

Timket (Epiphany) celebration

Ethiopian Epiphany, a UNESCO-inscribed intangible cultural heritage.

The Timket Festival (Epiphany) is one of the most significant religious and cultural celebrations in Ethiopia. This grand celebration, which begins on the eve of the holiday, commemorates the baptism of Jesus Christ in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. Ethiopian Christians celebrate the feast with a procession of priests carrying replicas of the Ark of the Covenant, accompanied by countless believers dressed in beautiful traditional attire.

The Feast of Timket (Epiphany) is one of the most important religious and cultural festivals in Ethiopia. This major festival, which begins on the eve of the holiday, commemorates the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Ethiopian Orthodox Christians celebrate the festival with a procession of priests carrying replicas of the Ark of the Covenant, accompanied by countless worshipers in beautiful traditional clothing.

While the festival is celebrated throughout Ethiopia, Addis Ababa and the historic city of Gondar are important venues.

The festival takes place every year on January 18th and 19th (the date may vary by one day every 4 years)

To make it easier for customers to choose and participate in the festival, we have created two itinerary sections for both cities.

Itinerary section 1

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- After a leisurely breakfast, we prepare for the day before the main festival day, which is also part of Epiphany. We secure a good spot for photography.

We have lunch at a suitable location. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are available. Afterwards, we join the afternoon celebration.

Day 3- After breakfast, we go to the site of baptisms and other ceremonies and participate in the gatherings. We follow the priests carrying the replica of the Ark of the Covenant and return to the church with the others who spent the night at the assembly site.

Around 2:00 PM, after the end of the feast, a lunch with vegetarian and vegan options is served, and after a short rest, the farewell night begins.

Farwell Night: rest a bit, 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 three-day trip.

Itinerary section 2

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 to Gondar (flight times vary due to the busy flight schedule on this day). After arrival,

We visit the 16th-century stone palaces and castles of the Kingdom of Gondar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This palace was built when Gondar was the seat of the Ethiopian central government.

We later participate in the eve of the festival.

Day 3- After breakfast, we head to the 16th-century swimming pool to participate in the baptism ceremony and the assemblies. We follow the priests carrying the replica of the Ark of the Covenant and return to the church with the others who spent the night at the assembly site.

Around 2:00 PM, after the end of the festival, lunch with vegetarian and vegan options will be served and the evening will be spent at the House of Cultural and Folk Dancers, where you can taste the very famous Ethiopian honey wine (Tej).

Day 4- We travel to Gondar Airport according to our flight schedule and fly back to Addis Ababa. (Flight times vary due to the busy flight schedule on this day).

Farewell Night: Upon arrival in the city, we'll have lunch (if we arrive early), rest a bit, 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.

What does the first section of the three-day festival tour include?

- *Hotel fees.
- *Air fair for domestic flights. (There are no flights for this section)
- * Pick up and drop off service.
- *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 Timiket festival tours section 1

Total: \$1030 (individual price)

*Group of 2: \$772 per person

*Group of 3: \$694 per person

*Group of 4-9: \$624 per person

*Group of 10 or more: \$566 per person

From 25% to 45% discount for group tours

What does the second section of the four-day festival tour include?

*Hotel fees.

*Air fair for domestic flights.

* Pick up and drop off service.

*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 the Gondar Timiket festival tours section 2

Total: \$2961 (individual price)

*Group of 2: \$2220 per person

*Group of 3: \$1998 per person

*Group of 4-9: \$ 1798per person

*Group of 10 or more: \$1628 per person

From 25% to 45% discount for group tours

