

Omo Valley tribes

The Omo Valley, better known as the Lower Omo Valley, is an ideal place for indigenous explorers. Home to numerous tribal communities, the diversity of life will amaze you. This place is an absolute must if you want to better understand East African pastoral life.

The concentration of experiences and the diversity, which often clash so sharply with everyday life, force you to reflect on what it means to be human in today's world.

The Lower Omo Valley in southern Ethiopia is home to some of the world's last remaining unaltered cultural groups. The region is a melting pot of diverse cultures and communities and boasts some of the greatest genetic diversity on the continent. Many refer to the Omo Valley as the birthplace of humanity.

This region has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since the discovery of human remains dating back almost 2.5 million years.

In this surrounding place there are nearly 16 tribes live with unique life styles, some are similar with the very famous Maasai tribe in east Africa.

Many unique styles are common among these tribes, such as the wearing of clay discs on the lower lip, called lip plates by Mursi women, stick-fighting competitions by the Donga, artistic body painting traditions (body scarification) using different colored clay, or the fattening ceremony called Kel, in which the men of a tribe are fed blood and milk for several months, and the fattest man of the year is chosen. Bull-leaping by Hamar Boy.

Bull jumping is a rite of passage that ushers Hamar boys into adulthood. It is the most important event in the lives of Hamar boys and was performed over three long days. On the final day, the relatives and women of the jumper family sing and dance and prepare to be beaten with a stick. This is a ritual part of the ceremony, showing their love and devotion to the boy. The women usually ask to be beaten on the back with a stick until a large bloody scar remains. Then the jumper boy emerges naked from the bush. All the families await the big moment. The boy must jump over a line of eight bulls to be considered a man. Failure to do so brings shame on the family.

“The Evangadi night”

The Evangadi night is also famous among one of the Omo Valley tribes. Young Hamar men and women perform a traditional dance called Evangandi on the moonlit night. It takes place every three days in the Hamar villages. Evangadi is a traditional dance for the entertainment of body and mind during the harvest season.

Mago national Park

Mago National Park is located in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, approximately 782 kilometers south of Addis Ababa and north of a major 90° bend in the Omo River. The landscape consists of floodplain forests and wetlands along the lower Mago River and around Lake Dipa. There are also mountainous regions with magnificent views of the bush savannah and wildlife. The 2,162-square-kilometer park lies on the eastern side of a small spur of the Eastern Rift Valley (Omo Depression) and borders the Omo National Park.

The wildlife includes most typical East African animals and offers some of Ethiopia's wildest and most impressive natural spectacles.

Mago National Park is considered an important habitat for numerous animal species. Particularly common and conspicuous are buffalo, giraffes, elephants (approximately 150), oryx, , tiangs, Lewel's hartebeest, lesser kudu, greater kudu, duiker, Burchell's zebra, Swayne's hartebeest, , Grant's gazelle, giraffe gazelle, cheetah, wild dogs, lions, leopards, warthogs , vervet monkeys, baboons, and guerezas.

With a little luck, you might also see plains zebra, lesser kudu, defassa waterbuck, giraffe gazelle, and black-and-white colobus monkeys.

237 bird species have been recorded in Mago National Park. Six of them are endemic: the grassland bird, the white-winged warbler, the white-tailed starling, the banded barbet, the thick-billed raven, and the wattled ibis. The riparian forest along the Omo

River is important for various bird groups, including woodpeckers, kingfishers, barbets, pigeons, shrikes, song thrushes, warblers, Heron-egrets and flycatchers.

Most of our guests visit the park on their way to the Mursi villages (the park's highlight) along the Mago River.

Konso: UNESCO World Heritage Site: The people there are known for their intricately terraced hillsides, finely woven fabrics, and the carved totems they use to decorate their graves.

Itinerary to Omo Valley

Day 1- Upon arrival at Bole International Airport, you will be greeted by our tour guides and transferred to your booked hotel. Most flights to Addis Ababa arrive in the morning, leaving the remaining hours of the day available for a city tour of Addis Ababa. Full- and half-day tours are available on our website. Learn more about our city tours there.

If you arrive at night, the next day will be reserved for a full-day city tour of Addis Ababa.

