

Gondar & Simien Trekking 14-19 October 2018 Ethiopia



Day 1/ 14 October 2018, Sunday

Arrival to Gondar airport and transfer to hotel after having a rest for a while then city tour of Gondar. Sightseeing of Fasil Castle, Debrbrhan Trinity church

Overnight in AG Hotel in Gondar www.asfawhotel.com or similar hotels

Day 2/ 15 October 2018, Monday

From Gondar takes us along a good gravel road to the park headquarters in Debarq (100km, 3 hours by 4x4), where we obtain permits and meet our knowledgeable local guide and scout. We drive (1 hour by 4x4) into the National Park before starting our first day introductory walk. This is an easy hike along the northern edge of the escarpment with impressive views over the foothills and plains of northern Ethiopia. You will encounter gelada baboon along this hike and will be welcomed to Ankaber campsite with tea and coffee, where your camp will be prepared in advance of your arrival.

Day 3/ 16 October 2018, Tuesday Gich (3600m), 5-6 hours

After a hearty breakfast we follow the northern escarpment eastward, before descending a little into the Kaba valley. We then climb to reach Gich Abyss and continue over a narrow ridge to a cliff, which reveals a spectacular view of the abyss and Simien foothills to the north. To the east we have striking views of a large waterfall, where the Jinbar River plunges 500m into the abyss. Two hours further on, we break for lunch on the banks of the Jinbar River. From the valley, we ascend through gelada baboon-filled fields of barley to reach the idyllic village of Gich. From Gich village it is a short walk to Gich camp, perched dramatically above the village and an excellent place to spot lammergeyer, black kite and thick-billed raven. After a relaxing afternoon (optionally punctuated by a coffee ceremony), we take a short hike to Kedadit (3760m) to enjoy the sunset and gorgeous shaded landscapes down the cliffs of the escarpment, before returning to camp for a freshly prepared dinner.

Day 4/ 17 October 2018, Wednesday Chennek (3600m), 7-8 hours

From Gich camp we pass endless fields of giant lobelia before the high pasture gives way to the towering cliffs of Imet-Gogo (3926m). (An optional extended route from Gich camp to Imet-Gogo meets the escarpment further north, at the gelada baboon-covered, 3785m-high viewpoint of Saha, before following the precipitous cliffs southwards up to Imet-Gogo.) Time spent at Imet-Gogo is rewarded by superb views over the mountain valleys below and the strikingly-shaped domes in the distance. We then descend into the Jinbar River Valley; the contrasting view of Imet-Gogo and the volcanic landscape from here gives the impression that vast chunks of the mountains have been blown-away. We climb from the valley to the summit of Inatye (4070m), a spectacularly scenic spot for lunch. After lunch we descend for about two hours along a steep trail to reach Chennek. We arrive at Chennek camp in plenty of time to appreciate the spectacular views in all directions, and to spot Walia ibex grazing close to the edge of the escarpment and sometimes skirting the edges of the campsite. The day concludes with a well-deserved dinner served in gratifyingly generous proportions!

Day 5/ 18 October 2018, Thursday Chennek to Buhawit (4430m), round trip, 5-6 hours

The concluding day of our visit to the Simien National Park features a morning climb from Chennek camp to the second highest peak in the Simien Mountains, Buwahit (4430m). During the climb to the summit we will spot a variety of animals including Walia ibex and, if we are lucky, a rare sighting of another mammal endemic to Ethiopia, the Simien fox, and be rewarded by scenic views into the verdant valley extending westwards beyond Chennek camp and, in a vivid contrast, the striking view to the east as far as Ras-Dejen (4543m), the highest mountain peak in Ethiopia. We return to Chennek camp for lunch, and the afternoon begins with a scenic drive through the National Park to return us, first, to Debarq before continuing on to reach Gondar in the early evening.

Overnight in AG Hotel in Gondar www.asfawhotel.com or similar hotels

Day 6/ 19 October 2018, Friday

Airport transfer to Gondar airport

Price is £400

The above price will include all the services mentioned hereunder;

- Accommodation in Hotel and Camping as per the above program
- Meals on full board basis.
- Gondar airport Transfer and city tour with mini bus including fuel and driver allowance
- Drives with 4WD Toyota Land Cruisers or Nissan Patrol including Fuel and driver allowance
- Professional English speaking guide
- Experienced cook for the full board Meals served on Trekking days.
- All necessary camping and cooking equipment's
- All entrance fees and embarkation fees as per the program

The following services ARE NOT INCLUDED in the above stated price:

- International, Domestic Air tickets, visas and insurance.
- Payable beverages and drinks
- Sleeping bags (for hygiene purpose)
- Video camera and photography fees
- Any services that are not mentioned in the above Section.

Payment Options:

Deposit payment £100,

£150 is due 1 August,

£150 is due 1 September

Visa: Citizens of most European countries can be obtained visa upon arrival at the airport (about 50 USD). Please, check with your own Consulate.

Vaccination: You will need an International Certificate of Vaccination against Yellow Fever. Please, check with your doctor if you need additional vaccinations;

SUGGESTED FLIGHT

Please check www.myescapetonature.com

Outbound
SAT, 13 OCT 2018
all times are local



21:00

LHR London Heathrow

06:35+1

ADD Addis Ababa

1h 35

Connect in airport



Ethiopian Airlines ET122

1h 10

08:10

ADD Addis Ababa

09:20

GDQ Gondar

Arrives: Sun, 14 Oct 2018 **Journey duration:** 10h 20

Return

FRI, 19 OCT 2018



Ethiopian Airlines ET169

19:30

GDQ Gondar

20:30

ADD Addis Ababa

4h 35

Connect in airport

Long wait



Ethiopian Airlines ET700

7h 45

01:05+1

ADD Addis Ababa

06:50

LHR London Heathrow

Arrives: Sat, 20 Oct 2018 **Journey duration:** 13h 20