



Leswa Ethiopia Tour

Brave Beyond Borders

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FINDING OF TRUE CROSS -MESKEL + HISTORIC ROUTE

DISCOVERY OF ETHIOPIA NORTHERN ROUTES

8 Days | 7 Nights

September 25th - October 02, 2026

EXPERIENCE ETHIOPIA AUTHENTICALLY WITH **LESWA ETHIOPIA TOUR**

Leswa Tour is a women-led, locally owned tour operating company based in Ethiopia, founded by two women with 20 years of combined experience in the tourism industry.

The name Leswa (ለእሷ), meaning “For Her” in Amharic, reflects our purpose to create a space in tourism that uplifts women and creates a global network of women travelers and professionals.

Our focus is dedicated to creating authentic, and culturally immersive travel experiences through meaningful journeys that go beyond sightseeing and actually build real connections with local women in the communities.

Our journeys are led by experienced local expert guides who bring Ethiopia’s stories to life with knowledge and heart.





Trip Overview

Ethiopia is a destination of remarkable depth and beauty. Its cultural diversity, ancient history, and dramatic landscapes combine to create one of the most compelling travel experiences.

Day	Description	Accommodation
Day 1	Arrival	Jupiter International
Day 2	Explore Addis Ababa - Meskel Eve	Jupiter International
Day 3	Fly Addis - Gondar	Goha Hotel
Day 4	Sightseeing Gondar	Goha Hotel
Day 5	Fly Gondar - Lalibela	Lalibela-Lodge
Day 6	Lalibela	Lalibela-Lodge
Day 7	Fly Lalibela - Addis	Jupiter International
Day 8	Departure	Jupiter International

This journey offers a rich exploration of Ethiopia's spiritual heart and imperial legacy, blending sacred heritage, living traditions, and meaningful cultural encounters. Beginning in Addis Ababa, travelers discover the nation's identity through visits to Unity Park and the National Museum of Ethiopia, followed by a vibrant cultural welcome dinner at Union Restaurant.

The experience continues to Gondar, the "Camelot of Africa," where 17th-century castles and artisan communities reveal Ethiopia's royal past and enduring craftsmanship, before arriving in Lalibela, home to the awe-inspiring Lalibela Rock-Hewn Churches, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and living center of devotion. Concluding back in Addis Ababa with a celebratory farewell, this experience goes beyond sightseeing — offering an intimate encounter with a nation where history, faith, and culture remain beautifully alive.





DAY 1 | ARRIVAL A WARM ETHIOPIAN WELCOME

Welcome to Addis Ababa, the world's fourth-highest capital city, whose name beautifully translates to "New Flower."



On arrival, you will be received with warm Ethiopian hospitality by our VIP meet-and-greet team. After assistance through immigration, you will be escorted to the terminal parking area where your driver awaits for a comfortable transfer to your hotel. Following check-in, the remainder of the day is at leisure, an opportunity to relax, settle in, and gently acclimate to the pace and atmosphere of Ethiopia.

Depending on your arrival time optional sightseeing tours in Addis can be arranged.

Addis Ababa is a dynamic metropolis city deeply rooted in its unique cultural identity, unmistakably Ethiopian at heart.





DAY 2 | ADDIS ABABA: UNITY PARK, MESKEL CELEBRATION EVE & WELCOME DINNER AT UNION

The day begins with a visit to Unity Park, located within the historic Grand Palace grounds. Explore the beautifully restored palace buildings, gardens, and cultural exhibition centers that offer insight into Ethiopia's imperial history and modern development. Walking through the former palace compound also provides rare access to spaces once reserved exclusively for imperial use, offering guests a distinctive and memorable experience.

In the late afternoon, join or observe the growing gatherings as religious leaders, church choirs, and communities begin moving toward Meskel Square, the central venue for the celebration. Traditional chants, drums, and incense fill the air as people assemble, creating a powerful and unified atmosphere of devotion and cultural pride. Witness the highlight of Meskel Eve—the Demera bonfire ceremony at Meskel Square.

A large decorated pyre is lit, symbolizing the discovery of the True Cross by Queen Helena according to Ethiopian Orthodox tradition. The moment the fire is ignited, the square erupts in celebration—chants, prayers, dancing, and singing fill the night sky. The towering flames create a breathtaking scene, illuminating thousands of worshippers gathered in unity.



In the evening, after the bonfire ceremony, your dinner experience continues at Union Restaurant, an elegant venue known for its elevated Ethiopian cuisine and warm ambiance. Here, the group enjoys a beautiful welcome dinner, celebrating the beginning of a meaningful journey with exquisite dishes, soft music, and heartfelt conversation that sets the tone for connection and sisterhood.



DAY 3 | FLY ADDIS TO GONDAR: THE CAMELOT OF AFRICA

A scenic morning flight takes you north to Gondar, the 17th-century royal capital nestled among the highlands. After a smooth transfer and check-in, begin exploring the famed Royal Enclosure, where towering castles and ancient stone pathways whisper stories of emperors and empires. Continue to Fasilides Bath, still used during the Timket (Epiphany) festival, and the exquisitely painted Debre Berhan Selassie Church, where angelic faces gaze down from the ceiling in one of Ethiopia's most iconic artworks.

Later, enjoy an authentic cultural experience with a farmers' home visit in the countryside of Gondar.

Drive beyond the historic city into nearby rural villages, where you will be warmly welcomed by a local farming family. This visit offers a genuine glimpse into daily life in northern Ethiopia, away from typical tourist routes.

