



Danakil, land of fire

ETHIOPIA

Photo by D. Giusti



9 days

24 January - 01 February 2027

Expert Guide Luca Lupi



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The encounter with our ancestor Lucy in **Addis Ababa**
- Trekking on the **Erta Ale volcano**, admiring its lava lake
- The **Afar nomads** and the **salt caravans**, a millenary tradition unchanged
- The Dante-esque landscapes of **The Dallol**, 116 metres below sea level



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
+223 76723946 - www.kanaga-at.com

Day 1 - Sunday 24 January

Outward flight/Addis Ababa (ADD)

Evening flight to Addis Ababa, overnight by plane.

Day 2 - Monday 25 January

Addis Ababa

Upon arrival meet with Kanaga Africa Tours staff, assistance with Euro exchange and possible purchase of a local phone card. Transfer to Hotel Nexus or similar, time at leisure to freshen up. Day dedicated to the visit of ADDIS ABEBA, the "new flower", a colourful, chaotic and noisy African capital, which reflects the contrasts between modernisation in progress and tradition, and which shows signs of an ancient beauty in which the atmosphere of Italian Abyssinia can still be discerned. We will visit the National Museum, which houses important Sabaeen artefacts and the fossil remains of Australopithecus Afarensis, including the famous Lucy, a hominid who lived in the Awash Valley three and a half million years ago, among the oldest remains found on Earth. Lunch. We continue with a visit to the Ethnographic Museum, which houses a splendid collection of musical instruments and Coptic crosses, and the rooms with the furnishings where Emperor Haile Selassie lived. Finally, we visit the imposing Holy Trinity Cathedral, with its copper dome and tapering pinnacles, which houses the tombs of Haile Selassie and his wife. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.

Day 3 - Tuesday 26 January

Addis Ababa (ADD)/Flight/Semera (SZE)/Erta Ale

After breakfast transfer to the airport for the internal flight to Semera. On arrival, depart for the heart of the DANAKIL region, an area considered to be among the most hostile to life, but where a people have nonetheless managed to find the means to survive with great resilience. Dancalia is in fact the land of the Afar, also called Dancali or Danakili, black-skinned people with the sharp features of the Arabs, dromedary breeders or dedicated to a poor pastoral lifestyle, nomads on the move, salt merchants. Proud, jealous of their independence, they live in family camps made up of a few huts, which they dismantle and reassemble during their wanderings, carrying their looms and mats on the backs of dromedaries. Also characteristic are the tattoos and scarifications indicating the clan and tribe to which they belong. Continuation along a track winding between sand and lava, passing several AFAR VILLAGES in the direction of the ERTA ALE VOLCANO - the 'smoking mountain' -, the last of a chain of volcanoes in the central part of the Dancala depression. Picnic lunch. In the afternoon, when the sun begins to set, we will begin the ascent to the top of the caldera: the difference in altitude is less than 400 metres and it takes about 1 hour on a path cut into the lava to reach the top. The camp will be equipped for the night at the top of the volcano with mats and mattresses. In the dark, only illuminated by the vivid glow of the volcano, we will reach the edge of the caldera: the spectacle of lava* in constant motion and magma that seems to emerge from the bowels of the earth is extraordinary and one of the unforgettable moments of the trip. Picnic dinner and overnight stay at the camp.

**The collapse of the solidified roof of the Erta Ale lava lake in July 2025 has caused a rapid drop in the lake's level. Over time, a new lava lake will form, which, pushed by magmatic gases, will rise to the edge again and solidify.*



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Day 4 - Wednesday 27 January

Erta Ale/Ahmed Ela

Early in the morning, after further exploration of the area, we begin our descent in the direction of base camp. Breakfast and departure for Amedila (Ahmed Ela). The track, once we leave the immense lava expanse, passes through an alluvial plain with a chain of volcanoes, which in the rainy season turns into a succession of green pastures. We continue on to the village of Waideddo and the SALT FLOOR, which, almost at the northern end of the Danakil Depression, extends to the border with Eritrea. With a bit of luck, we may be able to observe the salt being extracted and the last dromedary caravans transporting it to the plateau. Accommodation on wooden beds (hangareb) en plain air at the edge of the Afar huts. Picnic lunch and dinner, overnight at the camp.

