

ABOUT ETHIOPIA

HISTORY

The **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia** is a country located in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Eritrea to the north and northeast, Djibouti and Somalia to the east, Sudan and South Sudan to the west, and Kenya to the south. It occupies a total area of 1,104,300 square kilometres (420,000 sq mi), and its capital city is Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia derived prestige with its uniquely successful military resistance during the late 19th Century Scramble for Africa, becoming the only African country to defeat a European colonial power and retain its sovereignty. It was the first independent African member of the 20th Century League of Nations and the United Nations.

Ethiopia is a multilingual nation with around 80 ethnolinguistic groups, the three largest of which are the Oromo, Amhara and Tigray. The Official working language of Federal Government is Amharic. English is widely spoken in the country among educated people, since the High School, College and University educations are given in English. Ethiopia is the origin of Coffee. Ethiopia deserves the title Cradle of Humankind. Some of the most famous, most iconic hominid fossils have been discovered within the country's borders. Lucy a hominid skeleton dating to roughly 3.2 million years ago was found in Ethiopia in 1974. Ardi older than Lucy is the most complete skeleton of an early hominid, 4.4-million-year-old. Ardi was discovered in 1992.

Ethiopia has the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Africa. The Axum monolithic obelisks, the Castle of Fasil, the fortified historic town of Harar, Jugol, the Konso Cultural landscape, the Awash lower valley, the Omo lower valley, the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, the Simien National Park, Tiya archeological site, and the Maskal festival which is recently named by UNESCO to its list of "Intangible Cultural Heritages of Humanity" are found in Ethiopia. Ethiopia has its own calendar, which is seven years and around three months behind the Gregorian calendar.

Ethiopia is one of the founding members of the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Organization of African Unity, with Addis Ababa serving as the headquarters of the African Union, the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the UNECA. Ethiopia is the main source of the Nile, the longest river on earth.

POPULATION

Ethiopia is the most populous Country in the world, as well as the second-most populous nation on the African continent after Nigeria.

The current estimated population of Ethiopia is 107,824,743 (as of August 2018, based on the latest United Nations estimates).

GENERAL FACTS

Time Zone	GTM+3
Currency	Ethiopian Birr
Exchange Rate (as of May 2019)	USD 1= 28.66 Birr Euro 1= 32.18 Birr
Official Languages	Amharic. English is also widely spoken
Electricity	220 – 240 V AC, power sockets types C / E / F / L.
Religion	Predominantly Christian, and Muslim
Fixed, Mobile, and Internet services Operator	Ethio Telecom
International Dialling Code	+251 area/service code number, followed by 7 digit local number
Fire and Police	939 and 991
Visa	Valid passport and visa is required. For visitors travelling from countries where there is no Ethiopian Embassy or General Consulate, arrangements can be made to collect a visa at the airport on arrival, or can request online using application on http://www.evisa.gov.et .

GOVERNMENT

The government of Ethiopia is structured in the form of a federal parliamentary republic, whereby the Prime Minister is the head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government while legislative power is vested in the Parliament. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. There are 9 National regional states and 2 self-governing city administrations; the capital city Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

The president of Ethiopia is elected by the House of Peoples' Representatives for a six-year term. The prime minister is chosen by the parliament. The prime minister is designated by the party in power following legislative elections. The Council of Ministers, according to the 1995 constitution, is comprised by the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Ministers, various Ministers and other members as determined and approved by the House of Peoples' Representatives.

The Federal Parliamentary Assembly has two chambers: the Council of People's Representatives with 547 members, elected for five-year terms in single-seat constituencies; and the Council of the Federation with 110 members, one for each nationality, and one additional representative for each one million of its population, designated by the regional councils.

The president and vice president of the Federal Supreme Court are recommended by the prime minister and appointed by the House of People's Representatives.

HOSPITALITY & CULTURE

Ethiopians are known for their hospitality and friendliness towards each other and visitors alike. Hospitality is an important element of Ethiopian Culture. Ethiopia is an inexhaustible sources of wonder for visitors- a sprawling country of ancient African civilization, colorful festivals, breath taking landscapes, diverse tribal culture and amazingly friendly people. With more than 80 ethnic groups, each ethnic group preserves its own unique customs and traditions. In the remote mountains and in the Great Ethiopian Rift valley, you will find unique tribes living in wonderful life styles. All the major religions of the world are found in Ethiopia. But for all the exotic variety, the people of Ethiopia are as one and for their friendliness and hospitality. Ethiopia is the only African country with its own Alphabet Letters and numbers that traces its origin back to a very ancient time. It has an alphabet which consists of 33 letters each with 7 characters.