Day 2- we fly early to Jinka, drop off your luggage at a pre-booked lodge upon arrival, and drive to Mago National Park. The park is home to a variety of mammals and birds, but they generally stay away from the roads, so sightings cannot be guaranteed. While camping in the park, we can observe a variety of wildlife: elephants, buffalo, Grant's gazelles, topi, and Burchill's zebra.

The Mursi people live in Mago National Park, so we drive to Shembel, the nearest Mursi village. If we wish to continue, we can drive up the escarpment to the Mursi villages there. The Mursi are known for their body scars and, among women, for the use of lip plates.

Lunch will be served mid-trip (may be cooked.)

We return to Jinka and spend another night at the Eco Omo Lodge.

Day 3 - Drive to Turmi

If it's Thursdays, we visit the market. The inhabitants of Key Afar are mainly Ari and Banna. The Banna are an indigenous, pastoralist and semi-nomadic people who live in the harsh environment of the lower Omo Valley. The men often wear a colorful, feather-decorated clay cap. We then travel south to Dimeke (market on Tuesdays and Saturdays) and Turmi, where we stay overnight at Buska Lodge. Turmi serves as a base for visits to other communities in the Omo region.

Visit the Hamar

We visit the Hamar villages around Turmi. The Hamar attach great importance to their appearance: They shave and dye their hair, oil their bodies, and decorate their arms and legs with beads and bracelets.

If this day falls on a Saturday or Tuesday, we'll visit the market in Dimeke, one of the most colorful and interesting in the area (market day in Turmi is Monday). In Turmi, we'll look for a bull-leaping ceremony nearby. This is a rite of passage for young men, marking their transition into adulthood. We'll also participate in the famous Hamar Evangadi dance ceremonies.

Lunch will be served mid-trip (may be cooked.)

Stay the night at Buska lodge (Overlooking the plains of Mount Burka, Buska Lodge is a beautiful eco-lodge that blends harmoniously into its natural surroundings.)

Day 4 - Drive to Omorate

We drive to Marille and visit the villages of Korcho, Dus, and Dassenech, which belong to the Karo people. The Karo are a tribe along the Omo River and masters of elaborate face and body painting and sacrifices.

Lunch will be served during the trip (may be cooked).

Drive to Konso Korebeta lodge and stay the night.

Day 5- Konso

A UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After break fast, Visit villages and traditional practices, and admire the remarkable terraced farming methods. The people there are known for their intricately terraced hillsides, finely woven fabrics, and the carved totems they use to decorate their graves.

Visit Gesergiyu (locally called New York), a natural rock formation reminiscent of the architecture of the metropolis of New York.

Please note that market days in Konso are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Lunch will be served mid-trip (may be cooked.)

Drive to Arba-Minch and stay overnight at Paradise Lodge.

Day-6 we travel to Arba-Minch Airport according to our flight schedule and fly back to Addis Ababa.

Farwell Night: After arriving in the city, we'll have lunch (if we arrived early), rest a bit, relax at the hotel, and enjoy an early dinner in one of Ethiopia's best jazz or (reggae optional) lounges, or in one of the most beautiful dance and folklore houses, with a traditional coffee ceremony. This concludes the four-day trip.

NOTE 1

This trip can be extended for two more days in Arba Mich. You can find more information about our Arba Mich travel itinerary on our website.

Note 2

This trip can also be personalized or customized, with price adjustments; this may result in reduced payments.

What does the 6 days tour include?

- *Hotel and lodge fees
- * Air fair for domestic flights
- *Pick up and drop off service.
- *Cooking team
- *Transportation, including fuel and driving.
- *Entrance fees, at all listed places.
- *Professional English speaking tour-guide.
- *Lunch, dinner, hot drinks and bottled water.

What's not included?

- * Alcoholic beverages not listed on the package

- *Tips and Gratitude

All-Inclusive Omo-valley 6-days tours

Total: \$ 4257 (individual price)

*Group of 2: \$3192 per person

*Group of 3: \$2872 per person

*Group of 4-9: \$2584 per person

*Group of 10 or more: \$2469 per person

From 25% to 42 % discount for group tours