

DISCOVERY TEAM | ETHIOPIA

This 2-week Discovery Team experience is designed to help you understand and experience Ethiopia through the lens of the poor, the church, and those committed to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Participating in a Discovery Team provides you with the opportunity to witness first-hand the programs you support and understand how as a result of Tearfund's projects, families and entire communities are being transformed.



Past discovery team participants have found that a trip can be incredibly influential in how they think about and engage with the world, as it promises to be life-changing.

Why Should I Participate?

Participating in a Discovery Team provides you with the opportunity to discover your impact as a supporter of Tearfund Canada's international work. It helps to shape your understanding of the need and experience for yourself how your financial support is used to empower people across the world.

Over the course of the 2 weeks, Discovery Team members will visit several communities in Ethiopia to meet farmers, church leaders and members of self-help and savings groups. You will learn about the importance of conservation agriculture and savings groups, and the impact that these programs have on entire communities. Participants will learn how church and community transformation really works; how God is using it to transform entire communities!

Meeting the people you support and building relationships with national partners helps you to put names and faces to beneficiaries - promoting a dignified view of those in need.

Discovery Team experiences are inspiring and often evoke a passion for the world and your involvement in it. Upon returning, we encourage you to share your stories and experiences with your family, friends, churches and co-workers!



As a past Discovery Team participant remarked
"I would love to see more supporters participate in a discovery trip. I would want other donors to know that Tearfund impacts lives where the need is greatest."

What Should I Expect?

<p>The Discovery Team Experience:</p>	<p>During a Discovery Team trip, we seek to ensure that each participant has opportunities to learn, grow and become better equipped in their understanding of Tearfund Canada’s work. This experience is designed to provide participants with a deeper understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development projects and programs • The communities and individuals we support • The problems and challenges unique to the country and context • The impact and transformation occurring as a result of our programming • Ethiopian lifestyle and culture • How God is working in the lives of individuals and entire communities
<p>Team Size:</p>	<p>6 - 10 Team Members Teams will be led by senior Tearfund staff members</p>
<p>Trip Length:</p>	<p>Approximately 10 days, typically in February or July.</p>
<p>Ministry Opportunities:</p>	<p>This is designed as a learning experience, not a ministry or service experience. However, there may be opportunities to share and minister among our Ethiopian brothers and sisters. Please be prepared for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One 3 to 10 minute short devotional, testimony or explanation of a favourite Bible verse (please inform team leader if you are not comfortable sharing) • Prayer ministry for and with our Ethiopian brothers and sisters • Sharing the challenges and victories that you face in your day-to-day Christian journey
<p>Cost:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4000 all-inclusive cost. (All expenses are tax receiptable, participants may raise support) • This cost includes: airfare, accommodations, in-country food and transportation, and visas. <i>Note: immunizations and other pre-departure health costs are only included in this amount if coverage cannot be attained through the participant’s personal benefit plan.</i> The cost does not include: travel health insurance, passports, and medications (anti-malaria and dukoral)
<p>Discovery Team Highlights:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant Africa – urban and rural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experience an African market ○ Attend one or more African church worship services ○ Share meals with African leaders and families • Interaction with the Wolaita Kale Heywet Church, tribal and government leaders • Come to a deeper understanding of the different programs offered and the real impact that they have on the Ethiopian people • Sit in on a Self-Help Group meeting • Meet farmers who have embraced Conservation Agriculture and now have real hope for the future • Hear first-hand how people are breaking the cycle of poverty and transforming their lives • Potentially the opportunity to visit Lalibela, famous ancient churches cut into rock

Logistics

Where will we stay?	<p>Accommodations could include guesthouses, small hotels or the private homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will stay in at several different locations during our Ethiopia experience. Each will have mosquito nets, running water, and access to showers (possibly cold).
What will we eat?	<p>A mix of African and North American food.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are typically more cooked vegetables and less meat than the normal Canadian diet. Meat dishes will include chicken, goat, beef, or fish. Bottled or filtered water will be provided daily. Eating with hands is typical. (Hand sanitizer is recommended).
Toilets, water, internet, and cell coverage:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared washrooms, outhouses and “stopping by the side of the road” Hot water may not be available in some accommodations. Internet access is very limited and slow. Participants will not be in daily contact with home. It is possible to get a SIM card for an unlocked cell phone for cell connection in Ethiopia.
Immunizations:	<p>Immunizations are mandatory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tearfund Canada will advise you on the immunization process. You will need to visit a health clinic before leaving where you will receive immunizations for yellow fever, hepatitis, typhoid, tetanus, and an antimalarial prescription. (The travel health clinic will advise you on what immunizations are needed)
Baggage:	<p>In-country vehicles have restricted luggage space. Please pack only one suitcase and one carry on.</p>
Vehicle travel:	<p>All travel in Ethiopia is vehicle based, in Toyota Land Cruiser 4x4's. We will travel from the capital of Addis Ababa to our base in Sodo, a journey of approximately 6 hours.</p>
Daily Debriefs:	<p>Cross-cultural travel is often extremely stretching.</p> <p>Participants will have daily debriefs led by experienced team leaders to ensure maximum learning and a deeper understanding of the local cultural context.</p>
Pre-Departure Training:	<p>Pre and post-departure training is designed and delivered to encourage personal growth, spiritual development and cultural awareness. Pre-departure training will help equip participants to effectively relate cross-culturally and make a positive impact on hosts and national leaders. It will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading assignments (books and articles) Completing inventories/surveys Two 90-minute team meetings via Skype Packing and travel tips Praying for the host country and its people
Leadership:	<p>Each Discovery Team experience is unique, but it is expected that training experiences will come from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-country Lead: Bereket Tassewe – Executive Director, Terepeza Development Association Tearfund Canada Leadership: Wayne Johnson – CEO, Don Miller – Church Engagement Director

