



Ethiopia Private Photographic Expedition

Endemic Mammals & Ethnic Diversity

Omo Valley

Lalibela Extension



Oryx Ethiopia Private Photographic Exploration

Simply put, Ethiopia is undoubtedly one of Africa's most productive, rewarding and off the beaten track photographic destinations. Awe-inspiring scenery, photogenic and approachable birds and mammals, plus some striking ancient buildings and cultures, make Ethiopia a photographer's dream! This Ethiopia Photographic expedition will allow you the opportunity to encapsulate these exceptional scenes and wildlife on camera. To boot, you will be exposed to the kaleidoscope of cultures that grace this ancient land, and all of these factors combine will ensure a truly fascinating experience. The spectacular scenery, fascinating history, diverse cultures and astonishing wildlife make Ethiopia an essential expedition, and for many of our guides this remains their top destination in Africa! It is also unlike ANY other destination! Where else in Africa can you see wolves?

Your photographic highlights...

Bale National Park:

- The world's rarest canid, the Ethiopian Wolf
- Incredible landscape photography
- Giant Mole

Simien Mountains:

- The endangered Walia Ibex
- Troops of Gelada Baboon - (one of the world's great primate photography experiences)
- The Simien Mountains Massif, rising to the highest point in Ethiopia, Ras Dejen (4,620m)

Gondar:

- Medieval Castles
- Debre Birhan Selassie Church - the walls and ceiling are completely covered with murals

Omo Valley Extension:

- Visiting one of the world's most remote tribal areas that very few people have ever visited and photographed.
- Experiencing the unique and isolated cultures of the Lower Omo Valley, including the tribal people of the Mursi, Karo and Hamar villages during our travels.
- Journeying by privately chartered aircraft and 4x4 vehicles to extremely remote outposts in true expedition style.

Lalibela Extension:

- Churches of Lalibela
- Rich, colourful landscapes
- Local Pilgrims

Your expedition at a glance...

Tour Dates

Endemic Mammals, Ethnic Diversity :
Omo Valley Expedition:
Lalibela Extension:

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Tour Price	Endemic Mammals & Ethnic Diversity : US\$TBA sharing (see below) Single supplement is US\$TBA per person Omo Valley Extension: : US\$TBA per person sharing (see below) Single Supplement is US\$TBA per person Lalibela Extension: US\$TBA per person sharing (see below)
Tour Size	Limited to 6 participants and 1 Oryx leader, Greg du Toit

	<u>Main Tour</u>
<u>Day 1,</u>	<u>Arrival Addis Ababa (Sheraton Hotel)</u>
<u>Day 2,</u>	<u>Charter flight to Goba. Drive to Sodata (Camping in Bale Mountain National Park)</u>
<u>Day 3,</u>	<u>Drive to Senette (Camping in Bale Mountain National Park)</u>
<u>Day 4,</u>	<u>Senette (Camping in Bale Mountain National Park)</u>
<u>Day 5,</u>	<u>Charter flight to Addis Ababa (Sheraton Hotel)</u>
<u>Day 6,</u>	<u>Fly to Gondar and drive to Simien Mt. National Park (Simien Lodge)</u>
<u>Day 7,</u>	<u>Simien Mountain National Park (Simien Lodge)</u>
<u>Day 8,</u>	<u>Simien Mountain National Park (Simien Lodge)</u>
<u>Day 9,</u>	<u>Gondar (Gohar Hotel)</u>
<u>Day 10,</u>	<u>Gondar to Addis Ababa (Sheraton Hotel)</u>
	<u>Omo Valley Extension</u>
<u>Day 11,</u>	<u>Addis Ababa to Jinka (Omo Eco Lodge)</u>
<u>Day 12,</u>	<u>Mago National Park (Omo Eco Lodge)</u>
<u>Day 13,</u>	<u>Jinka to Turmi (Buska Lodge)</u>
<u>Day 14,</u>	<u>Turmi (Buska Lodge)</u>
<u>Day 15,</u>	<u>Turmi (Buska Lodge)</u>
<u>Day 16,</u>	<u>Turmi to Addis Ababa and Depart or Overnight in Addis if you join on the Lalibela extension</u>
	<u>Lalibela Extension</u>
<u>Day 17,</u>	<u>Addis Ababa to Lalibela (Roha or similar 3* Hotel)</u>
<u>Day 18,</u>	<u>Lalibela (Roha or similar 3* Hotel)</u>
<u>Day 19,</u>	<u>Lalibela and Fly to Addis Ababa and Depart for Final Destination</u>

Your expedition in detail...

