



Obelisks in Aksum



Coffee ceremony
© Martine Saldsman



Gelada baboon

More Tour Highlights

More University of Toronto alumni tours with Worldwide Quest:

Ganges River Cruise

EXCLUSIVE CHARTER CRUISE WITH VARANASI AND KOLKATA
March 10 – 22, 2020

Travel this extraordinary river in comfort on board the exclusively chartered 28-cabin R/V *Bengal Ganga*. Take in all of India's exotic fascination and experience the vibrant, complex tapestry of historical narratives, religious beliefs, and fascinating cultural traditions that thrive along the banks of the Ganges. As you sail, you will be treated to grand monuments and the daily rituals of village life in a part of India seldom visited by travellers. *With University of Toronto study leader Sarah Richardson.*



Portugal's Douro Valley

A FULLY ESCORTED WALKING TOUR
October 8 – 18, 2020

Reward yourself with spectacular views of the dramatically beautiful scenery of the Douro River. Walk along terraced vineyards, olive groves, pine forests, and visit hilltop wine estates and postcard-pretty villages. Join a fully escorted walk from Porto and enjoy select boutique accommodation and delicious regional cuisine.



Uzbekistan

LAND OF SILK ROAD TREASURES
April 23 – May 4, 2020

Get to the heart of central Asia on this modern-day caravan along the fabled Silk Route. Travel from vibrant Tashkent to the remote western city of Nukus. See the spectacular and well-preserved monuments of Khiva, Bukhara, and Samarkand.



How to Book

Please contact Worldwide Quest for more information and to book this tour.

1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666
travel@worldwidequest.com



Lake Tana Monastery

This small group tour is offered exclusively to alumni and friends of the University of Toronto, Queen's University, McGill University, and Western University. Visit WorldwideQuest.com/UniversityofToronto to view all alumni expeditions with Worldwide Quest.

University of Toronto Alumni Travel
21 King's College Circle
Toronto, ON M5S 3J3
Canada

Tour Cost (per person):

US\$5895

Single Supplement: US\$1450

Book your international flight with Ethiopian Airways and save US\$250 per person! Call Worldwide Quest for details.

Tour Cost Includes:

- Accommodations based on double occupancy in listed hotels or similar
- All meals (12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 12 dinners)
- Airport transfers at destination for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- All ground transportation by private vehicle
- Four internal flights (Addis/Mekele, Axum/Lalibela, Lalibela/Gondar, Gondar/Addis)
- Excursions as listed with experienced English-speaking local guides
- All entrance fees
- All Taxes
- All Gratuities
- Fully escorted by study leader Professor Michael Gervers and our Ethiopian tour director

Not Included:

- Roundtrip international airfare from your home to Addis Ababa
- Airport and departure taxes
- Airport transfers if arriving or departing separately from group itinerary
- Beverages with meals
- Items of a personal nature, ie laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc.
- Travel insurance
- Visa fee (US\$52 for single entry visa valid for 30 days)

Payment Details

A non-refundable deposit of US\$500 per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. A payment of US\$1000 per person is required 6 months prior to departure. Final payment is due at least 90 days prior to departure. We accept payment by VISA, MasterCard, or cheque.

Group Size

14 – 18 participants.



