

Nazareth College & Visions Global Empowerment Ethiopia Service-Learning Trip Itinerary

January 2nd – 14th, 2018

Addis Ababa * Bahir Dar * Lalibela * Debre Zeit

DAY 1

Tuesday, January 2nd

Rochester → Addis Ababa

- Depart Rochester for Addis Ababa; flight details TBD

DAY 2

Wednesday, January 3rd

Addis Ababa

- Target date of arrival for all volunteers to arrive in Addis Ababa
- Afternoon visit with the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (www.ewdna.org) and have a coffee ceremony/exchange with some of the Visions-supported Deaf women livelihoods beneficiaries
- Rest & overnight at Addis Regency Hotel (<http://www.addisregencyhotel.com>) or comparable

DAY 3

Thursday, January 4th

Addis Ababa → Bahir Dar

- In the morning, we will go over a number of orientation matters, introductions, a breakdown of our itinerary & trip objectives, program plans, etc.



- Take 11:30am flight (Ethiopian Airlines #144) from Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar, arriving at 12:30pm
- Transfer to Jacaranda Hotel (www.jacarandahotelbahirdar.com) – our home for the next week – to check in and drop off bags
- Head to the Visions Model Deafness Center to tour the facilities and meet the amazing local staff there (6 Deaf educators, 2 Interpreters, Director, and support staff) employed by our implementing partner organization – the Kal Center for Special Needs (www.kalcenter.org)

- Presentation & screening of several short films by Visions & Kal Center staff
- “Introduction to Ethiopian Sign Language” mini-training by our Deaf educators
- “Introduction to Amharic” mini-training by our Interpreters
- Dinner this night and every night will be at our hotel (we’ll set a time to meet as a group each evening)

DAY 4

Friday, January 5th

Bahir Dar

- Morning tour of the Deaf Resource Room, Deaf classroom, and new Deaf Vocational Training Center (currently under construction) at Yekatit 23 School



- Begin service activities at the Deafness Center or Yekatit 23 School by conducting educational training programs for Deaf youth, preschool students, university students, parents / family members, etc. (exact tasks and schedule TBD depending on the academic calendar and scheduling of existing programming)
 - Proficiency in Ethiopian Sign Language (or ASL) and/or Amharic are certainly helpful but definitely not required
- Lakeside lunch at Desset Lodge on the shores of Lake Tana

DAY 5

Saturday, January 6th

Bahir Dar

- Continue service activities in partnership with our local colleagues
- In the evening, we’ll visit one of the cultural music and dance halls in town for some dancing and fun

DAY 6

Sunday, January 7th

Bahir Dar

- In the morning, explore Lake Tana by private boat to visit 1 or 2 islands that are home to 900+ year-old monasteries and view the aquatic life (birds, hippos, etc.)
- Continue service activities in the afternoon in partnership with our local colleagues



DAY 7

Monday, January 8th

Bahir Dar



- Continue service activities in partnership with our local colleagues
- Visits to Deaf-run businesses headed by livelihood development program beneficiaries
- Optional afternoon shopping at the local markets for buying spices, coffee, traditional clothing, textiles, honey, silver items, and other goods

DAY 8

Tuesday, January 9th

Bahir Dar

- Finish up service activities in partnership with our local colleagues
- Farewell dinner under the stars (weather permitting, of course) with our local friends at Abay Minch Lodge (<http://www.abayminchlodge.com>)



DAY 9

Wednesday, January 10th

Bahir Dar → Lalibela

- Depart the hotel by 7:45am to catch the flight to Lalibela on Ethiopian Airlines flight #120, departing Bahir Dar at 9:40am and arriving in Lalibela at 10:10am
 - Before we depart, first put all your luggage in the vehicle to be driven back to Addis, except for 2 days' worth of clothes, etc. for our time in Lalibela. We'll have everything delivered to our hotel in Addis upon our return.
- Day of sightseeing and exploration of the archaeological and religious history of this UNESCO World Heritage site. Known for its impressive monolithic rock-hewn churches, Lalibela is one of Ethiopia's holiest cities and is a center of pilgrimage for Orthodox Christians.
- Overnight at Tukul Village Hotel (http://www.tukulvillage.com/tukul_village/) or comparable hotel

DAY 10

Thursday, January 11th

Lalibela

- Full day of sightseeing and exploration in Lalibela
- Group evaluations, trip review, and discussions on future plans
- Sunset dinner with surreal views of the landscape below at Ben Abeba Restaurant (<http://www.benabeba.com>)

