



# Omo Valley Tribes

## ETHIOPIA

Photo by C. De Paoli



**11 days**

25 July - 4 August 2024  
English speaking tour leader

### The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The **weekly markets** of Chench, Turmi, Dimeka, Aldoubba, Key Afer and Konso
- The aesthetic care and showy ornaments of **Hamer** women
- The **bull jumping ceremony**, rite of passage for young Hamers
- **Navigating the Omo River** to discover the **Dasanech people**
- **Karo** and **Nyangatom** body paintings
- The **Mursi** and the **Bodi**, artists in the decoration and deformation of the body
- The ingenious architecture and ancestor cult of the **Konso**
- **Lakes Chamo** and **Langano**, true natural paradises



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### Day 1 - Thursday 25 July

#### Italy/Addis Ababa

Flight to Addis Ababa, overnight on board.

### Day 2 - Friday 26 July

#### Addis Ababa/Arba Minch

On arrival in Addis Ababa, meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff, breakfast and assistance with the exchange of Euros and the possible purchase of a phone card. Departure to the south, stopping en route at TIYA, near which there is an archaeological site consisting of 32 symbol-covered stelae enclosed in a UNESCO World Heritage cemetery complex. Lunch in a restaurant in Sodo. Continue to Arba Minch through the green rural landscapes inhabited by the GURAGE and WOLAYTA peoples, with their characteristic beehive-shaped huts. Arrival and accommodation at Haile Resort or similar. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

### Day 3 - Saturday 27 July

#### Arba Minch/Chamo/Chencha/Arba Minch

After breakfast boat excursion on LAKE CHAMO, where we can admire hippos and a giant crocodile species. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, we depart for the Guge Mountains to the village of CHENCHA, and discover the DORZE, farmers and skilled weavers. We visit the colourful weekly market where all kinds of goods are sold and shamma, fine cotton robes. We will also meet elderly people intent on smoking a traditional pipe. This is followed by a visit to the DORZE village, which is characterised by its houses up to 12 metres high, built of wood, bamboo and woven enset leaves, with a strange 'elephant' shape. Here we will learn the preparation of colcho, an ensete-based 'piadina' that forms the Dorze's food base, which we will enjoy with a spicy sauce and honey. Return to Arba Minch and overnight at the hotel.



Tiya



Lake Chamo



Chencha Market



Dorze dwellings



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### Day 4 - Sunday 28 July

#### Arba Minch/Arbore Villages/Turmi

After breakfast, we depart for the lower Omo valley and visit an ARBORE VILLAGE, where we can meet the women of this ethnic group who adorn themselves with a large number of necklaces, bracelets and earrings and have their hair styled in long braids, if married, or completely shaved, if still single. Continuation to TURMI, lunch with lunch box. We are now entering the territory of the HAMER tribe, one of the most aesthetically well-groomed groups: women use to style their hair in delightful bobs made by curling the locks with clay mixed with butter or animal fat, wear necklaces made of cauri shells and wear a typical leather skirt trimmed with metal studs and iron rings. The characteristic adornment of married women consists of a metal visor called kallè, while married women are distinguished by their massive iron collar. In the evening, it is possible to watch the EVANGADI, the Hamer courtship dance that takes place at dusk. Overnight stay in a double room with services at the Emerald Resort or similar.



Arbore Girl



Hamer Village

### Day 5 - Monday 29 July

#### Turmi/Omo River Navigation/Turmi

After breakfast, transfer to OMORATE, near Lake Victoria and the Kenyan border, and cross the OMO RIVER in a traditional wooden boat made from a single hollowed-out log. On the other bank live the DASSANECH people, who are dedicated to pastoralism and fishing, characteristic for their huts made of a frame of branches covered with animal skins and sheets, and for the use of bottle caps for hairstyles and piercings on the lower lip with bird feathers by the women. Return to Turmi for lunch. In the afternoon, visit the TURMI Monday MARKET, frequented mainly by Hamers, where milk, butter, carved gourds, goat skins and body ornaments are sold. If it takes place during our stay in Turmi, there is the possibility of attending the RITUAL BULL JUMPING CEREMONY, a rite of passage to adulthood for young Hamer and Banna, which consists of arranging in rows about twenty bulls that the initiates, completely naked, will have to jump three times in front of their young women, who beg to be whipped as a sign of love for their betrothed. Overnight at the lodge.



