



2026  
**ETHIOPIA**  
AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAVELERS



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**MEET THE TEAM**  
3

**ITINERARY**  
4 - 6

**IN DEPTH**  
7 - 10

**ACCOMODATIONS**  
11 - 14



# MEET THE TEAM



**Lawrence McLean**

**CEO/FOUNDER OF AAT  
TRIP HOST**

Lawrence McLean developed the concept of AAT in 2012, as a result of the constant let down of friends backing out of travel plans, or simply not sharing his interest in traveling any further than the Caribbean. He started the group, African American Travelers of Philadelphia, followed by another chapter in New York, on meetup.com. Since, he has led thousands from around the country, on the most epic, unforgettable, international tours. AAT's groups have perused six continents, including its, signature, annual NYE in Dubai experience, and taking travelers "Home for the Holidays" to the beautiful motherland, Africa, year after year. According to "Madame Noir" Lawrence has been recognized as one of the three US entrepreneurs who is changing the perception of travel to Africa!



**Andrea McLean**

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER  
HOST ASSISTANT**

Andrea McLean is known for traveling with style, She has worked in customer service and sales for many years, mastering 60-second pitches since the spunky age of 6! She is focused on customer satisfaction, engagement, and bringing a smile to our travelers faces. Some believe that she may have been a comedian in her past life. Whenever she is around , there is always laughter.



**William McLean**

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER  
HOST ASSISTANT**

William Mclean is our newest addition to the team. William is currently in college majoring in business acquiring relevant skills that will not only enhance your traveling experience with African American Travelers but ensure that your experience is our top priority. William loves building connections and meeting new people, as our entire team is incredibly eager to present our customers with the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and memories as that will last forever.

**“Great things in business are never done by one person. They’re done by a team of people.”**

**– Steve Jobs**

# THE ITINERARY

**SUNDAY, OCT 4th**

 **USA** → **ET**

**ARRIVE IN ADDIS ADABA**



**BEST WESTERN PLUS ADDIS ABABA**

**3:00 PM CHECK IN**



**8:00 PM**

**BLACK & GOLD HOST DINNER**

**MONDAY, OCT 5th**



## **TOUR OF ADDIS ABABA W/ LUNCH**

- 9:00 AM** DEPART FOR TOUR
- ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM
  - NATIONAL MUSEUM
  - TRINITY CATHEDRAL
  - ENTOTO HILLS

**5:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

**TUESDAY, OCT 6th**



## **FLY TO ARBA MINCH**

**9:00 AM** CHECK OUT / TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

**11:40 AM** DEPART FOR ARBA MINCH/ via no ET135

**12:45 PM** ARRIVE IN ABRA MINCH/ BEGIN  
LAKE CHAMO TOUR



**HAILE RESORT ARBA MINCH**

**5:00 PM CHECK IN**

## WEDNESDAY, OCT 7th



### DEPART FOR TURMI W/ LUNCH

- 8:00 AM** CHEKCOU/ DEPART FOR KONSO (2 HR DRIVE)
- 10:00 AM** ARRIVE/ BEGIN VISIT OF THE KONSO TRIBE
- 1:00 PM** DEPART FOR TURMI (3 HR 30 M DRIVE)



TURMI PARADISE LODGE

**4:30 PM CHECK IN**

## THURSDAY, OCT 8th



### TOUR OF TURMI W/ LUNCH

- 8:00 AM** DEPART FOR DONATIONS TO TURMI SCHOOL
- 10:00 AM** DEPART FOR DASSANECH TRIBE
- 3:00 PM** DEPART FOR KARO TRIBE
- 6:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

## FRIDAY, OCT 9th



### DEPART FOR JINKA W/ LUNCH

- 9:00 AM** CHEKCOU/ DEPART FOR HAMAR TRIBE
- 1:00 PM** DEPART FOR JINKA (3 HR DRIVE)



ECO OMO LODGE

**4:00 PM CHECK IN**

# THE ITINERARY

**SATURDAY, OCT 10th**



## TOUR MURSI TRIBE / RETURN TO ADDIS ABABA

- 6:00 AM** CHECK OUT / DEPART FOR MURSI TRIBE
- 10:00 AM** DEPART FOR AIRPORT
- 1:25 PM** DEPART FOR ADDIS ADABA/ via no ET170
- 2:35 PM** ARRIVE IN ADDIS ABABA



