



**HARTLEY'S SAFARIS**

FINDING YOUR AFRICA



Ethiopia



## INTRODUCTION

Ethiopia sprawls over a diverse range of habitats; deserts in the east, high plateaus and mountains in the north and south west, and woodland savannah elsewhere. The Great Rift Valley runs through Ethiopia from north to south and the Blue Nile, which later joins the White Nile, rises in Lake Tana north-west of the capital Addis Ababa.

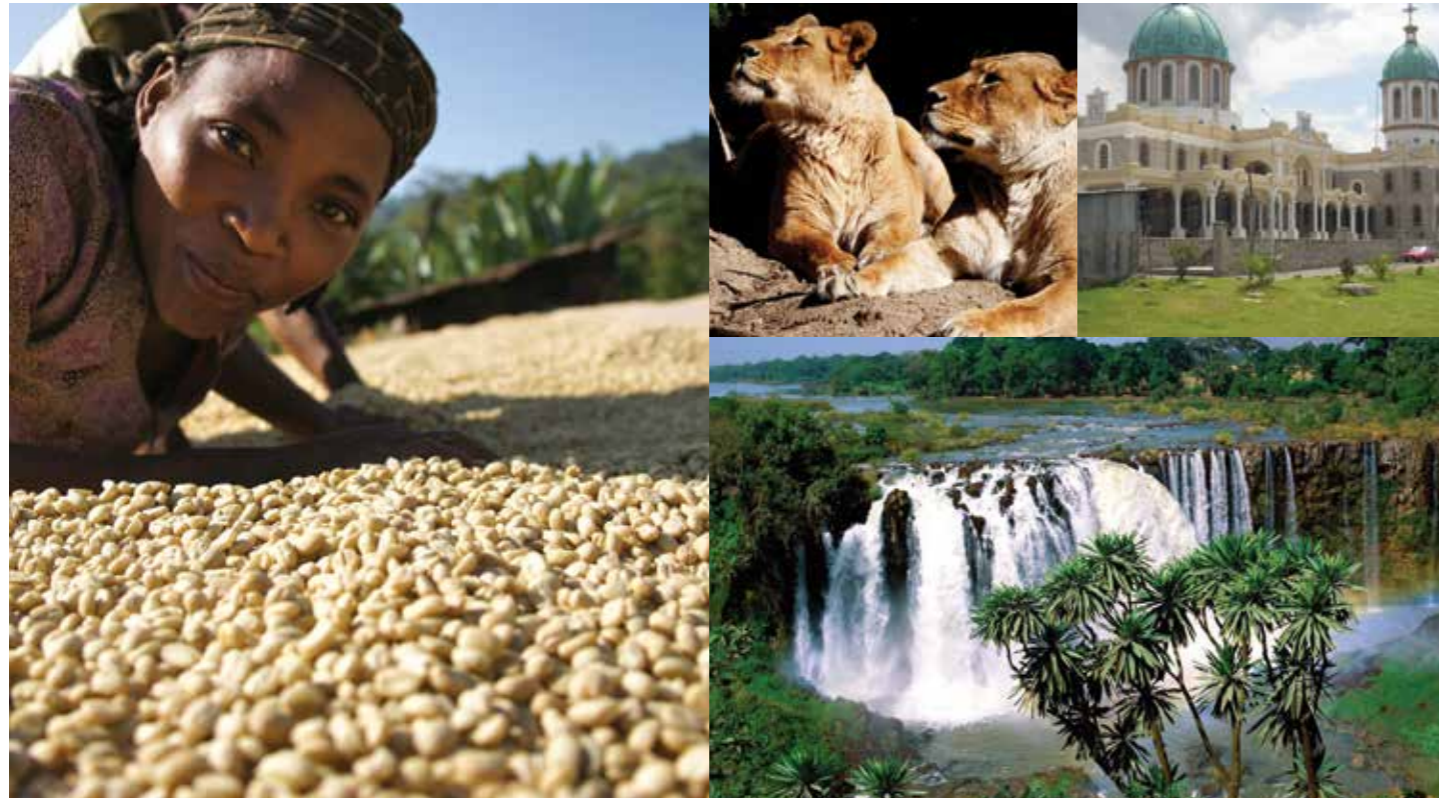
The country's national parks protect a wide array of wildlife including the world's most endangered canid, the Simien wolf (sometimes called the Ethiopian wolf) and the mountain nyala, a large spiral horned antelope. A small population of Simien wolves live in the Bale Mountains National Park and a handful are found in the Simien National Park and surrounding areas.