Day 1: Arrival Addis Ababa

On arrival in Addis Ababa and completing customs and immigration formalities at the Bole International Airport, our representative will meet you outside the baggage hall. You will then be transferred to the group hotel by private car.

*Overnight 5 * Sheraton Hotel*

Day 2, Addis Ababa to Sodota (Bale Mountain National Park)



After breakfast, we depart from Addis Ababa on a private charter flight to Goba. Upon arrival at Goba we will transfer to our vehicles and drive towards the Bale Mountain National Park, the largest area of Afro-Alpine habitat on the whole of the African continent!

Our first overnight stop is at Sodota campsite, which is one of the best places to spot and

photograph the elusive Ethiopian Wolf. Sodota is located on a rocky outcrop in the valley with the escarpment in the background – a thoroughly picturesque setting for the start of our photographic expedition! En route we will pass through the lovely waterfall of Finch’a Bera, taking time to appreciate the breathtaking scenery, before crossing the Katera Plains and proceeding to Sodota for our overnight stop. The Sodota campsite is beautifully situated in a little valley with a huge escarpment in the background. The camp is also next to the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Project refuge hut (3,500m) and is an excellent base for wolf photography as the valley here is home to several wolf packs. In addition to the ideal photographic opportunities for Ethiopian Wolf, we also have a good chance of for Giant Molerats (the wolf’s favorite prey), Rock Hyrax, Mountain Nyala, Warthog, Olive Baboon, Menelik’s Bushbuck and Bohor Reedbuck, not to mention the stately Wattled Crane and many species of raptor.

Overnight Camping in Sodota (Please note the camping is NOT equivalent to the Safari styled camping tents which you find in East and South Africa. However this is the most practical and best accommodation in or around Bale Mountain National Park. We will make the camping as comfortable as possible)



Day 3 & 4, Sodota to Senette - Bale Mountain National Park

For the next two days our photographic target here will be the plateau’s most celebrated resident, the Ethiopian or Simien Wolf, crowned with the unenviable title of “the world’s rarest canid.”

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Watching these vibrantly colored animals, most closely related to the European Timber Wolf, exhibiting their hunting prowess whilst pouncing on Giant Molerats (another endemic to the Sanetti Plateau), is surely amongst Africa's greatest wildlife experiences. We should enjoy excellent photographic opportunities in this unique mountain wonderland.

Bale Mountains contains three distinct eco-regions: the northern plains, bush and woods; the central Sanetti Plateau with an average elevation of over 4000 meters; and the southern Hareenna Forest, known for its mammals, amphibians and birds including many endemic species. The central Sanetti Plateau is home to the largest population of Ethiopian Wolves. Incredibly, the grasslands here are estimated to support an amazing biomass of 4,000kg of rodents per hectare! Of special interest is the Giant Molerat, a large species that feeds above ground in the daylight and makes hefty craterlike depressions. It only partly emerges from these holes as it feeds the edges. Later it blocks the entrance with soil and vegetation, and then digs to a new crater nearby to feed there. These large numbers of rodents in turn support not only the healthy Ethiopian Wolf population in the high plateau area, but also numerous birds of prey.



We will also include time to take excursions to the Hareenna Forest. This remarkable forest is the largest intact forest block in Ethiopia and the largest protected

Afro-alpine forest on the continent. It still supports populations of Lion and the only surviving forest-dwelling African Wild Dog.

Although unlikely that we will see either of these species, the descent through this breathtakingly beautiful, moss-draped forest is inspirational.

Overnight Camping in Senette (Please note the camping is NOT equivalent to the Safari styled camping tents which you find in East and South Africa. However this is the most practical and best accommodation in or around Bale Mountain National Park. We will make the camping as comfortable as possible)

Day 5: Senette to Addis Ababa

After breakfast, we will depart on a private charter flight back to Addis Ababa (***this is the most cost effective routing due to extremely high charter flights costs between the Southern and the Northern parts of Ethiopia***).

