

**January 7 – 17, 2007**

## **Uncommon Journeys, LLC**

# **Ethiopia: Journey into the Stone Ages**

The ancient kingdom of Abyssinia, now known as Ethiopia, is one of the few places in the world that has been inhabited since the dawn of mankind. It has embraced an unbroken chain of civilizations reaching into a remote past. We explore the Omo Valley, a narration of Southern Ethiopia's ethnic diversity, where proud nations of Hamar, Karo, Mursi and Elbore tribes still live the way they have for centuries. The cradle of civilization was almost certainly here, and the first inhabitants were stone-age people who thrived along the rich shores of the many lakes created by the Great Rift, or last massive movement of the earth. For anyone interested in tribal cultures, Ethiopia bestows all the rewards of visiting an exotic destination and its remarkable inhabitants.

### **Tour Highlights**

- **Traditional costumes and life ways of the exotic Tsemay**
- **Mursi women with terracotta lip plates and earlobe disks**
- **Scarification, body painting and exuberant dances of the Karo**
- **Elaborate adornments of the elusive but fascinating Hamer**
- **Proud, friendly, elegant Elbore**

**Tour price: \$2500    Single supplement: \$230**

Note: Combine this tour with **Ethiopia: Journey into the Medieval Past** and save **\$500**.

The tour price, based on a minimum of 6 participants, includes 8 nights hotel accommodations, all meals, domestic airfare, ground transportation, airport transfers, entrance fees, tips of a group nature and the services of an English speaking and photographic guide. The tour price does not include international airfare, visa (currently \$60), tip to local guide, airport departure tax (currently \$20), beverages and expenses of a personal nature.

A deposit of \$500 is required to register and secure a place on the tour. The deposit is fully refundable if notice is given 60 days prior to departure. The balance of the tour cost is due 60 days prior to departure. If you also sign up for **Ethiopia: Journey into the Medieval Past**, only one \$500 deposit is required.

## **Passport and Visa Requirements**

A passport with six months validity and visa are required to enter Ethiopia.

### **Tour Leader**

Debbie Jefkin-Elnekave is a travel photographer and tour leader who specializes in remote and exotic cultures. Her interests include history, architecture and landscapes, but she finds the greatest rewards in discovering, visiting and photographing indigenous cultures. Debbie's knowledge of Ethiopia, profound appreciation for the people, and desire to share this amazing country, ensure a very rewarding journey.

### **Waiver of Liability**

Uncommon Journeys, LLC assumes no responsibility for accidents or injury to participants in the Ethiopia Explorer tour. You will be required to read, accept and sign an agreement which releases Uncommon Journeys, LLC from any responsibility of liability.

*Please note: The rewards of travel and photography are even greater when we explore remote, uncharted regions. As such:*

- *The Jinka Hotel (1 night) has cold water showers and electricity for 5 hours in the evening.*
- *Accommodations at Evangadi (3 nights) involve "camping" in private, bungalow-style "tents." We provide privacy tents with portable cold-water showers and non-flushing toilets. Our generator provides 3 hours of light each evening, but there are no plugs for using or charging digital cameras or electrical appliances. Our private chef, Mr. Wolde, will treat us to the best home-cooking and hospitality in Ethiopia.*
- *Ethiopia's stone age tribes are among the most exotic and photogenic in the world. They can also be among the most aggressive. Always get permission before taking someone's portrait, and be sensitive to the fact that some will not want to be photographed. Photographing someone against their will violates their privacy and is treated as a very serious infraction. It could result in the confiscation of film and cameras, and place the group at serious risk.*
- *Several days require long drives over rough terrain in a Toyota Land Cruiser.*
- *Ethiopia is dusty!*

**Uncommon Journeys, LLC**  
**Ethiopia: Journey into the Stone Ages**  
**2007 Itinerary**

**Day 1: Sunday, January 7 or Monday, January 8 Travel to Addis Ababa**

**Day 2: Tuesday, January 9 Addis Ababa**  
Arrive in Addis Ababa.

**Day 3: Wednesday, January 10 Addis Ababa → Arba Minch**  
Drive to Arba Minch.

**Day 4: Thursday, January 11 Arba Minch → Jinka**  
Full day drive to Jinka, stopping to photograph people of the Tsemay tribe.

**Day 5: Friday, January 12 Jinka → Turmi**  
Visit the Mursi tribe, where women are distinguished by their terracotta lip plates and earlobe disks. They slit their bottom lips lengthwise and remove their bottom teeth in order to accommodate the terracotta disk. The Mursi subsist on milk and cows' blood, practice shamanism, and believe that harmony of nature follows harmony of society. They are fond of public speaking, debating and meetings, which are sources of entertainment and drama for the village.

**Day 6: Saturday, January 13 Turmi/Omo Valley**  
Visit a village of the endangered Karo tribe, with a population numbering less than 600. Scarification, body painting and exuberant dances are hallmarks of their society. The men decorate themselves with paint made from white chalk, yellow mineral rock, iron ore and charcoal. These colors are believed to transform the body and release the spirit. Their makeup is of great importance because it enables men to exhibit their beauty and attract a wife. A Karo man may take as many wives as he likes, and usually marries 2 or 3.

**Day 7: Sunday, January 14 Omo Valley**  
This morning we visit the friendly, elegant Elbore, one of many tribes belonging to the Borana ethnic group. Our afternoon stops will introduce us to the Hamar tribe. The women wear elaborate hairstyles concocted from red ochre and clarified butter, aluminum jewelry and wrap around skirts of animal skins embellished with cowrie shells. They are agro-pastoralists, skilled in pottery, beekeeping and smithying.

**Day 8: Monday, January 15 Omo Valley → Arba Minch**  
Drive to Arba Minch.

**Day 9: Tuesday, January 16 Arba Minch → Addis Ababa**  
Drive to Addis Ababa and enjoy a traditional Ethiopia dinner.

**Day 10: Wednesday, January 17 Departure**  
Depart for USA or continue on Ethiopia: A Journey into the Medieval Past.