Dear Travelers!

We invite you to join us as we discover the unique history, mountains, rock-hewn churches, and natural world of Ethiopia!

A bonus will be seeing the Annular Solar Eclipse on June 21, 2020 at the renowned World Heritage Site of Lalibela. We will also see the headwaters of the Nile at Lake Tana, and the Blue Nile Falls.

To really explore Ethiopia, we will have long drives through spectacular mountainous terrain from Lake Tana to the ancient capital of Gondar, Axum (renowned for its 2,000-year-old stelae), and to the amazing rock-hewn churches at Lalibela.

We will relish the natural world at 10,000 feet in the Simien Mountains, with breathtaking views across Ethiopia and troops of gelada monkeys grazing around us. With luck, we might see an Ethiopian wolf.

Ethiopia is the highest country in Africa. The fascinating mountainous countryside will be intriguing and breathtaking. We will travel from Addis Ababa at 7,700 feet to Lake Tana at 6,000 feet, and then to Axum and Gondar at 7,000 feet, Lalibela at 8,500 feet.

The trip will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the cultural heritage of the ancient Ethiopian kingdom and its religious heritage.

Please join us for an amazing adventure!

Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
For AAAS Travels & Sigma Xi Expeditions
Days 1/2  USA to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Depart from Washington Dulles International Airport at 11 am on a nonstop flight to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, arriving in the morning on Day 2. Check in at the Golden Tulip Hotel and then have a day of discovery of Addis Ababa. See the Cathedral and Ethnographic Museum, for a great introduction to Ethiopian culture and history. Welcome dinner.

Day 3  Bahir Dar & Lake Tana  
Source of the Blue Nile
We will fly from Addis to Bahir Dar and Kuriftu Resort (2 nights) on Lake Tana this morning. Lake Tana is 6,000 feet above sea level and is the headwaters for the Blue Nile (Abbay) River. The source for the White Nile is in Uganda, and the rivers meet in Sudan to form the Nile which flows through Egypt. We'll have a boat trip on Lake Tana and learn about the ancient monasteries on the islands.

Day 4  Bahir Dar - Blue Nile Falls
We will learn more about the origin of the Nile River on our excursion to the Blue Nile Falls this morning. It is known locally as Abbay or “Great Smoke”. The Falls are modest in the dry season, and up to 400 m wide in the rainy season! The Falls have isolated Lake Tana from the rest of the Nile River, creating a unique ecology and endemic fauna in the lake. The river flows from Lake Tana with a series of rapids and thunders down a deep gorge, which until recently was never navigated by anyone.

Day 5  Historic castles in Gondar  
World Heritage Site
We’ll drive this morning to Gondar, and will tour the Royal Enclosure, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring five castles built by a succession of Ethiopian kings, beginning in the early 17th century. The castles have survived several wars, including air raids during World War II, and are a testament to the resilience of this once mighty African empire. New Goha Hotel.

Day 6  Simien Mountains National Park  
World Heritage Site
Today we will drive to the gateway of Simien Mountains National Park, and take a 2 to 3 hour hike in the extraordinary landscape of the park. We'll look for the endemic gelada monkeys which populate the Simiens and will stay at Simien Lodge, spectacularly situated at 10,000 feet overlooking the vast mountain landscapes of Ethiopia.

Day 7/8  Historic Axum, World Heritage Site
We’ll take a spectacular drive to Axum (Aksum), historic capital of the ancient Axumite Empire, with frequent stops at viewpoints along the way. Axum ruled the region from about 400 BCE until the 10th century and is known for the many tall obelisks found there. On Day 8 we will tour the stelae fields, which have been standing for 2,000 years. Also explore the Archaeological Museum and see St. Mary Tsion Church which houses the Ark of the Covenant. Sabean Hotel (2 nights).

Day 9  Gheralta & Yeha,  
Ancient Moon Temple
We’ll have a drive to Gheralta Lodge today, passing the Adwa battlefield, site of Emperor Menelik II’s 1895 victory over the invading Italians. Visit the 2,500 year old ruins of Yeha, an ancient moon temple.

Day 10  Tigray’s Ancient  
Rock-Hewn Churches
Today we will visit more of Tigray’s remote and ancient rock-hewn churches: Abraha Atsbeha, from the
Discover Ethiopia and the Annular Solar Eclipse, June 9-23, 2020, offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve ______ space(s).

As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for $_________ ($500 per person) plus $_________ ($500 per person for the Omo Valley Extension, June 22-30, 2020), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) ____________________________________________ Age _______

__________________________ Age _______

Address __________________________________________

City __________________ State ______ Zip ___________

Phone: Home (______) _____________________________

Work (______) _____________________________

Email Address ____________________________________________________

Membership (please circle): AAS Sigma Xi ACS The Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference: __ Twin __ Single __ Twin Share with a friend or __ assign a roommate __ Nonsmoker __ Smoker

Signature __________________________________________ Date ___________

Signature __________________________________________ Date ___________

Please Mail To: Ethiopia 2020

Betchart Expeditions Inc.

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435.
Discover Ethiopia
The Source of the Blue Nile
with the Annular Solar Eclipse June 21
June 9-23, 2020

Fasil Ghebbi Castle

Gelada monkeys, Simien Mtns

Ethiopian wolf, Simien Mtns