

Eritrea 7 Days

historical, sightseeing and cultural tour

Eritrea is an extraordinary country located at the shores of the Red Sea, one of the youngest countries in Africa that declared independence in 1993. Despite its difficult journey to independence and an unstable political situation, Eritrea is gradually becoming an example of peaceful existence of a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. A trip to this country is also an exceptional opportunity to visit archaeological sites evidencing the long history of civilisation and past glory of towns and harbours in this part of Africa.

Because of the weather conditions (high temperatures), the optimum period for the trip is between November and the end of February.

In view of the weekly market that is held in Kerem each Monday, the trip should start on Saturday or Sunday.

You are welcome to take part in this exceptional journey to places off the beaten path. BTP Adventure

Depending on the political situation, the length of the tour and the order of visited places may change. In a situation of a serious threat to travellers' safety, the tour may be cancelled. We will keep you updated as to whether the expedition is possible.

Itinerary:

❖ Day 1 – Arrival in Asmara

Arrival in Asmara. Transfer to a hotel. Dinner in one of local restaurants.

Day 2 – Asmara

In the morning, after the night's rest and breakfast, we will hold an organisational meeting. Then we will start to visit the capital of Eritrea. Eritrea is one of the youngest African countries



that declared independence in 1993. The capital, Asmara, is located at 2350 m above sea level. It was founded in the 19th century by Italian colonists. The colonial buildings from that time (more than 400) are quite well preserved. Asmara inhabitants are a good representation of the ethnic and religious mixture of Eritrea. During our visit, we will see a catholic cathedral, orthodox Ethiopian churches and Sunni mosques. We will have a walk in the housing district and go to the local market. Dinner in one of local restaurants. Night rest at the hotel. B.D.

❖ **Day 3 – Asmara – Keren**

In the morning, we will set off for Keren (95 km), the second largest town of Eritrea located at 1390 m above sea level and surrounded by granite mountains. One of its most important attractions is the traditional market that is held only on Mondays. During our stay in this town, we will see one of the most important pilgrimage sites for catholics in Eritrea and mementos of battles between the British and Italian colonists in 1941. Overnight rest in Keren. B.D.

❖ **Day 4 – Keren – Massawa**

In the morning, we will set off towards the Red Sea, to the harbour town of Massawa. In the beginning, we will drive towards Asmara. Before reaching the capital, we will turn east and drive through Filfil where we will see what is left of the forests that used to cover the mountain regions of Eritrea. After arrival in Massawa, we will have be a quick visit around the town and dinner. B.D.

❖ **Day 5 – Massawa – Adulis – Asmara**

In the morning, we will fly to Adulis (60 km), one of the most important and also most interesting archaeological sites at the Red Sea. Adulis was the most important harbour of the



Kingdom of Aksum – it was founded around 700 B.C. It was also a known harbour in the Roman Empire times, especially in the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D. The current ruins are a proof of the power and cosmopolitan nature of the town. In the afternoon, return to Massawa. B.D.

❖ **Day 6 – Massawa – Green Island – Asmara**

After breakfast, we will go for a short walk around the town whose origins date back to the 15th century. In the 19th century, it was one of the most important harbours for Italian colonists, which is evidenced by some elements of the Old Town architecture remaining from that time. Then we will set off for Green Island where those who will want it can take a bath in the Red Sea – one of the warmest and saltiest bodies of seawater in the world. After lunch, we will set off for our return journey to Asmara. Overnight stay in the Eritrea capital. B.D.

❖ **Day 7 – Dekemhare – Segeneiti – Adi Keih**

Early in the morning, after breakfast, we will go on a one-day trip to the south of Eritrea (150 km), to archaeological sites of Dekemhare, Segeneiti and Adikeih. The visited places were one of the most important towns on the trade route from the territories of the Kingdom of Axum to Red Sea harbours. However, the history of those places is much longer than the times of Axum's glory. During our drive, we will also see geological formations that are created along with the processes increasing the Great African Rift. We will go to Adikeih for dinner and accommodation. B.D.

❖ **Day 8 – Adikeih – Qohaito – Asmara**

In the morning, a drive to Qohaito – ruins of a town whose origins are buried in the dark depths of the past. According to archaeological studies, it was a major urban centre before even the



Kingdom of Axum was created. The town was abandoned in 9th century. After lunch, we will set off for our return journey to Asmara. En route we will stop in Segheneiti where we will see a nature monument – a huge tree proving that this area used to look completely different than nowadays. Arrival in Asmara, dinner and transfer to the airport. B.D. Flight home in the evening or on the next day – in the latter case, one more overnights stay in the Eritrea capital will be necessary.

Dates of trip to Eritrea

The price depends on the number of travellers

Group size: 2 to 8 persons + tour leader

Services included in the price:

- Flights Warsaw – Asmara – Warsaw
- Road transport by cars, including 4WD vehicles
- Accommodation in single- or double rooms
- Services of a local guide throughout the tour
- Invitation necessary to obtain the visa
- Meals as specified: B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner
- Entrance fees and permit charges
- Tips and payments for porters
- Polish tour leader throughout the tour

The price does not include:



- Cost of visa
- Main return flight to Asmara
- Travel insurance
- Meals other than those listed in the final itinerary.
- Personal expenses and souvenirs

Additional information / final notes:

- Because of the particularities of the country and its political instability, the itinerary of the tour may change.
- We can arrange a self-guided tour – if you are interested, please contact the office.

You are welcome to take part! BTP Adventure