DAY 11

Friday, January 12th

Lalibela → Addis Ababa → Debre Zeit

- Return flight to Addis Ababa from Lalibela (via Bahir) departing at 9:30am on Ethiopian Airlines flight #152, arriving in Addis at 11:30am
- Upon arrival at the airport, our vehicle will pick us up (with everyone's luggage) for approx. 1 ½ hour drive to the city of Debre Zeit, just south of Addis Ababa
- Leisure, relaxation, final debrief / planning session, and overnight at Pyramid Hotel & Resort (www.pyramidresortet.com)



DAY 12

Saturday, January 13th

Debre Zeit → Addis Ababa → Home

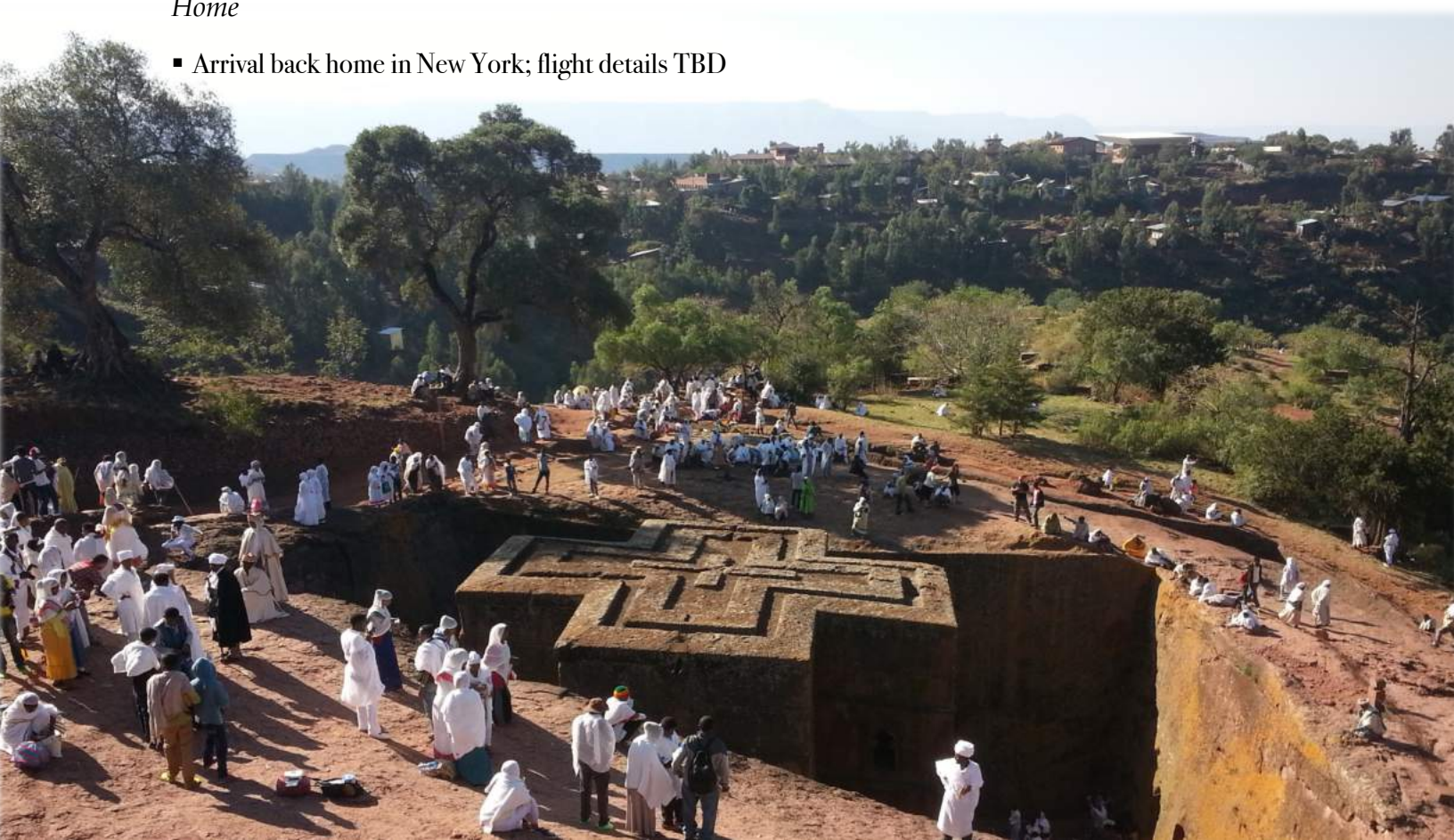
- Morning / afternoon of leisure, rest, and packing
- Return drive to Addis Ababa (most likely in the afternoon) to catch return flight home (flight details TBD)

