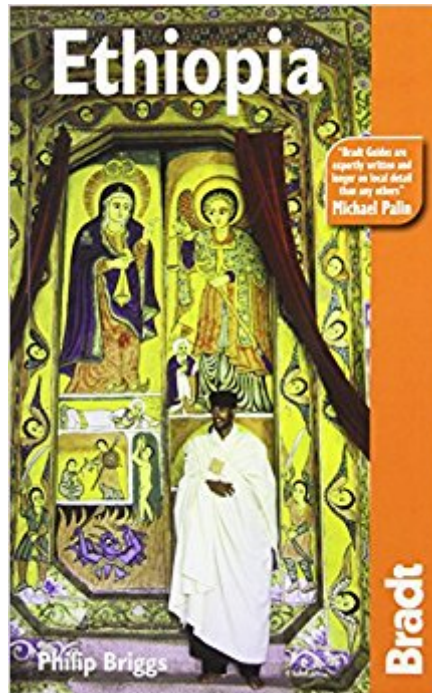




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Ethiopia, 5th (Bradt Travel Guide Ethiopia)



Synopsis

While the world taps its feet, Ethiopia breakdances with its shoulders. This is an uplifting, inspirational country which confounds expectations. It's no featureless desert but a land of majestic landscapes surrounding a vast, fertile plateau. The rock-hewn churches in its medieval capital, Lalibela, are regarded by many as the eighth wonder of the world. Its people are welcoming, proud and besotted by their own culture and history. Bradt's Ethiopia is the most thorough guide available to this country rich in culture, history and dramatic scenery, and has been highly praised by both travel press and readers. Thorough and reassuring, it provides all the practical and background information to make readers leap from their armchairs and visit this vast, magical country. The Daily Telegraph (UK)

Book Information

Series: Bradt Travel Guide Ethiopia

Paperback: 624 pages

Publisher: Bradt Travel Guides; Fifth edition (July 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1841622842

ISBN-13: 978-1841622842

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 5.3 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 73 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,913,833 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in Books > Travel > Africa > Ethiopia & Djibouti #1482 in Books > Travel > Africa > General

Customer Reviews

"The Bradt Guide has almost everything you need to read about the country's history, tourist attractions and hotels, and proves itself to be an invaluable companion while in the country." SX News "Thorough and reassuring, it provides all the practical and background information to make readers leap from their armchairs and visit this vast, magical country." The Daily Telegraph (UK) "Essential reading for anyone with the remotest interest in Ethiopia ... a complete reference book to Ethiopia as well as an excellent travel guide." Travel Africa "Highly personal and informative guidebook ... his enthusiasm is reflected in every chapter." Business in Africa "An indispensable handbook for anyone wishing to visit Ethiopia." The Guardian (UK)

In this comprehensively updated third edition of Ethiopia: The Bradt Travel Guide containing over 150 pages of new material, Philip Briggs invites you to share his sense of wonder at a country he describes as "the most welcoming, enjoyable and uplifting I have ever visited." He introduces a majestic landscape, a diverse natural history, the richest historical heritage in sub-Saharan Africa, and an exuberant and welcoming people who are "quite gloriously bonkers." Inside you'll find: where to find some of East Africa's rarest wildlife; national parks and wildlife sanctuaries; historic sites, including the rock-hewn church of Lalibela - the unofficial eighth wonder of the world - and the ancient palaces and stelae of Axum; 65 new or revised maps and town plans; places to eat and to stay. (5 1/4 x 8 1/2, 544 pages, color photos, maps, illustrations) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have spend a lot of time in Ethiopia over the last couple of years and as far as I'm concerned, this is the essential guide to Ethiopia. It's organized well - the chapters are ordered in a way for you to plan long or short itineraries around the country that really allow you to get a feel for the real Ethiopia (not that there's so much of an tourism industry that you'd miss it). It also gives great advice on hotels, restaurants and sights. I do think that there are a few shortcomings. Several of the restaurants in Addis are no longer open, and they miss a few great places. Part of this is the nature of the Addis restaurant scene, in which restaurants are constantly opening and closing. I have also found the prices to be a bit out of date - especially for hotels, but never underestimate how much the ferenji markup can be. Despite these shortcomings, the book is generally thorough, accurate, and pleasant to read. Finally, having owned several Ethiopia guide books, I can say with authority that this is by far the best. Unfortunately, Lonely Planet just hasn't gotten Ethiopia down. All in all - if you are headed to Ethiopia, this is the book you want.

