



# **DJIBOUTI**

Few places in the world boast the varied landscapes and intriguing geological wonders of Djibouti. Sitting on the horn of Africa, it is home to one of the saltiest bodies of water in the world, the lowest point in Africa and one of the most inaccessible areas of earth. It's not for the faint-hearted, but those who take the time to venture into Diibouti - one of the smallest nations in mainland Africa - are rewarded with stunning landscapes and grand canyons. Not to mention a coastline fringed with crystal clear water and beautiful coral gardens. We'll help you find the beauty in this undiscovered pocket of the world as we explore the salt lakes of Lac Assal and Lac Abbe, the volcanic lava tubes and wasteland of Ardoukuba Volcano and beautiful beaches. This tiny corner of Northern Africa is not overly developed outside of the capital, so spending time here makes for the perfect eco-travel experience as you get a peek of ancient nomadic life.

### Key

B: Breakfast

L: Lunch

D: Dinner

# **Day 1: Arrive Djibouti City**

On arrival, we will meet you at Djibouti International Airport and transfer you to your accommodation.

Djibouti City juts out into the still waters of the Gulf of Tadjoura and is an intriguing melting pot, with lots of cultural contradictions. There is time to settle in and relax before before our get-together this evening, where we discuss our exciting Djibouti adventure ahead, and enjoy our first delicious dinner together!

## **Day 2: Djibouti City-Neem Farm**

After breakfast we will set off on a walking tour of Djibouti city- sights include the very traditional Houmadi Mosque, with its unique Arab architecture, as well as the bustling central markets and narrow streets remain lined with traditional souks.

Next, we drive out of town to Neem Farm. Here we learn more about regenerative agroforestry, the tropical Neem trees and one of the world's most versatile herbs. As we relax in our innovative 'off-grid' accommodation, we will appreciate the serenity

and remote location of this

farm.

### Day 3: Neem Farm

We will spend today with Nature Djibouti whose mission is to bring communities and nature together. We will explore the area with the community wildlife monitors and learn more about the resilient species that call Lake Abbe home. We will have the chance to visit a local village and gain an understanding of how communities are living sustainably in such a challenging environment. This is a chance to experience Afar Djibouti culture and nature firsthand. Finish the evening with a traditional spiced tea on the rooftop terrace of Neem Farm.

# people & wildlife today?

## - Say no to plastic water bottles

In Djibouti, there are no rubbish disposal systems outside the cities. Plastic waste is a significant threat to both wildlife and communities. Instead of purchasing your water in plastic bottles, we ask you to bring a reusable bottle from home. We recommend Larg.

www.livelarq.com

Alternatively you can purchase a bottle from one of our local partners such a Neem Farm.

https://theneemfarm.org/

# Day 4: Neem Farm-Lac Abbe

We will journey across the Country today to Lake Abbe- a salt lake lying on the Ethiopia-Djibouti border. The lake is the ultimate destination of the Awash River, which is at the centre of the Afar Depression. Lake Abbe is considered one of the most inaccessible areas of the earth. The surrounding scenery is bizarrely unique - Lake Abbe is known for its limestone chimneys, which reach heights of 50m (160 ft) and from which steam spews forth. Flamingos flock here to feed on the worms that live off the lake's bacteria. Tonight, we camp under the stars and enjoy a community dance performance around the fire.





Combines seamlessly with the Moucha Island extension tour.









#### TRIP DETAILS

Price: AU \$3995 per person, twin share. Single supplement AU \$490

#### **Inclusions**

All transfers, transport, activities, accommodation, water with activities, meals (as per itinerary), all tips except your RAW Africa tour leader.

#### Accommodation

2 nights guest house, 1 night permanent tented camp, 2 nights eco lodge, 2 nights hotel.

#### **Optional Activity**

Red Sea snorkelling experience AU \$25 per person

Group Size Maximum 8.

#### Day 5: Lac Abbe-Lac Assal-**Sable Blanc**

#### **BLD**

Today we head to the spectacular Lake Assal. With an altitude of 155 metres below sea level, it is the lowest point in Africa. It is also the saltiest lake in the world and it's one of the hottest places on the planet! Lake Assal is considered to be a national treasure as Djibouti's current wealth is based on the salt harvesting that has taken place here for many centuries. The views around the crater lake are unbelievable.

This afternoon we will arrive at the alluring turquoise waters of Sable Blanc. Hidden from the mainland by a small mountain range, the beach stretches out along the coast.

## **Day 6: Sable Blanc**

After our invigorating and fAfter our invigorating and fascinating journey around Djibouti, we will spend the day relaxing at our beachside resort. You may choose to take a dip in the Red Sea, or possibly snorkel just offshore and explore the sea life surrounding this part of Djibouti (snorkelling experience AU \$25 pp.) This afternoon, you will have the option to visit the nearby town of Tadjourah and experience a local seafood dinner at one of the many

seaside restaurants.

#### Day 7: Ardoukoba Volcano-**Djibouti City**

#### BLD

The land around Ardoukoba is as barren as anywhere you can imagine. Much of it is covered in a layer of volcanic rock resulting from the last eruption in 1978- after 3,000 years of lying dormant. Known as a fissure vents volcano, Ardoukoba has a rift 17 kms long that delves some 800m below the Earth's surface. At the same time, its summit rises to a height of about 300m, giving it clear vistas over much of the surrounding area. Today we visit the impressive Volcano and Canyon, before returning to Djibouti City in time for our evening meal.

#### Day 8: Farewell Djibouti / continue to Moucha Island

Today completes our journey through this unique Northern African country as we say farewell to Djibouti. We will transport you to the Airport in time for your departure and safe onward travel.

Alternatively, why not explore this remarkable destination a little more spend a few nights on Moucha Island. Located just off the coast from Djibouti City, this island paradise is the perfect place to relax or enjoy water sports such as snorkelling, scuba diving, swimming, fishing and swimming with majestic whale sharks and manta rays (from

please refer to our Moucha Island brochure for more information



RAW Africa Eco-Tours specialises in community & conservation-based ecotourism with over 80% of your tour money going directly to our field partners.

For all tour bookings and enquiries contact team@rawafricaecotours.com.au