



Culture Week



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📍 Ethiopia - Bahir Dar

Get to know the traditional, vibrant and still relevant Ethiopian culture. A land steeped in history which unravels in the culture week which will make you fall in love with this land and its people. Nature walks, island hopping, language and cooking classes, Coffee drinking ceremonies and many other things to do and experience, immerse yourself in this culture which will leave you energized and eager to jump into the various projects you have chosen for the next week.



Program Description

Bahir Dar is one of the most popular travel destinations in Ethiopia. It has also been named as A Learning City in 2015 and as one of the Cities for Peace by UNESCO. Bahir Dar lies around Lake Tana which is now a World Heritage Biosphere Reserve. The lake houses 37 small islands; you will be visiting islands via a boat that has ancient churches that are hundreds of years old. Each of these churches with their striking murals and artistic impressions regales the spectator. They also house ancient scrolls which have significant value to scholars of history and to the general public also.

The local language spoken in Ethiopia is Amharic. Hawkers sell items of local arts and crafts, paintings and many other souvenirs. Go island hopping and get to these ancient churches which are going to give you a unique experience. The Blue Nile Waterfalls is spectacular and one of the most magnificent in Africa which is connected to Lake Tana. The height of the waterfall is a jaw-breaking 150 feet and about half a kilometer wide. There will be four days of immersion in Bahir Dar and one day for project orientation. These five days will act as a catalyst for meeting new participants. And by the end of this week, you will be eager to go to your selected projects.

Program Duration & Availability

Min duration (weeks): 1
Max duration (weeks): 12

Aims & Objectives

To introduce you to Bahir Dar's diverse geographical and cultural environment by fostering a deeper understanding of cultural similarities and differences through experiential learning in Bahir Dar and to help you develop awareness and deeper understanding of its culture.

Schedule

Monday to Friday

Your culture week in Ethiopia will start with informative sessions on safety, transport, and do's and don'ts. You will also get to know about the places of interest, local attractions, weekend jaunts, island hopping, a great tradition and heritage and the best things to do while you are in Bahir Dar. Being logistically placed for short visits are Gondar, Lalibela and Axum, all of which are World Heritage Sites. Not forgetting the Simien Mountains and for those who have a penchant for the outdoors a World Heritage Biosphere, Lake Tana.

Highlights during the week include,

- Attend a session on Ethiopian and Amharic Culture
- Attend a class to learn simple often needed sentences in Amharic.
- Get the hang of Ethiopian cuisine. The ingredients needed would be bought by you from the local market.
- Get to see a cultural program that will give you a fair idea of Amharic folk dances.
- Visits to the Islands via boat in Lake Tana and step into an ancient backdrop of churches
- Take a walkabout in the wild around Lake Tana and get a hang of rural Ethiopia.
- A coffee ceremony that is essential in Ethiopia, using some of the best coffee on offer.
- Take a day trip and have a picnic set amongst one of Africa's most famous waterfalls, The Blue Nile waterfalls.
- Project visit and orientation

This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

Starting Dates

During 2020

This program starts every week.

During 2021

This program starts every week.

Participant Criteria & Requirements

Minimum age:	-
Maximum age:	-
Minimum English level:	Basic
CRB required:	On Signup
Passport copy required:	On Signup
Resume copy required:	No
Required qualification:	None

Additional Requirements

Yellow fever vaccination is mandatory for all participants arriving in Ethiopia.

For participants below 18, parental consent is required and for participants above 65, medical clearance is required.

Additional Equipment

Dress Code

- Cover up as much as possible in the spirit of the local culture to avoid embarrassment.
- Your clothes must not be too short, too tight or too revealing. Kindly make sure your shoulders and legs are covered.
- Dress professionally since you will be working in a professional environment while teaching the children.
- It is completely fine to wear western clothes as long as they fit the local standards
- Be thoughtful of the graphics, symbols or text printed on your clothing and avoid wearing clothing styles that might be inappropriate
- Be thoughtful to poor communities by not displaying expensive items and clothes
- Wearing local clothes could help you build a good working relationship with the community