Ethiopia is peaceful and the safest place to travel. Like everywhere in the world valuables should always be safeguarded or left in the hotel safe box. If you do not know where to obtain a certain service or you are not sure always contact the Hotel Information Desk. For any required help, police officers are very helpful and are easily identified by their uniforms.

CLIMATE

Ethiopia is found in the tropical zone, between the Equator and the Tropic of Cancer, and enjoys abundant sunshine all year round. Ethiopia's temperatures are moderate throughout the year. In Addis Ababa, average daily temperatures range from 18°C to 24° C (65°F to 75° F).

GEOGRAPHY

Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa. It's proximity to the Middle East and Europe, together with its easy access to the major ports of the region, enhances its international trade. Ethiopia is found in northeast Africa, in the area known as 'The Horn of Africa' encompassing an area of 1,104,300 sq km (426,372 sq miles), it is roughly twice the size of France and is landlocked.

The diverse topography of the country generally features rugged mountains, flat-topped plateaus, deep river canyons, rolling plains and lowlands. The major river basins include: the Abbay (Blue Nile), Awash, Baro, Omo, Tekezie and Wabe Shebele. The Ethiopian highlands are divided by the Great Rift valley, which starts in Palestine, runs down the Red Sea and diagonally southwest through Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi, slices through the central mountain ranges.

Within the country there is a huge diversity in altitude. The highest point is at Ras Dashen in the Simien Mountains, which at 4,543m (14,905 ft) is Africa's 10th tallest mountain. The lowest point is inside the Danakil Depression which reaches 125m (410ft) below sea level. To the south, the landscape is generally flatter and much of the east and southeast is taken over by semi-arid scrubland.

HEALTH AND VACCINATION

On entering Ethiopia all visitors except nationals from countries where malaria does not exist must be in possession of a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate. In addition, immunization against Hepatitis A and B, tetanus, Typhoid and Polio is strongly recommended.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Visitors can get airport taxi or hotel courtesy shuttles on arrival and departure to Addis Ababa Airport. For public transport mini buses and taxis (special hire) are the main means of public transport in Addis Ababa. There are both buses and mini buses for inter-city services. Distances are relatively short and roads are good. Except for public and metered taxies, there are no set taxi prices for hired ones. All hired taxi fares are subject to negotiation; therefore, it is a good idea to agree on a price before starting a journey.

If your cell phone is compatible to the bands (2G 900/1800 MHz, 3G WCDMA 2100 MHz, 4G LTE 1800 MHz Band 3/ operated in Ethiopia, you may be able to purchase an inexpensive SIM card, widely available at airport and throughout the country.

RELIGION

Ethiopia is religiously diverse nation with Christianity and Islam being the most widely professed religions. According to the national census conducted in 2007, 62.8% were reported Christians comprising 43.5% to be Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, 18.6% protestant, and 0.7% Catholic, 33.9% were reported to be Muslim, 2.6% adhered to traditional beliefs, and about 0.7% others.

Good Friday, Easter, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and Christmas are major recognized religious national holidays.

GETTING TO ETHIOPIA

The main entry point for flights into Ethiopia is **Addis Ababa Bole International Airport** (ADD) located 6 Km (3.7 mi) southeast of the city center. The national carrier that serves all destinations in Ethiopia and throughout the African continent, as well as nonstop services to Asia, Europe, North America and South America is the Ethiopian Airlines (EAL). EAL has an excellent safety record and is noted for its excellent service. Many other foreign Airlines are also connecting to Addis Ababa with frequent flight schedules.

ELECTRICITY

Ethiopia uses an electricity supply rated at 220V, 50 Hz. The power sockets that are used are of type C / E / F / L.