Beef tibs, injera



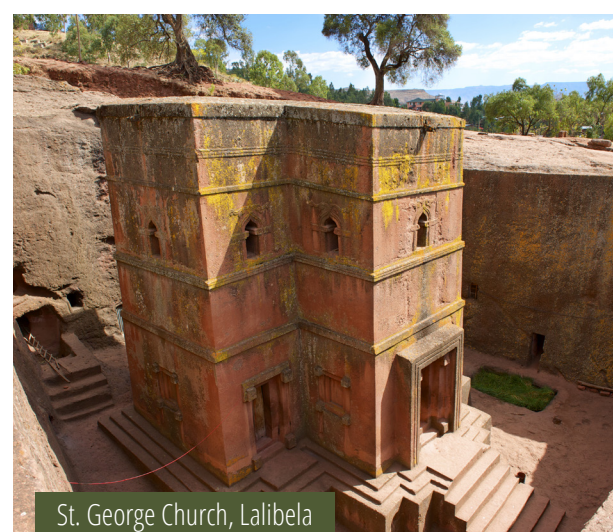
Ancient bible in Amharic



Yemrehanna Kristos



Blue Nile Falls



St. George Church, Lalibela



Maribela Lodge, Lalibela



Worldwide Quest Int'l 491 King St. E. Toronto, ON M5A 1L9

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Worldwide Quest presents to
University of Toronto Alumni and Friends

Ethiopia

REVEALING THE COUNTRY'S
FASCINATING CORE

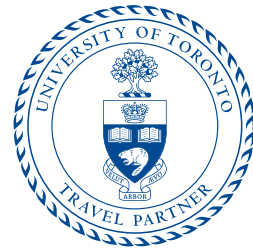
April 18 – 30, 2020



Stone church corridor

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Visit a hidden land of magnificent landscapes, tangible history, and welcoming people. This trip uncovers a fantastic range of sites that trace the story of one of Africa's most fascinating countries in the company of University of Toronto professor and leading Ethiopia scholar Michael Gervers.



Travel to the remote Tigray region with its stunning scenery of jagged mountains and giant gorges. Here churches dating from as early as the 10th century are carved from cliff faces and constructed on top of seemingly inaccessible perches. See the giant 2000-year-old obelisks of Aksum, relics of one of Antiquity's most mysterious civilizations. Visit the Camelot of Africa at Gondar and travel by boat on Lake Tana to admire its centuries-old monasteries. Among the treasures of the natural world are the Blue Nile Falls and the lush Simien Mountains, home to the striking Gelada Baboons.

Experienced Ethiopian guides will smooth your way, taking the bumps out of adventurous travel and revealing the country's fascinating core. I invite you to join an intrepid group of Canadian university alumni and friends and study leader Michael Gervers on this very special tour.

Sincerely,

Daphne Tao

Daphne Tao
Manager, Alumni Travel Program

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Detailed Itinerary

Saturday, April 18: Arrive in Addis Ababa

Our group meets today in Addis Ababa; you will be met on arrival and transferred to our city centre hotel. Get a first look at dynamic Addis today and enjoy a festive welcome dinner.

Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa
Meals: Dinner

Sunday, April 19: Addis Ababa

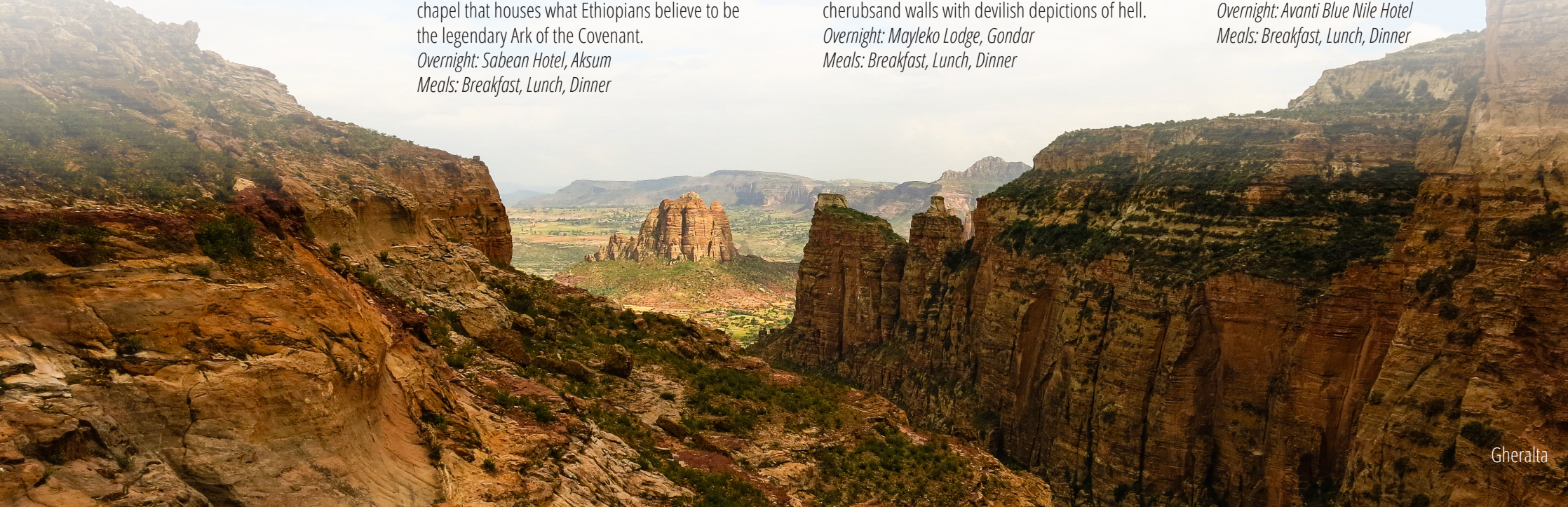
Start the day at the enthralling Ethnological Museum set in Haile Selassie's former palace. Visit the National Museum, home of Lucy, the 3.2 million year old fossilised hominid discovered in the northwest of the country, and the neoclassical St. George's Cathedral. Wade into the sprawling Merkato, said to be Africa's largest market.

Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Monday, April 20: Fly to Mekele

A short flight takes us to the Tigray region in the north of the country. Visit the impressive monolithic church of Wukro Chirkos and Abreha wa Atsbeha, the finest rock-hewn church in the region. Our lodge is set in a spectacularly scenic location with panoramic views of the stunning rock formations.

Overnight: Gheralta Lodge, Gheralta
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Gheralta

Tuesday, April 21: Gheralta

Explore remote sites and admire the spectacular landscape of jagged mountain peaks rising from the rolling semidesert. Visit outstanding rock-hewn churches in the area and see several others built high up into the cliffs and still regularly visited by pilgrims.

Overnight: Gheralta Lodge, Gheralta
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wednesday, April 22: Drive to Aksum

A paved road takes us through rugged sandstone terrain. Stop in Yeha, to see the 2800-year-old pre-Axumite Temple of the Moon, built of mammoth limestone blocks. Arrive in Aksum, the holiest city of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, once part of an empire that stretched across the Red Sea. Enjoy a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony with beans roasted over charcoal infused with frankincense.

Overnight: Sabeen Hotel, Aksum
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Thursday, April 23: Aksum

Begin at the Stelae Park, the site of pre-Christian and Christian-era giant obelisks and a UNESCO World Heritage Site for the tallest single pieces of quarried stone in the ancient world. See the 7th century archeological site popularly known as the Queen of Sheba's Palace. The compound of the Cathedral of Tsion Maryam includes a small, carefully guarded chapel that houses what Ethiopians believe to be the legendary Ark of the Covenant.

Overnight: Sabeen Hotel, Aksum
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Friday, April 24: Fly to Lalibela

Fly to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Lalibela, known as the Eighth Wonder of the World for its magnificent rock-hewn churches each carved entirely out of a single block of stone. A labyrinth of tunnels and passageways connects the seven churches of the northwest cluster including the largest monolithic church in the world and others with stunning early frescoes.

Overnight: Maribela Lodge, Lalibela
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Saturday, April 25: Lalibela

Visit the well-preserved and remarkable 12th-century royal church of Yemrehanna Kristos where Michael Gervers is conducting research. Continue exploring the spectacular Lalibela churches and at sunset visit the isolated monolithic Bet Giyorgis, Ethiopia's iconic landmark church, the pinnacle of rock-hewn tradition.

Overnight: Maribela Lodge, Lalibela
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sunday, April 26: Fly to Gondar

A short flight takes us to Gondar, the 'Camelot of Africa'. The amazing World Heritage site is a vast compound containing castles, palaces, and battlements showing a remarkable interface of Hindu, Arab, and Baroque Jesuit influences. See the magnificent frescoes at Debre Birhan Selassie Church, the ceiling with rows and rows of winged cherubs and walls with devilish depictions of hell.

