged as one of the leading destinations, particularly for MICE tourism.

Nature's Tranquil Escape

WONCHI-DENDI ECO-TOURISM

The breathtaking Wanchi Crater Lake, located 98 km west of Addis Ababa, has long been a tourist magnet. With the building of the Wanchi-Dendi Eco-lodge, a fresh air of eco-tourism has been breathed into this serene destination. The lodge has transformed the local community into active providers of tourist activities such as horse riding, pony trekking, and traditional boat riding. This sprawling eco-lodge features tukuls with local designs, presidential suites, meeting rooms, a restaurant, bar, wellness center, gym, and thermal pool.

UNESCO
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL
HERITAGES



Ethiopia's vibrant festivals, some recognized by UNESCO, beautifully showcase the nation's rich culture. These celebrations reflect its traditions and the warm hospitality of its people.

1. Meskel (registered in 2013)
2. Fichee-Chambalaalla (2015)
3. Gada System (2016)
4. Ethiopian Epiphany (2019)
5. Shuwalid Festival (2023)
6. Xeer Ciise (2024)



Meskel (registered in 2013)



Fichee-Chambalaalla (2015)



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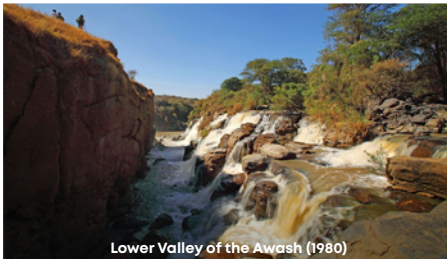
Shuwalid Festival (2023)



Xeer Ciise (2024)

Ethiopia's UNESCO World Heritage sites highlight its rich history and natural beauty. With ancient rock-carved wonders, historic cities filled with cultural depth, and breathtaking mountainous landscapes home to unique wildlife, these sites are a testament to the country's vibrant heritage.

1. Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela (1978)
2. Simien National Park (1978)
3. Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region (1979)
4. Aksum (1980)
5. Lower Valley of the Awash (1980)
6. Lower Valley of the Omo (1980)
7. Tiya (1980)
8. Harar Jugol, the Fortified Historic Town (2006)
9. Konso Cultural Landscape (2011)
10. Bale Mountains National Park (2023)
11. The Gedeo Cultural Landscape (2023)
12. Melka Kunture and Balchit (2024)



Lower Valley of the Awash (1980)



Lower Valley of the Omo (1980)



Tiya (1980)



Harar Jugol, the Fortified Historic Town (2006)



Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (1978)



Simien National Park (1978)



Konso Cultural Landscape (2011)



Bale Mountains National Park (2023)



Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region (1979)



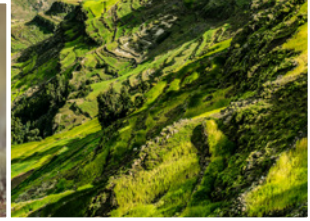
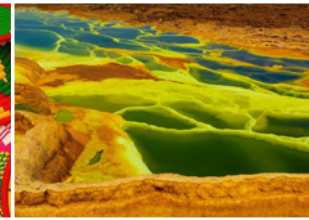
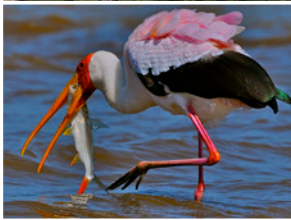
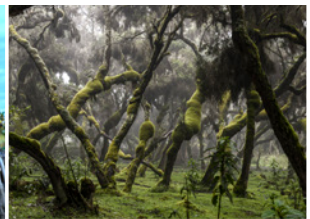
Aksum (1980)



The Gedeo Cultural Landscape (2023)



Melka Kunture and Balchit (2024)





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