Depending on our arrival time back into Addis Ababa, we will take a private trip into town and visit the largest open-air market in Africa – called Merkato. Here you will be presented with confusing, but fascinating, glimpses of the vast range of goods and artifacts available from all parts of the country, as well as experience the traditional Ethiopian trade exchange in the open air, where you can literally purchase anything you desire!

There are also a number of fascinating museums and churches within the city centre to explore. One of these is the National Museum, which is famous for its hominid fossil remains of 'Lucy', locally known as 'Dinknesh' (meaning wonderful).



*Overnight 5 * Sheraton Hotel*

Day 6: Addis Ababa to the Simien Mountain National Park

After a hearty breakfast, we will transfer to the airport and fly to Gondar. On arrival in Gondar we will meet our driver and depart for the Simien Mountains. Every journey into these wilderness mountains is a photogenic wonder. The spectacular highlands of Simien Mountains National Park are havens for endemic and endangered species and our photographic targets here is without a doubt the Walia Ibex and the Gelada Baboon. These verdant moorlands encompass the largest single area of Afro alpine habitat in the world, forming "an island of mountains in a sea of lowlands", truly a photographer's dream destination.

*Overnight 3+ * Simien Lodge*

Day 7 & 8: Simien Mountain National Park

The next two days will be spent exploring and photographing the legendary Simien Mountains and its unique inhabitants. At Simien Mountains National Park we are presented with some of the most dramatic scenery in Africa – great volcanic plugs formed 40 million years ago and eroded over the

Oryx Ethiopia Private Photographic Exploration

eons into fantastic crags, pinnacles and flat-topped mountains – “the chess pieces of the Gods”, as one writer aptly described them. This dramatic topography is a result of the erosion of basalt lavas nearly 10,000 feet thick. Fissures in the dense basalt were carved by countless floods that poured into them, creating “bottomless” gorges and incising an incredible array of jagged rock formations reminiscent of America's Grand Canyon and Namibia's Fish River Canyon.

Amidst beautiful alpine meadows punctuated with giant lobelias and flowering “red hot poker” (*Kniphofias*) we will find ourselves surrounded by massive troops of extremely photogenic (and docile) Gelada Baboons and thrill to the head-butting battles of Walia Ibex rams preparing for the breeding season. Spectacular lammergeyers cruise the sky against a breathtaking backdrop of high wilderness peaks.

The Ibex is a large goat-like creature that sports a monstrous set of horns and inhabits the rugged rocky and grassy slopes of this seldom-visited region. Gradually the numbers of these animals are recovering since the area has been protected and greater awareness has been created around them.



Troops of Geladas, up to four hundred strong, thrive here, and we will spend quality time observing and photographing these unique and fascinating primates. With long woolly capes, tasseled tails, bare red chests and an arrogant swagger, these remaining relics of once widespread grass-eating baboon are now restricted to the highlands of Ethiopia.



Geladas roost on the massive cliffs that dominate this park, but spend their days hunched over the grasses that form the bulk of their diet. Despite sporting massive canines (the largest in proportion to body size of any mammal!), Geladas are non-aggressive and, with patience, we should find ourselves amongst a troop of these gentle animals as they concentrate on their foraging. Here we may be treated to a formidable lip-flip

– the imposing grimace put on by Geladas to reveal their impressive upper jaw and canines, but will more likely be completely ignored as they go about their daily business. Geladas are extremely vocal, being able to pronounce all nouns and five of our seven vowels!

Other attractions in the area include several species of birds found in the Bale Mountains further south, including Rouget's Rail, Chestnut-naped Francolin, Spot-breasted Lapwing, Abyssinian Longclaw and Ethiopian Siskin. Ethiopian Wolf may also be found parading around this beautiful landscape, although they have suffered due to various diseases passed on from domestic dogs.

Overnight 3+ Simien Lodge*

Day 9: Simien Mountains to Gondar

After a short photographic excursion or a relaxed morning enjoying the views, we return to Gondar.

Gondar – the “Camelot of Ethiopia” – is a city noted for its many medieval castles and the design and decoration of its churches. Between 1632 and 1855 Gondar served as Ethiopia's capital city and it remains one of the country's richest areas in terms of culture, history and natural beauty. There is plenty of Islamic and Christian influence in the architecture of the city, which is built at around 2,500 metres above sea level. Gondar commands spectacular views over farmlands to the gleaming waters of Lake Tana 35 kilometers to the south.

