

**LONELY PLANET NAMES ETHIOPIA AS TOP COUNTRY TO VISIT IN 2017**

**Country More Accessible Than Ever with New Airline Links**

Lonely Planet Guidebooks has named Ethiopia as one of their “Best Countries to Visit” in 2017. Trekking through the Simien Mountains, climbing to a church carved into a remote cliff face, boating across the serene waters of Lake Tana to visit an age-old monastery, or witnessing wildlife found nowhere else on earth, visitors will be overwhelmed by this exotic country and its beauty. In keeping with their Vision 2025, Ethiopian Airlines will soon be opening 26 new air links across the country to make these experiences more accessible than ever.

 The capital, Addis Ababa, is where the journey begins but it is in the lesser explored areas of Ethiopia where the uniqueness is found. With that in mind, Ethiopian Airlines recently began operating flights to Dembi-Dolo in the Southwest and Kebri-Dahar in the Southeast.

 Tewolde GebreMariam, CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, said: “We recognize that our country has much to offer that is not found any place else. Adding new gateways within Ethiopia means we are making it much easier for travelers to see the entire country in a reasonable timeperiod and much more conveniently than before.”

 Within the United States, Ethiopian Airlines flies direct to Addis Ababa from Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C.; Newark Liberty International in the New York area; and LAX in Los Angeles. As a member of Star Alliance, Ethiopian Airlines makes it easy for travelers from other US cities to enjoy timely connections. The airline also flies to Ethiopia from other African countries including South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and more.

**About Ethiopian Airlines**

Ethiopian Airlines (Ethiopian) is the fastest growing Airline in Africa. In its seven decades of operation, Ethiopian has become one of the continent’s leading carriers, unrivalled in efficiency and operational success.

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Ethiopian commands the lion’s share of the pan-African passenger and cargo network operating the youngest and most modern fleet to more than 90 international destinations across five continents.

Ethiopian fleet includes ultra-modern and environmentally friendly aircraft such as Airbus A350, Boeing 787, Boeing 777-300ER, Boeing 777-200LR, Boeing 777-200 Freighter, Bombardier Q-400 double cabin with an average fleet age of five years. In fact, Ethiopian is the first airline in Africa to own and operate these aircraft.

Ethiopian is currently implementing a 15-year strategic plan called Vision 2025 that will see it become the leading aviation group in Africa with seven business centers: Ethiopian Domestic and Regional Airline; Ethiopian International Passenger Airline; Ethiopian Cargo; Ethiopian MRO; Ethiopian Aviation Academy; Ethiopian In-flight Catering Services; and Ethiopian Ground Service. Ethiopian is a multi-award winning airline registering an average growth of 25% in the past seven years.

 **About Lonely Planet**

Lonely Planet Discovery Guidebooks is the most successful travel publisher in the world. They publish 120 million books in eleven different languages. Lonely Planet offices are in Australia, UK, USA, India and China. The company has 400 employees and 200 authors.

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