Overnight: Mayleko Lodge, Gondar
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Monday, April 27: Excursion to the Simien Mountains

Drive up into one of Africa's most beautiful mountain ranges, a massive plateau riven with gullies and pinnacles. The scenery will leave you speechless, as will the excitement of sitting among a group of resident Gelada baboons – unaccustomed to Western visitors, the pack will allow you to mingle quietly with them.

Overnight: Mayleko Lodge, Gondar
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tuesday, April 28: Drive to Bahir Dar

Drive along the shores of Lake Tana to the picturesque town of Bahir Dar. The Blue Nile originates at Lake Tana and 30 kilometres downstream from the source lies 'Tis Abay', meaning 'Great Smoke' – the Blue Nile Falls. Walk along the footpath said to have been built in the 16th century by Portuguese explorers and admire the spectacular views.

Overnight: Avanti Blue Nile Hotel
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wednesday, April 29: Bahir Dar

Take a private boat to visit monasteries hidden on Lake Tana's islands. Not easily accessible, the monasteries were used to store art treasures and religious relics. Admire the brightly coloured murals and impressive displays of illuminated bibles. Celebrate our Ethiopian adventure with a farewell dinner this evening.

Overnight: Avanti Blue Nile Hotel
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Thursday, April 30: Fly to Addis Ababa and depart

Fly back to Addis for a last look at the city from the heights of the Entoto Hills and a visit to the Shiromeda Cloth Market for hand-woven embroidered textiles and weavings. Enjoy the use of a day room at the Hilton Hotel to rest up before being transferred to the airport for homeward-bound flights.

Day room: Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa
Meals: Breakfast

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in this tour brochure are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.



St. George Church, Lalibela

Enjoy more of Ethiopia on an optional extension. Please be in touch for a detailed itinerary.



Tribes and Treasures of the Omo Valley

April 30 – May 6, 2020

Travel to the remote southwest of the country, to the harsh yet beautiful environment of the Omo Valley, home to distinct ethnic groups who are fiercely proud of their traditional lifestyles. Visit with the Hamar people tending cattle, learn about the ceremonies of the Karo people, and experience the weekly markets. Observe the varied birdlife, the hippos of Lake Awassa, and the giant crocodiles of Lake Chamo.

Cost: Please enquire.

What to Expect

Level of Activity: Active

Please note that this trip requires a good level of fitness. Walks of up to 60 – 90 minutes over uneven terrain are required. You will best enjoy this trip if you have unimpaired mobility and can cope with everyday walking and stair climbing without difficulty. Your spirit of adventure will be rewarded by a magnificent experience.

Accommodation

We are staying in the best available hotels throughout the tour, equivalent to good four-star level accommodation. Guest rooms are charming and decorated with regional art. All rooms have private, western-style bathrooms. WiFi is available at all hotels.

Transportation

We are travelling by minibus for most of our route and to the Simien Mountains by 4x4 jeep. There are some drives on unpaved roads. Bathroom stops during our drives are sometimes 'bush stops'. Our minibus is well maintained but not new.



Weather

Ethiopia is renowned as the land of 13 months of sunshine. Temperatures range from highs of 25°C to overnight lows of 10°C.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for your trip to Ethiopia. Please make sure that it is valid for six months after the date of your return home. A visa is required for travel to Ethiopia. Currently this visa is obtained on arrival.

Terms and Conditions

For information about terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form or Worldwide Quest's website. All participants are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act.

Study Leader

Michael Gervers is professor of Medieval History at the University of Toronto. He has carried out field research in Ethiopia for over 30 years and publishes frequently on aspects of the country's history and material culture. He is the co-founder of *Mazaba Seelat*, an on-line database containing over 65,000 original photographs of Ethiopian art, architecture, crafts, landscapes, flora, and fauna.



Crafts