

Welcome Guide to Ethiopia at CFEE



Find all the information you need to prepare for your stay in
Ethiopia at the French Centre for Ethiopian Studies (CFEE)



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1. The French Centre for Ethiopian Studies (CFEE)



About us

The French Centre for Ethiopian Studies (CFEE) is a joint research centre run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).

The CFEE explores a wide range of disciplines: archaeology, prehistory, palaeontology, humanities and social sciences, and environmental sciences.

Your workspace

At the CFEE, you will have access to a shared workspace, as the centre houses the Berhanou Abebe Public Library. You will have access to books and archives, as well as seminars and conferences organised during your stay at the CFEE. You will also have access to Wi-Fi, printing facilities, etc.



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1. The French Centre for Ethiopian Studies (CFEE)



Your fieldwork in Ethiopia

Depending on your research topic, there are a number of rules and administrative procedures to be aware of. It is essential that you inform us of your fieldwork plans so that we can **obtain the necessary authorisations from the relevant Ethiopian authorities** (local council, ministry, etc.).

Geographical areas – Points to bear in mind

The security or political situation in Ethiopia can change rapidly. Furthermore, certain rural areas require you to be accompanied by a local guide or to obtain authorisation from the authorities. The key is to contact us several months before your departure (at least two months in advance) so that we can discuss your project together.

Mission order

If your employer issues a mission order, please send it to us in advance so that we can sign it.



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2. Visa



A visa is required to visit Ethiopia, regardless of the purpose of the visit.
Djibouti and Kenya are the only countries exempt from the visa requirement.

Stays of 1 month	Stays of more than 1 month
Online e-visa For visits of one month, apply for a tourist visa via the online platform e-visa.gov.et	Visa on arrival For visits of more than one month, apply for a visa on arrival. On arrival in Ethiopia, you can pay for and obtain a tourist visa valid for 2 or 3 months.
Duration and price: 30 days = 62 dollars	Validity and price: 90 days = 152 dollars
Extension: Travellers may apply for an extension before their visa expires at the Ethiopian Immigration and Citizenship Service (ICS) headquarters.	Extension: The maximum duration is 3 months



2. Visa



1-month stay	Stay of more than 1 month
Eligibility criteria for the e-visa Nationals of all countries worldwide may obtain a tourist visa provided they meet the following conditions.	Eligibility criteria for a visa on arrival Nationals of all countries participating in the scheme among them Canada, France, Italy, Burkina Faso, Togo, with the exception of Colombia.
Requirements Copies of the following documents are required: a recent passport-sized photograph and the visa applicant's passport, which must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of entry into Ethiopia.	Requirements The visa applicant's passport, valid for at least six months from the intended date of entry into Ethiopia, plus a return flight ticket
Processing time Under normal circumstances, the processing time for a <i>tourist visa</i> is 3 days.	Processing time Visa extensions are granted approximately 3 days after the application is submitted