We will spend the afternoon exploring the Royal Enclosure and its buildings and the nearby bath of King Fasiledes (where modern-day Timkat ceremonies are performed). Surrounded by a 300-foot-long wall, the fortress is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The oldest and most impressive structure is the two-story palace of Emperor Fasilidas, built of solid basalt stones. Other royal buildings we



visit include the library of Emperor Yohannes I, the House of Song where royal ceremonies took place, the elegant reception and banquet hall of Emperor Bakaffa, and the palace of this king's wife.

Finally, we will take some time to view the Church of Debre Birhan Selassie, an imposing structure with its harmony of brightly colored ceilings completely covered with intricately painted angels.

*Overnight 3+*Goha Hotel or Similar*

Day 10: Gondar to Addis Ababa

After breakfast we take a scheduled flight back to Addis Ababa. Depending on our arrival time into Addis Ababa today, we will take a private trip into town and visit the largest open-air market in Africa – the Merkato. Here you will be presented with confusing, but fascinating,

glimpses of the vast range of goods and artifacts available from all parts of the country, as well as experiencing the traditional Ethiopian trade exchange in the open air, where you can literally purchase anything you desire! There are also a number of fascinating museums and churches within the city centre to explore. One of these is the National Museum, which is famous for its hominid fossil remains of 'Lucy', locally known as 'Dinknesh' (meaning wonderful). Alternatively, you are welcome to simply relax at the Sheraton Hotel and enjoy the splendid facilities on offer.

Overnight 5 Sheraton Hotel*

Omo Valley Extension...

Day 11: Addis Ababa to Jinka (Mursi Tribe)

After breakfast, we depart from Addis Ababa on a private charter flight to the market town of Jinka – the tribal crossroads for local trade that attracts many diverse peoples from the far reaches of the surrounding area.

Deep into the parched bush, far from any city, Ethiopia's lower Omo Valley is truly a lost world. To this day, the valley remains rich in traditional culture and human history. Upon arrival at Omo Eco Lodge we will check in and have lunch before departing for Mago National Park. The Mursi tribe lives within and between the Omo and Mago NPs, which include most of their best agricultural and grazing land. The Mursi, with an estimated population of around 3900 people, are Sub-Saharan African nomadic cattle herder people located deep within the Omo valley. Surrounded by mountains and rivers, the home of the Mursi is one of the most isolated areas of the country.

Our lodge for the next two nights is located in the heart of the Omo Valley. Here we can enjoy the beauty of this region as well as experience something truly unique, with front seat views into the life of Ethiopia's untouched tribes! This is a wonderful photographic introduction to the events to come!



*Overnight 3*Omo Eco Lodge*

Day 12: Mago National Park (Mursi Tribe – we will have a morning and afternoon excursion)

We have an early morning start as we enter Mago National Park at 06:00 in order to reach the Mursi Tribe while the light is still soft. Most famous for the clay lip plates that the women insert in their lower lips, the Mursi are probably one of the last tribes in Africa amongst whom it is still the norm for women to wear these large pottery or wooden discs or plates.



The lip plate (*dhebi a tugoin*) has become the chief visible distinguishing characteristic of the fascinating Mursi people. A girl's lower lip is cut, typically by her mother or another woman of her settlement, when she reaches the age of 15 or 16. The cut is then held open by a wooden plug until the wound heals. It appears to be up to the individual girl to decide how far to stretch the lip, which she does by inserting

progressively larger plugs over several months. Some girls even persevere until their lips can take plates of 5 inches (12 cm) or more in diameter!

The Mursi and their neighbors became part of the Ethiopian State in the final years of the 19th century, when Emperor Menelik II established control over the southwestern lowlands bordering Kenya and Sudan. This was an area inhabited by several small tribes with fluid identities, highly adaptable to environmental conditions and capable of easily absorbing outsiders into their communities. The Mursi as we know them today are the product of a large-scale migratory movement of cattle herding peoples in the general direction of the Ethiopian highlands. Three separate movements may be distinguished in the recent history of the Mursi, each the result of



growing environmental pressure associated with the drying out of the Omo basin over the last 150-200 years.

