

**The Suri Tribe** semi-nomadic cattle herders and lives on the west side of the Omo River in the southwestern part of Ethiopia. This area is still much undeveloped, only unpaved roads lead to the heart of the Suri settlements: Kibish. The Suri culture demands that the men are trained as warriors as well as cattle herders. Stick-fighting events like the 'Zegine' (or 'Saginay', also commonly known as Donga, the Amharic name for the stick fights) take place to train boys and young men and also to allow them to meet women. This area is still quite untouched, and there are plenty of opportunities to see and experience the traditional life of the Suri tribe. If you are lucky you can see scarification, blood drinking ceremonies and other traditional rituals of the Suri people. The Suri are very much like the Mursi tribe and practice the same traditions. The women wear lip plates that are made out of clay. The men in the tribe fight with sticks called Dongas. Both the men and women scar their bodies. If you see a Suri man with a scar, it usually means that he has killed a member of a rival tribe. Lip plates are a strong part of the Surma culture. At the point of puberty most women have their bottom teeth removed in order to get their lower lip pierced. Once the lip is pierced, it's then stretched and a lip plate is then placed in the hole of the piercing. Having a lip plate is a sign of beauty and the bigger the plate, the more cattle the women are worth. This is important when the women are ready to get married.

#### **Suri Tribe 14 Days. October – November 2017**

##### **Day 1 Addis Ababa – Jimma. October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Southwest via Welkite in to Jimma “Oromo Tribe” ethnic group found in Ethiopia, in northern Kenya, and to a lesser extent in parts of Somalia... O/n Jimma

##### **Day 2 Jimma – Mizan Teferi. October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Southwest via Shishinda in to Mizan Teferi for walking town tour of “Bench Maji Zone” while driver process permits for Kibish. O/n Mizan Teferi

##### **Day 3 Mizan Teferi – Tulgit. October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Southwest 200km via Aman, Bebek in to Dima “Agnuak Tribe” are a river people whose villages are scattered along the banks and rivers of southeastern Sudan and western Ethiopia, in the Gambela Region, via Akabu River southeast via Tulgit Village  
“Suri Tribe”. O/n Tulgit, Camping <http://www.mursi.org/neighbours/suri-chai>

##### **Day 4 Tulgit. October 24<sup>th</sup>**

Visit Suri Tribe Villagers surrounding Tulgit Village. O/n Tulgit, Camping

##### **Day 5 Tulgit – Kibish. October 25<sup>th</sup>**

20km to Kibish Villagers of Suri Tribe, Ceremonies & Cultural-events...

According to Suri oral tradition, came to their present territory near Mount Naita about 200 years ago from the banks of the Nile River. The Suri Tribe has a sky god named Tuma.

O/n Kibish, Camping

##### **Day 6 Kibish. October 26<sup>th</sup>**

Excursion outskirts of Kibish Villagers of Suri Tribe, Ceremonies & Cultural-events...

O/n Kibish, Camping

**Day 7 Kibish. October 27<sup>th</sup>**

Explore Kibish Villagers of Suri Tribe, Ceremonies & Cultural-events... O/n Kibish, Camping

**Day 8 Kibish – Reggia. October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Reggia Village & explore Suri Culture, Ceremonies/Cultural-events & evening dance...

To the Suri, the ideal time to stick fight is just after it rains. The fights are held between Suri villages, and the fights begin with 20 to 30 people on each side. Of these 20 to 30 people, all get a chance to fight one on one against someone from the other side. During these fights there are referees present to make sure all rules are being followed. O/n Reggia, Camping

**Day 9 Reggia. October 29<sup>th</sup>**

Reggia Village & explore Suri Culture, Ceremonies/Cultural-events & evening dance...

O/n Reggia, Camping

**Day 10 Reggia. October 30<sup>th</sup>**

Reggia Village & explore Suri Culture, Ceremonies/Cultural-events & evening dance...

O/n Reggia, Camping

**Day 11 Reggia – Tulgit. October 31<sup>st</sup>**

Finalize Reggia area and drive to Tulgit for last night with Suri Tribe. O/n Tulgit, Camping

**Day 12 Tulgit – Mizan Teferi. November 1<sup>st</sup>**

Finalize Suri Tribe and drive to Mizan Teferi. O/n Mizan Teferi

**Day 13 Mizan Teferi – Bonga. November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

To Bonga <http://www.kafa-biosphere.com/> for guided walking trail/trekking on Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve. O/n Bonga, Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve

**Day 14 Bonga – Addis Ababa. November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

445km via Jimma in to Addis Ababa.

