

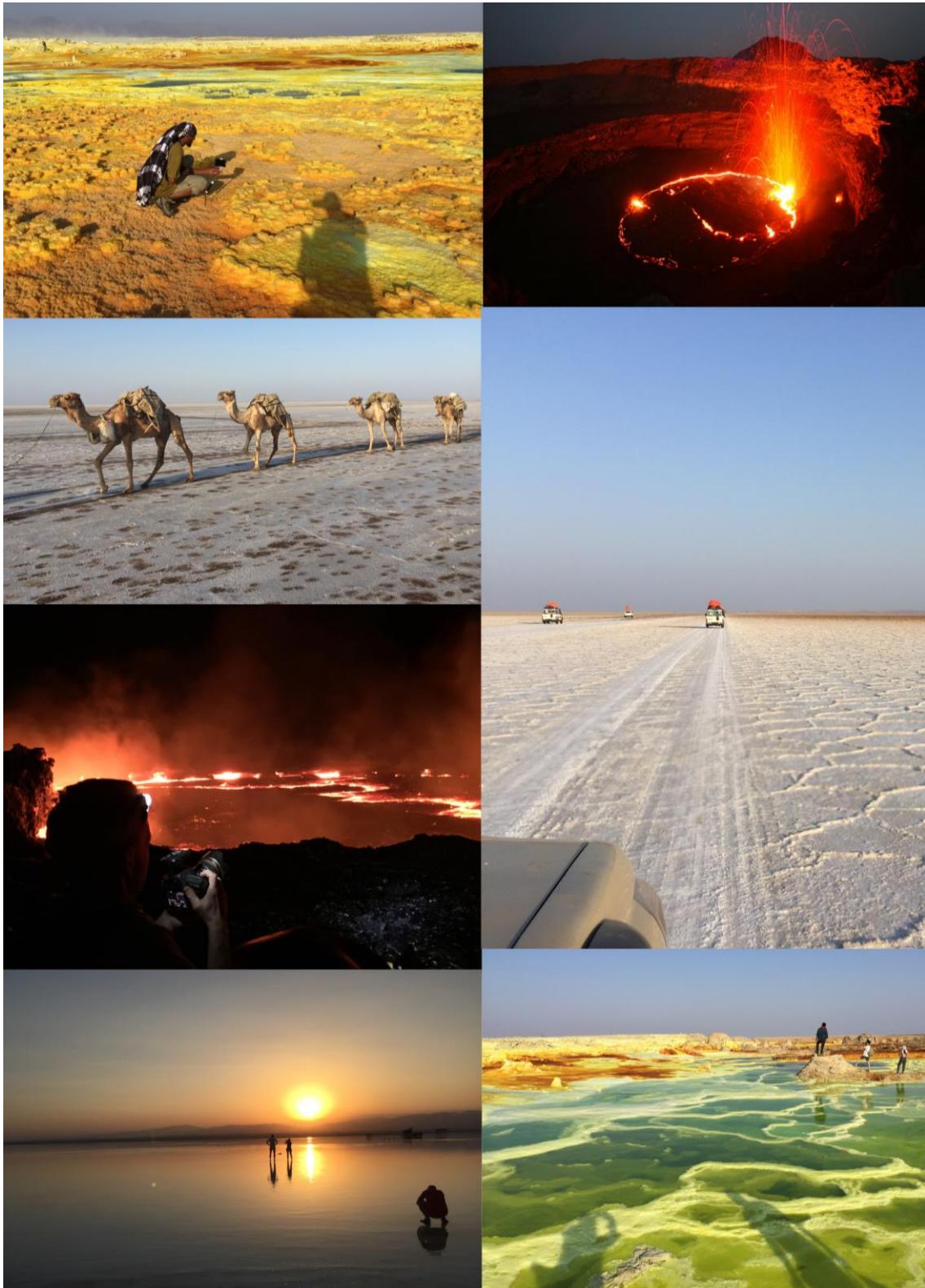


# Danakil

## *5 day expedition*

Rastafari.Travel

A spectacular journey to the end of the world: witness Jah creation in its most dramatic form





# Danakil

## 5 day expedition

Rastafari.Travel

### Introduction

The Danakil Depression is a geographic area located in the far north East of Ethiopia and is probably one of the most remote places in the world. The area consists of empty deserts, salt lakes, bizarre mineral landscapes, and even an active volcano. Exclusively for our guests, we organize private expeditions to this remote place. The expeditions start from the city of *Mekele* in the north of Ethiopia and last four days. We move around in a convoy of 4x4 land cruisers and discover all corners of the area, including a hike to *Erta Ale*, an active volcano. Chances are good you can look straight in the boiling lava filled caldera!

