



Danakil with volcano expert

ETHIOPIA



12 days

24 January - 02 February 2025

English speaking tour leader (Luca Lupi)



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The encounter with our ancestor Lucy in **Addis Ababa**
- Trekking on the **Erta Ale volcano**, admiring its lava lake
- The **Afar nomads** and the **salt caravans**, a millenary tradition unchanged
- The Dante-esque landscapes of **The Dallol**, 116 metres below sea level
- A regenerating bath in **Lake Afdera** and its hot springs
- The sighting of oryx and kudu in the **Awash Park**



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
+223 76723946 - www.kanaga-at.com

Danakil with volcano expert

ETHIOPIA

Day 1 - Friday 24 January

Outward flight/Addis Ababa (ADD)

Evening flight to Addis Ababa, overnight by plane.

Day 2 - Saturday 25 January

Addis Ababa/Flight/Semera

On arrival meeting with Kanaga Africa Tours staff. Assistance for the exchange of Euros and possible purchase of a local phone card. Morning dedicated to a visit to ADDIS ABEBA, the 'new flower', a colourful, chaotic and noisy African capital, reflecting the contrasts between ongoing modernisation and tradition, and showing signs of an ancient beauty in which the atmosphere of Italian Abyssinia can still be discerned. We will visit the National Museum, which houses important Sabaeen artefacts and the fossil remains of Australopithecus Afarensis, including the famous Lucy, a hominid who lived in the Awash Valley three and a half million years ago, among the oldest remains found on Earth. Lunch and transfer to the airport for the flight to Semera, scheduled at 15h45. Accommodation at the Kuriftu Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.

Day 3 - Sunday 26 January

Semera/Erta Ale

After breakfast, departure to the heart of the DANAKIL region, a territory considered to be among the most hostile to life, but where a people have nevertheless been able to find the means to survive with a great display of resilience. Danakil is in fact the land of the Afar, also called Dancali or Danakili, people with black skin but with the sharp features of the Arabs, dromedary breeders or dedicated to a poor shepherding, nomads on the move, salt merchants. Proud, jealous of their independence, they live in family camps made up of a few huts, which they dismantle and reassemble during their wanderings, carrying their looms and mats on the backs of dromedaries. Also characteristic are the tattoos and scarifications indicating the clan and tribe to which they belong. Continuation along a track winding between sand and lava, passing several AFAR VILLAGES in the direction of the VULCANO ERTA ALE - the 'smoking mountain' -, the last of a chain of volcanoes in the central part of the Danakil depression. Picnic lunch. In the afternoon, when the sun begins to set, we will start the ascent to the top of the caldera: the difference in altitude is only 500 metres, but it takes about 2 hours on a path cut into the lava to reach the top. The camp will be equipped for the night at the top of the volcano with mats and sleeping mats. In the dark, only illuminated by the vivid glow of the volcano, we will reach the edge of the caldera: the spectacle of lava in constant motion and magma that seems to emerge from the bowels of the earth is extraordinary and one of the unforgettable moments of the trip. Picnic dinner and overnight at the camp.



Danakil with volcano expert

ETHIOPIA

Day 4 - Monday 27 January

Erta Ale/Ahmed Ela

Early in the morning, after further exploration of the area, we begin our descent in the direction of base camp. Breakfast and departure for Amedila (Ahmed Ela). The track, once we leave the immense lava expanse, passes through an alluvial plain with a chain of volcanoes, which in the rainy season turns into a succession of green pastures. We continue on to the village of Waideddo and the SALT FLOOR, which, almost at the northern end of the Danakil Depression, extends to the border with Eritrea. With a bit of luck, we may be able to observe the salt being extracted and the last dromedary caravans transporting it to the plateau. Accommodation on wooden beds (hangareb) en plain air at the edge of the Afar huts. Picnic lunch and dinner, overnight at the camp.

