



TREK SIMIEN MOUNTAINS



ITINERARY

This National Park is full of outstanding beauty, with mountains that will leave you speechless, panoramic views (and altitudes!) to take your breath away and baboons creating great entertainment as you walk to camp. You will trek in one of Africa's most beautiful mountain ranges, home to a variety of endemic mammals, birds and plants, that make one of our unique World Heritage Sites. This is all before we experience the amazing sights and sounds of Gondar and Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. The trip will give a real insight into the beauty and challenges within Ethiopia, an incredible country and a truly unforgettable challenge!

D1. DEPART UK

We depart in the evening for an overnight flight from to Addis Ababa.

D2. ADDIS ABABA

On arrival in to Addis Ababa we catch our connecting flight to Gondar and transfer to have breakfast in town before checking in to our hotel. After freshening up we have some time to relax and explore this bustling city before we have a welcome meal of traditional Ethiopian food.

D3. SANKABAR CAMP 3300M 3HRS TRANSFER & 4/5HRS TREK

After an early morning wake up call we are transferred 5 hours by road through some beautiful scenery, which becomes increasingly mountainous, to the market town of Debarq and on to the Simien Lodge. Here we stop for lunch with views of a picturesque valley dotted with mud huts, horses and livestock and then continue to start our walk at Buyit Ras, entrance to the park. We trek towards Sankaber where we have our first night's camp. The park is home to a number of fascinating species, including the Ethiopian wolf, walia ibex, gelada baboon and bearded vulture.

D4. GEECH 3600M 5/6HRS TREK

Today our challenge begins by descending into the Michotis Valley and climbing up the other side with great views of the Jin Bahir River plummeting into the Geech Abyss. A couple of kilometres later we descend to cross the Jin Bahir and after a steep climb we reach Geech camp 3600m where we stay overnight.

D5. CHENEK CAMP 3700M 6 -8HRS TREKKING
Our camp breakfast is early this morning as we head to the escarpment edge at Saha and Imetgogo 3926m, for staggering views over the lowlands, characterised by rocky spires and mesas. Trekking the escarpment edge we then make our way via undulating terrain towards our camp at Chenek. On the way we see many examples of the impressive Giant Lobelia and without a doubt some Gelada baboons.

D6. AMBIKWA CAMP 3200M 7-9HRS TREKKING
Today we begin with a trek to the Bwahit Pass 4200m below the Simien Mountains' second highest peak. Our hard work is rewarded with incredible views and after refreshments and a rest, we descend steeply towards the village of Chiro Liba, where we enjoy lunch at a local school. Afterwards we continue our descent to the Mesheha River valley 2850m and up the other side to Ambikwa camp at 3200m, where we stay for the night and enjoy an excellent camp evening meal.

D7. RAS DASHEN SUMMIT 4533M 10-12HRS TREKKING
This is the most challenging day of the trek as we climb up to the summit of Ras Dashen 4533m. After a hearty breakfast, we trek up to the head of the valley and the village of Mizma where we get our first view of our imposing goal. To reach it we trek around a number of steep gullies ascending all the time, until we find ourselves on a rocky plateau, which is dominated by the three peaks. It is then a relatively easy scramble to the top of one of Africa's highest mountains. After some much needed refreshments we descend by the same route to Ambikwa camp for our last night under canvas, where we enjoy a well deserved drink and rest for the night.

D8. GONDAR 6-7HRS TREKKING 4-5HRS TRANSFER
This is a tough day as we start early and retrace our steps to Chenek from where we then transfer back to Gondar. On arrival we check into our hotel and this evening we have a final meal to celebrate our achievements and to say goodbye to the team.

D9. ADDIS ABABA
We fly to the capital city this morning and have a city tour of the main sites to discover this incredible city. We spend our last night in this incredible city.

D10. ARRIVE HOME
This morning we make our way back to the airport for our return flight home.

COSTS OF CHALLENGE 2018

£2299 per person for 30+ participants
£2350 per person for 20-29 participants
Minimum number 20 participants

CHALLENGE COST INCLUSIONS

Pre-trip briefing by Action Challenge staff
International flights
Action Challenge Representative
Expedition Medic
English-speaking local guides
Luggage Transfer
All accommodation
All meals, except in free time
All transfers
All National Park fees
3 litres of water provided daily
All camping equipment
Drinks Kitty (£70/person)

NOT INCLUDED

Personal equipment
Travel insurance
Items of a personal nature
Single supplement (if you don't want to share a room)

EQUIPMENT

An equipment list will be forwarded at a later stage.

RECOMMENDED READING

From the Roof of Africa. CW Nicol
Ethiopia - Bradt guide Wildman/Briggs

RATING & FITNESS

This Moderate/Tough challenge requires a good level of fitness to walk the route, and training is therefore recommended beforehand.

ACCOMMODATION

All accommodation will be in tents whilst on trek, 3* star Hotel in Gondar and Addis Ababa based on a twin/triple sharing basis.

FOOD

Breakfast each morning will be at the accommodation, lunch en-route and evening meals will be either in camp, at our hotel or a local restaurant. Drinking water is provided on trekking days.

WEATHER

October to May is the best time to walk this route as the rains have just cleared leaving the country wonderfully green, with beautiful wildflowers, dry sunny days and less tourists.

ETHIOPIAN SECURITY

The geopolitical situation in Ethiopia has shown itself to be unsettled at times and as such we will be constantly monitoring the safety and security. We will agree a final position on the viability of the challenge several months prior to the date of departure.

FLIGHTS

This package includes all flights with taxes and fuel surcharge to a total of £780. If the 2018 price rises to over this then the extra costs will be added to the final invoice.