The Mursi attribute overwhelming cultural importance to cattle. Almost every significant social relationship – particularly marriage – is marked and authenticated by exchanging cattle.

The “Bridewealth” (ideally consisting of 38 head of cattle) is handed over by the groom’s family to the bride’s father, who must meet the demands of a wide range of relatives from different clans. This ensures that cattle are continually redistributed around the community, thereby helping to provide for the long-term economic security of individuals as well as their families.

Overnight 3 Omo Eco Lodge*

Day 13: Jinka to Turmi (Hamar Tribe)



After breakfast, we depart by road towards Turmi, home of the Hamar Tribe. We will photograph along the way before reaching Buska Lodge at around lunchtime; our accommodation for the next 3 nights. Situated in the heart of Southern Ethiopia, Buska Lodge is an unpretentious eco-lodge offering the best accommodation and service in the region. The location is ideal for photographing both the Hamar as well as the Karo Tribes, our main photographic subjects during our stay here.

In the afternoon we will take a short walk to a nearby Hamar village and spend the afternoon capturing images of these fascinating people. The Hamar people are a tribe of subsistence agro-pastoralists who have been described as the most beautiful and dignified people in the valley. Along with the other local tribes, cattle are the focus of their cultural and socioeconomic existence, although bee

keeping also forms an important aspect of their culture.

Overnight 3+ Buska Lodge*



Days 14 & 15: Turmi – Hamar and Karo Tribes *(Please note that we do not have a fixed schedule for the next 2 days. Instead, your guide will assess daily which tribe is the best to photograph according to your particular photographic requirements.)*

We will spend the following 2 days photographing 2 of the most colorful tribes in the Omo Valley, the Hamar and the Karo. The Hamar is one of the most well known tribes in Southern Ethiopia.



They inhabit the territory east of the Omo River and have villages in both Turmi and Dimeka.



They are especially well-known for their unique rituals, including a cattle-leaping ceremony that the young men have to undergo in order to reach adulthood and to marry. They are a highly 'superstitious' people, and to this day they consider twins to be babies born outside of wedlock, while children whose upper milk teeth develop before their lower teeth are deemed to be 'evil' or 'unclean'.

For this reason, such children are discarded in the bush and simply left to die, as they would rather lose a single child than inflict any disaster upon their community. The Hamar people are also known for one of the most bizarre rituals on Earth. This is when the women allow themselves to be whipped by the male members of their family as a symbol of their love! The scars of such encounters are conspicuously evident on the bodies of all Hamar women.

These women take great pride in their appearance and wear traditional dresses consisting of a brown goatskin skirt adorned with dense vertical rows of red and yellow beads. Their hair is characteristically fixed in dense ringlets with butterfat mixed with red ochre. They also wear many bracelets and necklaces fashioned of beads or metal, depending on their age, wealth and marital status. The men wear woven cloth



Oryx Ethiopia Private Photographic Exploration

wrapped around the waist and many elders wear delicately colored clay head caps that are fashioned into their hair and adorned with an ostrich feather.

As mentioned, the young Hamar men are famous for their “Evangadi dance” and “Bull jumping” ceremony. This ritual entails young men who wish to marry jumping over a line of bulls, thereby proving their worth to their intended bride’s family. It also signifies their advent into adulthood.



Here, in the heart of the Omo Valley, we also find another tribe known for its elaborate body and face paintings, the Karo. These people live along the east bank of the Omo River and practice flood retreat cultivation, their main crops being maize, sorghum and beans. Unlike the other tribes, they keep only a small number of cattle due to the prevalence of tsetse flies. Like many of the tribes in the Omo, they paint their bodies and faces with white chalk to prepare for any ceremonies. The chalk is mixed with yellow rock, red iron ore and charcoal to make its requisite color. Facemasks are worn at times and they have clay hair buns adorned with feathers.

Scarification is also an important part in the Karo people’s lives. This includes the complete scarification of a man’s chest with which to indicate that he has killed an enemy or dangerous animal. (Amongst the Karo, killing one’s enemies isn’t viewed as an act of murder, but as an act of honor!) This scarification process involves lightly slicing the skin with knives or razor blades and then rubbing ash into the open wounds to produce a permanently raised effect. The Karo women have decoratively-scarred abdomens, which are considered sensual and very desirable.

