Travel Story

Be amazed in fascinating Ethiopia in 2015

(by Hon TF from Malaysia, hontoofang@yahoo.com)

My friends, in November 2015, we joined a small group to tour Ethiopia. This is the travel story. You are welcome to join me on this virtual tour.

The local company handling our tour was Witness Ethiopia Tours from Addis Ababa. More about them at the end of the story.



Prelude - What Ethiopia could offer

When I told my friend Peter I am going to Ethiopia, he asked, "Ethiopia, why?" He was both amused and amazed.

Why Peter, like most Malaysians, is amused and amazed? That is because we ignorantly associate Ethiopia with the typical African nation, with little civilsation or history to talk about (except Egypt), currently in civil war of some sort, abundance of terrorists or religious extremists like ISIS or Boko Haram, economy crippled

by famine, society beset by high crime rate, nothing to offer to the average tourist, etc, etc.

But we are wrong in all fronts. Ethiopia has an early civilisation and a long history, accepted Christianity even before the Roman Empire, has the most number of UNESCO World Heritage sites among African nations, an example of a nation with people of different ethnicity and religion living in harmony, and as reported by Lonely Planet, is practically crime-free.

Part A

First a general introduction of the nation in Part A.

A1 - The Country

Ethiopia is a landlocked country located south of Eritrea, west of Somali, north of Kenya, east of Sudan. Got it? No? OK, somewhere in north-east Africa. The first kingdom was established around the 8th century BC. And it has never been colonised throughout her history though Italy invaded and occupied it for a few years during WW2.

The kingdom became a communist country in 1974, backed by the Soviet bloc. However the communist ideology was not well supported by even the poor. The oppressive government forces were defeated by a people's uprising in 1995. It is now a federal parliamentary republic. Strange isn't it, poor farmers rose against a communist regime and won? Normally it is against the capitalist government. Here is the Martyr's Memorial in Mekelle in northern Ethiopia to commemorate those who lost their lives during the communist "Berg" regime.





The giant shoe (note the size of the people in the photo) at the Memorial is the type of simple plastic shoes worn by the farmers who defeated the government soldiers in Soviet-made leather boots. The design is evergreen, it is still widely worn by the rural folks, unlike those by Italian designers which could last only 3 months.

A2 - The People

The population is 90+ millions with over 80 ethnic groups. The most in number is the Omoro, at 34%. Next the Amhara, at 27 %, but the Amhara is the dominant race, in politics, finance, language, culture, etc. These 2 groups live in central Ethiopia, including the capital Addis Ababa. How they look like? More like Indians, or Bangladeshis. Shown our guide for 3 weeks: Mr Solomon the Amhara, a very good and knowledgeable guide, and the traditional costume of this Amhara race, as exhibited in the Ethnology Museum in Addis Ababa.





Then we have a Konso girl and her sister, and a Muslim woman of the Haliba tribe. Isn't that too low a cut for a Muslim woman who should be more conservatively dressed? She and her community didn't think so. Both Konso and Haliba are "major" minority tribes in the south.





A highland farmer and a future Olympic marathon winner. This 10-year old ran along our bus in Debark for more than a km, gracefully and effortlessly. Her reward in accompanying us: a few ballpoint pens. Ethiopia has produced quite a few Olympic champions in long-distance running events.





A3 - The Language

There is no Ethiopian language. The national language is Amhari, the language used by the dominant Amhara race. The written script is a showcase of worms:

. Any spelling bee champion here? Literacy rate is still very low, at less than 50%.



In Ethiopia, the standard drunk-driving test is for one to write out his or her full name in the Amhari script. You think you can write out your full name in the correct shape of worms after 3 rounds of tej? Tej is their honey wine. Just joking about the drunk-driving test. No such test.

Ethiopians don't have surnames. An individual's full name is made up of his or her own name, followed by the father's name and the name of the father's father.

A4 - Religion

Look at the photos below. Outside this religious building the women in prayer wear white, with matching head scarves. They bow and prostrate. They greet each other with gesture of "salem" or "peace". Outside, loudspeakers blare out the sermons. They don't smoke, they don't eat pork and shell food. They buy their beef/mutton only at certified butcher shops.

