



# Festival Season

## Travel package: 1 - 11 February 2018

### Travel information

- Start date: 1 February 2018
- Duration: 11 Days, Extensions are possible
- Travel guidance: English speaking professional tour leaders from the Rastafari Community in Ethiopia
- Price\*: From € 689 per person based on hostels and camping  
€ 899 per person based on private lodging (two people sharing)  
Single supplement: € 190

\* look at the last page for more detailed information



### Program

- 01-02: Arrival Addis Ababa
- 02-02: Addis Ababa
- 03-02: Addis Ababa (U-Day festival)
- 04-02: Addis Ababa - Shashamane
- 05-02: Shashamane + Wondo Genet
- 06-02: Hawassa + Shashamane (Bob Marley's Earthday event)
- 07-02: Shashamane - Dorze
- 08-02: Dorze
- 09-02: Great Ethiopian Soundsystem Festival
- 10-02: Great Ethiopian Soundsystem Festival
- 11-02: Lake Langano - Addis Ababa

*fly home or extend your stay in Ethiopia.*

### What do you pay for?

- All parts of the travel program organized in a safe and professional way (decent hotels, comfortable and safe transportation, good food, special activities, taxes, local guides, entrance fees, fuel, etc.).
- festival tickets and accommodation.
- Unique interaction with the Rastafari community
- Margin for local executive partner Dires for Development, they make all arrangements for the tour.
- Margin for tour organizer The Ethiopia eXperience, they carry the legal and operational responsibility, handle the payments, and make sure everything is well organized.

### Extensions

- [Harar and Ejersa Goro: 5 days](#)
- [Axum and Lalibela: 3 - 5 days](#)
- [Danakil: 5 Days](#)



## Day to day program

### Thursday 01 February 2018

You arrive at Addis Ababa international airport. We will pick you up and take you to the *Orange Lion Guesthouse*, our comfortable base in the city. You can stay in a dorm (shared room) or a private room with private facilities. If there is time we will show you some parts of the city.

*If our guesthouse is fully booked we will relocate you in a similar type of accommodation.*

Accommodation: Orange Lion  
Guesthouse or similar

Meals: -



### Friday 02 February 2018

Today we trod in the 'footsteps of His Majesty' in Addis Ababa. Our Rastafari guides will take you to places of interest like the National Museum, the Palace museum, an Orthodox Church, different statues, etc. You will get a good impression of the city, and a lunch is included (the best fruit smoothie of Addis).

In the evening we go to a warming up event of the UDAY festival, which will be hosted by *King Shilloh Soundsystem*. It will be their first session on their newly built sound in Ethiopia! A unique happening. Entrance ticket and transportation to and from the venue is arranged and included in the price.

Accommodation: Orange Lion Guesthouse or similar

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch





## Saturday 4 February

In the morning and afternoon we continue exploring the city. We visit Meskel Square, the Church where H.I.M. Haile Selassie I was crowned, and we roam over Merkato, the largest market of Africa. A lunch is provided. In the late afternoon we go to the venue of the U DAY festival where we will be part of a unique celebration of spiritual and religious unity. People from many different faiths will be present and together we enjoy live music and other performances. Entrance ticket and transportation to and from the venue is arranged and included in the price.

Accommodation: Orange Lion Guesthouse or similar  
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch



## **United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week**

The U-Day festival is held in the context of the *United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week*, an official annual worldwide celebration proclaimed by the general assembly of the United Nations in 2010. In the morning there will be a special gathering at the headquarters of the African Union. Representatives from different faiths will address the nations of the world with a message of peace and hope. This gathering is only accessible for invitees. If you are interested to join this gathering please contact us, we will try to get you an invitation.