BEST WESTERN PLUS ADDIS ABABA

**3:30 PM CHECK IN**



**8:00 PM**

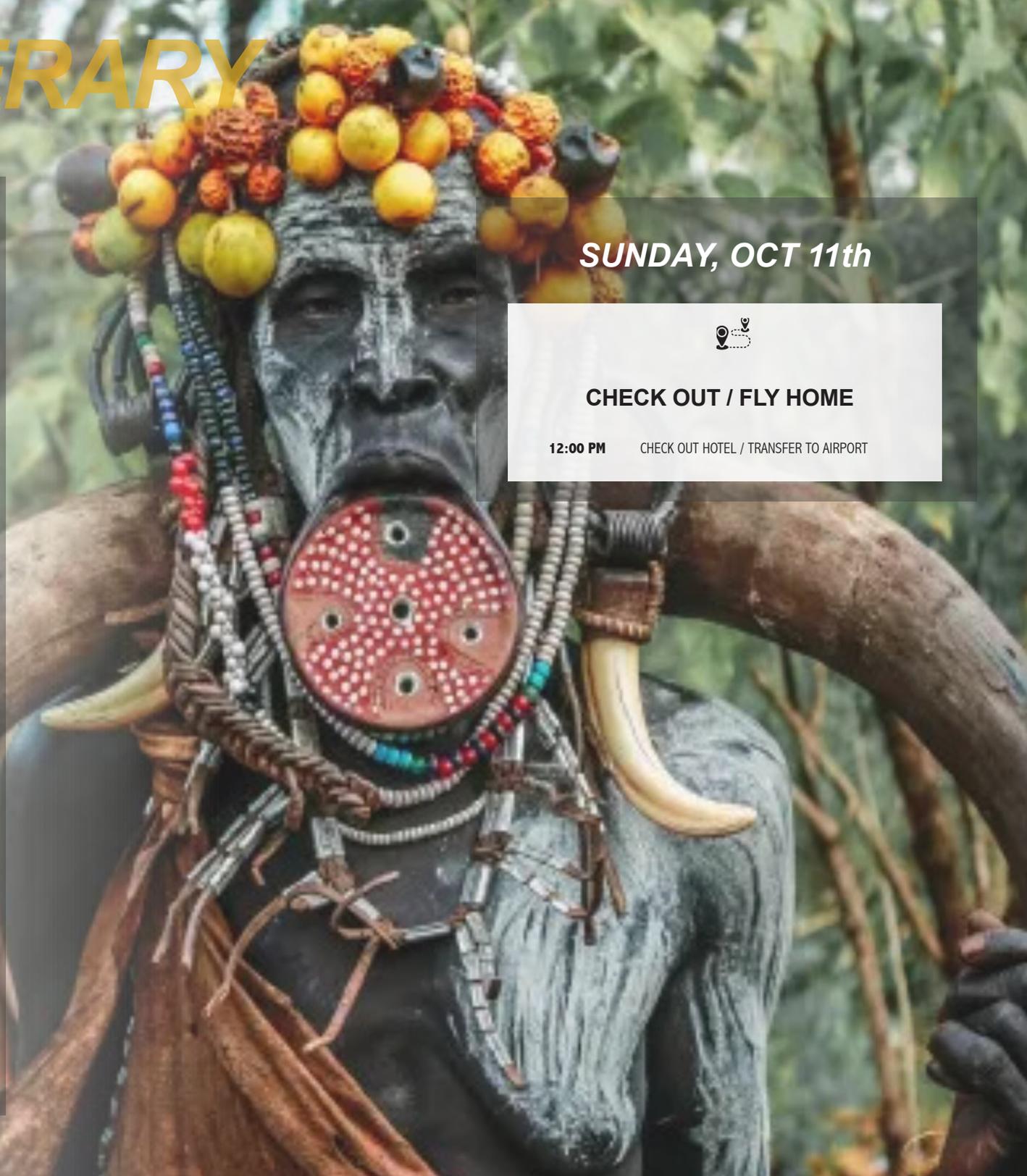
FAREWELL DINNER

**SUNDAY, OCT 11th**



## CHECK OUT / FLY HOME

- 12:00 PM** CHECK OUT HOTEL / TRANSFER TO AIRPORT



# THE EXTENSION

**SUNDAY, OCT 11th**



**FREE TIME**

**MONDAY, OCT 12th**



## DEPART FOR GONDAR

- 4:00 AM** CHECK OUT / DEPART FOR AIRPORT
- 7:10 AM** DEPART FOR GONDAR/ via no ET124
- 8:10 AM** ARRIVE IN GONDAR / TRANSFER TO HOTEL



GONDAR HILLS RESORT

**9:10 AM CHECK IN**



## TOUR OF FASIL GHEBBI & DEBRE BIRHAN

- 12:00 PM** DEPART FOR TOUR
- 5:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL



## DEPART FOR LALIBELA W/ LUNCH

- 8:00 AM** CHECK OUT / DEPART FOR AIRPORT
- 10:00 AM** DEPART FOR LALIBELA/ via no ET122
- 10:30 AM** ARRIVE IN LALIBELA / BEGIN ROCK HEWN TOUR



SORA LODGE LALIBELA

**5:00 PM CHECK IN**



## COOKING CLASS (For those who booked)

- 6:00 PM** DEPART FOR CLASS
- 8:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

# THE EXTENSION

**WEDNESDAY, OCT 14th**



## DEPART FOR AKSUM

- 8:00 AM** CHECK OUT / DEPART FOR AIRPORT
- 11:00 AM** DEPART FOR AKSUM / via no ET122
- 11:40 AM** ARRIVE IN AKSUM / TRANSFER TO HOTEL



GHERALTA LODGE

**12:00 PM CHECK IN**



## TOUR OF AKSUM

- 1:00 PM** DEPART FOR TOUR
- 5:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

**THURSDAY, OCT 15th**



## DEPART FOR ADDIS ADABA

- 7:00 AM** CHECK OUT / DEPART FOR AIRPORT
- 9:45 AM** DEPART FOR ADDIS ADABA / via no ET129
- 11:15 AM** ARRIVE IN ADDIS ADABA / TRANSFER TO HOTEL



BEST WESTERN PLUS ADDIS ABABA

**1:00 PM CHECK IN**

**FRIDAY, OCT 16th**



## CHECK OUT / FLY HOME

- 12:00 PM** CHECK OUT HOTEL / TRANSFER TO AIRPORT



## **ADDIS ABABA**

Addis Ababa is the capital and largest city of Ethiopia and also the country's political, economic, cultural and tourism center. It is located in the central part of Ethiopia and close to the equator. Sitting at the foot of Mount Entoto at an elevation of 2,355 meters, Addis Ababa is the highest city in Africa. It covers an area of 527 square kilometers and has a population size of about 4 million.



## **ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM**

Set within Haile Selassie's former palace, and surrounded by the beautiful gardens and fountains of the university's main campus, is the enthralling Ethnological Museum. Even if you're not a museum fan, this one is worth a bit of your time – it's easily one of the finest museums in Africa, showing the full sweep of Ethiopia's cultural and social history across two floors.



## **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ETHIOPIA**

The national museum of Ethiopia is probably one of the standout museums in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of its numerous and priceless collections. Housed the famous 3.2 million year skeleton Lucy, the museum keeps important paleontological, historical, and cultural artifacts. The museum is subdivided into four main sections. The underground or the basement section is reserved for the paleontological discoveries of mankind and some amazing extinct creatures. The ground floor focuses on the pre-Aksumite, Aksumite, Solomonite, and Gonderian periods. It displays an elaborate pre-1st-century-AD bronze oil lamp, a fascinating 4th-century-BC rock-hewn chair emblazoned with mythical ibexes, and ancient Sabaeen inscriptions and lavish royal paraphernalia. The 1st floor vividly displays Ethiopian art ranging from early (possibly 14th-century) parchment to 20th-century canvas oil paintings by leading modern artists.



## **TRINITY CATHEDRAL**

This massive and ornate cathedral is an important place of worship in Ethiopia. It's a celebrated final resting place of Emperor Haile Selassie and his wife Empress Menen Asfaw. Their massive Aksumite-style granite tombs sit inside and are a sight indeed. The solemnity of the interior design contrasts sharply with highly the charged emotions of many pilgrims. It's a fascinating place. The cornerstone of the Church was laid by Haile Selassie in 1933. The church is extremely large and from the outside it bears an Arabic facade. Stained glass windows line either side of the church on the inside, representing each of the ten commandments and scenes from the Bible.



## **ARBA MINCH**

Set in a lush, fertile stretch of the Rift Valley, Arba Minch (Forty Springs) is the largest town in Ethiopia's deep south. It has a stunning setting, below a mountainous escarpment that rises to 13,000ft, and overlooks lakes Chamo and Abaya, both protected within the Nech Sar National Park. The springs for which Arba Minch is named are enclosed in a dense swathe of groundwater forest that hosts a varied birdlife and three species of monkey, notably black-and-white colobus.



## **LAKE CHAMO**

Spanning 30km from north to south and around 15km across, Lake Chamo is located just south of the main Ethiopian Rift south of Addis Ababa. The lake sits at an elevation of 1,110 meters, looking over the central rift valley. The nearest town is Arba Minch, the gateway town into the Omo Valley. Lake Chamo is most famous for its large hippo and croc populations.