Day 5 - Tuesday 28 January

Ahmed Ela/Dallol/Ahmed Ela

Early in the morning, after breakfast at the camp, we head for DALLOL, the 'spirit hill', some fifty metres high: here the earth bubbles, geysers are active, crystal formations have bizarre geometries. Sulphurous springs, salt cones, and fairy chimneys create a most evocative landscape. Wounds of fire emit red-hot stones, swirls of smoke and vapours, underground bubbling generates multicoloured saline waterfalls, inlays and embroideries of iron and sulphur. Walking along a path, one reaches an expanse of astonishing colours: red, green, yellow, alternating without apparent logic. Return to camp at Ahmed Ela and picnic lunch. In the afternoon, exploration of the salt quarry area, where the last diggers extract rectangular blocks with the help of sticks used as levers, and cut them to a size that can be transported on dromedaries. Continue on to the small magnesium salt mountain called Assa Ale, the 'red mountain', an island formed by a few magnesium sulphate outcrops rising in Lake Assale, 116 metres below sea level. Picnic lunch and dinner, overnight at the camp.



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
+223 76723946 - www.kanaga-at.com

Danakil with volcano expert

ETHIOPIA

Day 6 - Wednesday 29 January

Ahmed Ela/Afdera

After breakfast, departure for LAKE AFDERA (Afrera), located 112 metres below sea level in the heart of the Danakil Depression. On arrival, set up camp near the lake, formerly known as Lake Giulietti, and enjoy a picnic lunch. In the afternoon we can observe the Tigrinos intent on extracting salt, once traded in the highland markets for gold. Possibility of a regenerating bath in the salt lake and nearby hot springs. Picnic dinner and overnight stay in igloo tents.

Day 7 - Thursday 30 January

Afdera/Allalobad/Semera

Breakfast at the camp and departure for ALLALOBAD, picnic lunch en route. Here active geysers erupt hot water and steam at a height of about 1 metre and occasionally higher, creating a true geological 'theatre'. Late afternoon departure for Semera, for a well-deserved shower at the hotel. Accommodation at the Kuriftu Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.

Day 8 - Friday 31 January

Semera/Awash N.P.

After breakfast, depart for the town of Awash, passing through the YANGUIDI RASSA park where, with a bit of luck, we may encounter monkeys, oryx, ostriches and gazelles. Picnic lunch en route. In the afternoon, we will go on safari to discover the different animal species that inhabit AWASH NATIONAL PARK: oryx, kudu, baboons and some hard-to-see predators, including lions, leopards and hyenas. Accommodation at Doho Lodge or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with en-suite facilities.

Day 9 - Saturday 01 February

Awash N.P./Addis Abeba

Breakfast and transfer to the capital, with a stop in Debre Zeit for lunch in a restaurant. Arrival in ADDIS ABEBA and visit some handicraft shops on request. Some rooms in day use at the Hotel Nexus International or similar. Possibility of a typical dinner with live music and local dances. Transfer to the airport in time for your return flight, end of services.

Day 10 - Sunday 02 February

Addis Abeba/Return flight

Arrivo all'aeroporto di destinazione.



Danakil with volcano expert

ETHIOPIA

12 days

24 January - 02 February 2025

English speaking tour leader (Luca Lupi)

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

2,890 €/pax

**in promotion at € 2,790
for booking before 24/10/2024**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room/tent: **150 €**
- Buffet dinner with show: **30 €/pax**
- Extra overnight stay Addis: **100 Euro/room**
- Possible extensions: **Lalibela, Harar, Somaliland, Mogadishu, whale sharks**

The fee includes:

- English-speaking local guide;
- English speaking tour leader (from 9 pax);
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- All transfers in 4x4 Toyota or similar (max. 3 clients/car), including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Transfers to/from the airport (flight operating recommended);
- Full board meals from lunch in D2 to lunch in D9;
- Mineral water (1.5 litres/pax/day);
- Scouts and military escorts where necessary;
- Field equipment, cook and kitchen;
- 7 overnight stays in double rooms as mentioned in the itinerary (3 at the hotel, 4 at the camp);
- Day use in Addis Ababa (1 room per 4 pax).

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Ethiopia (incoming \$50);
- Insurance for cancellation, health, luggage;
- Air flights;
- Drinks and mineral water extra;
- Meals not included in the itinerary;
- Airport/hotel transfers and vice versa with different flight operating than those recommended;
- Sleeping bag and pillow;
- Photo and video tips;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'Supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in "the fee includes".