## Sunday 4 February 2018

In the morning we leave Addis Ababa and drive south into Ethiopia's great *Rift Valley*. We stop at a volcanic lake to have coffee and enjoy the view, and around lunchtime we arrive at *Lake Langano*, a fine place to relax and swim. We spend the afternoon on the beach and you can have lunch in a restaurant. In the late afternoon we continue our drive southwards to the town of *Shashamane* where we stay in a Rastafari owned hotel. You can choose between a dorm (shared room) or a private room.

Accommodation: Lilly of the Valley  
Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

### **Meet and greet**

*Exclusively for our guests we organize a meet and greet with people from the local Rastafari community in Shashamane in the evening. We offer an Ital buffet and there will be musical performances by local artists. You can get acquainted with people from the community and fellow travelers from all over the world.*



## Monday 5 February 2018

Today we explore Shashamane town. We visit several Rastafari Mansions like the *Nyabinghi Tabernacle* and the *Twelve Tribes of Israel*. We visit musicians, an art gallery, a natural herbsman, a recording studio, have lunch at a local restaurant, and much more. We end the day with a visit to the forest reserve of *Wondo Genet*, a beautiful natural environment and one His Majesty's own favorite locations in Ethiopia.

During our stay in Shashamane there will be different cultural and musical activities organized in the context of the 'Reggae in the Riftvalley festival', organized by the Jamaican / Ethiopian singer Sidney Salmon. The festival will star among other artists Marcia Griffiths, one of the I-trees, the backing singers of Bob Marley and the Wailers.

[Link to Sidney Salmon's music](#)

Accommodation: Lilly of the Valley

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch





Tuesday 6 February 2018

In the morning we go to *Hawassa*, a town located next to a big lake with the same name. We make a boat trip over the lake looking out for Hippos and other animals. You can stroll along the shores of the lake and relax in a park, you will be surrounded by monkeys and tropical birds. If you like to eat fish, this is the place to be!

In the afternoon you have the opportunity to engage further with the community in Shashamane, and/or visit musical and cultural performances on the Reggae in the Riftvalley festival. This event is also a fundraiser for the local school. A ticket for the event is arranged and we make sure you will be transported back to the hotel safely.

Accommodation: Lilly of the Valley

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner



Wednesday 7 + Thursday 8 February 2018

We offer different packages to see more of the south of Ethiopia. You can choose between one of the packages below. This is included in the price. These packages are:

### **Dorze / ArbaMinch**

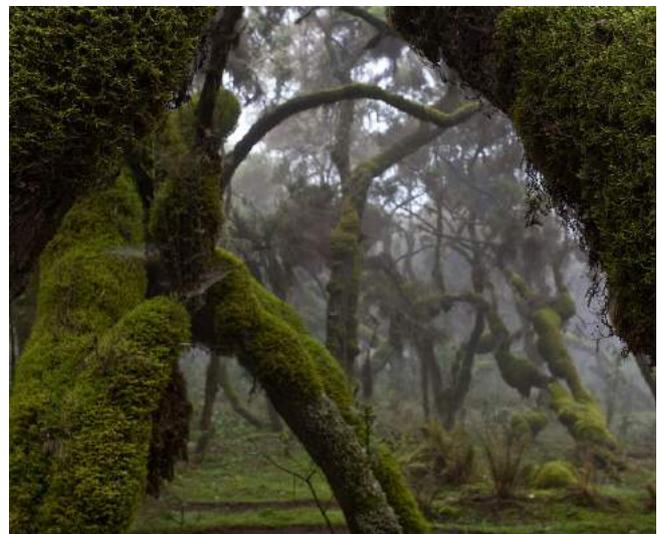
In the morning we leave Shashamane and drive further south to the *Dorze* region. It is a mountainous area around the city of Arba Minch and the home ground of the Dorze tribe, one of the many ethnic groups of Ethiopia. We stay in a beautiful lodge overlooking the whole valley, you can choose to stay in a comfortable room with private facilities or a small hut with shared facilities, or bring your tent for the economic camping option. We'll provide a lunch and then local Dorze guides will introduce you with the community and their way of life. The next day we go to the city of *Arba Minch*. You can explore *Nechisar National Park* and make a boat trip over one of its lakes. In the evening we enjoy the stars in the sky and the warmth of the campfire.