I just used this guide for a whirlwind 10 day trip through Addis, Lalibela, Axum, and Gondar. Some notes:- Prices for lodging were strangely outdated for a guide published within the past few months. They were often twice the listed price, with some managers laughing when I showed them the Bradt guide. That said, quoting the Bradt price provided a decent base to begin negotiations to pay something above the Bradt price but still reasonable.- Separate but related, more often than not the listed email for lodging listings would bounce back. Didn't matter in the end, since every place I showed up at had a room available or there was a room at another place nearby. But just a heads up that it isn't worth your time to bother.- I believe the book mentions this but really it should be put in bold capital letters: **DO NOT BUY DOMESTIC AIRLINE TICKETS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.**

They are available for a substantial discount from a travel agent in the country. Google one and call them (I used Airlink) instead of booking through Orbitz, Kayak, etc. A one way flight from Addis to Lalibela was \$170 on Kayak. Tickets from Addis to Lalibela to Axum to Gondar to Addis was \$220 TOTAL through the travel agent.- In the write-up for every airport is the notice that flights on Ethiopian Air must be confirmed the day before at an Ethiopian Air office. This is simply not true. They issue the same e-tickets you are used to booking anywhere else and do not need any special confirmation.- Lalibela: The need for a tour guide was oversold. The book makes it seem like one is necessary, to ward off throngs of children if nothing else, but I roamed peacefully and had a great time. Also note the price for the churches increased recently from the \$21 listed in the book to \$50. But the ticket is good for four days, and if you ask around I bet you'll find someone with a day or two left willing to sell at a discount. Lastly, Lalibela Hotel was an excellent place to stay, even better than the good description in the book.- Addis: The book makes no mention of the fact that the Bolo Hotel is located next to a club that plays loud music until 5am. Unless you plan to be one of those dancing the night away I would choose somewhere else.Overall the book served me well. I bought the Kindle edition because I didn't have time to receive the guide in the mail. It was nice to save on baggage weight, but flipping back and forth to maps was a bit of a chore. Making bookmarks helped, but you still have to zoom and pan constantly.

I used this guidebook during a month trip throughout Ethiopia in late 2015 and was for the most part very happy with it. I did the northern historical loop, spent time in Addis, and also traveled south to Arba Minch and South Omo region. Philip Briggs writes in an entertaining way, and I definitely became accustomed to his "voice" as I dug deeper into the book. I found the maps in this guide very good, and very intuitive. Landmarks noted on city maps just made SENSE, and made them easy to navigate. Plus, I found that the maps and hotel references were still reasonably up to date - which can be a major failing of some other guidebooks. A note: those accustomed to using Lonely Planet guides may need a bit of adjustment time to get used to using this guidebook, as it's not laid out in the same way. Important information is sometimes buried a bit in narrative sections of the book. Best practices of using this book involve actually **READING** it, rather than just strictly **REFERENCING** it. There's a lot of useful information in here but you have to find it in unlikely places/pages at times. All and all, recommended.

This has been around for awhile and there's a new one due out soon, though this one was great for our trip this past summer. Not that much changes very quickly in Ethiopia. The stories about places

were useful and helped us to plan our time in the country. I normally use trip advisor when we travel, but with internet not easily available in Ethiopia, it was necessary to have a book to take with us for reference to restaurants and hotels. In most cases, the writers had given some choices for places and I just confirmed whether we'd stay or eat there by checking up to date reviews when we did have internet. It was also helpful that he let us know that there were some places being built or would be available by the time it went to press so we looked for those. I'll warn you there aren't a lot of photos, like I'm used to with DK Eyewitness guides, but there is plenty of "meat" in the written words. I used the maps on my iPhone as we went around the cities. You can just snap a photo and refer to it when you are walking. If you're going to Ethiopia, I'd recommend this book for travel information as well as cultural briefings.

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