

ETHIOPIA COUNTRY INFORMATION



Capital City: Addis Ababa

Population: 76,511,887 (July 2007 est.)

Religions: Christian 60.8% (Orthodox 50.6%, Protestant 10.2%), Muslim 32.8%, traditional 4.6%, other 1.8% (1994 census)

Ethnic groups: Oromo 32.1%, Amara 30.1%, Tigraway 6.2%, Somalie 5.9%, Guragie 4.3%, Sidama 3.5%, Welaita 2.4%, other 15.4% (1994 census)

Languages: Amarigna 32.7%, Oromigna 31.6%, Tigrigna 6.1%, Somaligna 6%, Guaragigna 3.5%, Sidamigna 3.5%, Hadiyigna 1.7%, other 14.8%, English (major foreign language taught in schools) (1994 census)

Government type: federal republic

Geography: landlocked - entire coastline along the Red Sea was lost with the de jure independence of Eritrea on 24 May 1993; the Blue Nile, the chief headstream of the Nile by water volume, rises in T'ana Hayk (Lake Tana) in northwest Ethiopia; three major crops are believed to have originated in Ethiopia: coffee, grain sorghum, and castor bean

History:

Unique among African countries, the ancient Ethiopian monarchy maintained its freedom from colonial rule with the exception of the 1936-41 Italian occupation during World War II. In 1974, a military junta, the Derg, deposed Emperor Haile Selassie (who had ruled since 1930) and established a socialist state. Torn by bloody coups, uprisings, wide-scale drought, and massive refugee problems, the regime was finally toppled in 1991 by a coalition of rebel forces, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). A constitution was adopted in 1994, and Ethiopia's first multiparty elections were held in 1995. A border war with Eritrea late in the 1990's ended with a peace treaty in December 2000. Final demarcation of the boundary is currently on hold due to Ethiopian objections to an international commission's finding requiring it to surrender territory considered sensitive to Ethiopia. Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa and one of the oldest in the world - at least 2,000 years

Economy overview:

Ethiopia's poverty-stricken economy is based on agriculture, accounting for almost half of GDP, 60% of exports, and 80% of total employment. The agricultural sector suffers from frequent drought and poor cultivation practices. Coffee is critical to the Ethiopian economy with exports of some \$350 million in 2006, but historically low prices have seen many farmers switching to qat to supplement income. The war with Eritrea in 1998-2000 and recurrent drought have buffeted the economy, in particular coffee production. In November 2001, Ethiopia qualified for debt relief from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, and in December 2005 the IMF voted to forgive Ethiopia's debt to the body. Under Ethiopia's land tenure system, the government owns all land and provides long-term leases to the tenants; the system continues to hamper growth in the industrial sector as entrepreneurs are unable to use land as collateral for loans. Drought struck again late in 2002, leading to a 3.3% decline in GDP in 2003. Normal weather patterns helped agricultural and GDP growth recover in 2004-06.

Spiritual Climate:

The Protestant churches have experienced much growth since the 1930s. There have been great seasons of harvest with millions coming to Christ since the collapse of Communism. The Holy Spirit brought revival to the Orthodox church in the 1990s, which resulted in the start-up of many new churches. Unfortunately, occultic practices are widespread among millions of nominal Orthodox. On the other hand, the growth of Protestant denominations has seen the emergence of strong evangelical and charismatic networks. Pray for continued revival and growth in Bible believing churches, and that believers would experience financial prosperity to help fund programs that are essential in offsetting the prevailing poverty in the nation. The Muslims strengthened their position under Marxism, and have made many converts out of nominal Orthodox. Pray that the Christian church would prevail over the forces of Islam.

WORLDCHILD ETHIOPIAN TREK

July 13 – 27, 2008

FACT SHEET:

- 7 days in Gondar participating in a variety of outreaches: kid's ministry, tree planting, medical support, evening meetings with University students and weekend city wide healing meetings.
 - Includes 2 meals per day
- 4 days in Addis Ababa participating in a variety of outreaches: kid's ministry, evening city wide healing meetings.
 - Includes 2 meals per day.
- **Full package:**
 - Starts/ends at Washington Dulles Int'l airport in Dulles, VA
 - \$3500.00 – prior to May 5th
 - \$3995.00 – after May 5th
- **Children:**
 - We will only accept 13 and older, 13-15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, 16-17 must have a signed release.
- **Pay-by dates:**
 - Registration is \$500.00 due upon registration.
 - Full payment due by May 5th to receive early price of \$3500.00
 - After May 5th price increases to \$3995.00
 - Must be paid by June 16th
- **Cancellation policy:**
 - Prior to May 5th refund all except \$500
 - May 5 – June 2 – refund all except \$500 and 35% of the tour price (\$3500.00)
 - June 2 – refund all but \$500 and 55% of the tour (\$3995.00)