

Ethiopia: highlights & highlands

Trip dates: D1: 1-14 Feb. & D2: 15-28 Feb. 2021*

Location: Simien Mtns, Bale NP, Awash NP, Addis Ababa

Group size: 6; Cost GBP 5,850 per person**

ANDY SKILLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY



ALMOST TWO WEEKS OF TOP QUALITY PHOTOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS AND THE SEARCH FOR ETHIOPIA'S MOST ICONIC WILDLIFE SPECIES INCLUDING WALEDA IBEX, GELADA BABOON AND SIMIEN WOLF AMONGST OTHERS. THIS TRIP IS ALL ABOUT GIVING YOU PLENTY OF TIME IN EACH LOCATION TO WORK WITH THE SUBJECTS AND PUSH YOUR BOUNDARIES TO NOT JUST CAPTURE "ANIMALS ON CARDS" BUT TO TRULY INTEGRATE THE BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS IN WHICH THEY ARE FOUND AND WEAVE IN THE CHARACTER OF EACH SPECIES ACROSS THE PORTFOLIO YOU BUILD.

***BECAUSE OF DEMAND – AN OVERFLOW DEPARTURE FOR THIS TRIP IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE. PLEASE NOTE WE WILL BE FILLING THE TRIPS ACCORDING TO ROOM AVAILABILITY AND AS SUCH IF YOU ARE FLEXIBLE ON DATES, PLEASE ADVISE.**

****Single supplements will apply – please ask at time of booking if private accommodation is preferred**

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **EXCLUSIVE GROUP SIZE OF JUST 6 GUESTS**
- **WINDOW SEAT IN OUR VEHICLES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TRIP WITH POP-UP ROOF AND ROLL-UP WINDOWS**
- **FLIGHT FROM ADDIS ABABA TO GONDAR LANDSCAPES**
- **VARIED PROGRAMME AND QUALITY TIME SPENT IN THE KEY WILDLIFE AREAS**
- **UNHURRIED PACE TO ENSURE TOTAL IMMERSION IN THE LOCATIONS**
- **ACCOMPANIED THROUGHOUT BY A LOCAL GUIDE, DRIVER AND ONE OF OUR PRO PHOTOGRAPHERS**
- **AS MUCH – OR AS LITTLE! – PHOTOGRAPHIC TUITION AS NEEDED!**

COSTS AND LOGISTICS

- **Group size:** 6 guests only
- **GBP 5,850** per person, based on twin-share accommodation
- **Start point:** Addis Ababa International Airport
- **End point:** Addis Ababa International Airport

WHAT'S INCLUDED...

- **1 night** accommodation at **Addis Ababa**
- **5 nights** lodge-based accommodation in the **Simien Mountains**
- **4 nights** in our tented camp in the **stunning Bale National Park**
- **2 nights** in a comfortable lodge in **Awash National Park**
- **1 night accommodation** near the incredible **Awassa Lake**
- **Private vehicles** throughout the trip
- **All meals** throughout the trip
- All guiding and park fees
- **Return flight from Addis to Gondar**
- **Meet & Greet** at Addis Ababa International Airport

WHAT'S NOT...

- International and/or any domestic flight to/from the itinerary start/end points*
- Alcoholic drinks at the lodges and camps
- Items of a personal nature
- Visa fees as appropriate
- Any departure taxes not covered in your international flight
- Gratuities

*** please advise your airline when booked**

YOUR ITINERARY....

Day 1: Arrive in Addis Ababa, and overnight (1 night)

Having arrived in Ethiopia and fresh from your flight, we will collect you and take you to a comfortable mid-range hotel for the night and a chance to relax, get a good night's sleep after your long journey and prepare for the adventure ahead.

Day 2-6: Flight to Gondar, and onto the Simien Mountains (5 nights)

We will depart the hotel early morning and Transfer out to the airport in Addis Ababa for our domestic flight to Gondar. Here we will meet our vehicles and guides (your photo leader will have travelled with you from Addis) and head off towards the Simien Mountains. On the way you will stop at the national park headquarters in Debarq and then proceed into the park to the Simien Lodge. If time permits, we will do a short adventure that afternoon, or position ourselves for an epic sunset! (weather permitting!) For the next 5 nights we will stay here and explore this incredible region, changing our activities each day according to wildlife movements and sightings. We will track in vehicle and on-foot in the mountains. The combination of altitudinal variation and isolation of the Simien Mountains has given rise to a number of rare and endemic species and a high level of diversity. This high endemism and diversity justifies the inclusion of SMNP in Conservation International's Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot. We will spend our time looking for photo opportunities amongst the Geladas, Ibex and Wolves that call this beautiful region home, as

well as ensuring plenty of context opportunities in your photographs by focusing on scene setting and not just chasing portraits. Some light walking can be expected to make the most of the terrain, and do bear in mind we will be at over 4,300 metres in altitude.

