

Ride the Rift: Hawassa Charity Challenge 26-28 Jan 2024

It's been over 4 years since our inaugural charity bike ride which launched Ride the Rift, and we are staging the 4th edition of our charity bike ride in Hawassa in the heart of the Rift Valley. All profits from this event will be given to support local guides and cooks who have had no income for many since the impact of COVID-19 and in recent years the impact of conflict in the country. As with previous years, we have a choice of camping and lodge accommodation and a full weekend of activities culminating with the charity ride and a celebratory lunch at Abaye Lodge on the shore of the lake. The rural roads and trails in the mountains around the camp site are perfect for mountain biking, and the paths offer some great hiking. We will have routes that are easier and some that will challenge our more experienced mountain bikers. We encourage early booking as places are limited and we have already had a lot of interest for this trip! Also if we are booking flights we need to book early to ensure we get seats for you!

Our charity bike ride around Ankober was born in 2020 when the pandemic hit and freelance tourism professionals remained without income for months. As a group of four Ethiopian tour operators we came up with the idea to run this event to raise funds for those most in need. The situation for many guides and cooks around the country has gotten worse since then and we wanted to raise more money for them.

This all new trip is one of the best cycling and hiking tours you can do in Ethiopia. Stay at our riders' camp at Shuterey on the edge of the Rift Valley escarpment at approaching 2,000m, or, for those that prefer not to camp, at Abaye Lodge - a simple lake shore lodge in a tranquil rural setting. At Shuterey we will all stay in tents. Here we will mingle with the locals, your fellow riders and their friends & family with views down to the lake that shimmers like gold in the sunrise. We provide you with all you need for your weekend including tents and camp equipment, toilets, bucket showers, all meals, and participant and bike transfers from Awassa airport or from Addis Ababa to and from the event. The total number of riders will be 30 to a max of 50 participants, but during activities you will be split into smaller groups with your individual guides. Bike rental is available at 2,900 ETB for the weekend.

Any questions? Then contact us at ridetherift2020@gmail.com

Detailed information on day to day itineraries, pricing, booking terms see below.

For booking fill out our [registration form](#).

DETAILED ITINERARY

DATE	DAY	ITINERARY	PLACE	HOTEL
26/01/24	Fri	<p>In case someone prefers driving rather than flying, the first vehicles will leave at about 9:00am from Addis Ababa arriving in Awassa after lunch. Walkers and bikers will have exploratory hiking and biking in the area during the afternoon to take them to the campsite.</p> <p>Depending on peoples preferred flights we will provide transfers from Awassa airport to the lodge & campsite. For those arriving at 17:15 we will transfer campers close to the camp and you will have a short walk into the campsite. Dinner for those in the lodge is excluded and can be ordered from the menu. For campers our cooks will provide a hearty camp meal.</p> <p>Meals: -/-/D (Dinner at camp / not incl. if eating at the lodge)</p>	Awassa	Camp Shuterey (or Abaye Lodge)
Flight departures to Awassa (55 min flight): ADD/AWA 07:20; 11:50; 14:30 & 16:20 (last flight arrives at 17:15)				
27/01/24	Sat	<p>On Saturday morning - for those flying this morning - the 07:20 is the only practical flight, arriving at 08:15. We will transfer all to the start of the day's activities near the campsite. All can choose from a wide range of activities for the day. Our experienced guides offer you different level cycling & hiking opportunities. All of our cycling and hiking routes allow you to marvel at the beauty of landscapes as you pass through local villages and explore quiet scenic trails. We have some biking that is fast down hill, and we have an option for a longer trail for those looking for more of a challenge. We will have a campfire and beautiful evening under the stars with food prepared by our cook team.</p> <p>Meals: B/L/D (Dinner at camp / not incl. if eating at the lodge)</p>	Awassa	Camp Shuterey (or Abaye Lodge)
Running as an activity - Experienced runners can enjoy a really beautiful early morning / late afternoon run along the escarpment. Trails are perfect and from our experience we do not usually assign a running guide. If you would need this please get in touch directly.				
28/01/24	Sun	<p>Today is the day of the actual charity ride which will start near Shuterey Camp and ends at the finish line at Abaye Lodge where a crowd of locals, some family members, media and representatives from Tourism offices will cheer you over the finish line.</p> <p>We can enjoy a good lunch finishing party with some buffet lunch provided by the lodge. We will provide shuttle transport to Awassa airport. The earlier flight is the 15:55 departure getting you into Addis at 16:50, but more relaxed is the 17:45 getting in at 18:40 to Addis Ababa - check in is at 16:45.</p> <p>For those who would like to drive back we will break the journey in Ziway or Langanu (plans still to be made). In this case we will reach Addis Ababa during the day on Monday.</p> <p>Meals: B/L/-</p>	Addis Ababa, or extra night (optional, in Langanu or Ziway for anyone driving back)	

PRICING & CONDITIONS

PRICES & OPTIONALS	<p>Participants: min. 25 to max. 45 pax</p> <p>3-days / 2-night package - camping: 440 USD / 24,600 ETB per person (payable in USD, EUR, GBP or ETB)</p> <p>2-days / 1 night package - camping: 390 USD / 21,800 ETB</p> <p>Supplement for single tent 25 USD / 1,400 ETB (only for camping)</p> <p>Upgrade to overnight in Abaye Lodge instead of camping 20 USD / 1,100 ETB per night per room (meals at lodge are not included);</p> <p>Older children 12-17 years: 15% per child from package price (no discount on lodge rate) Young children 3-11 years: 35% per child from package price (no discount on lodge rate) Infants until 3 years: FREE Family discount: starting from 4 family members additional 10% discount Discount for self-driving - possible on application Good quality mountain bikes can be rented for the whole weekend for 50 USD / 2,900 ETB</p>
INCLUSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 domestic flights (with discounted resident rates) - 2 camping nights in tents for 2 persons incl. rental tent & mattress; - mules/porters to carry the luggage to the campsite; - all transfers and travels in Hawassa with private vehicles; - transport for bikes (from/to Addis & during the rides); - all meals as per itinerary (incl. water, coffee/tea, alcoholic drinks excluded); - refreshments & sandwiches for the rides & other activities; - guides for rides and hiking; - Finisher T-Shirt for the bike ride; - first aid support; - technical support.
EXCLUSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - international flights; - visa in Ethiopia;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sleeping bag; - fee for horse-riding or other not mentioned activities; - alcoholic drinks (we will ask a contribution to cover costs); - tipping; - all extras and personal expenditures.
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BOOKING TERMS

BOOKING TERMS	<p>If not agreed differently, the following payment and cancellation terms apply for bookings with Ride the Rift:</p> <p>At registration: 20% registration fee of total trip costs (non refundable)</p> <p>We will need to book flights !</p> <p>By Monday 22 January 2024: remaining payment</p> <p>We will send you all the necessary information for the payment and advise you to settle the payment as soon as possible to secure your place in the tours.</p>
CANCELATION POLICY	<p>Your booking will only be confirmed with payment of the registration fee. A cancellation must be reported to the organisers in written form and the following conditions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at registration: registration fee (non-refundable), further payments made will be refunded - there will be no refund in the case of cancellation after Monday 22 January - if for some unforeseen reason this tour does not happen, full refund will be given