*Overnight 3+*Buska Lodge*

Day 16: Turmi to Addis Ababa

After breakfast, we will spend our last morning capturing our final images of the nearby Hamar

people. Thereafter we will take a private charter flight back to Addis Ababa.

Lalibela Extension...

Day 17: Addis Ababa to Lalibela

After breakfast, we will transfer to the airport and take a scheduled flight to Lalibela, home to the 12th century hand-carved rock churches of King Lalibela (1181 - 1221), after whom the town is named.

Lalibela is an ancient world, including 11 magnificent, medieval, rock-hewn churches, dimly lit passageways and hidden crypts and grottoes carved into the red volcanic rock underlying this remote Ethiopian town constructed almost millennia ago by the Zagwe dynasty. Today that world remains, frozen in stone.

After lunch at the hotel we will begin an afternoon of exploration at the first group churches of Lalibela (UNESCO World Heritage Site) which are found northeast of a stream named the 'River Jordan'

The first groups of churches are:

The twin churches of Bet Debre Sina and Golgotha with Selassie Chapel

Bet Medhane Alem (House of the Redeemer of the World)

Bet Mariam (the house of St. Mary)

Bet Meskel (the house of Cross)

Bet Danagil (the house of Virgins)

Overnight 3+ Roha Hotel or Similar*

Day 18: Lalibela

In the morning we will take a mule ride to the hilltop semi monolithic church of Asheten Mariam. This 13th century monastery is situated about 8 km from Lalibela and is built on a ridge at an altitude of 3150 metres. The steep road to this monastery has very beautiful scenery and is truly rewarding to experience. The hilltop here offers excellent views over the surrounding countryside, including the town of Lalibela.

In the afternoon we will visit the second and the third group of churches of Lalibela

Bet Gabriel- Raphael (The house of Archangels)

Bet Mercurious (House of Mercurious)

Bet Lehem (the chapel of Bethlehem)

Bet Emanuel (the house of Emanuel)

Bet Aba Libanose (the house of Aba Libanose)

Bet Ghiorgis (the house of St. George)

Overnight 3+ Roha Hotel or Similar*

Day 19: Lalibela to Addis Ababa and Depart for Final Destination

After breakfast, we will transfer to the airport and take a scheduled flight back to Addis Ababa, from where we will depart to our final destinations.

“Testing, awe-inspiring and heartbreaking – a journey you’ll never forget. You don’t explore Ethiopia for a relaxing getaway; you venture here to be moved!” Lonely Planet.

Financial Arrangements...

If you are interested in booking a photographic safari, please contact our agent, **Travel on Q** who will discuss your exact requirements upon which the final price will be based.

- The fee for the **Ethiopia - Endemic Mammals & Ethnic Diversity** is **US\$TBA** based on per person sharing in double occupancy, starting and ending in Addis Ababa. The single supplement is **US\$TBA**
- The fee for the **Omo Valley Extention** is **US\$TBA** based on per person sharing in double occupancy, starting and ending in Addis Ababa. The single supplement is **US\$TBA**
- The fee for the **Lalibela Extension**, based on per person in double occupancy, is **US\$TBA** based on 2 people joining on the extension starting and ending in Addis Ababa.

Tour price includes:

Main Tour:

- All lodgings as per the itinerary;
- **All internal charter flights included charter flight Addis Ababa - Goha - Addis Ababa**
- **All internal scheduled flights including Addis Ababa - Gondar - Addis Ababa;**
- All meals;
- All beverages;
- All ground transportation;
- Entrance Fees to National Parks;
- Gratuities for local guides, porters and services;
- Full camping gear with tents, cots, mattress, blanket, sleeping bags, generator, shower bag, mobile toilet etc;
- Professional cook for camping days;
- Portage Fees;
- Laundry;
- Local guide and scout fees;
- Photographic Fees in National Parks; and
- Hands on Photographic Tutoring by Oryx Leader

Omo Valley Extention:

- All lodgings as per the itinerary;
- **All internal charter flights included charter flight – Addis Ababa - Jinka – & Turmi - Addis Ababa**

Oryx Ethiopia Private Photographic Exploration

- All meals;
- All beverages;
- All ground transportation;
- Entrance Fees to National Parks;
- Gratuities for local guides and services;
- Laundry;
- Local guide and scout fees;
- Photographic Fees in the Omo Valley;
- Photographic Fees in National Parks; and
- Hands on Photographic Tutoring by Oryx Leader & Award Winning Photographer Greg du Toit.