Evangadi Dance



Dassanech Girls





### Day 6 - Tuesday 30 July

#### Turmi/Karo/Nyangatom/Dimeka/Jinka

Breakfast and departure via a track through the savannah to visit the village of KORCHO, situated on a beautiful bend in the Omo River, where we will meet the KARO people, famous for their body paintings. Crossing the river in a canoe, in one of the most remote areas of the Omo Valley, we will meet the NYANGATOM ethnic group, famous for being fearsome warriors, where women use to adorn themselves with dozens of beaded necklaces around their necks. Following this, departure for the weekly DIMEKA MARKET, where Hamer and Banna people from neighbouring villages meet to exchange grains and pulses. Lunch in a local restaurant or lunch box. Departure for Jinka and a visit en route to the ALDOUBBA WEEKLY MARKET frequented by the ETNIA BANNA, where we can see traditional 'bars' serving sorghum beer and tej. On arrival in JINKA accommodation at Omo Eco Lodge or similar and overnight stay in luxury double tents with private outside bathroom.



Hamer women



Karo Village

### Day 7 - Wednesday 31 July

#### Jinka/Mago/Bodi and Mursi Villages/Jinka

Breakfast and drive through MAGO NATIONAL PARK, an area of savannah that is home to elephants, leopards, lions, giraffes and zebras, but difficult to spot. Visit to a BODI VILLAGE, known for its Ka'el ceremonial, where men follow a diet of blood and cow's milk to participate in a competition where the 'fattest' will be the winner. This is followed by a visit to a MURSI VILLAGE, a people mainly dedicated to animal husbandry, agriculture and honey production, and easily recognisable by the tradition of wearing clay lip discs worn by women, which are inserted by piercing the lower lip from a very young age. Some anthropologists consider it as a voluntary disfigurement created to deter slave traders, others as an indication of the dowry required by the family to marry her, still others as protection against evil taking possession of the body. Lunch box. Near Jinka, we meet the ARI people, famous for the production of honey, which is used as currency, and for the women's skirts made from the enset plant. We visit the finely finished mud dwellings, surrounded by lush vegetation with coffee and banana plantations, and taste araki, a strong local spirit. Overnight at the lodge.



Young Mursi



Mursi Woman

### Day 8 - Thursday 01 August

#### Jinka/Key Afer/Konso

After breakfast, visit the ethnographic museum in Jinka, where we will find everyday objects from the various ethnic groups of the lower Omo valley. Afterwards, depart for the picturesque KEY AFER weekly MARKET, where Banna, Tsemay and Ari people flock to the town, mainly to exchange livestock. Lunch in a local restaurant or lunch box. Continuation and participation in the KONSOWEEKLY MARKET, characteristic for the embroidered fabrics used by the women of this ethnic group for their skirts, and a visit to the KONSOWILLAGES, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, characteristic for their terraces with mixed crops, the stone walls that enclose them forming veritable labyrinths, the generation posts and for the wagas, carved wooden sculptures in honour of deceased warriors, pillars of the ancestor cult practised by this population (visible almost exclusively in the museum). Accommodation at Kanta Lodge or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Banna Girl in Key Afer

### Day 9 - Friday 02 August

#### Arba Minch/Langano

Breakfast and departure north, with stops for lunch in a restaurant in Sodo and coffee in a traditional Alaba family, where it is usually taken by adding salt and not sugar. Afternoon arrival at LAKE LANGANO and accommodation at the Sabana Beach Resort or similar, time at leisure at the lake. Overnight stay in a double room with services.



The famous Ethiopian coffee

### Day 10 - Saturday 03 August

#### Langano/Addis Ababa

After breakfast, relax on LAKE LANGANO. Late morning departure along the tarmac road that runs through the Rift Valley, passing between Lake Ziway and Debrezeit. Lunch in a restaurant. Continue to ADDIS ABEBA and visit the Merkato, the largest market in Africa. Some rooms in day use. Possibility of a dinner of injera, Ethiopia's national dish, accompanied by a traditional dance performance. Transfer to the airport and end of services.



Lake Langano

### Day 9 - Sunday 04 August

#### Addis Ababa/Italy

Arrive at the destination airport in the morning.

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**11 days**

25 July - 4 August 2024  
English speaking tour leader

**Individual participation fee in double room (min. 6/max. 16 pax)**

**2,390 €/pax**

**in promotion at € 2,290  
for booking before 25/04/2024**

### Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room: **280 €**
- Night in Addis Ababa: **100 €/room**

### The fee includes:

- English-speaking guide;
- English speaking tour leader (from 10 pax);
- Local guides for visiting tribes where necessary;
- All transfers by Toyota 4x4 (max. 4 clients/car), including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- Entrance fees during guided tours;
- Half-board meals as per the itinerary;
- 8 overnight stays as mentioned in the itinerary;
- Day use in Addis Ababa (1 room per 4 pax).

### The fee does not include:

- Ethiopia entry visa (incoming 50 USD);
- Cancellation/health/covid/baggage insurance;
- Air flights;
- Meals not included in the itinerary;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Photographic permits and tips;
- Tip to attend the eventual evangadi dance and the Hamer bull jumping ceremony;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.