

Ethiopia & Eritrea

Jean-Bernard Carillet
Stuart Butler, Dean Starnes

Contents

On the Road 4

Festivals & Activities 5

Destination Ethiopia & Eritrea 16

Getting Started 18

Itineraries 23

Ethiopia 29

History 31

The Culture 49

Food & Drink 66

Environment 74

Addis Ababa 82

History	83
Orientation	83
Information	85
Dangers & Annoyances	90
Sights	90
Activities	95
Courses	96
Tours	96
Festivals & Events	96
Sleeping	96
Eating	99
Drinking	102
Entertainment	103
Shopping	105
Getting There & Away	105
Getting Around	106
AROUND ADDIS ABABA	107
Entoto Mountains	107
Wusha Mikael Church	107

Northern Ethiopia 108

THE HISTORICAL CIRCUIT 109

Addis Ababa to the Blue Nile Gorge	109
North to Bahir Dar	111
Bahir Dar	111
Lake Tana & Its Monasteries	114
Blue Nile Falls (Tis Isat)	117
Gonder	118
Around Gonder	125
Simien Mountains National Park	126
Shire	131
Aksum	131
Adwa	143
Yeha	144
Debre Damo	145
Adigrat	146
Negash	147
Rock-Hewn Churches of Tigray	147
Mekele	152
Danakil Depression	154
Korem	155
Woldia	156
Lalibela	156
Around Lalibela	163
Dessie	165
Hayk	166
Kombolcha	166
Bati	166
Debre Berhan	166
Ankober	167

Southern Ethiopia 168

RIFT VALLEY LAKES – ADDIS ABABA TO AWASA 170

Lake Ziway	171
Lake Langano	172
Lake Abiata-Shala	
National Park	172
Shashemene	173
Wondo Genet	175
Senkele Wildlife Sanctuary	175
Awasa	176
THE SOUTHEAST & BALE MOUNTAINS	178
Dodola – Horse Treks in the Bale Mountains	178
Bale Mountains National Park	179

Robe	183
Goba	184
Sof Omar Caves	184
Sheikh Hussein	185
Dola-Mena	185
Negele Borena	185
SOUTH TO MOYALE	186
Dila	186
Yabelo	186
Yabelo Wildlife Sanctuary	187
Yabelo to Mega	187
Moyale	187
ARBA MINCH & AROUND	189
Arba Minch	189
Nechisar National Park	191
Dorze & Chenchra	193
THE LOWER OMO VALLEY	194
Konso	195
Around Konso	196
Jinka	197
Mago National Park	198
Lower Omo Valley Villages	199

Eastern Ethiopia 205

ADDIS ABABA TO AWASH	206
Debre Zeyit	206
Mt Zuqualla	209
Nazret	209
Awash National Park	210
Awash	212
AWASH TO ASAITA	212
The Road North to Asaita	212
Asaita	213
AWASH TO JIJIGA	214
Dire Dawa	215
Around Dire Dawa	218
Harar	218
Around Harar	225
Jijiga	225

Western Ethiopia 227

THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS	228
Addis Ababa to Ambo	228
Ambo	229
Mt Wenchi	230
Ambo to Nekemte	230
Nekemte	231
Nekemte to Bedele	232
Bedele	232
Metu	232
Sor River Waterfalls	232
Metu to Tepi	233

Tepi	233
Mizan Tefari	233
Jimma	234
Jimma to Addis Ababa	237
THE WESTERN LOWLANDS	237
Gambela	237
Gambela National Park	240

Ethiopia Directory 241

Accommodation	241
Activities	242
Books	244
Business Hours	245
Climate Charts	245
Courses	245
Customs Regulations	246
Dangers & Annoyances	246
Embassies & Consulates	248
Festivals & Events	248
Food	249
Gay & Lesbian Travellers	249
Holidays	250
Insurance	250
Internet Access	250
Legal Matters	250
Maps	250
Money	251
Photography & Video	252
Post	252
Shopping	254
Solo Travellers	254
Telephone	254
Time	255
Toilets	255
Tourist Information	255
Travellers with Disabilities	256
Visas & Documents	256
Women Travellers	257

Ethiopia Transport 259

GETTING THERE & AWAY	259
Entering Ethiopia	259
Air	259
Land	262
GETTING AROUND	264
Air	264
Bicycle	265
Bus	266
Car & Motorcycle	267
Hitching	269
Local Transport	269
Tours	270
Train	271

Somaliland 273

HARGEISA	275
Orientation	275
Information	275
Dangers & Annoyances	276
Sights	276
Sleeping	277
Eating & Drinking	278
Getting There & Away	278
Getting Around	278
AROUND SOMALILAND	278
Las Geel	278
Berbera	280
Sheekh	281
Burcao (Burao)	281
SOMALILAND DIRECTORY	281
Accommodation	281
Business Hours	281
Dangers & Annoyances	281
Embassies & Consulates	282
Money	282
Telephone	282
Visas	282
SOMALILAND TRANSPORT	282
Getting There & Away	282
Getting Around	283

Djibouti 285

DJIBOUTI CITY	287
Information	288
Sights & Activities	288
Sleeping	288
Eating	290
Drinking	291
Entertainment	291
Getting There & Away	291
Getting Around	291
AROUND DJIBOUTI	291
Moucha Island	291
Lac Assal	291
Lac Abbé	292
Goda Mountains	293
Tadjoura	293
Obock & Les Sept Frères Archipelago	294
DJIBOUTI DIRECTORY	294
Accommodation	294
Business Hours	294
Dangers & Annoyances	294
Embassies & Consulates	295
Holidays	295
Maps	295

Money	295
Telephone	295
Tourist Information	295
Visas	295
DJIBOUTI TRANSPORT	296
Getting There & Away	296
Getting Around	297

Eritrea 299

Snapshot Eritrea	301
History	301
The Culture	307
Food & Drink	312
Environment	313
ASMARA	316
History	316
Orientation	318
Information	318
Dangers & Annoyances	320
Sights	320
Walking Tour	324
Festivals & Events	325
Sleeping	325
Eating	326
Drinking	328
Entertainment	330
Shopping	330
Getting There & Away	331
Getting Around	331
AROUND ASMARA	332
Filfil	332
Debre Bizen Monastery	332
ASMARA TO MASSAWA	333
NORTHERN ERITREA	333
Keren	333
Around Keren	335
Nakfa	335
SOUTHERN ERITREA	336
Dekemhare	337
Around Dekemhare	337
Adi Keyh	337
Qohaito	337
Senafe	339
Around Senafe	340
Metera	340
Mendefera	341
Adi Quala	342
THE RED SEA COAST	342
Massawa	342
Around Massawa	347
Dahlak Islands	348
Adulis	351
DANKALIA	351
South to Assab	352

Assab	352
WESTERN ERITREA	353
Agordat	353
Barentu	353
Tesenev	354
ERITREA DIRECTORY	354
Accommodation	354
Activities	355
Business Hours	356
Climate	356
Customs Regulations	357
Dangers & Annoyances	357
Embassies & Consulates	357
Festivals & Events	357
Food	357
Gay & Lesbian Travellers	358
Holidays	358
Insurance	358
Internet Access	358
Legal Matters	358
Maps	358
Money	359
Photography & Video	360
Post	360
Shopping	360
Solo Travellers	360
Telephone & Fax	360

Time	361
Toilets	361
Tourist Information	361
Travellers with Disabilities	361
Visas & Documents	361
Women Travellers	362
ERITREA TRANSPORT	363
Getting There & Away	363
Getting Around	364

Health 367

Language 376

Glossary 384

The Authors 385

Behind the Scenes 386

Index 395

Map Legend 404