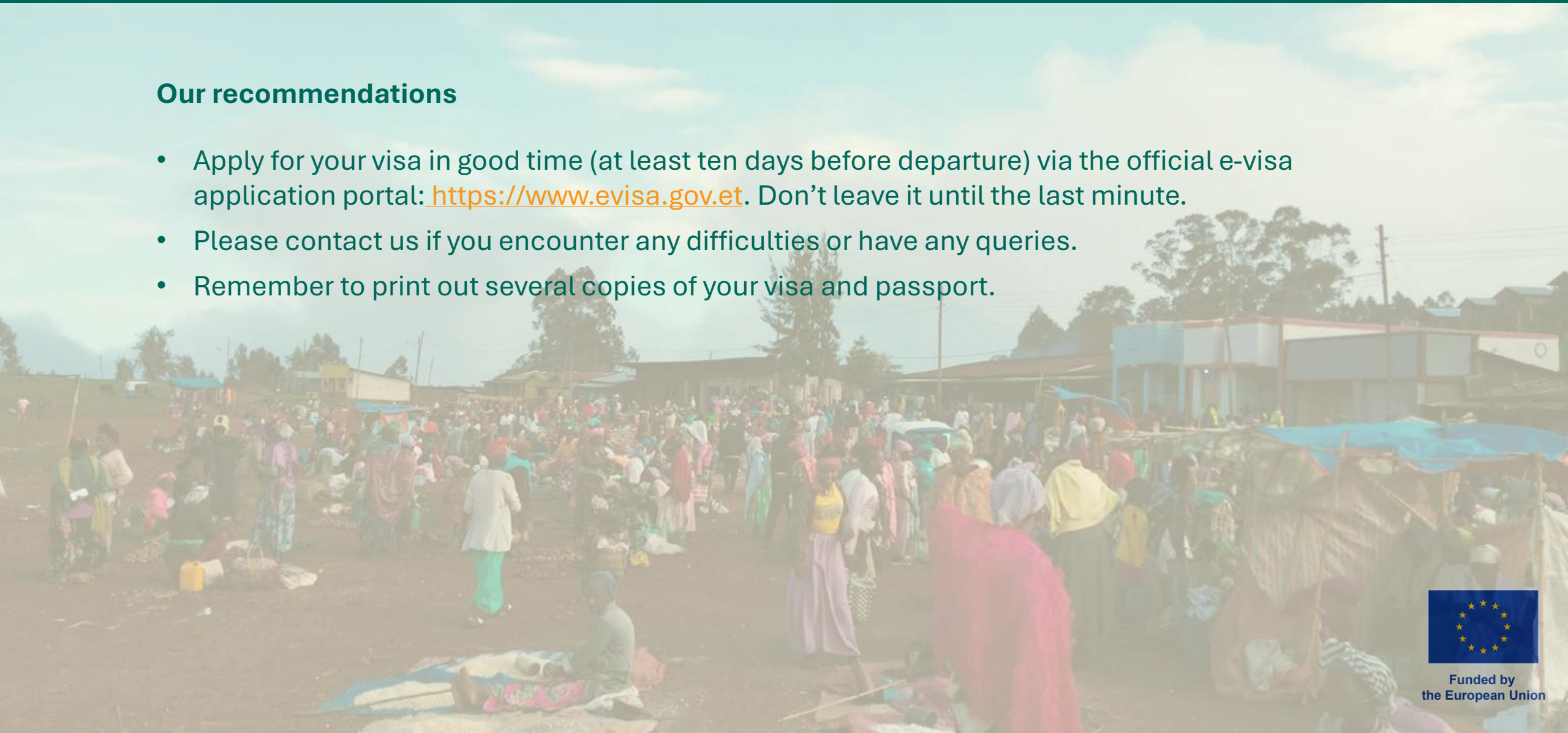


2. Visa



Our recommendations

- Apply for your visa in good time (at least ten days before departure) via the official e-visa application portal: <https://www.evisa.gov.et>. Don't leave it until the last minute.
- Please contact us if you encounter any difficulties or have any queries.
- Remember to print out several copies of your visa and passport.



