

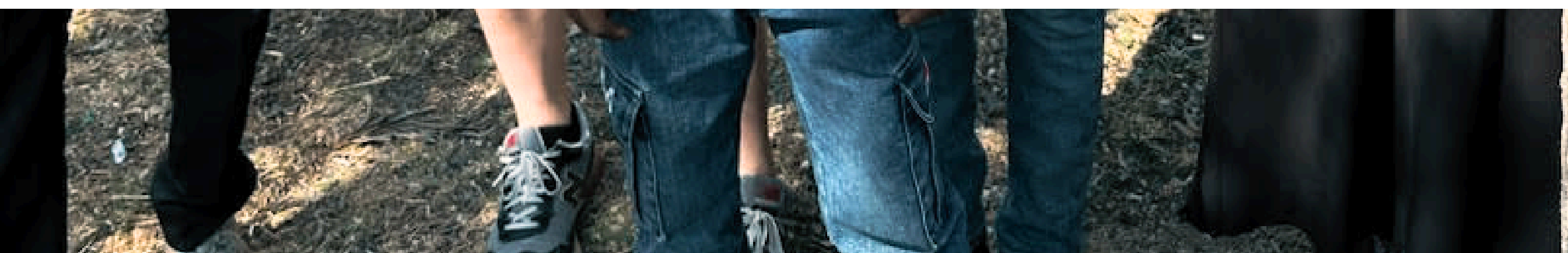
ETHiOPIA



**ACTS OF
WISDOM**



**VOLUNTEER &
EXPLORE ETHIOPIA**





HOW IT STARTED:

In 2013, our founder, Brad Otto, embarked on a mission with his home church to build water wells and address the water crisis in Ethiopia. During a visit to an open-air market, a brother and sister approached him with a simple request. As Brad didn't speak Amharic, he turned to the group's guide, Yohannes, to understand their plea. To his surprise, they were asking for a pen—just a pen so they could do their homework.

This humble request for a basic tool, rather than money or food, profoundly impacted Brad. It underscored the vital role of education in providing hope and a pathway out of poverty. Education is one of the top three factors that can help lift individuals out of poverty, yet 145 million children worldwide lack access to it. Even those who can attend school often face severe shortages in essential resources like water, books, stationery, adequate facilities, and teaching aids.

Since 2014, Acts of Wisdom has been dedicated to addressing these needs in schools across Ethiopia, Liberia, and Uganda. We all seek to make a difference, and we believe that focusing on education offers the most significant impact. By nurturing important social connections through education, we can create lasting positive change, fostering love, care, and a better world. Peace begins with education.

WHAT WE DO:

Acts of Wisdom's primary goal is to make the schools we serve some of the top schools in their areas. And we are doing that. From providing school books, and school supplies, expanding classrooms, building libraries, and ensuring the teachers have the proper materials to teach.

Acts of Wisdom has brought down dropout rates **from 35% to .9%**, and our schools are at the top when it comes to students' performance.

In our programs we make sure all of our students have not only their school supplies, but also nutritious meals.

For our girls who represent 60% of our student population we also offer them a place to stay while on their periods, a place where they feel safe, they have access to sanitary products, and can stay on a clean environment and most importantly are able to continue their education with no interruptions.

REQUIREMENTS

A passport that's valid for more than 6 months.

Valid travel VISA.

Yellow fever vaccination card, and all travel recommended vaccines. Please see the CDC website for the latest recommendations.

Open heart and flexibility to adapt while volunteering.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Your travel fees helps us cover the cost of daily transportation, airfare, accommodations, breakfast and dinner, park entrance fees, and tips to support our tour guides and translators.

Please note that Acts of wisdom is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. The program fees for this trip do not generate direct financial contributions to the organization.

Aside from your normal packing essentials we recommend:

- Lightweight, breathable clothing: Preferably cotton or moisture-wicking fabric, Ethiopia has a tropical climate, so expect hot and humid weather.
- Rain gear: compact umbrella or lightweight rain jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes and sandals : For exploring cities and rural areas.
- Wide-brim hat or cap: For sun protection.
- Universal travel adapter: Ethiopia uses Type A, B, or C plugs with 120V/60Hz power.
- Reusable water bottle with filter.

Good to know:

- Ethiopia is relatively conservative, so avoid overly revealing attire, especially in rural areas.
- Ethiopia has a rich linguistic diversity, our tour guide will be with us at all times, since **English is not commonly spoken**. Many indigenous languages spoken throughout the country, but you will have your tour guide with you at all times.
- Make copies of your travel documents (passport) and carry it with you, we recommend you leave your valuables in a safe place at the hotel.

WHAT TO PACK

DAY 1 - 2 TRAVELING TO ETHIOPIA

DEPARTING
JANUARY 15TH

Depart Houston to Ethiopia.
We will have a layover in London and explore the city by foot and bus.

DAY 3 - ARRIVAL IN ADDIS ABABA

ARRIVAL
(10.00- 12:00)

Transfer to the hotel.

AFTERNOON & EVENING
(18:00)

City Tour
Get to know our host family.

EXPLORE
ETHIOPIA
MARCH 6TH -
13TH

DAY 4 - FLY TO GONDAR

MORNING
(7.00 - 8.00)

Breakfast and Transfer for the flight to Gondar.

AFTERNOON & EVENING
(18:00)

Check in at Goha hotel
Sightseeing of the Royal enclosure
Attend the eve of **Timket Festival**
Back to the hotel for the night

DAY 5 - TIMKET FESTIVAL

MORNING
(7.00 - 8.00)

Breakfast.

