

## **Ride the Rift: Gurage Meskel Tour from 24-28 September 2023**

**Price: from 29,750 ETB**



Your adventure starts in the beautiful but less visited Gurage highlands, dancing and traditional food. During the day we will cycle through the quiet villages with green spaces running through the centre and their unique style of building on each side. This area affords some of the most exhilarating mountain biking we have done in Ethiopia. We will also offer hiking for those who have had enough biking. If the conditions at the Omo river allow it, we will also offer a unique rafting experience (to be paid separately). Overnight is in tents, in our professionally set up campsite with a team of cooks and camp staff looking after us.

This Ride the Rift experience brings you to the lush green highlands of the Gurage, another of Ethiopia's hidden gems within a four-hour drive from Addis Ababa. This specially-designed tour allows you to enjoy some exhilarating cycling and hiking in landscapes that in any other country would be considered as an area of outstanding natural beauty. The beauty of the scenery is matched by the warmth and hospitality of the local people. This tour gives you the chance to visit the homes of these people whose only complaint when we visited was "Why didn't you tell us in advance so that we could prepare a ceremony for you?!"

During your days in Gurage, we offer you fully catered camps. We provide tents, mattresses, toilet and shower facilities, tasty meals, and clean drinking water. Camps are situated in safe and sheltered areas. Groups have an average size of 15 to max. 25 participants, but during activities, you will be split into smaller groups with your individual guides. Every morning you can choose from different activities for the day. Our experienced guides offer you a wide range of different level cycling and hiking opportunities where you can join. 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. Ride through juniper and eucalyptus forests. Saunter through local villages. Fly down grassy strips to the sound of nearby streams and waterfalls. We reckon outdoor activity in Ethiopia doesn't come much better than this!

Any questions? Contact us at [ridetherift2020@gmail.com](mailto:ridetherift2020@gmail.com), or 0921 602236 (Mark - EN), 0920 732527 (Marco - IT, DE, EN), 0911 198543 (Bogale - AM, EN)

Detailed information on day-to-day itinerary, pricing, and booking terms see below.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

DATE	DAY	ITINERARY	LOCATION	HOTEL/CAMP
24/09/2023	Sun	<p>We will leave early in the morning (around 8 am) to Gurage, lunch (on your own) will be in Wolkite. In the afternoon we will have our first mountain biking trip from Wolkite to the Ride the Rift camp close to Hawariat in the heart of the Gurage region. Overnight is at our community camp and our cook will make your evening with delicious food.</p> <p><b>Meals: -/-/D</b></p>	NW of Hawariat	camp 1 in Gurage
25/09/2023	Mon	<p>Today you have the option to ride the rafting boat on the Omo river, which in this area is also called Wabe or Gibe (depending on the conditions and water level of the river). Besides this of course there is some great mountain biking and hiking through the Gurage villages waiting for you. Overnight is at the same camp in the muslim community that we know already.</p> <p><b>Meals: B/L/D</b></p>	NW of Hawariat	camp 1 in Gurage
26/09/2023	Tue	<p>Today we'll move from the Gurage lowlands where mostly muslim communities are living to the higher and mainly Christian part. The biking is mainly along the dirt road, directly from this to the next campsite at about 2,800m sea level. The hikers will be brought by car to a certain point and start walking from there to the camp.</p> <p><b>Meals: B/L/D</b></p>	East of Hawariat	camp 2 in Gurage
27/09/2023	Wed	<p>Today we'll spend a full day in the green highlands east of Hawariat. We'll cycle or hike along the ridges planted with the local Enset and through the valleys in which fresh water streams are running. Local communities are very friendly and we'll also get the chance to meet and visit them. We'll have a packed lunch which we will enjoy in a quiet place with a spectacular view. In the afternoon we'll return to our camp where we'll join the local community for the Meskel celebration with the burning of the demera (wooden cross pyramid) and spend together a nice last evening by the campfire.</p> <p><b>Meals: B/L/D</b></p>	East of Hawariat	camp 2 in Gurage
28/09/2023	Thu	<p>After breakfast, we break camp and make our way home to Addis. On some trails and partly asphalt roads, you can cycle some part of the way. A breathtaking downhill ride into the Great African Rift Valley will be a spectacular finish of a perfect outdoor holiday. After some lunch near Butajira, we will drive back to Addis Ababa (3 hrs.)</p> <p><b>Meals: B/L/-</b></p>		

## PRICING & CONDITIONS

	<b>MESKEL GURAGE TOUR 2023</b>
<b>INCLUSIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 camping nights in tents for 2 persons incl. rental tent &amp; mattress;</li> <li>- all transfers and travels with private vehicles;</li> <li>- transport for bikes (from/to Addis &amp; during the rides);</li> <li>- all meals as per itinerary (incl. water, coffee/tea, alcoholic drinks excluded);</li> <li>- refreshments &amp; sandwiches for the rides &amp; other activities;</li> <li>- guides for rides and hiking;</li> <li>- first aid support;</li> <li>- technician support.</li> </ul>
<b>EXCLUSIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- travel insurance;</li> <li>- visa in Ethiopia;</li> <li>- sleeping bag;</li> <li>- fee for rafting, horse-riding or other not mentioned activities;</li> <li>- alcoholic drinks;</li> <li>- tipping;</li> <li>- all extras and personal expenditures.</li> </ul>
<b>OPTIONAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- supplement for a single tent <b>1,500 ETB</b>;</li> <li>- good quality mountain bikes can be rented for the whole tour for <b>2,800 ETB</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>PRICE</b>	<p>4-night tour: <b>29,750 ETB</b> per person</p> <p>min. 12 to max. 30 pax</p>

## BOOKING TERMS

<b>BOOKING TERMS</b>	<p>If not agreed differently, the following payment and cancellation terms apply for bookings with Ride the Rift:</p> <p>At registration: <b>10% registration fee</b> of total trip costs (non-refundable)</p> <p>One week before departure: 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>
<b>CANCELLATION POLICY</b>	<p>Your booking will only be confirmed with payment of the registration fee. A cancellation must be reported to the organizers in written form and the following conditions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- One week before departure: <b>registration fee</b> (non-refundable), further payments made will be refunded</li><li>- there will be <b>no refund</b> in the case of cancellation after one week before departure</li><li>- if for some unforeseen reason, this tour does not happen, a full refund will be given</li></ul>