

# Ethiopia! Exotic Tribes of the Omo River Valley

## Nature Photography Adventures

### *Adventure Itinerary*

**October 21 – November 3, 2026**



This adventure gives us in-depth opportunities for personal experiences with a number of fascinating tribes, mostly centered around the Omo River Valley in Southern Ethiopia. We also weave in some experiences with natural features, especially in the Rift Valley! Be prepared for both wildlife and people photography – in all kinds of lighting situations!

Ethiopia is arriving late to the tourism game – hence tourism infrastructure may be less sophisticated than what you have experienced elsewhere in Africa.

October 20	Optional Early Arrival Day Airport meet and transfer	Best Western Plus Hotel	Meals not Included
October 21	Arrival Day Airport meet and transfer Orientation Welcome Dinner in the hotel	Best Western Plus Hotel	Dinner
October 22	Bob will accompany the drivers to Arba Minch, taking photography equipment for the group.  Visit Ethnographic Museum, National Museum (home of Lucy), Trinity Cathedral (resting place of Haile Selassie), Tomoco Coffee House, and Entoto Hills.	Best Western Plus Hotel	BLD
October 23	Fly to Arba Minch – reunite with your photography gear. Visit your first tribe – the Dorze – famous for their beehive-shaped houses.	Haile Resort, Arba Minch	BLD
October 24	Early morning boat excursion on Lake Chamo. Scenery, birds, reptiles, and local fishermen!  Afternoon activity TBD	Haile Resort, Arba Minch	BLD
October 25	Travel to Jinka through areas inhabited by several peoples, including Konso, Tseme, Benna and Ari.  Afternoon visit to Ari Village. If time permits the Omo Valley Museum and/or a second Ari Village.	Nasa Pension	BLD
October 26	Visit to the Mursi People in Mago national Park. Mursi women are known for clay plates they insert into their lower lips.  We'll visit two Mursi Villages and make stops for birds and scenery along the way!	Nasa Pension	BLD

October 27	<p>Travel from Jinka to Turmi to set up a hub camp at Buska Lodge in the heart of Hamer country. Hamer are known for their body decorations and hairstyle for women using clay and ochre. They are also famous for the bull jumping ceremony.</p> <p>Stop at Alduba Market along the way – one of the most colorful markets!</p> <p>Afternoon visit to a Hamer village.</p>	Buska Lodge	BLD
October 28	<p>A visit today to two Dassanech villages. These agro-pastoralists also hunt fish &amp; crocodiles, primarily at night.</p> <p>Picnic lunch!</p>	Buska Lodge	BLD
October 29	<p>Today is about the Hamers! We'll visit local villages – and make time for the Turmi Market which centers around Hamer women.</p>	Buska Lodge	BLD
October 30	<p>Today is about the Nyangatom and the Karo. We'll drive to Murele, finding the Nyangatom along the way and then continue to visit two Karo Villages.</p> <p>The Karo are pretty elaborate with body painting and for creating scars with intricate patterns. Think portrait time!</p> <p>We'll take a picnic lunch to pull this off!</p>	Buska Lodge	BLD
October 31	<p>We have a scenic drive today to get to Konso! You'll love the canyon and the vertical terrain – as we pass between an escarpment and the river.</p> <p>Along the way we'll visit the Arbore people. Again, colorful attire and body painting lends itself to portraiture.</p> <p>We'll land at the Kanta Lodge on the edge of a Konso traditional town.</p>	Kanta Lodge	BLD
November 1	<p>Today starts with the Konso people and ends with a drive back to Arba Minch.</p> <p>The Konso build villages, starting on a hilltop. Each has fortified walls. As the village grows, a new ring is added and a new wall. This continues until they reach the bottom of the hill and then start a new village on another hill. You'll enjoy the labyrinth of paths leading up the hills and the gateways to houses. A much different visual look from the other tribes we have visited.</p>	Haile Resort, Arba Minch	BLD

November 2	<p>Bob and the drivers will start early today, taking the vehicles and the photography gear back to Addis Ababa.</p> <p>Everyone else gets a leisure start to the day – and an optional visit to a weaving workshop. Then an afternoon flight back to Addis Ababa.</p> <p>We'll have our farewell dinner at Yod Abyssinnia Restaurant, featuring dancers and musicians representing many of Ethiopia's ethnic groups.</p>	Best Western Plus Hotel	BLD
November 3	Transfers to international airport for outgoing flights		Breakfast

Notes:

This is a suggested itinerary – not a rigid schedule! We might hear about a bull jumping ceremony and everything (except market days) based from the Buska Lodge might be rearranged. We'll pursue other opportunities or respond to road conditions to give you the best experience – aiming to accomplish all that is on this itinerary (and possibly more).

Tipping at the villages is tricky. More on this in prep notes. If the village "determines" we are professionals, the tips will go up considerably and we won't leave until they are paid. In this situation, you are students of Nature Photography Adventures learning to photograph indigenous people in authentic settings – which is true – we'll be there to guide you. Any time you decide to pose someone or alter a setting, expect a personal tip to compensate for that – our guide will negotiate that and communicate your request.

Addis Ababa is the highest elevation at nearly 7,800 feet above sea level. The air will feel fresh and the temperature mild. As we progress downward toward Turmi and beyond, temperatures will gradually rise.

We'll have laundry opportunities along the way, especially stops where we are two or more nights in the same place. Jinka is not a good place for that.

Do stock up on snacks (or bring your favorites from home). You'll find them handy for long drives.