AFTERNOON & EVENING
(18:00)

On this day you attend one of the most colorful open air festivals in Ethiopia; Timket (commemorating the baptism of Christ)

DAY 6 - DRIVE OUT TO OUR PROJECT SITES

MORNING

(7.00 - 8.00)

Breakfast at the hotel

VOLUNTEER

(8.00 - 12.00)

Drive to KolaDiba and visit the project sites and volunteer with the kids.

EVENING

(17.00 - 19.00)

Dinner

DAY 7 - VOLUNTEERING AT THE SCHOOL

MORNING

(7.00 - 8.00)

Breakfast at the hotel

VOLUNTEER

(8.00 - 12.00)

Drive to KolaDiba and visit the project sites and volunteer with the kids.

EVENING

(17.00 - 19.00)

Dinner

DAY 8 - DAY TRIP TO SIMEN MOUNTAINS

MORNING

(7.00 - 8.00)

Breakfast at the hotel.

TOUR

(8.00 - 19.00)

We drive to the majestic mountains of Simein and enjoy the natural beauty of the area; which includes hike around the park and appreciate the spectacular landscape of the park; try to spot the endemic Gelada monkeys and many other flora and fauna.

DAY 9 - FLY TO LALIBELA

MORNING

(7.00 - 8.00)

Breakfast at the hotel.

TOUR

(8.00 - 19.00)

In the morning of this day fly to Lalibela - an ancient Christian settlement where there are marvelous rock hewn churches of- visit these wonderful Christian shrines and active churches.

DAY 10 - EXPLORE LALIBELA

MORNING
(7.00 - 8.00)

Breakfast at the hotel

TOUR
(8.00 - 19.00)

An excursion a monastery of Yimrehane Kirostos - a built up cave church known for its unique architectural designs and beautiful internal structures, sightseeing of the local town.

Attend a coffee ceremony and other traditional activities in one of the local houses.

DAY 11 - FLY TO ADDIS ABABA AND BACK TO THE USA

MORNING
(7.00 - 8.00)

On arrival in Addis there will be time for shopping and to explore sites which are not visited in your first day.

AFTERNOON
(16.00 - 19.00)

More time with family and early farewell dinner before you transfer out to the airport for the international flight back home.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Do I need a visa to travel to Ethiopia?

Yes, U.S. citizens are required to obtain a visa to enter Ethiopia. You'll need a **valid passport (with at least six months of validity beyond your travel dates)**, a completed visa application, a recent passport photo, and a copy of your travel itinerary. **Processing times vary, please note that you have to physically send your passport to your local embassy or consulate office.**

2. What vaccinations are required before traveling to Ethiopia?

The Yellow Fever vaccination is mandatory for all travelers entering Ethiopia, please check the CDC for the most updated recommendation on vaccines.

Other recommended vaccinations include: Hepatitis A and B, and you should also consider taking anti-malaria medication and bring mosquito repellent to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses.

3. How long is the flight from the U.S. to Ethiopia, and what is the best way to get there?

The total flight time from the U.S. to Ethiopia depends on your departure city and layovers. The journey typically takes 15-20 hours.

4. What currency is used in Ethiopia, and should I exchange money before arriving?

We will help you exchange money once we arrive in the country.

5. What are the key health and safety tips for traveling to Ethiopia?

Health: Drink only bottled or filtered water, and avoid ice or uncooked foods that may have been washed in unclean water.

Safety: Ethiopia is generally safe for travelers, but petty theft can occur. Keep your belongings secure, and with you at all times and avoid walking alone at night, especially in unfamiliar areas.

TRAVEL FEES \$3,300

Please note that the cost is calculated on double occupancy. Your Travel Fees helps us cover the cost of:

- Airfare based on prices departing from Houston, TX
- Tour guide, translators, and park entrance fees.
- Cost of local transportation and gratuity fees for our drivers.
- Hotel Accommodation with breakfast, and lunch at the school when volunteering.

What's not included:

- Souvenirs and dinners.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- London transportation and meals.



Acts of wisdom is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. The program fees described above do not generate direct financial contributions to the organization, and are used to cover 90% of this program.

FROM OUR FOUNDER. BRAD OTTO

As the founder of Acts of Wisdom, I want to personally thank you for taking the time to learn more about our mission and the work we are doing across Africa. Your visit means more than words can express—not only to me but to the children, families, and communities we serve.

It is no small thing to give your time and energy to come all the way here, to walk alongside us, and to see firsthand the impact of the work we do. Meeting the children in our programs, hearing their laughter, and witnessing their determination to learn and grow is something I hope stays with you as it does with me every day.

I hope you leave with a heart full of joy, unforgettable memories, and a deeper connection to the power of education in transforming lives. From the vibrant classrooms to the eager smiles of our students, every corner of this journey tells the story of resilience, hope, and the belief that education can and does change everything.

As you return home, I ask you to help us share these stories. Spread the word about the incredible potential these children hold and the urgent need to support their dreams. Together, we can inspire more people to join us in building a brighter future through education.

From all of us at Acts of Wisdom, thank you for being part of this journey. Your presence here, your compassion, and your willingness to engage mean the world to us. We are truly grateful for your support and hope to welcome you back one day to witness how your encouragement and advocacy continue to shape lives.

With gratitude and blessings,

Brad Otto
Founder, Acts of Wisdom

THANK YOU!



Well Come
to ACTS OF
WISDOM

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