A high plateau, more than 3,000 metres (9,900 feet) above sea level, forms part of the Bale Mountains National Park as does an area of moist tropical forest which occurs at an altitude of between 1,400 - 2,000 metres (4,620-6,500 feet) and hosts a number of endemic plant and bird species. The highest point in the park is Tullu Dimtuu which rises to 4,377 metres (14,444 feet) above sea level.

In addition to the Simien wolf the Simien National Park in the north is also home to the rare Gelada baboon and

the Walia ibex, a goat found nowhere else. Elephant, lions, buffalo and other big game live in the Mago National Park in the remote south-west of the country as well as the Gambella National Park (although the park has no lions) in the west.

Ethiopia was one of the few African countries that were not colonized during the "Scramble for Africa" in the late 19th century when European countries divided the continent amongst themselves. The region played a powerful role in North African politics from as early as 1,800 years ago when the Kingdom of Aksum was established. Ethiopia was one of the founding members of the United Nations. Coffee, one of the world's most widely used beverages originated in Ethiopia and is the country's largest agricultural export. The country also exports cut flowers to Europe. There is a small mining and manufacturing sector.







The Byzantine Empire existed for nearly 1,125 years, and it's one of the greatest empires of all time. Yet many people know little about it, other than the word "byzantine" being synonymous for highly intricate, complex, and devious dealings.



### ETHIOPIA CLIMATE

The predominant climate type is tropical monsoon, with wide topographic-induced variation. The Ethiopian Highlands cover most of the country and have a climate which is generally considerably cooler than other regions at similar proximity to the Equator.

The modern capital Addis Ababa experiences a healthy and pleasant climate year round. The seasons here are largely defined by rainfall, with a dry season from October-February, a light rainy season from March-May, and a heavy rainy season from June-September.

Most major cities and tourist sites in Ethiopia lie at a similar elevation to Addis Ababa and have a comparable climate. In less elevated regions, particularly the lower lying Ethiopian xeric grasslands and shrub lands in the east of the country, the climate can be significantly hotter and drier.

Addis Ababa	Temp °C		Rainfall
	Min	Max	mm
Jan	7	24	12
Feb	8	24	42
Mar	10	25	57
Apr	10	25	84
May	11	25	60
Jun	10	23	75
Jul	10	21	147
Aug	8	21	189
Sep	10	22	114
Oct	7	24	6
Nov	6	23	0
Dec	6	23	0

### ETHIOPIA IN BRIEF

Capital City: Addis Ababa

Area: 1.13 million sq km (437,794 sq miles)

Population: 86.5 million

Time zone: GMT +3

Currency: Ethiopian Birr (ETB)

Electricity: 220V

Geography: Elevation is generally highest just before the point of descent to the Great Rift Valley, which splits the plateau diagonally. A number of rivers cross the plateau; notably the Blue Nile rising from Lake Tana. The plateau gradually slopes to the lowlands of the Sudan on the west and the Somali inhabited plains to the east.

Language: Amharic, Oromo, Tigrinya, Somali & English as the main foreign language.

Mek'ele	Temp °C		Rainfall
	Min	Max	mm
Jan	16	23	35
Feb	17	24	10
Mar	18	25	25
Apr	19	26	45
May	20	27	35
Jun	20	27	30
Jul	18	23	200
Aug	17	23	215
Sep	18	25	35
Oct	17	24	10
Nov	16	23	25
Dec	15	22	40



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