## KONSO TRIBE

In 1967 the population was between 55,000 and 60,000 (for a population density of 77 to 96 per square kilometer), probably little changed over the previous century. Ethiopia's National Census estimated the total population of Konso at 125,000 in 1986, 215,000 in 2002 and 250,535 in 2007. While all counts suggest significant population growth, the data in the 2002 and 2007 censuses have to be taken with some caution. They include ethnically non-Konso communities that were added into Konso Special District when it was re-drawn in 1994



## DASSANECH TRIBE

The Dassanech tribe is not strictly defined by ethnicity. Anyone – man or woman - will be admitted, as long as they agree to be circumcised. Over the centuries, the tribe has absorbed a wide range of different peoples. It's now divided into eight main clans, which to some extent reflect the wide-ranging origin of its members. Each clan has its own identity and customs, its own responsibilities towards the rest of the tribe, and is linked to a particular territory. The largest clan is the Galbur, or Water and Crocodile clan. The Dassanech believe its members have the power over both water and crocodiles and are responsible for dealing with diseases of the glands across the tribe. The Turat clan is responsible for dealing with burns from the fire. They have powers to keep away snakes and to cure many diseases, and also have the ability to keep away enemies from their animals. Another important clan is Turnyerim, which has powers over drought. They pray for rains during dry periods and they can also cure snakebites by spitting on the wound.



## KARO TRIBE

The Karo, or Kara, are a Nilotic ethnic group in Ethiopia famous for their body painting. They are also one of the smallest tribes in the region with an estimated population of 1.000-1.200 people. They are closely related to their neighbors, Hamar and Banna, with a lexical similarity of 81%. They live along the east banks of the Omo River in southern Ethiopia and survive on agriculture and natural annual flooding. They have had the same culture and traditions for 500 years, like traditional dancing and painting their bodies with a mix of ash and fat or water.



## **JINKA**

Jinka, located in the heart of the Omo Valley, is a treasure trove of cultural experiences and natural wonders. Visitors can explore the vibrant markets where local tribes come to trade, witness traditional ceremonies and dances, and visit the South Omo Research Center to learn about the indigenous tribes of the region. Nature enthusiasts can embark on hikes to discover stunning landscapes, including the lush greenery of the Neri River and the breathtaking views from the surrounding hills. For history buffs, a visit to the nearby archaeological sites of the Mago National Park offers a glimpse into the ancient past of the area. Jinka truly offers a unique and unforgettable travel experience for those looking to immerse themselves in the rich culture and history of Ethiopia.



## **HAMAR TRIBE**

The Hamar, or Hamar, are an Omotic community inhabiting southwestern Ethiopia. They inhabit the territory east of the Omo River and have villages in Turmi and Dimeka. The 2007 national census reported 46,532 people in this ethnic group, of whom 957 were urban inhabitants. They are known for their practice of body adornment and wearing a multitude of colorful beads. Women adorn their necks with heavy polished iron jewelry. The Hamer men have a reputation of being less than adoring husbands. The women submit to the ritual floggings proudly and love to show the deep scars that are regarded as a proof of devotion to their husbands.



## **MURSI TRIBE**

The Mursi are probably the most famous people of southern Ethiopia. This has everything to do with the huge lip plates the women wear on special occasions. Much is written but little is known about the reason for this mutilation. Is it to increase the dowry or was it to become unattractive for slavery? The Mursi don't give a clear answer themselves. There is an excellent website about the Mursi for the concerned traveler who wants to learn more about these fascinating people which goes much further than their exotic lip plates. The Mursi people have a reputation to be aggressive but we think it is more appropriate to call them direct. They like to touch. Don't just treat them as photo objects and try to get some interaction going.



## **GONDAR**

Gonder was the third capital city of Ethiopia, as evidenced by the crumbling castle ruins that once housed the emperors, kings, and queens of this land. These ruins are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the centre of town lies one of Ethiopia's most famous churches, where the walls are painted with vivid depictions of biblical events, and the roof above covered in the faces of angels. Gonder is the gateway town to the Simien Mountains National Park



## **FASIL GHEBBI**

Atop lush grasses and surrounded by trees, Fasil Ghebbi served as the royal residence for the rulers of Ethiopia from the 1640s to 1864, and remains a site of significant cultural and historic importance in the country. Also known as the Royal Enclosure, Fasil Ghebbi is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was built by Emperor Fasiladas who, after growing bored with the migratory semi-nomadic lifestyle of his predecessors, decided to make a statement by building a grandiose palace complex - one of the most magnificent structures of its time.



## **DEBRE BIRHAN**

Debre Birhan is a city in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia. Known for its rich cultural heritage, the city offers a unique blend of historical sites, stunning landscapes, and traditional festivities. Visitors can explore the local culture, enjoy unique Ethiopian cuisine, and experience the region's natural beauty.



