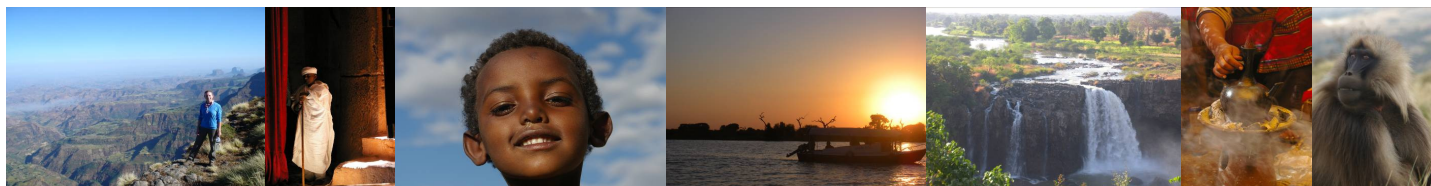


World Challenge 25th anniversary expedition

Ethiopia 2012



Day	Date	Day	From	To	Alt (m)	Details
1		Sat	UK	Overnight flight	N/A	<p>Your adventure begins with an overnight flight, and your first glimpse of Africa will be sunrise over the Ethiopian highlands as your plane heads in to Addis Ababa... Once you have cleared immigration and changed some money, your first task as you step outside is to head to your pre-booked accommodation. Private transport will be waiting to collect you.</p> <p>At 2300m above sea level, Addis is the heart of Ethiopia, home of the African Union and one of the largest cities in East Africa. As you head through the city you'll pass glittering skyscrapers, ramshackled markets, minibuses jam-packed with people on their way to work and barefoot kids on their way to school. In spite of your long overnight journey you need to keep switched on as there's loads to do before you leave Addis.</p> <p>Tip: Stock up on supplies in the supermarkets - luxuries like hot chocolate are easy to find here but thin on the ground in other areas of Ethiopia!</p>
2		Sun	Overnight flight	Addis Ababa	2300	<p>It's time to head north as you travel on your private transport up to Bahir Dar. Along the way you'll cross the spectacular Blue Nile gorge - definitely worth stopping for a photo. These next few days will take a fairly relaxed pace, but you'll need this time to acclimatise to the heat and higher altitude ahead of your trek in the Simien Mountains.</p>
3		Mon	Addis Ababa	Bahir Dar	1880	<p>Bahir Dar enjoys a tranquil lakeside setting on the shores of Lake Tana - Ethiopia's largest lake and the source of the mighty Blue Nile. Just an hour from Bahir Dar, head to the Blue Nile Falls to see one of Africa's most spectacular waterfalls thundering over the rocks. For a more tranquil experience your team can charter a boat and set off across the lake to visit some of the mysterious island monasteries for a glimpse into monastic life in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Whatever you end up doing, fish and chips on the lakeshore whilst the sun goes down is an experience not to be missed!</p>
4		Tue	Bahir Dar	Bahir Dar	1880	<p>From Bahir Dar make the short journey north up to Gonder. Gonder is truly surprising - nowhere else in Africa can you sit in a café in the Piazza, surrounded by a bizarre mish-mash of Italian art deco buildings and medieval castles! Gonder - Ethiopia's old imperial capital - is most famous for its fascinating collection of palaces and castles. Wandering around the medieval Royal Enclosure is an atmospheric experience, or for more hustle and bustle head to the market - one of the best places in Ethiopia to barter for some coffee to take home.</p> <p>Tip: you'll need to spend some time preparing for your trek, which begins tomorrow - you'll be camping and self catering, so don't forget to buy supplies!</p>
5		Wed	Bahir Dar	Gonder	2210	

6	Thu	Gonder	Simien Mountains trek	3250	From Gonder head north to Debarq - the gateway to the Simien Mountains. You'll need to spend some time at the park headquarters sorting out permits, guides, scouts and mules, and then will head in to the mountains to begin an exciting 4 day trek.
7	Fri	Simien Mountains trek	Simien Mountains trek	3600	With jaw-dropping panoramic vistas, challenging peaks and a good chance of spotting some of Ethiopia's most famous wildlife (watch out for those gelada baboons!) the Simien Mountains is one of Africa's premiere trekking areas and an adventure-lovers paradise. With a network of trails and campsites, you can head towards Geech Camp and climb Imet Gogo Peak for spectacular mountain views. With guides to show you the way and ponies to carry your kit you'll be able to focus on taking in the wonderful views and trying to spot the elusive Wallia Ibex.
8	Sat	Simien Mountains trek	Simien Mountains trek	3620	Tip: Make the most of the experience and cultural knowledge of your guides and porters by including them as part of the team. Try some of the local language, learn their names and share your evening activities with them to make them really feel part of the team.
9	Sun	Simien Mountains trek	Simien Mountains trek	3620	
10	Mon	Simien Mountains trek	Gonder	2210	At the end of your Simien Mountain experience head back to Gonder. This afternoon you will have the opportunity to visit one of World Challenge's community projects near Gonder. Whether working in a small rural primary school or a larger secondary school close to town, the World Challenge teams in Ethiopia are all involved in valuable projects to improve the learning conditions for students: from building additional classrooms to installing toilet blocks, painting educational murals or building desks and benches so that the students don't have to sit on the floor. Not only do the teams make a positive impact on the school that they're working in, but there are plenty of chances for interaction with local students and the community. Tip: Brush up on your Amharic, and if you want to be a real hit with the children then make sure to bring a football!
11	Tue	Gonder	Overnight flight	2400	Your expedition has come to an end, and this morning you will fly from Gonder back to Addis to connect for your flights home. The flights back to the UK tend to leave at around midnight, so you'll have time for a final celebratory meal out. The Habesha Restaurant serves up delicious Ethiopian food with live traditional music and dancing, or Castelli's is a fantastic Italian restaurant near the Piazza that has been a hit with visiting celebrities and presidents over the years.
12	Wed	Overnight flight	UK	N/A	The final thing you need to do as a team is to make it back to the airport in time for your flight home! We hope that the expedition will bring back all of your wonderful memories from your own World Challenge expedition, and we're looking forward to having you in the team for this very special adventure to celebrate our 25th anniversary.