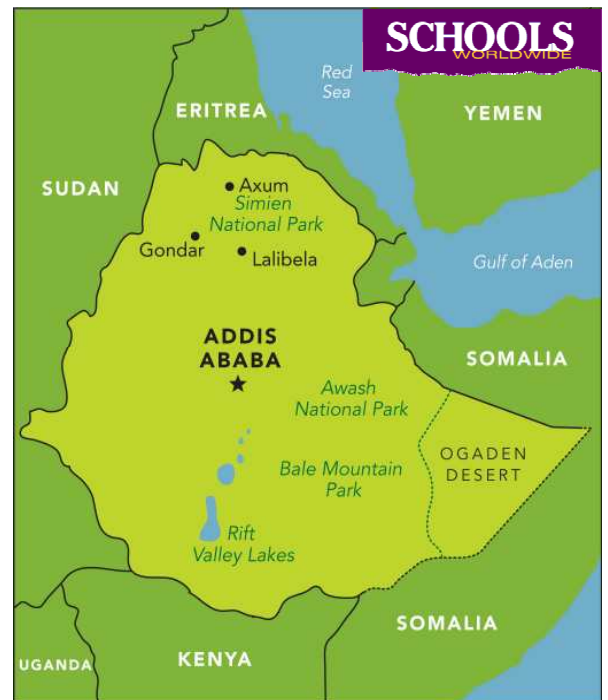


Destination Fact Sheet: Ethiopia

Worldwide region:	North East Africa
Capital City:	Addis Ababa (GMT + 3hrs)
Environment:	Mountains, savannah, forest
When to go:	Dec – May
Itineraries:	Expedition, Fieldtrek
Highlights:	Simien Mountains, Lalibela, Axum
Essentially:	A beautiful country with outstanding wilderness trekking, unforgettable cultural encounters and remarkable historical and religious sites.



About the country

Ethiopia boasts an incredible variety of scenery and ancient history. Tropical forests, lakes, river valleys and plains stretch the entire length and breadth of the country and its National Parks are filled with Afro-Alpine flora and endemic wildlife. North of Addis Ababa, the Simien Mountains present some of the most dramatic trekking scenery in Africa. Each eroded into fantastic crags, pinnacles and flat-topped mountains, these 'chess pieces of the Gods', provide a unique introduction to Africa and some of its rural population.

The ancient cities of Gondar, Axum and Lalibela each provide a remarkable education in their own right, both historically and religiously. The castles of Gondar have been standing for almost 350 years and at Axum you will find obelisks left by the Romans. However it is the rock hewn churches of Lalibela that provide one of the most outstanding historical sites in all of Africa, now becoming the undiscovered 8th wonder of the world.

Expedition Programmes

Given the distance you will travel from the UK, we'd recommend a three week itinerary that would include a substantial and challenging trekking expedition through the Simien National Park before flying further north to explore the ancient sites of Axum and Lalibela, then flying back to the UK from the capital of Addis Ababa.

Fieldtrek Programmes

A remarkable opportunity to take pupils on a completely unique historical or religious educational exploration of one the most fascinating regions of Africa. Firstly visiting the five ancient castles of Gondar, before moving to Axum, the birthplace of the Queen of Sheba and now the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. Finally your trip will climax with a visit to the incredible rock hewn churches of Lalibela.

In summary

Ethiopia is both an adventurous and educational destination for school groups to visit, ideal for groups who wish to undergo a challenging itinerary and experience a less visited part of Africa. Groups should be experienced with outdoor adventures and must undergo a fitness programme in the UK to be physically prepared for the itinerary.



To discuss the variety of options for tailor making a trip to Ethiopia for your group, please telephone us on 0845 634 4670 or visit our website at www.schoolsworldwide.co.uk