Which Muslim sect they belong to?





No, they are Christians, from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church. They broke off from the Catholic Church in the 4th century. They are a very conservative sect, emphasizing a lot of practices from the Old Testament. They are close to the Copts in Egypt. The above photos were taken at a morning mass at the Abuna Aftse Church in the Gheralta region in the north.

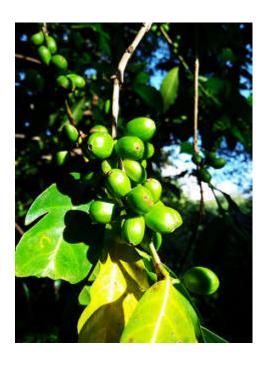
About 45 % of Ethiopians are Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, Protestants another 17%. The patron saint of Ethiopia is St George. Many churches are named after him, and paintings of him slaying a dragon to rescue a virgin sacrifice adorn every church. And if that is not ubiquitous enough, one of the three local beers is named St George beer. Isn't it profane to name a spirit after a saint? Or may be that is logical: the beer is spiritual.





A5 - Economy

Ethiopia is a very poor country though it enjoys good growth the last decade. The per capital (PPP-based) GDP 2015 is estimated around US\$ 1,560 only. Agriculture contributes about 40% of the GDP and 80% of the workforce. But productivity is low, with uneven rainfall and very few irrigation schemes. The main export is coffee. In fact the coffee plant is originated from Ethiopia. The beans are the high quality Coffea Arabica.



Part B

Now we go for some sight-seeing. Part B is about central and northern Ethiopia and Part C the south. We spent near to 2 weeks in the central and northern provinces of Oromia, Amhara and Tigray, and slightly over a week in the SNNPR province in the south.

B1 - Addis Ababa

We visited 2 museums in the capital city with some 3.3 million people. At the National Museum, saw the fossil bones (about 40% of the full skeleton) of Lucy, the Hominin who lived some 3.2 million years ago. The species precedes Homo Sapiens. Yes, Ethiopia is that old. At the entrance to the Ethnological Museum, there is an intriguing set of stairs spiralling precariously skywards. Each step was placed by the Italians (who occupied Ethiopia during WW2) as a symbol of Fascist domination, one for every year Mussolini held power. A small Lion of Judah (the symbol of Ethiopian monarchy) added by the Ethiopians later, sits victoriously atop the final step, like a final exclamation mark at the end of a painfully long sentence.





B2 - Bahir Dar

This is a town some 550 km north of Addis Ababa. On the way visited the Debre Libanos Monastery founded some 800 years ago. This current church was built in the 1960s, with beautiful stained glasses.





Had a 2-hour cruise in Lake Tana, the largest lake in Ethiopia, meeting fishermen in papyrus boats. Visited the Ura Kidane Mehret Monastery, founded in the 14th century. The current church building is about 500 years old, with timber cladding as an outer wall. Richly adorned with murals, said to be 150 to 250 years old.







The main tourist attraction here is the Tis Issat Falls, on the Blue Nile River. The waterfall is about 37 to 43 m in height, which could extend up to 400 m wide during rainy season.





B3 - Gondar

180 km north of Bahir Dar is Gondar, the old capital of the Ethiopian Empire from around 1635 to 1855, founded by Emperor Fasilides. The main attraction is the Fasil Ghebbi, which is a group of ruins, mostly palaces, built by Fasilides and his successors. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The best preserved is the Fasilides Castle, which is also the biggest building, 1st photo. The 4th photo shows the abandoned Fasilides Bath, located in another place.









B4 - Simien Mountains

Further north from Gondar is the Simien Mountains. The Simien Mountain National Park is also a UNESCO World Heritage site. We hiked for 2-hours at the park, around the 3,000 m altitude zone, part grassland part forested with African cedar.





