

## Adadi Mariam rock-hewn church and Tiya Archeological site.

### UNESCO world heritage

Tiya is an archaeological site known for its decorated stele. These megaliths mark a large prehistoric funerary complex from an ancient culture and were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1972.

The site remained untouched for centuries until several stone steles were discovered at the beginning of the last century. From there, new discoveries have been made over the years and over 40 monuments have now been excavated, while countless others remain hidden.

The largest and most representative collection of monoliths of its kind in Africa. Small stone carvings extending around the circumference of the tooth-shaped stones detail the hardships and sufferings of those buried beneath them. Tiya contains 41 stelae, up to 5 m high (including the buried portions), engraved with enigmatic symbols, including swords. They mark the graves of individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 who died approximately 700 years ago and were buried in the fetal position.

Melka Kunture and Balchit: Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites.

### UNESCO registered

The site in Ethiopia's Upper Awash Valley encompasses a cluster of prehistoric sites containing archaeological and paleontological evidence, including footprints that attest to the area's occupation by hominin groups two million years ago. Located approximately 2,000 to 2,200 meters above sea level, the sites yielded fossils of *Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis*, and archaic *Homo sapiens*, documented in well-dated layers along with various volcanic tools.

### Adadi- Mariam rock-hewn churches

The Adadi Mariam Rock Church is a type of rock-hewn cave church, carved inward into a more or less vertical cliff. Believed to date from the 12th or 13th century, Adadi Mariam was built by the Ethiopian King Lalibela, who is credited with his 11 beautiful rock-hewn

Laibela churches in the north of the country. He built the Adadi Mariam Church to commemorate his visit to a holy man on Mount Zikualla in the 12th century. Compared to its counterparts in Lalibela, it is quite plain, but if you aren't traveling to the north, it is a must-see. It is located at the far end of the village of Adadi, 41 km from the capital and 12 km west of the main Addis Ababa-Sodo road.

## Itinerary

Get picked up from your hotel or guesthouse

Drive 41 km west to Adadi Mariam and visit the rock-hewn church of Adadi Mariam, the UNESCO World Heritage-listed prehistoric site of Melka Kulture and its Paleoanthropological Museum.

Picnic Lunch Break

Lunch can be served with vegetarian and vegan options

Continue 40 km to visit a UNESCO-registered archaeological site at Tiya and view the 700-year-old tombstones.

Return to Addis Ababa by 4:30 PM

## What does the full-day tour include?

- \*Pick up and drop off service.
- \*Transportation, including fuel and driving.
- \*Entrance fees, at all listed places.
- \*Professional English speaking tour-guide.
- \*Lunch, hot drinks and bottled water.

## What's not included?

- \* Alcoholic beverages not listed on the package
- \*Tips and Gratitude

All-Inclusive Tiya-Adadi Mariam Full-Day City Tour

Total: \$ 576 (individual price)

\*Group of 2: \$ 432 per person

\*Group of 3: \$ 388 per person

\*Group of 4-9: \$ 349per person

\*Group of 10 or more: \$ 288 per person

From 25% to 50% discount for group tours