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3. Language

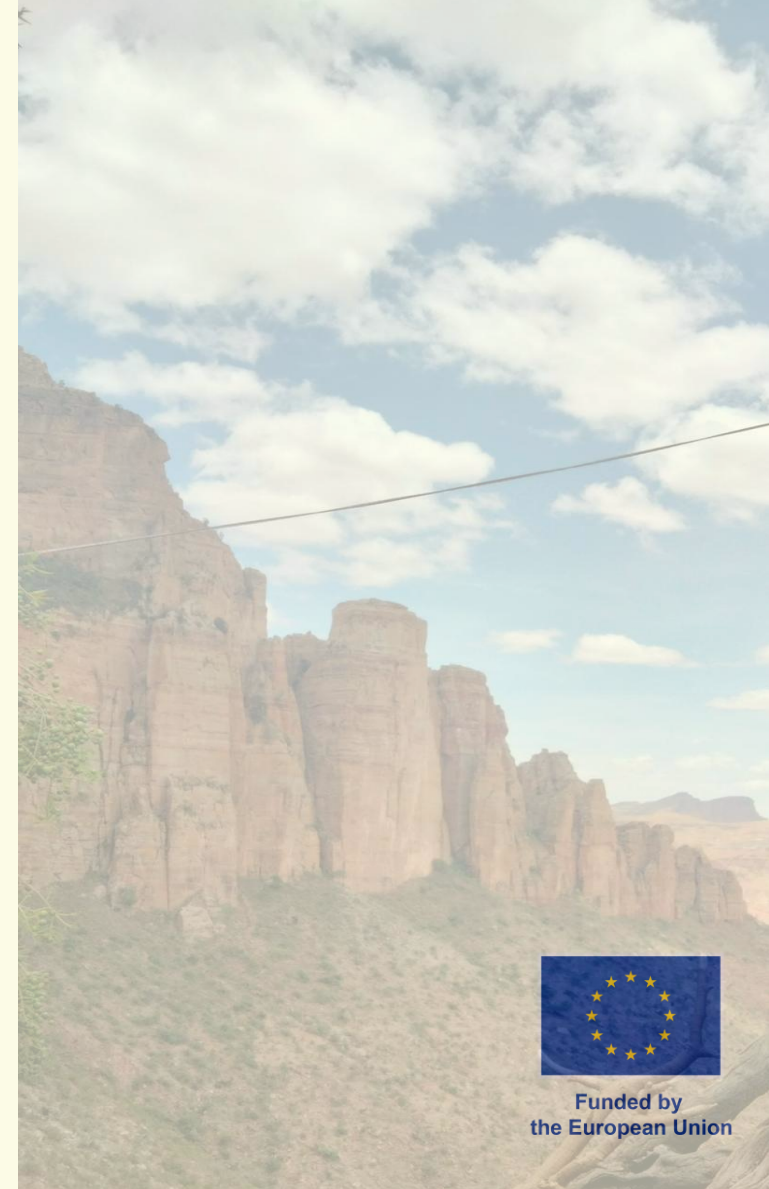


In Ethiopia, **Amharic** is the official language and the most widely spoken, particularly in the capital, Addis Ababa, and in the central regions. It is the main language used in administration, education and the media.

English will be your language of communication in Ethiopia. English is widely used as a second language.

Tips for communicating in Ethiopia:

- **Learning a few words of Amharic** (such as '*Salam*' for hello and '*Amesegenallo*' for thank you) is much appreciated.
- **English** works well in tourist and urban areas, but less so in rural areas.



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4. Getting there



The CFEE is located in the Janmeda (Yeka) district, not far from Menelik II Hospital. It is close to both Addis Ababa University (6kilo) and the French Embassy.

Transport apps in Addis Ababa

Cars are the main means of transport in Addis Ababa. It is very easy to get around the Ethiopian capital. You can now download transport apps such as ***Feres, Ride or Yango***. They work exactly like Uber and will allow you to travel throughout the city.

Long-distance travel

If you wish to travel to other regions of Ethiopia, **we recommend travelling by plane**. If you have travelled with Ethiopian Airlines, you can benefit from discounts on domestic flights.

Short journeys

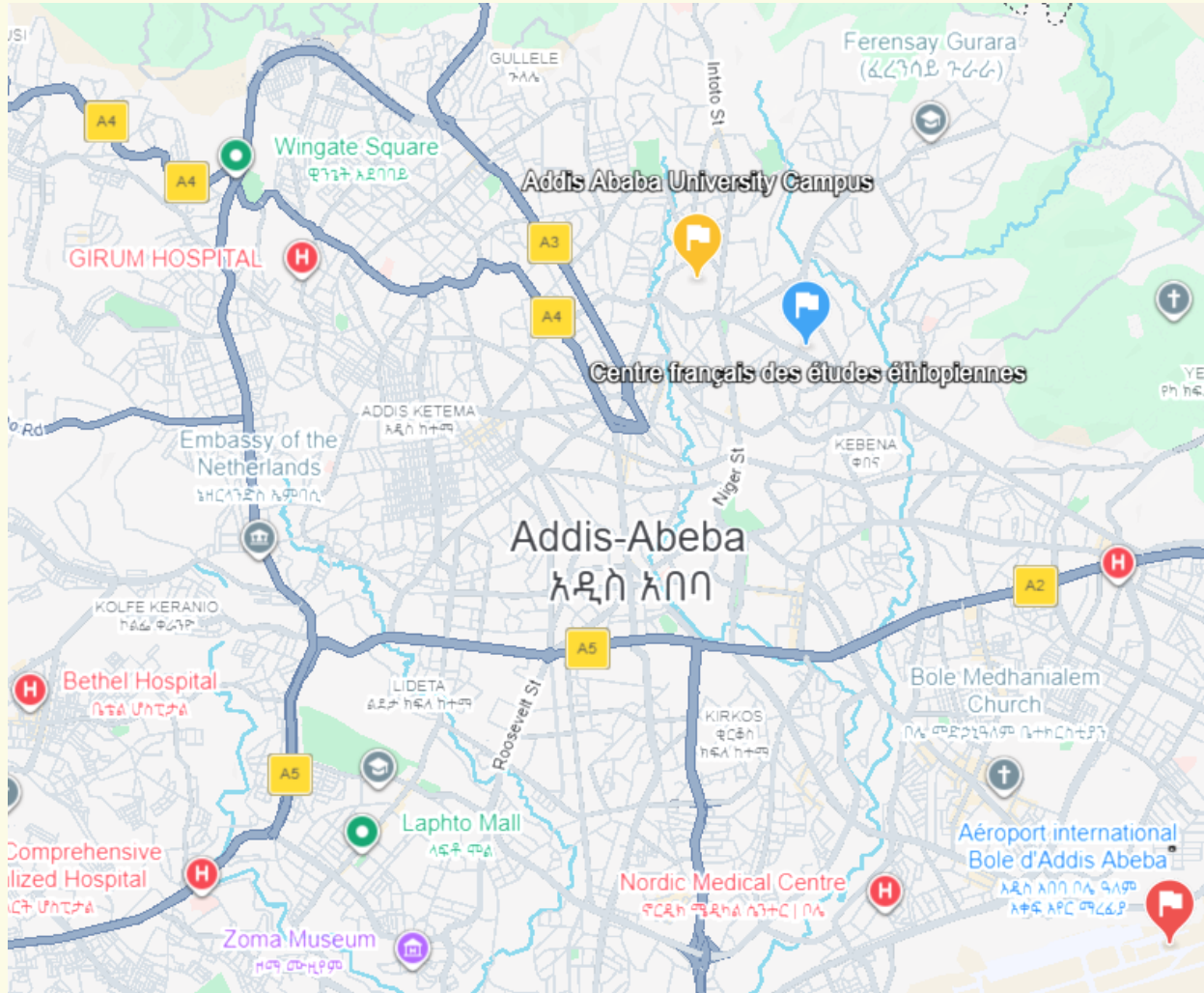
The CFEE has off-road vehicles that we can make available. You will need to let us know in advance if you wish to use them, so that we can factor the costs into your training fees. These additional costs will be specified in the secondment contract (signed before your departure).

It is also possible to **hire a vehicle with a driver** to travel outside Addis Ababa. Similarly, you will need to let us know in advance so that we can factor the costs into the training fees.

Outside major cities, night-time driving is not recommended due to the presence of unlit vehicles and livestock.



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Location of the French Centre for Ethiopian Studies [Maps](#)
Distance from the airport to the CFEE: 9 km (30 minutes)



If you wish to organise a trip outside Addis Ababa: (i) inform the CFEE team; (ii) consult the [France Diplomatie](#) website.



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5. Accommodation



Accommodation options in Addis Ababa vary greatly depending on the neighbourhood and your budget. To find somewhere to stay, you can use the **Airbnb** app or the **Booking** platform, both of which work very well in Addis Ababa.

It is also possible to use an **estate agent** to find accommodation. Below are the contact details of a broker based in Addis who has comfortable flats meeting European standards.

- *Nebil: +251 97 037 5555 or by email: property@epmglobal.net - As a guide: a one-bedroom flat (bedroom, living room, kitchen and bathroom) can cost between 600 and 800 dollars a month in the lively Bole Atlas neighbourhood.*

If you're travelling in a group, consider sharing accommodation.



Next page: accommodation options



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5. Accommodation



Accommodation	Location	Price	Booking	Journey time
Louvre Grand Hotel & Restaurant	Yeka district (maps)	32 euros per night, including breakfast	https://louvregrandhotel.com/en/	10 to 20 minutes
Ghion Hotel	Near Meskel Square (maps)	30 euros per night	Tel +251 1 15 51 32 22 or Booking	10 to 20 minutes
The Social House	Atlas district (maps)	25 euros per night, including breakfast	Tel +251 9 95 48 44 96 or via Booking	15 to 25 minutes
Brighton Guest House and Café	maps	25 euros per night	Tel: +251 9 11 40 80 92 or via Booking	20 to 30 minutes
Dream View Guest House	Bole Japan neighbourhood, near Atmosphère (maps)	16 euros per night Book on arrival	Book on arrival (please notify the CFEE in advance)	20 to 30 minutes



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6. Currency & Telephony



The currency in Ethiopia is the Ethiopian birr (ETB).

Euros and dollars are not accepted in shops, with the exception of certain hotels.

The exchange rate fluctuates constantly. Rate as at 20 May 2026: 1 euro = 180 birr and 1 dollar = 156 birr.

Where can you withdraw and/or exchange money?

- **At the airport:** Currency exchange bureaux are available on arrival.
- **Withdrawals from cash machines** (ATMs): Visa and Mastercard are accepted at most ATMs in major cities.
- **Card payments:** Accepted in hotels and tourist restaurants, but rarely or never used in markets or on local transport.

Buying a SIM card

You can buy a local SIM card (Ethio Telecom) at the airport branch or near the CFEE. There are currently unlimited plans available at very reasonable rates. We recommend getting your SIM card at the airport, as you'll be able to easily book a taxi using the FERES, RIDE or YANGO apps.

