

## Useful Travel Facts

**Land:** Ethiopia is located in Northeast Africa and covers an area of 1,235,000 square kilometers. Ethiopia shares its border with Somalia and Djibouti to the east, Eritrea to the north, Kenya to the south and Sudan to the west.

**Climate:** Dry season prevails from October through May and wet season runs from June to September.

**Topography:** The altitude in the country ranges from 116m below sea level in the Danakil Depression, one of the hottest places in the world, to 4620 meters a.s.l at Mount Ras Dashen in the North.

**People:** The population is estimated at 65million, the third highest population in Africa.

**Language:** Ethiopia is a multi-ethnic state with more than 80 languages. Amharic with its unique script is the national official Language. English is also widely spoken.

**Accommodation:** Ethiopia boasts quite a wide variety of hotel accommodation ranging from luxury products to upscale, mid-range and budget hotels.

**Visa and immigration requirement:** Visa applications may be obtained at Ethiopia's overseas diplomatic missions. However many nationals are now allowed to receive their tourist visas on arrival in Ethiopia at the regular charge. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months.

**Health Requirements:** Prior to entry, visitors should be in possession of a valid health certificate for yellow fever. Vaccination against cholera is also required for any person who has visited or transited a cholera-infected area within six days prior to arrival in Ethiopia.

**Calendar and Time:** Ethiopia follows the Julian calendar, which consists of 12 months of 30 days each and a 13th month of 5 or 6 days. It is 7 years and 8 months behind the Gregorian calendar. Ethiopia is in the GMT + 3 hours time zone.

**Currency:** The local currency is the "Ethiopian Birr", made up of 100 cents. Credit cards are not widely accepted outside the major establishments in the cities. Cash and travelers cheques are recommended.

**Electric Supply:** Ethiopia uses 220 Volts 50 cycles AC. Sockets are with 2 holes. A universal two – prong adapter is recommended.

**Communications:** Telephone, fax, internet and postal facilities are available in most main towns. The IDD code for Ethiopia is +251.

**Clothing:** Ethiopians are modest dressers and visitors should be sensitive about going undressed into places of worship. Shoes must always be removed before entering Churches and Mosques.