



Remote River Expeditions



Ethiopia Omo River Expedition

Detailed 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 downtown to your hotel. The afternoon is free to relax and explore the capital. Evening welcome dinner and expedition orientation. Overnight Holiday Hotel (or similar). (D)

Day 3 **En route to 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 on the upper half, frequently at the hot springs and 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; crocodiles basking in the sun; colobus monkeys flying through the trees; and baboon barking from the cliffs. We also enjoy a good variety of bird life and on rare occasions spot lion, leopard, or greater kudu. Camping. (B,L,D)

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 and spend the night at Lake Langano before returning to Addis Ababa the following day. The rest of the team continues downstream to our first camp on the Lower Half. (B,L,D)

Days 13 - 21 **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. A variety of groups 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. Camping. (B,L,D)

Day 22 **Our final day on the River.** Depending on the road and weather conditions we complete our expedition at Karo (a Duse village) or lower down at the settlement of Murelle. Final camp on the river. (B,L,D)

Day 23 **Begin return journey to Addis Ababa.** Early in the morning we leave the river and make our way into the highlands and the picturesque town of Jinka and check into our hotel where we enjoy hot showers, cold drinks and a comfortable bed. Overnight Jinka Resort Hotel. (B,L,D)



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Day 24 **Return to Addis Ababa.** From Jinka we board a domestic flight for the return to the capital. Afternoon is free for last-minute shopping and sightseeing. Lunch is on your own. Evening farewell dinner celebration with live music and traditional Ethiopian fare. Overnight Holiday Hotel (or similar). (B,D)

Day 25 **Transfer to Bole Airport for outbound flights.**

End of Services

Expedition Notes

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

Includes: Expert leadership; international and Ethiopian river guides; airport transfers; all hotels and meals (except as noted in the itinerary); camp and cook staff; camping and commissary equipment (except light weight sleeping bag or blanket); room occupancy taxes; domestic flight Jinka to Addis Ababa and all ground transportation.

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

Small Group Surcharge will apply for expeditions with less than six team members.

***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.*