Lalibela Extention:

- All lodgings as per the itinerary;
- **All internal scheduled flights – Addis Ababa – Lalibela - Addis Ababa**
- All meals;
- All beverages;
- All ground transportation;
- Entrance Fees to National Parks;
- Gratuities for local guides and services;
- Laundry;
- Local guide and scout fees;
- Photographic Fees in the Lalibela;
- Photographic Fees in National Parks; and
- Hands on Photographic Tutoring by Oryx Leader & Award Winning Photographer Greg du Toit.

And excludes:

- **International flights, taxes and visa costs;**
- Travel Insurance;
- Personal expenses such as souvenirs, telephone calls and other items of a personal nature.

IMPORTANT:

- a) Due to the nature of this expedition, our accommodations are very basic, 3* in European standards, but they are the best available in this remote region and prove the most convenient access to these dramatic landscapes and fascinating wildlife. In Addis Ababa you will be staying in the 5* Star Sheraton Hotel.
- b) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we now quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold (US\$), and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 3 months before the tour.) Approximate domestic flight (where applicable) and single supplement rates have been converted to US\$ but are also subject to exchange rate movements.
- c) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration (a

minimum of 3 paying participants) a small party supplement will have to be charged.

- d) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.
- e) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

TIPPING:

As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, porters, restaurants etc) are included on this Oryx tour. However you this does NOT include your Oryx leader. If, therefore, you feel that he has given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip him.

Please Note:

- It can be very hot in some areas, especially in the extreme south, while the highland areas can get very cold, particularly at night, and light rain may be experienced in the Bale Mountains.
- On our visits to the Bale Mountains we get up to 4,200m (13,780ft) above sea level; walking and photography is done at this altitude.
- The food in Ethiopia is generally fairly basic and consists of both western and local cuisine. We will also enjoy “bush breakfasts and lunches” on the side of the road while in good photographic areas. This will occur mainly in the remote south and north of the country and will be prepared by our very able drivers. Although rather basic, these meals are often a highlight of any tour to Ethiopia!
- It can be very hot in the extreme south of the Omo Valley.
- There are several long, day drives on this Ethiopia trip, but we will take regular rest and photographic stops to break the long journeys.
- Accommodation throughout the trip is generally comfortable but basic in some areas. **Please note that the hotels that we make use of are usually the most suitable (locality-wise) and the best available accommodations in most of the areas that we visit (exceptions are in Addis where we will be staying in the 5* Sheraton).**
- The people of the Omo Valley may act hostile at times; you local guide and photographic leader will deal with the local people, especially with regards to photographing them. It is important to note that prior permission is necessary before capturing any images of any individual. This will also entail a small payment per photo taken, which your guide will negotiate on your behalf beforehand.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

Main tour: Day 1 is scheduled as an arrival day for the tour, so you are welcome to arrive at any time on this day. The tour will conclude in Addis Ababa at around lunch time on day 10.

Omo Valley Extention: Day 11 is scheduled as an arrival day for the tour, so you are welcome to

Oryx Ethiopia Private Photographic Exploration

arrive at any time on this day. The tour will conclude in Addis Ababa at around lunch time on day 16.

Lalibela Extension: The extension will commence after breakfast on day 17 from Addis Ababa, and will conclude in Addis Ababa on day 19. Further meeting details in this regard will be forwarded to you in due course.

PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late for either the main tour or the extension and would like assistance or advice in this regard, kindly contact the Oryx office.

FLIGHTS:

Bole Airport in Addis Ababa is the main port of entry for international flights into Ethiopia and is well serviced by British Airways and Ethiopian Airways. We have the capacity to advise you on the best route according to your preferences, but your local travel agent will best be able to book these flights for you. If you would like further assistance kindly contact the Oryx office, we have a full-time in-house travel consultant that will happily help you plan your route. However, please **DO NOT** book your international flights until you have consulted the Oryx office for confirmation on the status of the tour.

PLEASE NOTE:

- A related issue is that in all areas that contain potentially dangerous animals, you are confined to the vehicle and are, quite understandably, not allowed to exit.

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Worldwide Photographic Expeditions

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