The park houses several endangered species of animals. We never manage to see any though. Need some luck or need to stay longer. We did see many herds of gelada, each 40 or 50 in number. Geladas are a species of monkeys found only in the the Ethiopian highlands. They are not real baboons thought they are often erroneously being called gelada baboons. These galadas are also called the "bleeding heart" monkeys. For males the colour of the bare patch of skin on the chest shows their sex virility. Red means sexually excited, 2nd photo. He must be looking at our

beautiful tour leader Rachel. How men wish there is such an indicator in women! Life is very much easier then!





Shown a local on the highlands. A typical farmer in his usual attire. Practically all men in the rural area carry a stick, as a weapon if attacked by wild animals or as a walking stick. Shown also a species of the Red-hot Poker. Man and plant standing tall.





B5 - Axum

From the Simien Highlands we went further north to Axum, an old capital from 4th century BC to 10th century AD. The major

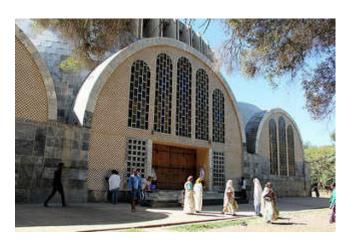
monuments in the town are stelae, or grave markers, a pagan practice before the conversion of the nation to Christianity in the 4th century. Hence all stelae here are pre-4th century or at least 1,700 years old.

We visited the North Stelae Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The most famous is the Obelisk of Axum, 24m tall, 160 ton. In 1937 the Italians, occupying Ethiopia then, shipped the war booty to Italy and later erected it in Rome. In April 2005, Italy finally returned the obelisk to Axum and it was re-erected in 2008. The biggest of the stelae is the Great Stele, shown lying on the ground, 33 m long, 520 tons. Scholars speculate that during the erection sometime in the 4th century, it fell and broke and that ended the practice of stelae erection. Erection failed, no Viagra then!





The holiest Ethiopian Orthodox churches are also found in this old capital. The holiest is the Old Cathedral of St Mary of Zion, founded in the 4th century and last re-built in the 16th century. A new cathedral was built adjacent to it in 1955. It is well decorated with paintings. Shown in 1st 3 photos. The 4th photo shows a painting from the Old Cathedral.









B6 - The Gheralta Region

Part of the northern most province of Tigray is known as the Gheralta region, a spectacular landscape of flat dry plains and towering stratified rock outcrops. It is best known for its 35-odd rock-hewn churches, the largest concentration anywhere in Ethiopia. Some churches are famous for their stone workmanship, ancient paintings and old manuscripts, and others known for their magnificent view and difficult ascent.



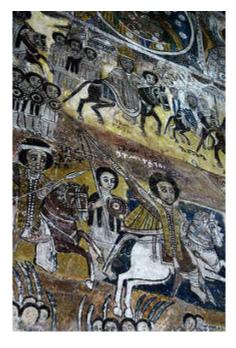


We visited a few of the rock-hewn churches. The Abreha We Atsbeha Church (named after King Abreha and his twin brother) is said to be one of the best kept and largest. This church was built around 8th to 10th century. The murals are dated to post-17th century. Note that all the space inside the church is carved out from solid rock. Shown also old ceremonial drums.

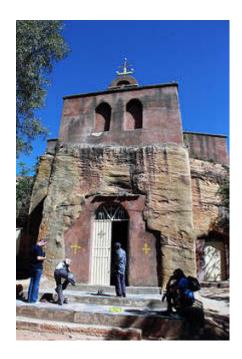






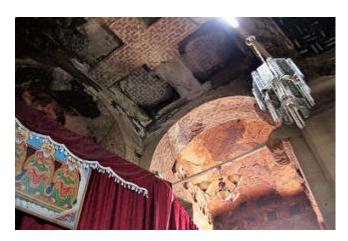


The Wukro Chirkos Church is a semi monolithic church about the same age as the earlier one featured. Here the space is cut out from red sandstone. As seen from the 1st photo, the top part of the entrance portal and the bell tower are built-up parts.