## LALIBELA

Lalibela is one of Ethiopia's most magical destinations. For many, it is the absolute highlight of their journey across Ethiopia. Mountaintop vistas where countryside extends as far as the eye can see, only to be broken by the rise of jagged peaks on the horizon. The quiet of a countryside walk swiftly juxtaposed by the chaos of a weekly market. Pilgrims adorned in white robes joining together in prayer and song, their voices heard in the farthest corners of the town. The kindness of a local priest



## ROCK HEWN CHURCH

When King Lalibela decided to re-create Jerusalem in Ethiopia in the 12th century, he did things a little differently. Where others built their churches tall as a bridge to the heavens, Lalibela carved his from the volcanic rock beneath his feet, perhaps eager for God to join him. And he didn't just carve one, today 11 churches stand waiting to be explored. Occupying a roughly triangular 15 hectare site either side of a rock-cut stream known locally as the Jordan River, the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela are found in two clusters, with the magnificent Bet Giyorgis standing alone about 300 metres from the rest.



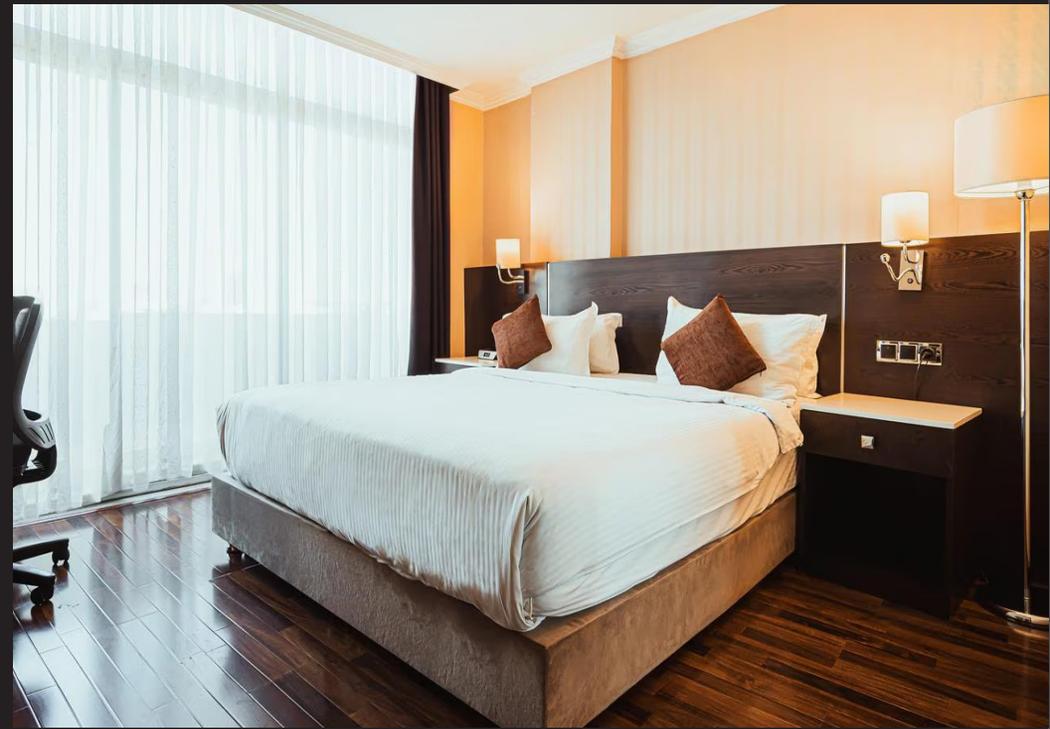
## AKSUM

Aksum is a holy site for Ethiopian Orthodox Christians who say it is home to the Ark of the Covenant, believed to contain the 10 commandments handed down to Moses by God - and later brought to the city from Jerusalem. It is constantly under guard at the city's Our Lady Mary of Zion Church and no-one is allowed to see it. The pilgrims gather near the church to mark the festival of St Mary of Zion, which falls at this time.

# ACCOMODATIONS



**BESTWESTERN PLUS  
ADDIS ABABA**



# ACCOMODATIONS



HAILE RESORT ARBA MINCH



# ACCOMODATIONS



TURMI PARADISE LODGE



# ACCOMODATIONS



ECO OMO LODGE



# ACCOMODATIONS



GONDAR HILLS RESORT



# ACCOMODATIONS



**SORA LODGE LALIBELA**



# ACCOMODATIONS



**GHERALTA LODGE**

