

Across Tigray – a 1 week adventure trekking through Agame mountains , seeing famous churches of Gheralta and fending with the Axums obelsiks and churches									7 Days	
#	Day	Date	from	to	details	Transport	O/N place	Hotel	Nights	
1	Mon	29May	Addis	Mekele	Meet outside Airport in Mekele / stop for quick breakfast in town	Local Minibus				
			Mekele	Adigrat	2h30m drive to Adigrat - local lunch in Adigrat					
			Adigrat	Seheta	Transfer to trail head at Sagren, and a steep walk down into the valley (for those not keen on mountain paths there is an easier/longer way) Donkeys will carry your main bag. The walk takes about 2h30m to Seheta guesthouse, where you will be welcomed with tea/coffee and snacks before dinner. The guesthouse is set just above the farmhouses with lovely views up and down the sandstone valley with cliffs towering up on either side of the valley.	Minibus to trail head - then on foot	Seheta Guesthouse – Agame Mnts		1	
2	Tue	30May	Seheta	Gohgot	After a simple breakfast with eggs, tea/coffee, before heading out to see churches in the area. Notably Debre Giyorgis, a small chapel 3/4 way up the cliff which is reached by a combination of ladders lashed to the cliff, steps and rocks. Our whole team managed this without any problem. The chapel has a very old core area that could even date to the pre-christian era. From here we will take you to Gohgot guesthouse for lunch. For those looking for a further walk there is a lovely walk up the valley to another old rockhewn church - Gohgot Eyesus. This is a simple rockhewn church without old paintings but with a high nave and well carved central arches. The views are lovely back down the valley with the wooded area at the top around the church. Enjoy the walk back to the guesthouse. Some of the best Beles fruit (Prickley pears) are found around Gohgot and now the season is begining - you will be able to try this delicious seasonal fruit - but be carefull not to get pricked. Dinner and a few beers at the guesthouse.	On foot	Gohgot Guesthouse – Agame Mnts		2	

3	Wed 31May	Gohgot	Shimbrety	<p>Another lovely breakfast, before heading off to see the 15th century Mariam Bahera rockhewn church, which has beautiful paintings on the pillars and an inscription which has allowed the church to be dated. From here head across the valleys to the western ridge and the incredible Shikurto tunnel that created a path through the mountain to connect the nearby market village of Idega Arbi with the towns to the west. There is a footprint like mark in the rock here which is said to be made by St. Mary! From the tunnel you can head up to see another church - Mariam Buzuhan, where you will see a variety of designs on the domed roof before taking an extraordinary path that wraps around the mountain before emerging on the plateau top where the guesthouse is situated. Enjoy lunch here. In the afternoon either relax with the views and visit one of the local farmhouses, or for those keen for a walk, head out to Emba Tsion mountain to the south. It's a great walk with amazing views from the top (but a steep climb and descent) and a holy circle of trees one of which has a footprint like marked said to belong to St. Mary (as at the tunnel). Dinner and beers back at the guesthouse - it's a remarkable place to see the sunset!</p>	On foot	Shimbrety Guesthouse – Agame Mnts		3
4	Thu 1Jun		Shimbrety Hawzen	<p>Trek down to Idega Arbi, following another path that circles around the cliff. It's Thursday market here, so the place is full. You can enjoy a local beer or coffee before taking the transport to Hawzen. In Hawzen check into the hotel, and rest up for a short time before heading out for lunch at a local megeb bet. Excellent</p>	on foot & minibus			
	Afternoon	Visit to Abuna Yemata Goh		<p>Head out with your guide - Gebre to see the most famous rockhewn church - Abuna Yemata Goh. From the parking place it's a 20-minute walk to the bottom of the cliff. Here you must take off your shoes to climb up to the church. The first rockface to climb is maybe 10 meters high and not quite vertical, with good hand & footholds. After that the ascent gets easier, and brings you out onto a rock platform with drop offs in front as well as behind. From here there is a 'bridge' across to the rock that holds the church and a narrow path that is only 50cm wide in places to the small entrance to the church. Inside prepare to be wowed by the most extraordinary painted interior! This church is one of the highlights of Ethiopia! Our guide - Gebre - is a trained rock climber and has a rope and harness should you need it (there is a fee for using this).</p>	Local Minibus & walking /climbing	Hawzen	Vision Motif	4
5	Fri 2Jun	Day in Gheralta		<p>After a hearty breakfast at the hotel - head out today to see some of the other churches in the mountains here. We suggest Mariam and Daniel Korkor in the morning and perhaps Mariam Papaseiti or Debre Abune Abraham Tsion... or you can rest in the afternoon in Hawzen.</p>	Local Minibus & walking /climbing	Hawzen	Vision Motif	5

6	Sat 3Jun	Hawzen	Axum	Early morning pick up and transfer to Axum - approx 3hr drive on good roads with great scenery. Check into your hotel and take lunch before starting to explore the marvels of Axum. Visit the main obelisk and the tombs with their massive stone architecture. The biggest is the tombs of Khaleb. You can debate how this granite was cut so precisely in irregular shapes to fit perfectly on top of other stones below - despite the size and weight precluding them, from being shifted once in position. We will then take you to the west of town where there is the so called Queen of Shebas palace and another obelisk field. From here it is a walk up into the hill behind to the quarry site with a view back to Axum. With a sundown drink you can speculate further on the techniques used to cut and transport these massive blocks of rock that weighed upto 160 tons! Return to Axum town for dinner and rest.	Minibus & trek	Axum	Yared Zema or similar	4
7	Sun 4Jun	Morning in Axum		After breakfast near the hotel as this morning is Parakalitos (Pentacost) Sunday - and we will visit 2 churches: the the Abba Pentelewon Monastery (again with pre-Christian origins) on a hill to the NE of the city and Mariam Tsion at the heart of Axum, where the Arc of Covenant is said to be kept in a side chapel and where you can see the ruins of the original church. Look out for the ancinet stones carved with Sabeian script.	Walking & minibus			
	10:00	Axum	Shire	Its just over a 1hr drive to Shire and its aiipor - the road is good. We will arrive before 11:30 for checkin. its a small airport with few facilites - not the most comfortable place to wait! Flight departure is 12:50pm	Minibus & flight			

- Included**
- 3 nights in hotels +3 nights on trek – total 6 nights / 7 days
 - All meals included on the treks, but bottled drinks are excluded (water, beer etc)
 - Transport in minibus(s) Mekele to trek, trek to hawzen, Hawzen to Axum and onto Shire airport. Transport also included to churches in Gheralta and in Axum
 - Guides in all locations
 - English speaking National guides available in all locations
 - Pack animal on the community trek (no need to carry main bags)
- Excludes**
- Church entry in Tigray while on trek (150 pp) and in Gheralta (300 pp) and entry in Axum (monumnets not yet confirmed, Tsion Marium - 300birr)
 - Breakfast on arrival in Mekele, meals in Adigrat, Hawzen and Axum
 - All drinks