B7 - Lalibela

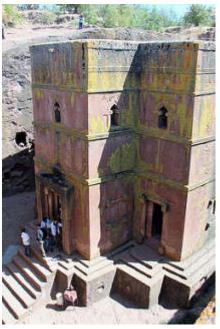
Lalibela is a small town south-east of the Gheralta region. After the decline of the Axum state, a new Christian dynasty emerged in the 12th century with her capital in Roha which was later renamed Lalibela in honour of the first king. During the reign of this pious King Lalibela many rock churches were dug, not horizontally into the rock slopes, but vertically downwards into the rock.

The churches of Lalibela were not constructed — they were excavated. Each church was created by first carving out a wide trench on all four sides of the rock, then painstakingly chiseling out the interior. The roofs of the Lalibela churches are level with the ground and are reached by steps descending into narrow

trenches. 11 churches were identified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Bet Giyorgis (Church of Saint George) is the most famous and best preserved. It was carved from a type of limestone called tufa. It is 15 m down and the roof forms the shape of a Greek cross. The interior is quite plain.





Biete Medhane Alem (House of the Saviour of the World) is the largest monolithic church in the world, 33 m long, 23 m wide and 10 m deep. The building is massive and it has 34 columns on the outside, and 38 on the inside to support the roof. The interior has 4 aisles. Look at the smooth ceiling and arches.

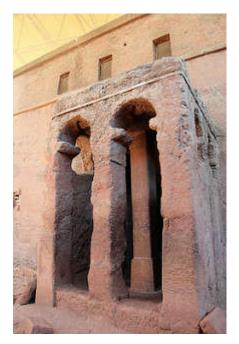








The small Biete Maryam (House of Mary) is beautifully designed and decorated, the most popular among the pilgrims. There are many old frescoes, and many images of the Virgin, her home church.



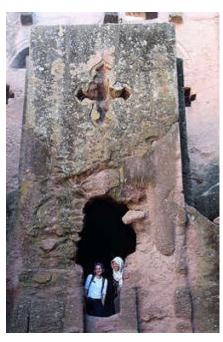






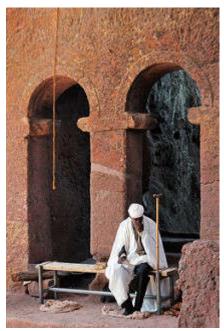
Trenches and tunnels connecting the churches.





Please note that these are "live" churches. They are still being used every Sunday. Some even have daily early morning masses. There are pilgrims praying in some niches and corners and priests praying at the sanctuary or showing holy relics or books to tourists. And we also have the shoe custodians, an unusual but profitable profession arising from the condition that visitors have to take off their shoes to enter any of these churches.









Part C: The South

We spent over a week in the province of Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region or SNNPR. The province, south west of Addis Ababa, has a population of 15 millions made up of many ethnic groups. The largest are Sidama at 19%, and Welayta at 11%. Religion wise, Protestants at 55%, Orthodox Christians at 20%, Muslims at 14% and traditional beliefs at 7%.

C1 - The Lakes

Part of the province lies in the Great Rift Valley of Ethiopia. A rift is a linear zone where the Earth's crust is being pulled apart by seismic forces. There are many lakes in the rift valley. A chance to see wild life. We had a 2-hour cruise in Lake Chemo, saw some Marabou storks, a few crocs and had a glimpse of a huge but shy hippo before it went underwater.









Visited a fish market along the shore of Lake Awassa, typical catches are catfish and tilapia. Saw some black-n-white Colobus monkeys, native to Africa. And a boy selling bushy straw hats.









C2 - Konso Cultural Village

The Konso Highlands is located at the south eastern part of the SNNPR Province, near the edge of the rift valley. The main inhabitants are the Konso people. The Konso Cultural Landscape is an arid property of stone walled terraces and fortified settlements about 55 sq km in size. It constitutes a spectacular example of a living cultural tradition more than 400 years old adapted to its dry hostile environment. The landscape demonstrates the shared values, social cohesion and engineering knowledge of its communities. The landscape is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Visited a village. Showing the walls, a typical round hut, and the "community generation pole" where a pole is added to the bundle every 18 years representing a generation. This village is near to 20 generations old. And boys poking their heads out of the suspended ground floor of the community home. The Konso's hut has the distinctive double domes.