**Important Notes**

Due to the expedition style of travel and the regions you visit, travel can be unpredictable. Therefore a certain amount of flexibility is built into the itinerary. On occasion it may be necessary to change the itinerary or to make alterations. It is our intention to visit all villages and places mentioned in the itinerary, but due to unpredictable circumstances, like weather conditions or tribal conflicts, there is no guarantee for this itinerary.



### **What's included?**

- Guided photo expedition based on itinerary above
- Accommodation in tents as per itinerary above
- Accommodation in hotels as per itinerary above
- Meals on full board base & all necessary camping and cooking equipment
- Vehicle w/drive 4WD Jeep
- Well-experienced cook for the full board meals served during camping
- Entrance fees for parks and villages
- English speaking local freelance guides
- Ceremonies & Cultural-Events
- Sleeping bags

### **What's not included?**

- International flights and domestic flights
- Payable beverages and drinks, except the mineral water we provide during camping
- Tipping to driver, guide and any other expense of personal nature
- Video camera and photography fees
- Any services that are not mentioned in the list above

## **Price**

**2300 US Dollar per Person for Two People**  
**1800 US Dollar per Person for Three People**  
**1900 US Dollar per Person for Four People, Two Vehicles'**  
**1775 US Dollar per Person for Five People, Two Vehicles'**  
**1635 US Dollar per Person for Six People, Two Vehicles'**

## **Photo equipment**

You are requested to bring your own photo equipment; we recommend a DSLR or a mirror less camera with interchangeable lenses. But it is also no problem to bring your compact camera with a zoom lens. However, the trip is a photo expedition, so we do not recommend a simple point and shoot camera or a smart phone as your main photo equipment.

Additional suggested items:

- Enough spare memory cards
- Extra rechargeable batteries
- Optional: Small notebook or backup storage device
- Optional: Tripod, flash, optical filter

## **Road Conditions**

This trip is done in private 4-seater model 4WD Toyota Land Cruisers or 4WD Nissan Safari. Please keep in mind that the dirt roads of Southwestern Ethiopia are of very poor condition and it can become an exhausting experience to travel on them, especially in Kibish, Surma areas. During dry seasons the roads can become very dusty.

## **Photography fees and tipping**

In Upper Omo Valley tourists are requested to pay for photos. As a guideline you pay for a portrait in a village or on a market about 5 Birr, for a child around 2 or 3 Birr. Please keep in mind that you often have to pay for a single photo. If you push the button 3 times, you have to pay for 3 photos! Especially the Suri people are famous in counting your shutter clicks and asking for a lot of photo money. To avoid these awkward situations you get assistance from your local guide. It is often a good idea to agree upon a photo price in advance, like for instance 50 or 100 Birr so that you can make a row of pictures and be sure to get your unique portrait of the tribal people. Usually you pay for a ceremonial event and for that fee you can take as much pictures as you like.

## **Joining hotel and joining instructions**

The trip starts in Addis Ababa Airport on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Please keep in mind that it is not recommended to drive at night in remote areas, so the early departure time is very important. When you book your flight you should think about some preparation you need to do in Addis Ababa before the trip, like for instance changing money, in your case lead driver will prepare small note cash in different notes from Addis Ababa, so passengers can exchange with drivers when needed. We recommend that you fly in a day before and stay the night before the trip in Addis Ababa.

**Important note:** If you are unable to start your trip as scheduled due to flight delay or cancelling please contact us as soon as possible. Emergency contact: +46760967856 or +251911663455

## **Money exchange**

ATMs are available in Addis Ababa, and credit cards (VISA only) or debit cards are useful for cash advances. Please keep in mind, that there is no guarantee that your card will actually work in Africa. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money, so we recommend you also bring cash.

We also recommend that you try to get small Birr notes on your arrival day. You can get the small notes in a bank near RAS hotel. We recommend enough 1-, 5- and 10 Birr notes, which will come in handy to pay the photography fees in the tribal villages.

## **Checklist: Suggested Items**

- 4 shirts/t-shirts, cool and breathable
- 1 Long-sleeved shirt, 1 pair of shorts
- 2 pairs of long hiking trousers, lightweight, breathable
- 1 pairs of long trousers
- Hiking boots, walking shoe, sandals
- Sleeping bag
- Water bottle, and water purification tablets or purifier (bottled water is also available for purchase)
- Sun hat, sunglasses
- Headlamps and small torches (strongly recommended having one of each, with spare Batteries).
- Pocket knife / utility knife

- Electricity plug adapter
- Personal First Aid kit: Lip balm with sunscreen, Aspirin, Ibuprofen , Malaria pills, band aids/plasters, adhesive tape, anti-histamine, Antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, throat lozenges, insect repellent
- Toiletries: soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, razors
- Hand sanitizer
- Toilet paper
- Candles, matches