DAY 13

Sunday, January 14th

Home

- Arrival back home in New York; flight details TBD



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Ethiopian Deaf children and adults experience discrimination in education, healthcare, employment, public services, and everyday communication and activities. For this reason, volunteers with a special interest in working with the Deaf community have been developing a project in partnership with local Deaf organizations in Ethiopia already engaged in serving this vulnerable community. Visions Global Empowerment (“Visions”) and our local counterparts at the Kal Center for Special Needs and Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (EWDNA) are collectively striving toward the development of thoughtful interventions including increasing the accessibility and quality of life skills training, Ethiopian Sign Language (EthSL) instruction, job training and opportunities, public education and awareness raising, medical care, early childhood education, social activities, and other educational support for Deaf Ethiopians and their families in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa.

NAZARETH COLLEGE 3rd SERVICE-LEARNING TRIP

This volunteer program represents Visions’ 11th scheduled group service-learning trip to Ethiopia to engage in this work (in which nearly 80 individuals have volunteered their time already), though individual leaders and volunteers have been working in Ethiopia on these efforts since October 2010. As part of this experience, program participants will be spending time with local Deaf leaders, staff, and teachers; conducting site visits to ongoing Visions’ projects including the Visions Model Deafness Center in Bahir Dar and ongoing education and livelihoods development initiatives; conducting training programs for Deaf schoolchildren, young adults, and parents at 3 public schools in Bahir Dar with Deaf classrooms and at the Visions Model Deafness Center; and learning about the issues that shape the lives of Deaf Ethiopians.

In addition to the volunteer component, this trip will provide an opportunity to see local development projects in action. Participants will meet with local NGO partners and make field visits to various projects designed to make a difference in communities in need. Volunteers will also have time for periodic sightseeing and leisure, providing an opportunity to see some of the many fascinating sights that Ethiopia has to offer. Participants will experience some of the historical and archaeological heritage, nature/wildlife, and more. All of this will give volunteers an opportunity to experience Ethiopian culture and engage in what amounts to a powerful cross-cultural exchange and learning experience. This trip also provides an opportunity to gain exposure to Ethiopian Sign Language and to share insights and experiences with our Ethiopian counterparts about Deafness, Deaf Culture, the way forward for the Ethiopian Deaf community, and so much more.

SIGHTSEEING & LEISURE

Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, is a bustling cosmopolitan center and the home of the African Union, many UN offices, embassies, and more. It serves as our entry point into the country as well, with the group arriving and departing from Bole International Airport (ADD). Students may have a little time to explore this major African city, including visiting the National Museum to see the infamous “Lucy” and “Ardi”; Red Scare Martyrs Museum; Meskel Square; and other interesting sites.

In Bahir Dar, we will have several opportunities for exploration and sightseeing as well. A boat ride on Lake Tana to visit the monasteries and see the wildlife of the lake (ie: hippos, 80+ species of birds, etc.) is a must. We will also organize at least one night out for cultural dancing and music. Visit the local markets for shopping – coffee, textiles, traditional dress, spices, honey, and silver items are all good options for bringing gifts back home.

Students will have a few days for leisure and reflection at the end of the trip as they visit the historical site of Lalibela. Known for its impressive monolithic rock-



hewn churches, Lalibela is one of Ethiopia's holiest cities and is a center of pilgrimage for Orthodox Christians.

Finally, the group will have one final evening in the lakeside town of Debre Zeit, just south of Addis Ababa, where there are opportunities for hiking, lakeside activities, or simply some much needed rest and relaxation.

BUILDING LOCAL BONDS

Our program has been designed to work concurrently to develop skills in students, adults, local partners, teachers, university students, other community members, and volunteers abroad. Using facilitated learning techniques, team building, and gradual ownership of curriculum and activities leadership, volunteers and children develop confidence, skill, and teamwork capabilities. Our goal of supplementing the educational opportunities for students and professionals in Deaf education in Ethiopia while honoring Ethiopian Sign Language, indigenous language, and the richness of Ethiopian cultures provide an experience for all participants that is both rich and respectful for all. As our development work continues year-round, we will follow up on any program-specific goals or projects that emerge from this service-learning trip, and encourage all participants to stay involved in these efforts long-term.

TRAVEL MAP