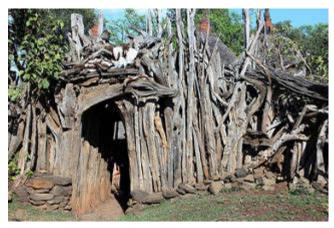






There is a Konso King to deal with tribal matters. Showing the "palace" huts and the main gate to the palace. The present king, 47 years old, was a civil engineer before he took over the throne from his late father. The 4th photo is the typical waga, or royal tomb marker.









C3 - The "Urban" Tribes

All the southern tribes are some kind of farmers, Some tribes who live nearer to towns enjoy some "modern" facilities like transport and power and better opportunity for education. I group them as "urban" tribes.

The Dorze is a minority tribe, about 30,000 strong, who live in villages near the city of AbraMinch. They are excellent weavers and live in distinctive tall beehive-shaped huts. The plant shown is enset, or the false banana, endemic to southern Ethiopia. It is much bigger than normal banana plants and it does not bear fruits. Starch could be extracted from the stem for food and wine. The girl just cooked a flat bread with the enset flour.









The Halaba is a Muslim tribe, some 130,000 strong. They paint their huts, both externally and on the inside, as shown in the 2nd photo.





The Ari is also a big tribe, some 120,000 in numbers. Shown the children.





C4 - The Lower Omo Valley Tribes

The Lower Omo Valley is a region, about 165 sq km in size, in the south western part of the country. Many Hominid fossils have been discovered here. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its culture and diversity and the continuous interaction. It is home to about 200,000 indigenous people, involving some 16 tribes, among them some of the most fascinating in the World.

The villages are far apart, naturally so as the tribes are mostly agro-pastoral. They need grazing ground for their livestock, and

some are semi-nomadic. Shown typical landscape in the valley, a giant ant hill and a rare mini baobab tree.



We visited villages of 4 tribes. The Mursi and Hamar live in pointed round huts and the Daasanach in domed huts. We also crossed a river with dugouts to reach the village of the Daasanach. They are that isolated. Showing the different types of huts of the Daasanach, Mursi and Hamar tribes respectively.









The Karo is a small tribe of around 1,500 people, living in the east banks of River Omo. They are renowned for their face and body painting. with white chalk, red ochre and black charcoal, etc.





The Daasanach tribe numbers about 50,000, living mostly around Lake Turkana. The women decorate themselves with necklaces and elaborate headgear. Many have a feather pinned onto the chin.









The Hamar is a tribe, about 45,000 strong, living in a district bearing their name in a futile part of the valley. The women are famous for their elaborate hairdo and the practice of body scarification. They twist the locks with butter and red soil into crimson-coloured dreads. During the coming-of-age ceremony for boys, women folks with boys in their families participating in the ceremony would dance to a frenzy and allow men to whip them on the bare backs. Permanent scars are thus formed, considered a sign of devotion to the family. The scars of the girl in the 2nd photo are quite recently inflicted.







The Mursi is a tribe living close to the border with South Sudan. They number about 3,500, a dark semi-nomadic people. The men are reputed fierce warriors. Look how "fierce" the 1st man looks.

And look at the chest of the 2nd man: it bears elaborate scarification patterns. The Mursi women are even more famous. They wear unique clay lip-plates. The woman cut a slit in her lower lip, put a clay plate to stretch the opening. The lips are stretched for months, with bigger and bigger plates, the largest about 12 cm. Look at the ear lobes of all these women: they are pierced too which means they might also wear "ear-lobe plates" or hang heavy ornaments. The origin of the practice of lip-plate is unknown, likely to be a symbol of maturity as the women start to cut their lips around 15 years old. And to accommodate the lip plates, all the 4 lower front teeth have to be removed. How cruel a custom this could be?













It is to be noted body scarification was common among several of these tribes previously. It has since been banned by the government. Only the women of the Hamar tribe continue with the tradition.