Day 5 - Thursday 28 January

Ahmed Ela/Dallol/Ahmed Ela

Early in the morning, after breakfast at the camp, we head for DALLOL, the 'spirit hill', some fifty metres high: here the earth bubbles, geysers are active, crystal formations have bizarre geometries. Sulphurous springs, salt cones, and fairy chimneys create a most evocative landscape. Wounds of fire emit red-hot stones, swirls of smoke and vapours, underground bubbling generates multicoloured saline waterfalls, inlays and embroideries of iron and sulphur. Walking along a path, one reaches an expanse of astonishing colours: red, green, yellow, alternating without apparent logic. Return to camp at Ahmed Ela and picnic lunch. In the afternoon, exploration of the salt quarry area, where the last diggers extract rectangular blocks with the help of sticks used as levers, and cut them to a size that can be transported on dromedaries. Continue on to the small magnesium salt mountain called Assa Ale, the 'red mountain', an island formed by a few magnesium sulphate outcrops rising in Lake Assale, 116 metres below sea level. Picnic lunch and dinner, overnight at the camp.



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Day 6 - Friday 29 January

Ahmed Ela/Afdera

After breakfast, departure for LAKE AFDERA (Afrera), located 112 metres below sea level in the heart of the Danakil Depression. On arrival, set up camp near the lake, formerly known as Lake Giulietti, and enjoy a picnic lunch. In the afternoon we can observe the Tigrinos intent on extracting salt, once traded in the highland markets for gold. Possibility of a regenerating bath in the salt lake and nearby hot springs. Picnic dinner and overnight stay in igloo tents.

Day 7 - Saturday 30 January

Afdera/Allalobad/Semera

Breakfast at the camp and departure for ALLALOBAD, picnic lunch en route. Here active geysers erupt hot water and steam at a height of about 1 metre and occasionally higher, creating a true geological 'theatre'. Late afternoon departure for Semera, for a well-deserved shower at the hotel. Accommodation at the Kuriftu Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.

Day 8 - Sunday 31 January

Semera (SEZ)/Flight/Addis Abeba (ADD)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport in good time for your flight to ADDIS ABABA. In the afternoon, a visit to the Merkato, Africa's largest market, followed by a city tour. Day-use rooms available on request. Option of a dinner featuring injera, the Ethiopian national dish, accompanied by a traditional dance performance. Transfer to the airport in good time for your return flight. END OF SERVICES.

Day 9 - Monday 01 February

Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



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**Individual participation fee in double room/hut
(min. 6/max. 12 pax)**

3,090 €/pax

**in promotion at € 2,990
for bookings before 24/10/2026**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room/hut: **130 €**
- Ethiopia visa service: **120 €**
- Day use in Addis Abeba: **100 €/room**
- Possible extensions to Harar, Somaliland, Mogadishu, Mundari tribes: **on request**

The fee includes:

- Expert Guide Luca Lupi;
- English and French speaking local guides;
- Visits and excursions as per the itinerary;
- All transfers in a Toyota 4x4 or similar (max. 3 guests per vehicle) and minibuses in Addis Ababa, including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Transfers to and from the airport (recommended flight times);
- Full board from lunch on day 2 to breakfast on day 8;
- Mineral water (1.5 litres per person per day);
- Military escorts where necessary;
- Camping equipment, cook and kitchen facilities;
- 6 nights' accommodation in twin rooms as mentioned in the itinerary (2 in hotels, 4 at camp);
- A copy of Luca Lupi's printed guidebook "Dancalia".

The fee does not include:

- Visa for Ethiopia;
- Cancellation, health and baggage insurance;
- Flights (international and domestic);
- Drinks and additional mineral water;
- Meals not included in the itinerary;
- Airport/hotel transfers and vice versa with operators other than those recommended;
- Sleeping bag and pillow;
- Tips for photographers and videographers;
- Personal tips and expenses;
- Everything listed under 'Supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned under 'The price includes'.

25/01/27: Addis Abeba ADD 06h45 – Semera (SZE) 08h05
31/01/27: Semera (SZE) 10h05 - Addis Abeba ADD 11h15