HOTELS

Updated list of UNDSS approved Hotels in Addis Ababa April 2019

#	Name of the Hotel/ Guesthouse	GPS Coordinates	Contact Details
1.	Elily International Hotel	N09°00'52.11" E38°49'28.66"	+2519300033777 info@elilyhotel.com
2.	Capital Hotel and Spa	N09°00'794" E38°46'783"	+2511116672100 sfranc@capitalhotellandspa.com
3.	Beshale Hotel	N09°01'10.58" E38°49'28.66"	+2519300033777 info@beshelehotel.com
4.	Jupiter International Hotel	N09°01.996' E38°46.098'	+251115527333 www.jupiterinternationalhotel.com
5.	Sheraton Addis Hotel	N09°01.246' E38°45.583'	+25111 5171717 www.sheratonaddis.com
6.	Churchill Hotel	N09°01.553' E38°45.117'	+251111111212 churchillhotel@ethionet.et
7.	Ambassador Hotel	N08°59'517" E38°47'311"	+251116188284/81 reservation@ambassadorhotelethiopia.com
8.	Ethiopia Hotel	N09°01.023' E038°45.208'	+251115510156 ethhotel@ethionet.et
9.	Global Hotel	N08°89.619" E38°45'35.85"	+251114664766 globehoteladdisababa@gmail.com
10.	ILRI	N09°01'01.68" E38°48'38.25"	+251116172000 ILRI-Ethiopia@cgiar.org
11.	Intercontinental Hotel	N09°00'55.51" E38°46'10.58"	+25115180444 reservation@intercentinentaladdis.com
12.	Nexus Hotel	N9°00'23.13" E38°48'20.80"	+251116670067 info@nexusaddis.com
13.	Aphrodite International Hotel	N09°00.818' E38°46.157'	+251115572220 aphroditeinthotel@gmail.com

14.	Axum Hotel	N09° 00.946' E38° 47.013'	+251116670067/85 mekeleaxum.n@ethionet.et
15.	Panorama Hotel	N09°01'03.97" E38°47'47.73"	+251116616070 info@panoramaaddis.com
16.	Harmony Hotel	N08°59'45.92" E38°47'10.30"	+251116183100 www.harmonyhotelethiopia.com
17.	Saro Maria Hotel	N08°59'39.67" E38°47'06.81"	+251116672173 reservation@saromariahotel.com
18.	Sarem International Hotel	N09°03'06.86" E38°44'37.33"	251111262076 reservation@sarehotel.com
19.	Debre Damo Hotel	N09°00'56.43" E38°47'05.97"	+2516612630 reservation@debredamohotel.com
20.	Kaleb Hotel	N08°59'44.11" E38°47'09.69"	+251116622200 reservation@kalebhotel.com
21.	Radisson Blu Hotel	N09°00'59.13" E38°46'04.03"	+251115157600 info.addisababa@radissonblu.com
22.	Nazra Hotel	N08°59.576' E38°45.963'	+251114674465 info@nazra.com
23.	Friend Ship International Hotel	N08°59'38.57" E38°47'05.17"	+251116670202 marketing@friendshiphotel.com.et
24.	Adot-Tina Hotel	N08°59.469' E38°46.023'	+251114674465 www.adottinahotel.com
25.	Empire Addis International Hotel	N08°59.541' E38°47.261'	+2516181638 info@empireaddis.com
26.	Siyonat Hotel	N08°59'43.74" E38°46'59.04"	+251116629741 e.reservation@hotelsiyonat.com
27.	Yoly Hotel	N09°00.398' E38°46.869'	+251116632828 www.yolyhotel.com
28.	Residence Hotel	N09°00.267' E38°46.195'	+251115516341 info@theresidenceaddis.com
29.	Eliana Hotel	N9.030464 E38.750956	+25111 126 2600 http://elianahotel.com-addisababa.com

30.	Hilton Hotel	N. 09°01.156' E 38°45.868'	+251115518400 /+251115170000 reservations.addisababa@hilton.com
31.	Magnolia Hotel and Conference Center	N. 09° 00.045' E. 38° 46.826'	+251116393777 reservation@magnoliaaddis.com
32.	Ramada Hotel	N. 08° 59.520' E. 38° 46.983'	+251116393939 info@ramadaaddis.com
33.	Hyatt Regency	N. 09°00.573' E. 38° 45.862'	+251 11 517 1234 addisababa.regency@hyatt.com
34.	Skylight Hotel	N. 08.59.241 E. 38.47.401	+251 011 667 1090/80 ethiopianskylighthotel.com
35.	Getfam Hotel	N. 09.00.594 E. 38.47.039	+251 116 67 3175/78 gm@getfamhotel.com
36.	Nigist Towers Hotel & Apartments	N. 09.00.870 E. 38.46.161	+251 011 550 9770 info@nigsttowers.com