Part D: Further Observations

This part consists of my general comments and observations not directly related to any particular place.

D1 - Food

The national dish is the injera, a large sour-dough flatbread with a spongy texture and made with teff flour. It looks and tastes quite like our Indian "tosai". Cheaper ones are made with wheat or corn flour. The injera is eaten with a dhal and/or a vege/meat stew. Showing the spongy nature of injera, and a typical breakfast, local style for the tourists.





We did have a good western dinner at this space-station restaurant in Lalibela, run by a Scottish lady.



D2 - Money matter and shopping

The currency unit in Ethiopia is called Birr. Current conversion rate is very roughly 20 Birr to a US dollar. There is nothing expensive to shop here. Wooden figurines featuring the southern tribes and silver pieces shaped to the Ethiopian Orthodox crosses are excellent souvenirs. Or other small wood carvings of the tribes and paintings in the unique Ethiopian style. Or you can

support the community by buying their weaving products or the Ethiopian coffee.













D3 - Ethiopian Church Art

In church paintings posted earlier, readers might have noticed that all figures, or icons, are painted having large, almond-shaped eyes. And colours used are usually bright and vivid. This is the unique characteristic of the Ethiopian church art. Only good people have big eyes. Evil people are sometimes painted with only one small eye. One of the best known examples is found at the Debre Berhan Selassie Church in Gondar, where the ceiling is covered with hundreds of images of angels, one shown. Non-religious figures are sometimes presented likewise, as shown in a painting found in a restaurant also in Gondar.





See the image of Saint Gebre Manfus Kiddus at the Bet Merkorios in Lalibela. The saint looks comical. Brother of Saruman the White Wizard in Lord of the Rings trilogy? The other photo shows the treasured 18th century manuscript kept at the New Cathedral of St Mary of Zion in Axum, the contents vividly colourful.





D4 - Drinking Water Problem

Ethiopia is not a dry country. Unfortunately in the north most of it

the rains fall in the months of July and August leaving other months dry and dusty. Mountain folks have to come down to the valley to collect water for their essential needs. Daily walk for hours. The yellow container is 25 litre in capacity and hold 25 kg of water. Saw many people carry such a container, including very young children. This woman in the 2nd photo is collecting water from a mountain spring in the Asheton Mountain near Lalibela.





D5 - Road Transport

The roads we travelled in the south are mostly unpaved. That is why we need 4 x 4 on such trips. The Toyota Cruiser used by our driver Chuchu is shown. And most rural roads are deserted, practically no passenger cars except the 4 x 4 used by tourists. Some trucks yes. One reason is cars are very expensive, heavily taxed, up to 200% sometimes. In towns the ubiquitous "tut-tut" are handy, painted blue everywhere in the country.





But driving on the road is not easy even if there are not many motor vehicles. You have these to avoid: goats, cattle, camels, two stubborn bulls locking horns, mourning women near a cemetery where a burial is about to take place, and tribal villagers going home after a festival, all in the middle of the narrow road.













D6 - By the Roadside

Houses in the rural area, except those round huts belonging to tribes in the south, are inevitably rectangular with timber cladding as wall and a zine roof. The better ones might have part mud-brick walls.





A convoy of mule carts and villagers queuing for a bus. Shame to the Malaysians who don't queue.

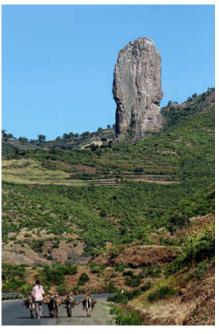




Artificial beehives put up by the farmers near Lake Awassa to provide "free lodging" to the bees and in return harvest the honey twice yearly. You see, nothing in this World is really free!

Mmmm... you are wondering if you will be charged reading this story? And the "Finger of God" located near Gondar, a 120-metre rock outcrop springing out of nowhere.





In the south, the children will jump or dance or do some stunts by the roadside when they see a 4×4 coming. Hope to entice the

tourists to stop and reward them with a Birr or two for their effort or buy something from them, like papayas in the 2nd photo.





