

Destination Do's and Don'ts of Holyland Ethiopia Tour and Travel

Ethiopia is a diverse mix of cultures that have co-existed for hundreds of years inside the country's border. The population is largely divided along ethno-linguistic lines, with more than 80 different ethnic groups resided within their borders, and close to 80 different dialects spoken as well. Within this diversity, there are some aspects of daily life that tend to pervade the majority of the population. Thus, there are a few things you should know before you travel to Ethiopia. This is a destination like no other that will blow your mind with its sheer beauty. Accordingly here are some of the tips you should consider when you travel in Ethiopia's destinations.

DO

- Check the type of visa that you need before coming.
- Bring a credit card if you have one as it will be easy for transactions in most attractions
- Get proper vaccination and insurance before coming.
- Have some emergency numbers always ready with you.
- Try to learn some basic Amharic; they'll love it and you too to get intimate with people.
- Try to visit the countryside and see the rural side of Ethiopia.
- Unblock your phone at the airport upon arrival and get an Ethiopian SIM card at Ethio Telecom.
- Bring comfortable shoes and clothes (check the weather of the season/place you are coming).
- Wash your hands always, before and after meals.
- Eat properly cooked food and drink bottled water.
- Bargain in souvenir shops. They inflate the price double, triple or four times the real price if you are not attended with your guide or driver.
- Ask always if the appointments' time is in Ethiopian time or international time.
- Offer food to people around while you are eating it's an Ethiopian custom
- Try to come to one of the big holidays; they are very colorful and memorable.
- Get some leather, coffee and cotton (Ethiopia made). As our country known for.
- Respect different cultural aspects when different than yours.
- Be aware of your impact as a tourist and try not to leave a footprint that can damage them in the future.
- Be nice and polite to people all the time.
- Take it easy when things are going wrong. Try to act calm and serene. People will normally try to help you when you claim for help.

DON'T

- Don't bargain in local food and grocery stores; they have fixed prices.
- Don't give alms to kids. They are not going to school, pressed by family members or mafias. If you give them money or goods, you are perpetuating this exploitation.
- Don't take pictures of government buildings, embassies and similar; it is forbidden.
- Don't take portraits of people without asking first.
- Don't openly criticize the government. Be careful with politics.

- Don't drink tap water, uncooked food, salads, etc.
- Don't leave your things unattended.
- Don't accuse anybody of stealing without proof.
- Don't expose homosexual activity; it is punished by law.
- Don't hire unaccredited tourist guides.
- Don't go to religious service without covering your head, shoulders, and knees (women).
- Don't contraband illegal items/drugs into the country.
- Don't work under any circumstance on a tourist visa.
- Don't volunteer under any circumstance on a tourist visa.
- Don't share non-fasting food with fasting people.
- Don't leave trash behind (even if you see locals do it)
- Don't feel the need to answer to every person talking/insulting you on the street.
- Don't try to get a "logical" explanation to everything that happens in