Package:

- Month – 24 GB data = 950 birrs
- Monthly – 60 GB data = 1,500 birr
- Monthly – 1,200 minutes' calls & 30 GB data = 1,345 birrs
- Unlimited monthly – Calls & data = 2,650 birrs



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7. Food



Health precautions

- **Do not drink tap water!** Opt for bottled water instead.
- **Fruit and vegetables:** Wash your vegetables thoroughly at home. In restaurants, be careful with uncooked food.
- **Meat:** Ethiopians eat it in various forms, including raw. It's delicious, but do exercise caution. Be careful when choosing restaurants.
- **Spices:** *Berberere* and *mitmita* (a chilli mix) are very hot. Ask for '*alega*' (mild) if you're sensitive to spice.

Vegetarian/Vegan

No problem! Ethiopian cuisine offers plenty of options (beyaynetu, shiro, misir wat, etc.).



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7. Food



Within walking distance of the CFEE (5 to 10 minutes)

Koba: bakery & restaurant
Olive & Bread: Italian restaurant
Sale e Pepe: Italian restaurant
Five Loaves: Western-style restaurant

A little further away from the CFEE

Romina Restaurant: Ethiopian restaurant
Pain d'épice: French bakery
La Mandoline: French restaurant
Meskott: upmarket restaurant

Traditional and cultural restaurant in Addis Ababa

Yod Abyssinia Traditional Restaurant
Totot Traditional Food
Habesha 2000
Kategna Restaurant



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8. Health



First-aid kit

Make sure you pack a first-aid kit suitable for your trip. Although there are pharmacies in Addis Ababa, dosages may differ from those you are used to.

Health insurance

Check that your health insurance cover is valid abroad. If necessary, take out **additional insurance** for your stay. Also remember to check whether your bank card includes **repatriation cover**.

Malaria

Good news: in Addis Ababa, the risk of malaria is virtually non-existent. No preventive treatment is therefore necessary. However, if you plan to travel to other parts of the country where malaria may be present, consult your doctor for **suitable preventive treatment**.

Vaccinations

For a stay in the city, no vaccinations are compulsory, although being vaccinated against hepatitis A and B is strongly recommended.

A yellow fever vaccination is not compulsory unless you are coming from a country considered to be at risk.

Medical care

If you fall ill and need medical care, there are no GP practices in Addis, so you will need to go to hospital.

- Nordic Medical Centre (24/7) / +251 9 29 10 56 53
- Suisse Clinic / +251 9 21 78 71 20



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9. Safety



Use common sense

Addis Ababa is a relatively safe city, but it is important to take a few standard precautions. As in many large cities, watch out for pickpockets. They usually work in pairs or groups, with one distracting you whilst the other steals your phone or wallet.

It is also not advisable to walk around at night.

Road safety

Outside major cities, driving at night is strictly to be avoided. Plan your journeys in advance and travel in the morning.

Prohibited items

It is forbidden to travel with binoculars or drones in Ethiopia. Your equipment may be detained and confiscated during airport security checks, even on domestic flights.

For further information on safety in Ethiopia, please visit the [France Diplomatie](#) website.



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10. Climate and clothing



The first thing that sometimes surprises travellers is that Addis Ababa is at a high altitude (2,600 m). The climate there is fairly mild. You may sometimes be surprised to find yourself getting out of breath more quickly. **Make sure you drink plenty of fluids**, especially after a long journey; it is much drier than in Europe and you can become dehydrated very quickly.

The weather varies depending on the time of year:

- **Dry season (October to May)**
 - Temperatures: Pleasant, between 15°C and 25°C during the day. Nights can be cool, especially in December and January (down to 5–10°C).
 - Rainfall: Very rare; skies are generally clear and sunny.
- **Rainy season (June to September)**
 - Temperatures: Mild, between 14°C and 22°C, but humidity is higher.
 - Rainfall: Daily, heavy showers, often in the afternoon or evening. Showers are short but can be heavy
- **Short rainy season (March to April)**
 - Light, intermittent rain, less intense than in summer. Temperatures similar to those in the dry season, but with a slight rise in humidity.



10. Climate and clothing



Practical advice

- **Clothing:**
 - Dry season: Pack layers (a light jumper for cool evenings) and a hat for the sun. At this altitude, protect yourself from the sun (sun cream).
 - Rainy season: A raincoat, an umbrella and quick-drying clothing.
 - In Ethiopia, and particularly in cities such as **Addis Ababa**, wearing short clothing (shorts, short skirts, tank tops) is **generally tolerated for tourists**, but it is important to bear in mind the country's **cultural and religious context**, which is very conservative, especially outside tourist areas. In rural areas and at religious sites, you should opt for modest clothing and cover your shoulders and knees.



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See you soon!

Contact us at the French Centre for Ethiopian Studies

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