

Travelling in Ethiopia

When to come

Ethiopia can be visited during the all year, but you may want to adjust your trip according to the rainy season: in most of the country, the main rainy season runs from June to the end of September, with short rains in March; in the Omo and Mago parks however, in Southern Ethiopia, the seasons are different with the main rains from March to June, and shorter rains in November.

With the upgrading of the airports along the historical road (Axum, Lalibela, Gondar and Bahir Dar), it is now possible to visit the north even in the rainy season.

There are also certain rewards for travellers who do not mind waiting out a downpour: a brilliant sunshine after the rain, a green countryside full of crops and flowers, sites largely for yourselves will make your journey a success.

Climate and Clothing

Because of elevation, temperature rarely exceed 25°C in most of the country, although in some of the lower lying areas (Awash, Omo and Mago parks) it can get considerably hotter.

Pack light clothes for the daytime and jacket or sweater for the evenings, and a good pair of walking shoes even if you are not going trekking- path ways around historical sites are usually uneven and stony.

Trekkers in the Simien and Bale Mountains will need warm clothes, waterproofs and 3-4 seasons' sleeping bags.

A cultural note: Ethiopians are generally modest dressers and visitors should be sensitive about going underdressed into several places. Shoes must always be removed before entering churches and mosques- for getting around sites like Lalibela with its many churches airline socks are very useful.

Health and Medical

All visitors should be in possession of valid **yellow fever vaccination certificate**. Immunization for Hepatitis A and B, Typhoid and Polio is recommended.

Malaria: in many sites malaria is not a problem because of the elevation - this is true about Axum, Gondar and Lalibela for example, but it can occur in Bahir Dar at the end of the rainy season and after unseasonable rains. We recommend you to consult your doctor about the prescription. Alternatively, you can keep mosquitoes and other insects at bay with repellent creams and sprays.

Visitors should take a simple first aid pack, which would include: different size plasters, antiseptic cream, anti-histamine cream and/or tablets for insect bites, sun barrier cream (while temperatures are moderate the sun is strong) and anti diarrhea tablets such as immodium for emergencies (they will not cure the problem but will control the symptoms). Generally, visitors should take out standard holiday health insurance in their home countries.