Re-entry Debrief:	2 weeks after returning from your discovery trip there will be a debriefing to ensure maximum learning. This debrief will help to ensure that new learnings are integrated into your life experience
Passports:	Participants require a valid passport that expires no earlier than December 2019. Visas are also required. Tearfund Canada will assist with visa applications.
Ticketing:	Tearfund Canada arranges all ticketing through our travel agent who specializes in African travel.
Travel insurance:	Each participant will be required to provide proof of medical travel insurance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants can be covered from an employer's benefit plan or by purchasing coverage through a bank, travel agent or credit card company.
Release / Waiver Form:	Each participant will be required to sign a Release/Waiver form.
Confirm your participation:	Please email Andrea at asherker@tearfund.ca to confirm your participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A \$250 registration fee will be required at the time of registration. This will be deducted from your total trip cost. The total payment must be received no later than 30 days prior to departure.

Sample Itinerary

Note: Each Discovery Team trip will have a unique itinerary

Day	Location/Travel Info	Agenda
1	Depart from Toronto to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	7-hour time difference from Toronto. This is a direct flight
2	Arrive Addis Ababa morning	Orientation day in Urban setting & rest
3	Travel to Wolaita Area— Town of Sodo – 6 hours via car	The Terepeza Development Association has been our partner in Ethiopia for 30 years. Each year they train over 3,500 farmers in conservation agriculture http://terepeza.org/
4	Wolaita Rural Church	Meet with pastor. Rural community orientation
5	Wolaita area	Conservation agriculture
6	Wolaita area	Land reclamation, family visit
7	Wolaita area	Farmer training through the Church
8	Wolaita area	Self-help groups – economic empowerment of women
9	Wolaita area	Community impact through church pastor training
10	Return Flight from Addis Ababa to Toronto	

If you have any questions about Discovery Teams or about the application process, please contact Andrea Sherk at asherker@tearfund.ca or 905-416-8181 ext 216

Ethiopia, Africa

Ethiopia is located in East Africa in what is commonly referred to as the Horn of Africa. It is home to over 107 million people and the majority of people rely on agriculture for their livelihood.

Ethiopia was an empire until 1974. Apart from a brief occupation by Italy under Mussolini, Ethiopia was never colonized.

A military coup in 1974 deposed of Emperor Haile Selassie and marked the beginning of a long civil conflict, peaking in the Red Terror of 1977. In May 1991, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front overthrew the socialist government, and the country has been stable since.

In the late 1990s, Ethiopia was at war with Eritrea over the demarcation of their border. In the West, Ethiopia became shorthand for the horrors of starvation during the 1984 famine, as shocking images beamed around the world and Live Aid was launched in response.

In recent years, Ethiopia has produced enough food to feed its population, but policy, conflict, poverty, lack of education and lack of infrastructure has prevented supplies reaching the people who need them. Malaria is a major health issue, as is HIV, which is made worse by gender inequality.

Lack of clean, safe water sources presents another health risk. Many water sources are unreliable, contaminated and a long way from home. There is also a lack of knowledge about the links between water and sanitation, leading to poor hygiene practices and poor health.

In Ethiopia, Tearfund Canada partners with the Terepeza Development Association, the community development arm of the Ethiopia's Wolaita Kale Heywet Church to promote Self Help Groups and Conservation Agriculture. Self-Help Groups are village-based financial cooperatives composed of 10-20 people. Through regular, very small savings contributions, each group builds up loan funds to help members exit poverty through building small businesses and accessing a loan fund to pay for emergencies and basics like school fees and health care.



Conservation agriculture is a set of soil management practices that minimize the disruption of the soil's structure, composition and natural biodiversity. Techniques include mulching, no-till cultivation, and smart crop rotation. Conservation agriculture is extremely effective, often doubling a farmer's yield and producing much more crop diversity.

Please visit our website at <https://tearfund.ca/portfolio-item/ethiopia/> for more information about our work in Ethiopia.

Additional Resources :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXxwa4BVLjA> – Ethiopian tourism video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwihu7o6YxM> – Documentary on Ethiopian History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVki9t3anJU> – Documentary on Haile Selassie