Day 7: Head to Gondar, fly to Addis and onto Awash NP (2 nights)

In the morning we will leave the lodge after one last sunrise and make the journey back to Gondar to connect with our flight back to Addis Ababa. On arrival, we will move into our new vehicles and head to the Awash National Park for the next 2 nights. Awash NP is home to more than 80 species of mammals, 45% of these are Ethiopia's distinctive Semi-arid species. The Park was once, and probably still is, a major habitat for one of the largest populations of the Beisa Oryx in Africa.

We will spend some of our time on the Ilala Sala Plain in the southern part of the Park. These plains are best viewed in the sun rise and sunset to see herds of Beisa oryx and Soemmerring's gazelle. Lesser kudu, Anubis baboon, Salt's dik-dik, Common warthogs, Bat-eared foxes and jackals and Abyssinian hare are frequently encountered. There is also an opportunity to see open grass land birds like the Kori bustard (the heaviest flying bird in the world), Abyssinian ground horn bill, Secretary bird (hunting snakes in the savanna grass land) and different species of bustards. The wonderful Awash Gorge (about 150 m deep) from the view of the old Kereyu Lodge is really breathtaking experience. We will have more than one vehicle, so enough space for photography and plenty of room for you to work in. We may also take in the hot springs in the area and the Fantale crater.

Days 9-12: Depart Awash and head to Bale National Park (4 nights)

Another early start – well, let's face it, they all will be! – as this morning we grab one last game drive in Awash before making our way to the beautiful Bale Mountains National Park. Our days will consist of seeking out the most exciting wildlife in the region, with a particular focus on the Simien wolf (which is more abundant here than in the eponymous mountains) amongst others. Areas we will search will include the Sanetti Plateau, Tullu Deemtu,, the Harena forest (which is excellent for primates), the Gaysay grasslands and the area around Dinsho – all of which are prolific wildlife viewing sites. We will attempt to make the most of the conditions afforded us, and capitalize on every wildlife encounter we can flush out.

Day 13: Depart Bale for Awassa Lake (1 night)

Leaving Bale in the morning, we will head for the picturesque Awassa Lake and stay in a small hotel in the pleasant town in the area. Time permitting we may have a chance to explore some of the lakeside for photo opps.

Day 14: Depart Awassa for Addis Ababa

Of course, regrettably, all good things must come to an end and on this day we will begin our journey back to Addis Ababa. We won't rush away, however, and will take the time to visit the fish market on the shores of Lake Awassa to see the local fishermen and their catch of the day as well as enjoy the abundant bird life, including the impressive maribou storks. Following lunch, we will wend our way back stopping for some final bird photography at the shores of Lake Ziway if time and conditions permit. On arrival in Addis, we will head for dinner and then onto the airport for those catching international flights, or to the hotels (not included) for those staying one last night.

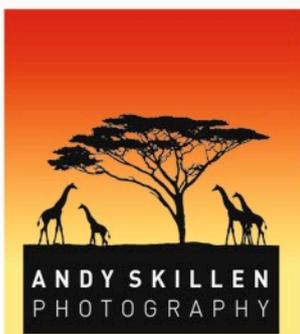
WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

To reserve your space on this very special adventure, either:

- a. send an email to Andy@faunavista.com or Carrie@faunavista.com to register your interest and receive a booking form
- b. download the generic booking form using the link on the page from where you obtained your itinerary, fill it out, and send it to either email address as above.

Charity...a permanent winner

Andy's photography is all about giving some thing back; back to a world that has given him such a wealth of memorable experiences and opportunities. As a result, a proportion of all the profits we make from every perspective of Andy's work is donated to some of the world's leading wildlife charities. These include the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF), Animals Asia and the Bushlife Foundation – for which Andy and Carrie are the UK ambassadors. Your holiday is not just therefore an adventure for yourself, your friends and your family, but a true contributor to the frontline of wildlife conservation.



**CHANGING THE IMAGE
OF WILDLIFE TRAVEL...**