Danakil is so remote and weather conditions are so extreme (it is known to be the hottest place on earth), that the Ethiopian government has banned all travel there except for convoys organized by specially licensed operators. We work with one of these operators and we travel in a group with an extra car with water and supplies, and police protection. It is important to know that there are no hotels or other facilities in this region. We sleep out in the open air. For our group, we will bring a Rastafari chef who makes Ital food.

### Travel information

Price: € 689 / \$ 800 per person\*

\* based on discounted domestic flights. Contact us for information.

#### Included:

- Complete four-day expedition to Danakil
- Addis Ababa – Mekele by public transport (Selam bus)  
*Alternative: domestic flight, it will save you a full day driving*
- Mekele – Addis Ababa by domestic flight
- Transport in 4x4 Landcruiser with experienced driver
- English speaking tour leader and professional local guide
- One night in Mekele in a proper hotel
- Sleeping bags and all materials
- All meals and water included on the expedition (we use a Rasta chef and offer Ital food!)
- All entrance fees, taxes, and surcharges included

#### Not included

- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages
- Tips and gratitudes



# Danakil

## 5 day expedition

Rastafari.Travel

### Program

#### Day 1

Early in the morning, around 5 am, you leave with the Selam Bus from Addis Ababa to the city of *Mekele* in the far north of Ethiopia. The Selam bus is a luxury bus used in Ethiopia for long distance travel. It will be a long ride, from early in the morning to late afternoon. But on the way you can enjoy the stunning beauty of the landscape of northern Ethiopia. The bus will make a few stops (also for lunch), and on arrival in Mekele our local staff member will meet you and take you to a comfortable hotel where you can have a good night sleep and prepare for the Danakil expedition.

Accommodation:

Desta Hotel of similar

Meals:

-



#### Day 2

After a good breakfast you will be picked up at the hotel and introduced with the driver who will drive you around for the next 4 days. Be nice to him, he is responsible for your life! We leave the city and after we have passed the green countryside of the Tigray province we enter *Afar*, the most remote region of Ethiopia. You'll see the landscape changing from green hills into desert wasteland. We pass a small dessert town where we have lunch, and then we head into the Danakil Depression. We drive straight into a huge salt desert. As far as the eye can reach you'll see empty lands covered with salt. Almost nothing can live here, only people from the Afar tribe who live of the salt mining. We make some stops at beautiful viewpoints, and spend the night in the open air. Our Rasta chef will make a simple but proper meal.





# Danakil

## 5 day expedition

Rastafari.Travel

Accommodation: open air  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and dinner



### Day 3

After a night in the warm desert air and a simple but decent breakfast, we drive deeper into the Danakil Depression towards the plains of *Dalol*. The area is known for its colorful mineral landscape. Due to a natural process of minerals mixing with ground water and oxygen, the landscape turns into all kinds of colors, a natural phenomenon which is unique in the world. It depends on the weather conditions how big and colorful it is. After we have observed this closely we move back to the salt desert where we meet the Afar tribe, the only people that can survive here. This tribe has been surviving here for centuries making a living of the salt mining. They do it manually in the unforgiving heat. We will bring a brief visit to one of their mining places. After lunch, we drive to the other side of Danakil where we spend the night in a guesthouse in a little town.

Accommodation: Local guesthouse (shared room)  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and dinner





# Danakil

## 5 day expedition

Rastafari.Travel

### Day 4

In the morning there is time to relax, you can for example walk around in the village and catch the authentic atmosphere. Then we leave towards the site of the *Erta Ale*, an active volcano and one of the few places in the world where you can actually approach the caldera and see lava. To get there we have to cross a massive sand desert with the car at full speed, an exciting experience! Then we drive dead slow over the volcanic rocks, until we reach the basecamp. There we have time to relax and to eat, and after sunset we gear up for the hike up to the volcano. It will be about 3-4 hours walking. When we approach the crater you will see the air lighting up and chances are you can approach the crater rim. Please note that this is not always possible, but depending on the current environmental conditions. The guides will decide how close we can get. Failing to listen to the instructions of the guides is very dangerous and can lead to fatal accidents. Always listen to the instructions of the guides!



We spend the night in the open air not far from the volcano.

Accommodation: open air

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and dinner

### Day 5

Very early, at 04:00 am, we wake up and start descending back to the basecamp. We leave early because we want to escape the heat of the morning sun. We have breakfast at basecamp and then we drive back to the inhabited world. On the way we stop at a lake that is so salt you can float on it. In the late afternoon we return in Mekele and there you check in at the airport for the flight back to Addis Ababa. The flight will take about an hour and a half and in Addis we will pick you up and bring you to our guesthouse where you can spend the night.

The next day you can fly back home or you can extend your stay in Ethiopia with a visit one of the many other fascinating parts of the country.

Accommodation: Orange Lion guesthouse

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch