

# Ethiopia's Wild Flowers & Archaeology

Naturetrek Tour Report

26 October - 12 November 2014

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Report compiled by John Shipton



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	Getachew Esheta	Local Guide

Participants:	John Allen
	Anne Allen
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	Angela Wilkinson
	Pat Millner
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## Day 1

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October

### Heathrow

The group met at Heathrow and left on the flight to Addis, which was on time.

## Day 2

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October

### Addis Ababa

We were met by our guide Getachew, and transferred to the Ghion Hotel in the middle of the city next to Meskel Square, site of the annual Finding of the Cross festival. We had a few hours to recuperate from our flight and to wander in the gardens around the hotel, to take in the new environment a little, with its array of subtropical exotic trees abounding with sunbirds, and the ubiquitous black kites whirling overhead. Getachew picked us up at midday, and we drove through the city to have our first lunch at Lucy Restaurant, next to the National Museum. Some of us indulged in Ethiopian food with our first Injera with shiro and tibs. Getchew then gave us an exhaustive museum tour, the main thing of course being Lucy, the *Australopithecus afarensis* specimen which radically modified our understanding of human evolution. Still tired from our journey, we returned to the somewhat faded luxuries of the Ghion Hotel, after a short drive tour of the city.

## Day 3

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October

### Addis to Simien Mountains

We left at the crack of dawn for our flight to Gondar and, after a spectacular flight with clear views over the Ethiopian Highlands and the Blue Nile gorge, landed in at Gondar airport. We drove into the city where we had our first Ethiopian coffee ceremony, before heading north to Debark and the Simien Mountains. The three hour drive was our introduction to the Ethiopian Highlands, and we made several stops to appreciate the stunning scenery, as well as the standard of life in the Ethiopian countryside, very different from our own. We stopped at Kosoye, past the Falasha Village now devoid of its Jewish population. Here we found our first *Kniphofia foliosa* in flower, along with the endemic *Bidens macroptera*, and past Amba Giorgis, we stopped to appreciate the fields of tef, or *Eragrostis tef*, the Ethiopian staple. We had lunch at Debark (2500m), picked up our local guide Kassa along with our two armed scouts Miroling and Marie, and drove up to Simien Lodge (3600m) with its spectacular location, overlooking the great basaltic escarpment. We had time in the evening for a short walk around the lodge, and get our eye in on surroundings and plants.

## Day 4

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October

### Simien Mountains; Chinkwanet -Michibi

Today we spent walking from the lodge along the escarpment, and it has to be one of the most spectacular scenes in Africa. We could amble slowly, starting to work out the flora, and today the giant heather *Erica arborea*, in flower, dominated. Half way through the morning, we came across our first troupe of Gelada Baboons, who let us sit with them and watch them grazing and socialising. Before reaching our bus, we spotted a Klipspringer antelope. The bus took us a little way along the escarpment, with a stop on the way to examine our first giant *Hypericum* in flower, to a location known as Chinkwanet, where we had lunch accompanied by Thick-billed Ravens. After lunch we carried on walking the spectacular escarpment, meeting more baboons below Michibi village. Meeting our bus, we headed back and made a short walk away from the edge, through the groves of *Hypericum revolutum*.

## Day 5

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October

### Simien Mountains; Chenek

The road beyond Sankaber was too much for our bus, so Getachew had hired two land cruisers for our hour-long journey along the escarpment to the Chenek Pass, a fascinating drive with great stands of *Kniphofia foliosa* in flower, and the through land being ploughed by bullock and man in a system unchanged for a thousand years. The col at Chenek has fabulous views down the basaltic cliffs and away to the west. Almost as though by programme, below us the indigenous Walia Ibex appeared, singly, and we could spot them as we walked around the edge. We made a short drive up towards the Bwahit Pass, to take in the great stands of our first Giant Lobelia, *Lobelia rhynchopetalum*, before making our way to an isolated cliff platform for lunch, with again the Thick-billed Ravens eager to join in our picnic. After lunch we headed back, making a stop where we could peer over a gap in the cliff face adorned with the succulent *Aeonium leucoblepharum* and the endemic *Cyanotis polyrrhiza*. We had time then to make several stops, first to appreciate the great stands of *Kniphofia foliosa* in flower, then to watch and talk to some of the boys ploughing the hills with their bullocks. After this we had to stop to explore fine stands of the bright red *Aloe macrocarpa* and later our first *Leonotis ocymifolia*. Back at the lodge our two land cruiser drivers were thanked and paid, and we had another comfortable evening.

## Day 6

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October

### Simien Mountains

Today we were back with the bus which this time drove us as far as Sankaber, and from there we walked along the escarpment. We were rewarded with a range of new plants such as the gorgeous *Kniphofia isoetifolia* and *Plectranthus garkeanus*. We had further sightings of the Klipspringer before walking through forest dominated by the olive *Olea capensis*. At a place known as Kaba, we met our bus again and had our picnic, as usual accompanied by Thick-billed Ravens. We then walked through the forest and out to a spectacular viewpoint for the Jinbar waterfall, cascading down the full height of the cliffs. Driving back, by popular demand, we had a quick stroll through the village of Michibiny. Outside we were greeted by an enormous troupe of Gelada Baboons, and we could wander amongst them at will.

## Day 7

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November

### Simen Mountains to Gondar

This morning we left Simen Lodge and headed back down to Debark, saying goodbye to our guide Kassa and the scouts, and on to Gondar. It was market day in Debark so we stopped to wander through it. We were amazed as we drove south, at all the people having to make their way from the surrounding country on foot, with an almost total lack of either public or wheeled transport of any description. We arrived at the extremely well-appointed Goha Hotel, which has fine views over the city and as far as Lake Tana, in time for lunch. In the afternoon we then had our tours of Fasil Ghebbi (the great palace compound), the Debre Berhan Selassie Church with its fabulous murals, and finally the famous Fasilides' (Timkat) Baths, empty on our visit but with a good array of birds amongst the great fig trees.

## Day 8

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

### Gondar to Lalibela

Our flight from Gondar to Lalibela went on schedule, and again was spectacular, with views of Lake Tana to the south and Simen to the north, and very wild country in between. The drive from the airport to the city takes about an hour and is full of interest. We had to stop for *Aloe braba* in flower and to take in the Sorghum and Safflower fields, and later the Finger Euphorbia *Euphorbia tirucalli*, used to form compounds around the simple but perfectly formed round huts which make up the dwellings here. Our hotel in Lalibela, although fairly simple, had the great advantage of spectacular views from the rooms across the country to the west. After lunch we visited our first set of the world famous monolithic churches, the NW group starting with Bet Medhane Alem and finishing with the "Tomb of Adam". One can hardly fail to be deeply impressed by these wonders. We enjoyed supper in our hotel tonight.

## Day 9

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

### Lalibela

This morning we visited the second group of churches starting with Bet St George and followed by Bet Gabriel and Bet Rafael, across the "River of Jordan". The experience here was more relaxed. These churches are not covered by the shelters and there were fewer other tourists. We were accompanied here by our faithful "shoe boy", in fact a young student aspiring guide status. After lunch, we took the airport road to the rock church of Na'akuto La'ab. This allowed us to see a little more of the country, its birds and vegetation. Having visited the church itself, we did a little exploring, including a mission to get close to fully grown giant Euphorbias, *E. abyssinica*. In the evening, back in town, we had dinner at a nearby restaurant.

## Day 10

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

### Lalibela to Wondo Genet

We had a mid-morning flight back to Addis, and again this was on schedule, and gave us another chance to gaze over the spectacular Ethiopian Highlands as we re-crossed the Blue Nile. We were met at the airport by a new driver and bus, and we wasted no time as we headed into the Rift Valley, first by the new motorway opened this

October, with Mt. Yerer to the left and the great extinct volcano Mt. Zuquala to our right. We had a fine lunch at Mojo, again some of us indulging in some excellent Injera, tibs and shiro. Heading on south, we made a stop by the bridge over the Awash river to look at the great array of birds amongst the Water Hyacinth, and on the river banks. Soon after, we stopped again, this time for Marabou Storks, Pelicans and many other birds under huge Kapok Trees, and Baobabs. We pressed on south, reaching Shashamene at sunset, and night was falling as we rolled into the Wabe Shebelle Hotel. It had been a fabulous drive, and we found ourselves in rainforest, such a completely different environment from Lalibela, only that morning. The hotel is in an amazing location, with birds and monkeys to greet us in the morning from the great *Podocarpus* and *Ficus* trees.

## Day 11

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November

### Wondo Genet to Goba and Bale Mountains

At dawn this morning, after being greeted by troupes of Grivet monkeys, we were furnished with a bird guide, a local man and so of the Sidama people, who proved very proficient. We had a wonderful three hour walk through the forest, starting from the hotel itself, and fielded a great list of birds, as well as meeting several Colobus monkeys. After this we headed back to Shashamene, stopping for a welcome coffee at a new hotel, before heading east and leaving the Rift Valley. After Doldole the road climbs into the Bale/Arsi Mountains and, at 3000m, we stopped for our lunch in a grove of *Afrocarpus* (*Podocarpus*) *falcatus*. As we climbed over the passes guarding the approaches to the Gaysay valley, we made several stops, enjoying the views over the spectacular country, and taking in some of the flora which, at altitudes above 3000m, is reminiscent of Simien. In the Gaysay Valley we paused to look at an array of birds as well as our first Warthogs and Mountain Nyalas. We then called in to the Bale Mountain Park office to pick up our local guide, a very nice local boy who has acquired remarkably good English. We then had an excellent two hour stroll through the forest around the park office, meeting more Nyala, Warthog and Bushbuck, as well as lots of new birds, and managing to track down a small bit of the flora. Thence we drove on to Goba and our hotel there, in plenty of time for showers before dinner.

## Day 12

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November

### Bale Mountains

We set off in our bus from Goba, at 2500m, to climb onto the Sanetti Plateau at 4000m, taking us through a range of habitats and stunning vistas. After the exotic cedar plantations, we climbed out of the *Hagenia abyssinica* dominated woodland, and entered the Afro-montane landscape. Here the extraordinary *Lobelia rhyncopetalum* dominates, surrounded by several *Helichrysum* species, all in flower. At 3900m, after various bird stops, we had our first sighting of the precious endemic Ethiopian Wolf. We had a glorious stop for birds and flowers by a tarn at 4100m, opposite the alluring peak of Mt Konteh to our left. Our plan had been to head over the plateau and down the southern side of the massif into the Hareenna Forest, but issues with the bus on this mountain dirt road forced a change of plan. Instead, we parked the bus and walked for half an hour to the Sanetti camp. Here we spent time observing the Giant Mole Rat population, before heading across to a lake for our picnic lunch. We then had a glorious afternoon stroll: a three hour circuit towards the Garba Guracha camp, and back to our bus on the road, observing the abundant bird life on the lakes and amongst the giant *Lobelia* and *Helichrysum*, with further sightings of Ethiopian Wolves as well as Hares. On our return journey we made a couple of stops to look at *Erica arborea* forest and *Hagenia abyssinica* woodland. Because of the road conditions, we arranged to hire a local bus for the following day.

## Day 13

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November

### Bale Mountains

Our Isutu bus was waiting for us this morning with driver and bus boy. The high clearance on these local buses would make it much more suitable, and we had passed several yesterday packed with people on their way over to Rira, Delo Mara and villages beyond the Hareenna forest. By the rock peak of Konteh at 4000m, we found the wolf again. We stopped again by Tillu Dimtu, which at 4377m is the highest peak in the massif. We reached the escarpment, and cloud was billowing over from the forest below, making a dramatic scene. New birds and plants were found thriving in the much moister environment, the environment changing radically as we wound our way down to the village of Rira at 3000m. Driving through the village, we stopped at the start of an open meadow and walked into the forest, again finding new plants, with another giant Lobelia species, *L. giberroa*, being the most spectacular. We had our lunch by a pair of waterfalls in the forest plunging into pools, our best plant find here being a stand of *Begonia sp.* with their flowers hanging over the water. We had a delightful walk back to the bus through woodland glades, before boarding our bus for the ride back up the escarpment. We made a plant stop for some gorgeous *Helichrysums* and another by some yellow flowering *Sedum mayoni* (*mooneyi*?). Cloud enveloped the top of the escarpment with the *Helichrysum* flowers shining through. Back at Goba, John W and I walked back through the town which we found relaxed and friendly.

## Day 14

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November

### Goba to Lake Langano

Back with our normal bus, we left our Goba hotel and drove back down the road to Shashamene. We passed again through the Gaysay valley and watched herds of Olive Baboons, Warthogs, and a group of female Nyalas, shepherded by a large male. Going over the passes above, we stopped at 3500m to survey the village there, which has to be one of the highest in the whole of Africa. Lower down, at Adaba, a market was in progress, and it was a similar scene to the one we saw at Gondar, with people trekking into town on foot, from miles around. We arrived at Shashamane, and at the Rift Valley Tourist Hotel had a feast of a lunch, including very elaborate dishes. While awaiting this repast, we did some excellent birdwatching along the stream outside the hotel walls. Driving north back up the Rift Valley, we paused to get a splendid view of three great lakes, Shala and Abiata to the west and Langano to the right. Then we turned right onto a long dirt road that took us to our hotel for the night, the lodge of Bishangari on the SE shore of Lake Langano. The dirt road took through *Acacia* and *Ficus* bush and past tiny villages; there were plenty of bird spotting opportunities. It was delightful to arrive at the peaceful location on the lake shore with only one other small group of tourists. The cabins in the forest are luxurious, and the service here warm and friendly.

## Day 15

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November

### Lake Langano

At daybreak we met our local bird guide, and spent the morning with a bird tour around Bishangari Lodge, starting from the lakeside with a flock of Yellow-fronted Parrots, and then heading towards the forest south of the lake, past Aardvark holes, eventually rejoining the lake with its plethora of water birds: herons, flamingos, Shelduck and many others. After an excellent breakfast, from cooks well in tune with Western tastes, we were left to enjoy the lake side. Pat, Polly and I hired horses and a guide, and rode through forest to a small waterfall.

Then, after a leisurely lunch and early afternoon, we met our bird guide again. We did a similar walk to the morning, but took a reverse route, starting with the water birds and finishing amongst the great *Ficus vasta* groves near the lodge. A nicely cooked and presented evening meal concluded a very tranquil and satisfying day.

## Day 16

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November

### Lake Langano to Addis Ababa

This morning we left Bishangari, and drove the dirt track back to the main asphalt highway, where we dropped off two of the hotel girls. We turned north again, and then stopped at the park offices of Lake Abiata Park, where we found Ostrich (being farmed), and more birds, with a short walk through the *Acacia* bush. We then turned off the main road again, picked up the local guide who accompanied us on our walk across the salt marshland by the north end of Lake Abiata. Here we saw fabulous flocks of both Lesser and Greater Flamingo, feeding. We then continued north, stopping at Lake Ziway to see the great flocks of Pelicans, mingling with the Marabou Storks, Hamerkops and Sacred Ibis. We had a fine lunch in the grounds of the Haile Resort Hotel, before heading west out of the Rift Valley. The road climbs over a ridge, with views back across Ziway, and littered with volcanic obsidian, before reaching Butajira and the country of the Gurage people. Heading north again, we climbed over the Gurage ridge, passing through Tiya, where again a market was in process. In late afternoon we entered Addis again, and repaired to the familiar Ghion Hotel. In the evening Getachew came to take us to the Quadrant run restaurant for a final meal of the trip.

## Day 17/18

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> / Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November

### Addis Ababa to Heathrow and Lusaka

Today we had some extra time, so our driver took us to the Entoto Natural Park, north of the city. Here we visited Menelik II palaces, and the Entoto Maryam church. We then walked down the road into Addis to take in the views over the city and the country around. On the way down John W and I attempted to help some ladies, who were carrying enormous loads of cut *Eucalyptus* down to the markets near the city. Our driver then collected us and took us to the airport. We arrived back in London at 7.30am the next morning, while Pat and Polly arrived safely in Lusaka.

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## Species List

### Airport:

<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	<i>Myrtaceae</i>	Bottle brush	Arboreal	Exotic
<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	<i>Bignoniaceae</i>	African Tulip	Arboreal	Indigenous

### Drive to Debark:

<i>Ficus sycamorus</i>	<i>Moraceae</i>	Arboreal	Indigenous
<i>Cordia africana</i>	<i>Boraginaceae</i>	Arboreal	Indigenous
<i>Eucalyptus</i> species in abundance	<i>Myrtaceae</i>	Arboreal	Exotic
<i>Eragrostis tef</i>	<i>Poaceae</i> TEF (fields of)	Ethiopian staple crop	Indigenous
<i>Hagenia abyssinica</i>	<i>Rosaceae</i>	Arboreal	Indigenous
<i>Bidens macroptera</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Herbaceous	Endemic
<i>Kniphofia foliosa</i>	<i>Xanthorrhoeaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Endemic
<i>Echinops longisetus</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Herbaceous	Endemic
<i>Andropogon</i> species	<i>Poaceae</i> (Grass)		Indigenous

### Drive up to Simien Lodge:

<i>Rumex nervosus</i>	<i>Polygonaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Bidens pachyloma</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Herbaceous	Endemic
<i>Trifolium simense</i>	<i>Fabaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Erica arborea</i>	<i>Ericaceae</i>	Arboreal	Indigenous
<i>Solanum marginatum</i>	<i>Solanaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	<i>Caprifoliaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Verbascum stelurum</i>	<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Endemic
<i>Juniperus procera</i>	<i>Cupressaceae</i>	Arboreal	Indigenous

Oct 29<sup>th</sup> –

### Walk from Lodge:

*Erica arborea* in flower dominant

(*Helichrysum* sp)

(*Carduus* sp)

(*Trifolium* sp)

(*Alchemilla* sp)

<i>Arisaema schimperianum</i> (one plant)	<i>Araceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Cotula abyssinica</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Salvia schimperi</i>	<i>Lamiaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Rosa abyssinica</i>	<i>Rosaceae</i>	Shrub	Indigenous
<i>Satureja abyssinica</i>	<i>Lamiaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Jasminum abyssinicum</i>	<i>Oleaceae</i>	Climber	Indigenous

### To and from Chinkwanet:

<i>Hypericum revolutum</i>	<i>Hypericaceae</i>	Arboreal	Indigenous
<i>Impatiens tinctoria</i>	<i>Balsaminaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous

### Below Michibi:

<i>Swertia abyssinica</i>	<i>Gentianaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Plectrocephalus varians</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Herbaceous	Endemic
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	<i>Apiaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous



<i>Arabis alpina</i>	<i>Brassicaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Hebenstretia angolensis</i>	<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous

**Walk back amongst the *Hypericum revolutum***

<i>Artemisia afra</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Impatiens hochstetteri</i>	<i>Balsaminaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Malva verticillata</i>	<i>Malvaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous

Oct 30<sup>th</sup>**Drive to Chenek***Kniphofia foliosa* in flower abundant**Chenek:**

<i>Lobelia rhyncopetalum</i>	<i>Campanulaceae</i>	Shrub!	Endemic
<i>Habenstretia angolensis</i>			
<i>Dipsacus pinnatifidus</i>	<i>Caprifoliaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Helichrysum citrispinum</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Shrub	Indigenous
<i>Helichrysum splendidum</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Subshrub	Indigenous
<i>Senecio nanus</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Herbaceous	Endemic
<i>Aeonium leucoblepharum</i>	<i>Crassulaceae</i>	Subshrub	Indigenous

**Drive up towards Bwahit:**Spectacular stands of *Lobelia rhyncopetalum**Helichrysum splendidum**Swertia abyssinica***Lunch at Chenek***Dipsacus pinnatifidus**Scabiosa columbaria**Hebenstretia angolensis*

<i>Bartsia trixago</i>	<i>Orobanchaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Exotic
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*Aeonium leucoblepharum*

<i>Cyanotis polyrhiza</i>	<i>Commelinaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Endemic
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**Drive back to Simen Lodge:**Fine stands of *Kniphofia foliosa*

<i>Aloe macrocarpa</i>	<i>Xanthorrhoeaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Delphinium dasycaulon</i>	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Leonotis ocymifolia</i>	<i>Lamiaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Plectocephalus varians</i>			

Oct 31<sup>st</sup>**Walk from Sankaber**

<i>Kniphofia isoetifolia</i>	<i>Xanthorrhoeaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Endemic
<i>Plectranthus garckeianus</i>	<i>Lamiaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	<i>Amaranthaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Plectocephalus varians</i>			
<i>Senecio myriocephalus</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Carduus schimperi</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Clematis simensis</i>	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>	Climber	Indigenous

**Walk through Olea forest**

<i>Olea capensis</i>	<i>Oleaceae</i>	Arboreal	Indigenous
<i>Delphinium dasycaulon</i>			
<i>Knipholia isoetifolia</i>	yellow flowering form		

Nov 1<sup>st</sup>**Simen Lodge to Gondar**

Hedging plants used in villages:

<i>Justicia schimperiana</i>	<i>Acanthaceae</i>	Herbaceous	Indigenous
<i>Euphorbia abyssinica</i>	<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	"Shrub"	Endemic
<i>Solanecio tuberosus</i> var <i>pubescens</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Shrub	Endemic

**Goha Hotel:**

<i>Caesalpina</i> sp	Shrub	Exotic
<i>Grevillea robsuta</i>	Tree	Exotic
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Shrub	Exotic
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> (Camel's Foot)	Tree	Exotic
<i>Spathodia campanulata</i> (African Tulip)	Tree	Exotic

**Trees around Gondar:**

<i>Cordia africana</i> (often in spectacular flower)	Indigenous
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> (also in good flower)	Exotic
<i>Schinus molle</i> (Pepper Tree)	Exotic
<i>Yucca gloriosa</i>	Exotic
<i>Olea europaea</i> var <i>africana</i>	Indigenous
<i>Juniperus procera</i>	Indigenous

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>**Lalibela airport to town**

<i>Aloe braha</i>	<i>Xanthorrhoeaceae</i>	Indigenous
Sorghum and safflower		cultivation
<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i>	<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	

**In town**

<i>Ficus vasta</i>	Arboreal	Indigenous
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Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>**Na'akuto La'ab**

<i>Euphorbia abyssinica</i>		
<i>Barleria</i> spp	Purple flower	rambler Exotic
<i>Tapinanthus</i> sp	An African Loranthaceae or "Mistletoe"	

**Birds in Lalibela:**

Greater Blue-eared Starling	An Indigobird	Variable Sunbird
White-billed Starling	Speckled Mousebird	African Firefinch

Nov 4<sup>th</sup>**Birds on the Awash River bridge**

Sacred Ibis	African Fish Eagle	African Jacana
Cattle Egret	Greater Egret	Crowned Plover
Hamerkop	Fulvers Whistling Duck	

**Birds by Lake Awash**

Marabou Stork  
Little Stilt

Yellow Wagtail  
Egyptian Goose

Grey-rumped Swallow  
Brown-rumped Swallow

### Shashamene

Silver-cheeked Hornbill

Nov 5<sup>th</sup>

### Wondo Genet Birds

Hadida Ibis  
Tambourine Dove  
Blue-breasted Sunbird  
Bronze Manakin  
African Firefinch  
Red-headed Weaver  
White-cheeked Turaco  
Mountain Thrush

Ruppell's Robin-Chat  
Common Bulbul  
African Dusky Flycatcher  
Grey-headed Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Waxbill  
Mountain White-eye  
Black Cuckoo-Shrike

Variable Sunbird  
Red-eyed Dove  
Grey-backed Camaroptera  
Abyssinian Oriole  
Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher  
Wattled Ibis  
Black & White Manakin

### Plants on road to Goba

*Echinops gigante* (Village hedging plant)

*Ensete ventricosa* "False Banana" (Ethiopian staple in villages)

### Trees at lunch stop:

*Afrocarpus (Podocarpus) falcatus*

*Juniperus procera*

*Ficus sycamorus*

### Plants at Dinsho offices

*Hagenia abyssinica*

*Maytenus arbutifolia*

*Satureja paradoxa*

*Lobelia schimperii*

*Helichrysum citrispinum*

### Birds

Mountain White-eye  
Chestnut-naped Francolin

Brown-rumped Seed-eater  
Rouget's Rail

Abyssinian Catbird

### Gaysay Valley Birds

Yellow-billed Duck  
Wattled Ibis

Red Knobbed Coot

Blue-winged Goose

Nov 6<sup>th</sup>

### Bale Mountains:

*Hagenia abyssinica* up to 3000m

*Hypericum revolutum* up to 3000m

*Leonotis* sp. up to 3000m

*Lobelia rhyncopetalum*

*Helichrysum* sp (several)

*Senecio* sp (several)

