



## **Remote River Expeditions**

**ETHIOIA**

### **The Omo River Expedition**

#### **Itinerary & Notes**

**Day 1** Depart home, en route to Ethiopia.

**Day 2** **Arrive Addis Ababa.** Upon arrival you will be greeted by a Remote River Expeditions representative, and transfer together to the Holiday Hotel or similar accommodations. Afternoon free to relax and see the city. Welcome dinner and trip briefing. Overnight Holiday Hotel. (D)

**Day 3** **Toward Put-In.** After breakfast we begin making our way to the river. We drive through the typical highland farming country with thatched huts dotting the fields of ripening grain. Our 65 mile drive brings us to the small town of Wolisso, where we spend the night at the Wolisso Hot Springs Hotel. (B,L,D)

**Days 4-11** **Upper Half.** Drive 50 miles to Gibe Bridge. After rigging the boats, we head downstream and are soon baptized by the rapids abounding in this section. The river lies within a 5,000-foot deep canyon and the scenery changes constantly. We have ample time to stop for hikes and to swim in tributaries. We visit spectacular waterfalls, careen down the water slides of the Red Grotto and Baboon Flume, float beneath the 300-foot cliffs of serenity Canyon and soak in hot springs by the light of the moon.

We usually lay over (two nights at on site) at least once, frequently at a lovely campsite from which we can climb up to visit picturesque Wolayta villages. The first half of the Omo has an abundance of wildlife: we have a chance to observe hippo as they surface near our boats for a suspicious inspection, see crocodiles basking in the sun, colobus monkeys flying through the trees, and baboon barking from the cliffs. Occasionally we spot lion, leopard, or greater kudu.

(B,L,D) Camping.

**Day 12** **Re-supply.** Meet re-supply vehicles at the Bele Bridge to take fresh supplies. Those doing only the upper half of the trip will leave the river here, spending the night en route to Addis Ababa at Lake Langano. The rest of the group continues downstream to our first camp on the lower half.

(B,L,D)



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**Days 13-23 Lower Half.** The river cuts through a deep canyon for the first few days, but starts to open up with frequent tree-lined broad stretches, curving around enormous rock bars. Two of the Omo's most challenging await us on the third and fourth day. Superb vistas of distant peaks and mountain slopes with a patchwork of fields appear around every bend. The birdlife increases: we see fish eagles, Goliath herons, kingfishers, bee-eaters and much more; in the background we'll hear the raucous cawing of silvery-cheeked hornbills or the bubbly purr of the white-browed coucal.

Hikes to highland farms bring us to more and more remote groups: Gemo, Gofa, Zala, and the Kulo-Konta. Finally, as the canyon opens up and the river broadens, we encounter our first group of lower Omo peoples, the Bodi. Jolly bands hail us from the shore, and we frequently pull in to chat, observe, take pictures, and give limited medical help. For the last week or so, we encounter Bodi, Mursi, Kwegu (Bacha), and Chara. Each group has its distinctive dress and decoration: fantastic hair-dos, enormous clay lip-plates, ear plugs, bark-cloth, and beaded leather skirts. We'll have many chances to buy or trade for carved wooden headrests, artful baskets, musical instruments, or honey. (B,L,D each day)  
Camping.

**Day 24 Our final day on the Omo.** Depending on the road and weather we'll either end our trip at Karo or Murelle where we meet 4x4 vehicles and begin our journey back to Addis Ababa. We overnight in Jinka at a small hotel where we enjoy hot showers and a comfortable bed. (B,L,D)

**Day 25 En route to Addis Ababa.** We drive north through the Rift Valley spending one night along the way and arrive back in the capital late afternoon of the second day. In the evening we enjoy live music and a farewell dinner celebration at one of the many excellent restaurants in Addis. Overnight Holiday Hotel. (B,L,D)

**Day 26 Free day in Addis Ababa** for last-minute shopping and sightseeing. Day rooms will be available. Breakfast included, other meals are on your own. Evening transfer to airport for departure. (B)

**Day 27** En route home.



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#### **Tour Notes**

***ITINERARY:*** Although we will do our very best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control. If the trip is delayed because of bad weather, cancelled or delayed flights or delays on other modern transportation, sickness, or other situation for which Remote River Expeditions or its agents cannot make provisions, the cost of delays is not included. Please read the Limitations of Liability paragraph in our Booking Information.

**Addis Ababa** is a vibrant, colorful city. If time allows we recommend you arrive a day or two early to recover from international flights and have a chance to really enjoy the culture and attractions of the city.

**Includes:** Expert leadership and excellent naturalist guides, airport transfers, all hotels and meals (except as noted), river trip, camp and cook staff, camping and commissary equipment, room occupancy taxes, all ground transportation.

**Excludes:** International flights, visas, airport taxes, insurance of any kind, tips, excess baggage, cost of immunizations, and items of a personal nature (laundry, sodas, alcoholic drinks, etc).

**Small Group Surcharge:** Please note that a small group surcharge may apply for groups of less than 6 traveling.

**Guides:** Gary Lemmer, Eddie Dowd, Pasquale Scaturro, Robel Petros, Aylson Wood