During the visit, you will learn about traditional farming practices, including crop cultivation and livestock management and gain insight into rural family life, community values, and seasonal agricultural cycles. This experience creates meaningful cultural exchange and supports community-based tourism initiatives by generating direct income for local families.





DAY 4 | GONDAR: DAY TRIP TO KOSOSYE

Enjoy a scenic day excursion to Kosoye, a highland village set along the dramatic escarpments between Gondar and the Simien Mountains. Depart in the morning from Gondar and drive through rolling hills and terraced landscapes, gradually ascending to breathtaking viewpoints overlooking the vast lowlands below.

Kosoye is particularly known for its wildlife and sweeping mountain scenery. During your visit, you may encounter troops of Gelada baboons grazing along the escarpment — a unique species endemic to the Ethiopian highlands. Watching these fascinating primates in their natural habitat, set against dramatic cliffs and expansive valleys, creates a memorable and photogenic experience.

The area also serves as a gateway to the Simien Mountains National Park, offering spectacular landscapes, fresh mountain air, and excellent opportunities for short nature walks and panoramic photography before returning to Gondar in the afternoon.





DAY 5 | FLY GONDAR TO LALIBELA: ARRIVAL IN THE NEW JERUSALEM



After breakfast, take a short flight to Lalibela, one of the world's most sacred destinations. Upon arrival, your guide introduces you to the town's mystical atmosphere; nestled among rugged mountains and echoing with ancient chants. Check in to your boutique lodge, where panoramic views and serene surroundings set the tone for this spiritual chapter of your journey.

In the afternoon, enjoy your first visit to Lalibela's remarkable rock-hewn churches, carved directly into the earth and connected by winding tunnels and stone passageways. Each church carries centuries of devotion, architectural genius, and spiritual wonder.





DAY 6 | LALIBELA: A DAY OF SACRED HERITAGE & LIVING DEVOTION



Begin the day with a serene drive to Nakutoleab Monastery, carved dramatically into a rock shelter and filled with ancient treasures, holy water, and centuries-old manuscripts. This peaceful excursion brings forward the quieter, more contemplative side of Lalibela.

In Lalibela, enjoy a meaningful women-led community visit that offers an authentic glimpse into everyday local life. Guests are welcomed into the home of a local host who is fairly compensated, ensuring the experience directly benefits the community.

During the visit, participate in traditional household activities such as the Ethiopian coffee ceremony, baking injera, and preparing local dishes. You may also taste and learn about traditional drinks like tej (honey wine) and tela (home-brewed beer). This hands-on cultural exchange creates genuine connection while supporting women who actively preserve and share their heritage.





DAY 7 | FLY LALIBELA TO ADDIS ABABA FAREWELL CELEBRATION

Enjoy a relaxed morning at leisure, with time to reflect on your overall journey before your departure. Later, transfer to the airport for your commercial flight back to Addis Ababa. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel to refresh and unwind.

In the evening, gather for a memorable farewell dinner at a local cultural restaurant, where traditional cuisine, live music, and vibrant performances offer a final celebration of Ethiopia's rich heritage and warm hospitality.





DAY 8 | DEPARTURE

After a final breakfast together, the group is transferred to the airport. Farewells are warm and full of love as each person leaves with unforgettable Ethiopian memories.





REASONS TO BOOK THIS TRIP WITH LESWA ETHIOPIA TOUR

REASON 1: Immersive Cultural Experience

Our deep local ties in the destination allow guests to experience authentic traditions while supporting women and communities with dignity. Our itineraries are designed to move beyond sightseeing, immersing guests in authentic Ethiopian culture through local interactions, traditions, cuisine, and community-based experiences.

REASON 2: Travel That Empowers Women & Builds the Future

Every journey with Leswa contributes directly to empowering women in Ethiopia's tourism industry. When travelers book with us, they are not only experiencing the destination responsibly, but also supporting the vision of women-focused tourism initiatives we are actively building. This contribution helps create professional opportunities, strengthen service standards, and ensure women are equipped with the skills, confidence, and leadership needed to shape the future of tourism in Ethiopia. Your travel becomes a meaningful investment in people, progress, and long-term impact.

REASON 3: Expertly Managed Logistics

We are meticulous in our planning, anticipating challenges before they arise. From reliable 4WD vehicles and experienced drivers to community coordination and daily logistics, we manage the details so you can travel comfortably and confidently.

REASON 4: Safety

Safety with Leswa is the foundation of every journey we design. The region's extraordinary beauty comes with remoteness and complexity, which is why our approach to safety is intentional, proactive, and never compromised.



WHAT TO EXPECT

ETHIOPIA IS EXTRAORDINARY—UNLIKE ANYWHERE ELSE IN AFRICA.

Its landscapes, history, cultures, and traditions create a journey that is beautiful, fascinating, and full of surprises. Whether your interests lie in geology, ancient heritage, wildlife, local communities, or a mix of everything, Ethiopia offers remarkable depth and discovery.

Travel here is rewarding, but expectations matter. Ethiopia remains an emerging destination, and part of its charm comes from the unpredictability that makes every moment memorable. Being prepared allows you to embrace the adventure with ease and enjoy the journey even more.

Addis Ababa is modern and well-developed, offering a wide range of accommodations and services. Outside Addis, tourism infrastructure is simpler and less polished than in classic East African safari destinations.

We take care to design thoughtful, seamless itineraries using trusted local partners, ensuring that the essential arrangements are in place before you arrive—so you can explore confidently and fully enjoy your experience.