D7 - To Market, to Market

In the rural areas, they have open-air markets in the towns, usually once a week. Villagers walk hours to the market to trade and socialise and gossip. The one in Gato is huge, 1st photo. Even if you have only one chicken to sell or barter-trade you still have to walk 3 hours to go to the market, like the woman in the 3rd photo. Things sold are mostly agricultural products, the exceptions are water-containers and women's clothing. Yes, for women only.







D8 - Cereal

The Ethiopians plant a great variety of cereals. Because our guide Mr Salomon has a degree in agriculture, we learned a lot from him. We were seeing for the first time many cereal plants or oil seed plants which we might have been eating for years. Showing them in the proper order: red sorghum, barley, teff (Ethiopian millet, extremely nutritious and fine grained), and flax seed.



D9 - Tough Life
It is generally a tough life out there, for both humans and animals.









D10 - Hotels

Our hotels are generally the better ones in town. But if the best in town is only 2-star you have to make do with that. Anyway the trip is not about enjoying the hotels. We did stay in several chalet-types though, like this expensive Kanta Lodge in ArbaMinch in the south. Mosquito netting is provided over the bed but on this trip we really were not disturbed by mosquitoes. May be this was the dry season.





This is another of the better hotels: Desta International Hotel in Mekelle. Big room, well furnished.



D11 - Humanitarian Gesture

We are aware of how poor the Ethiopians are. So some of us made full use of the 40 kg luggage limit provided by the airlines and brought along old clothes and sports shoes to give to them. On the first day in Addis Ababa we visited a charity home known as "Mekedonia: Home for the Elderly and Mentally Disturbed" and passed over 9 or 10 boxes/bags of the useable old stuff to them. This is a centre with 800+ inmates and 200+ volunteer helpers. Very clean for a congested place. The officer briefed us on their mission and their achievement at the cramped guest room.





We also brought over several new stationary worth about US\$ 100, and passed them to a school in a Konso village. Showing a classroom and an old wheel hub hung on a tree and used as a gong. Look like student discipline is very poor.





D12 - Photo Money

Taking photo is not free in Ethiopia, stranger's photo I mean. My wife won't charge me. "Photo Money" are 2 English words every child and woman from the southern tribes know how to utter. For the minority tribes in the south modelling is already a profession.

You need to talk about the scale of professional fees first. In general for a fee of 5 Birr (about 25 US cents) you can take a few shots of the same person. And for a group, each one of them is to be reimbursed the same rate. Near the end of the visit to a village, the children and women will pull your shirt and offer a discounted rate, like 2 people for 5 Birr. Pre-Christmas sale! They are not unionised yet! 5 Birr a person is surely not an amount to bargain further, especially photographing naked women. You know how much a ticket cost to watch naked women in Moulin Rouge in Paris?

Happy faces all round: children waiting to receive a ball pen from one of our members. And that is the happy ending of my tour story.



Thanks for your company in this virtual tour. No "tour money" asked!

And Merry Christmas, Happy New Year 2016.

Hon

(19-12-2015)

Footnote - Tour operator in Ethiopia

As I wrote at the beginning of the story our ground tour was handled by Witness Ethiopia Tours from Addis Ababa.



We were a party of 11. In the northern part of the country we moved around in a mini bus. In the south where we need to go into tribal areas with unpaved roads, Toyota 4 x 4 were used, 3 vehicles and 3 drivers. All the drivers were very careful and experienced.

The boss of the Witness Ethiopia Tours is one Mr Ermias who came to the airport to welcome us personally and on the last day gave us a farewell dinner with special Ethiopian cuisine and entertainment by traditional Ethiopian folk dancers. He accompanied us to the airport too. A most wonderful host

And our tour guide for the whole journey was one Mr Solomon who spoke perfect English, very knowledgeable on everything Ethiopia and most patient and cooperative. He has a degree in agriculture and he could identify most of the plants we encountered on the trip, plants alien to foreigners.

Thank you Mr Ermias and Mr Solomon for 3 weeks of wonderful experience in fascinating Ethiopia.

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