*Swertia lugardae* Herbaceous

*Lobelia schimperii* (ground cover)

*Umbilicus botryoides* (amongst rocks)

*Alchemilla* sp

**Birds**

Augur Buzzard	Lammergeyer	Wattled Crane
White-collared Pigeon	Steppe Eagle	Blue-winged Goose
Spot-breasted Lapwing	Chestnut-naped Francolin	Olive Thrush

Nov 7<sup>th</sup>**Plants, Escarpment summit:**

*Erica arborea*  
*Helichrysum sp*  
*Hebenstretia angolensis*  
*Helichrysum meyeri* (3600m, garden worthy glorious pink)  
*Trifolium scimperii*  
*Sedum mayoni* (mooneyi?)

**Hareenna forest:**

*Lobelia giberroa*  
*Impatiens hochstetteri*  
*Commelina benghalensis*  
*Commelina africana*  
*Begonia "wallensteinia"*

Nov 8<sup>th</sup>**Rift Valley Tourist Hotel birds:**

Blue-breasted Bee-eater	Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	Mountain Wagtail
Baglafaecht Weaver	Little Stint	

**Dirt road to Bishangari birds:**

(Trees: *Ficus sycamorus*, *Acacia abyssinica*, *Acacia tortilis*, *Acacia seyal*)

Ostrich	Hemprich's Hornbill	Egyptian Goose
Greater Blue-eared Starling	Black Scimitarbill	Carmine Bee-eater
Speckled Mousebird	Lilac-breasted Roller	White-headed Buffalo-weaver
Black-billed Barbet	Hoopoe	Black-winged Lovebird
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	Namaqua Dove	

Nov 9<sup>th</sup>**Bishangari:**

Trees and shrubs: *Celtis sp*, *Podocarpus sp.*, *Cordia africana*, *Ficus vasta*, *Ficus sycamorus*, *Calpauria sp.*,  
*Vernonia sp*, *Croton macrostachys*. *Acacia tortilis*  
 Herbaceous in flower: *Cassia didymobotrya*, *Cycnium tubulosum*

**Bishangari morning Birds:**

Yellow-fronted Parrot	Grey-backed Shrike	Northern Black Flycatcher
Spur-winged Plover	White-necked Cormorant	Pied Kingfisher
Wood Sandpiper	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	Red-eyed Dove
Speckled Mousebird	Yellow Wagtail	Blue-spotted Wood Dove
Greater Honey-guide	Black-winged Lovebird	Nubian Woodpecker
Ethiopian Bulbul	Common Redstart	Village Indigobird
Grey-headed Kingfisher	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	African Pygmy Kingfisher
Paradise Flycatcher	Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	Double-toothed Barbet

Red-billed Hornbill  
 Black-billed Hoopoe  
 Bare-faced Go-away Bird  
 Woodland Kingfisher  
 Squacco Heron  
 Flamingo  
 Great Egret

Blue-breasted Bee-eater  
 African Fish Eagle  
 Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike  
 Klaas' Cuckoo  
 Grey-headed Heron  
 Knob-billed Duck  
 Malachite Kingfisher

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu  
 Black Cuckoo-Shrike  
 Silvery-cheeked Hornbill  
 Banded Barbet  
 Wood Sandpiper  
 Hottentot Teal

**New birds on Afternoon walk:**

Crested Francolin  
 Yellow-billed Stork  
 Grey-backed Fiscal

Scaly Francolin  
 Little Egret  
 Woolly-necked Stork

Hadada Ibis  
 Great White Pelican

Nov 10<sup>th</sup>

**Ostrich Farm Birds (with Grant's Gazelle):**

Ostrich

Lesser Sparrowhawk

Red-billed Hornbill

**Lake Abiata birds:**

Greater Flamingo  
 Sacred Ibis  
 Pied Kingfisher

Lesser Flamingo  
 Superb Starling  
 Tawny Eagle

Common Crane  
 Grey-winged Goose

**Lake Ziway Birds:**

Marabou Stork  
 Sacred Ibis  
 Cormorant  
 Grey-headed Gull  
 Cattle Egret

Greater Pelican  
 Black Heron  
 Pied Kingfisher  
 Malachite Kingfisher

Hamerkop  
 African Darter  
 White-winged Tern  
 Egyptian Goose