

Ethiopia! Exotic Tribes of the Omo River Valley

Nature Photography Adventures

Adventure Description

October 6-20, 2024



Close your eyes and imagine an Africa, before Western Colonialism... Back before the times of Livingston and Stanley... A time when tribal peoples had their own languages and customs... A time when one was defined by tribe and lineage... Where wealth was not measured in currency...

What do you imagine? The sounds of chants around a smokey fire in the darkness... Dancers leaping unbelievable distances into the air... Faces painted... Carefully created patterns of scars... Ear lobes or lips stretched out to incorporate disks made of clay... Hair exotically fashioned, sometimes with ochre...

Africa was changed forever by colonial domination. Modern cities reign. Industry and agriculture drive economies. Untouched nature is harder to find. Many Africans wear modern western clothing and speak languages that came from the north.

But... there are remote corners... places where tradition dominates... where people still dress the dress, speak their own languages, follow their own customs and rules, stick to the beliefs of their ancestors, and make their living much as their peoples did centuries ago.





One such place is the Omo River Valley in southern Ethiopia. Here, for the most part, time has not taken away the important aspects of life. Villagers still live close to the land, tilling soil in traditional ways and keeping livestock. Some still hunt and fish, as they have “forever”. Dawn finds shepherds driving livestock in search of water and forage.



You can still find villagers gathered around a smokey fire, in the darkness, making music, singing, dancing and chanting. Great care is taken in appearances – in ways that are intriguing, but hard to comprehend.



This is a place to come, open to learning. Leave behind our homogenized, digitalized, monetized world and slip, as unobtrusively as possible, into theirs. Not to change them. Not to judge them. Nor to completely understand them. But to observe and learn. And to reflect, afterwards, on this great human family that we are part of... and on what is important in life.

But, also, with our cameras, and permissions, to make art from what we witness, exotic to us and everyday to them. To share our images to promote understanding and awe.

And to know, that, by being there, we are bringing about small changes in order to prevent major changes. Ethiopia, and peoples we visit, are using tourism to fuel the efforts to protect and preserve cultural heritage – and to invite younger generations to learn the languages and the ways that have held nearly constant for centuries.



We'll also spend some time, while in Ethiopia, among its natural treasures, finding ecosystems, birds, reptiles and mammals to observe and photograph. Part of that will be in the Rift Valley and part will be in Bale Mountains National Park, where we may even witness the Ethiopian wolf!



Join us in the Omo Valley for a cultural experience that will change who you are and yield a bigger understanding of who we all are. You will be among the very few who have been able to almost literally step back in time in search of the meaning of human life. Your images will fascinate, intrigue, and challenge viewers to look beyond their own boxes.

This photography adventure will come with some challenges. We don't expect lodgings to be "as luxurious" as we sometimes find on safari in Africa. We'll see things that we're not used to. And eat dishes prepared in ways we're not accustomed to. Those are the costs of obtaining the experiences we seek.

Our group will be limited in size – and we'll ask questions before we accept your application – as we want to ensure the group is compatible with each other and that everyone is prepared to visit these special people with respect.



Rates

Double Occupancy	\$7,800
Double Occupancy	\$8,150

Deposit with application \$1,000

Second Payment (30 Apr 24) \$2,500

Final Payment (31 Jul 24) To include any extra nights

Contact bob@naturephotographyadventures.com to reserve your space!

Adventure begins and ends at the international airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Almost all meals included. All transportation, local guides and photography guides, and lodging are included.

Flights to and from Ethiopia are not included, nor are alcoholic beverages. Gratuities are required, but reasonable. Details in prep materials.