## **Bale Mountains (+ Bekoji)**

The Bale Mountains are one of the great mountain ranges of Ethiopia. It is an area of incredible diversity located around a massive mountain plateau on more than 4000 meter altitude. You can spend two days in and around the park, exploring the dense vegetation of the rainforest, the moonlike landscape of the mountain plateau, and look out for indigenous animals like the *Ethiopian Wolf* and the *Mountain Nyala*. You can do trekkings on foot or on the back of a horse, or just drive around with the car. Exploring the natural environment can be combined with a visit to local villages and experience the authentic African agricultural way of life. You can stay in a simple but decent hotel on the foot of the mountains, or in a beautiful luxury lodge in the middle of the National Park in the midst of untouched nature.



If you love running we advise you to combine a visit to the Bale Mountains with a night in the town of *Bekoji*. Bekoji is a very special place for the running sport; almost all Olympic champions of Ethiopia come from this village and its surroundings! You can meet a coach who trained the great Ethiopian champions when they were young and join the next generation of Ethiopian runners in a training session. If you are a runner this will undoubtedly be a very special experience!



## **Coffee Trail**

Ethiopia is the birthplace of Coffee. If you love coffee we advise you to go to the coffee estate of *Yirga Alem*, where the best coffee in the world is from. You can stay in a comfortable lodge in the middle of the coffee plantation. Local coffee farmers will show you around and explain how



they grow their coffee and other crops in a natural way. You will taste several types of coffee and you can eat in the organic restaurant of the lodge. In the evening you can see Hyena's coming very close to the lodge, sometimes up to a few meters distance. Next to indulging in Coffee culture Yirga Alem is the perfect place to explore tribal life in the area and to relax and wind down, far away from mass tourism and hectic daily life.



## 9 + 10 February 2018

We join the legendary *King Shiloh Soundsystem* in their first ever Sound System gathering in Africa. It is an international Sound System event on the shores of Lake Langano, in the heart of Ethiopia's great Rift Valley. In the midst of natural paradise you can enjoy two days of Roots Reggae Music played on King Shiloh's brand new Ethiopian built Sound System. You can book a comfortable private room at the festival's compound, or bring your tent and go for the camping option. We will make sure there will be shade and decent toilet facilities.





11 February 2018

We will bring you back to Addis Ababa where you can check in at the airport for your flight back home, or you can extend your stay in Ethiopia with a visit to one of the many beautiful and fascinating parts of the country. We offer several packages to see all the highlights of Ethiopia. Please contact us for more information.

## **Price & information**

*Basic program - 11 day tour*

- Hostels (shared rooms) and camping (bring your own tent): **€ 689 per person**
- All private rooms with private facilities: **€ 899 per person**

*All prices are under reservation of availability and price changes*

### Included:

- Complete organized 11 day travel program
- Accommodation with breakfast (camping/hostel or private lodging)
- Some meals included
- Professional guidance by experienced Rastafari tour leaders
- All transport according to program
- Activities and excursions according to program
  - \* *City tour in Addis Ababa (2 days)*
  - \* *Meet and greet Rastafari community in Shashamane (2 days)*
  - \* *Wondo Genet and Boat trip Lake Awassa*
- Optional travel program in the south. You can choose between Dorze, Bale Mountains, or Aregash coffee estate.
- Entrance tickets for all events
- All local taxes and surcharges

### Not included:

- International plane ticket from your country to Ethiopia
- Meals not mentioned in program
- Drinks
- Vaccinations
- Tourist visa
- Personal expenditures like laundry and souvenir shopping
- Tips and gratuities

**For bookings and information**

[Online bookingpage](#)

Or contact Ras Ibi:

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www.rastafari.travel

