**Fieldwork Risk Assessment (High Risk Activities)**

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| **Fieldwork Project Details** |
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| FacultySchool/Service | Earth and Environment |
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| Location of Fieldwork | Afar region of Ethiopia |
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| Brief description of Fieldwork activity and purpose*(include address, area, grid reference and map where applicable)* | In January 2012 the Afar Rift Consortium (ARC) is organising a conference in Addis Ababa to mark the end of its 5 year program of activities in Ethiopia. As part of the conference, we are running 3 field trips to different geological sites within Ethiopia. This Risk Assessment covers the Afar and Erta Ale fieldtrip, which will run from 14-22 January 2012. A full itinerary for the field trip is here:http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/afar/new-afar/conference/erta-ale-fieldtrip.htmlThe field trip logistics are being run by the Ethio-der tour company, with whom ARC has a long-standing working relationship. Local scientists are involved in the organisation of the conference. |
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| Fieldwork itinerary*e.g. flight details, hotel address* | Day 1 (14 January 2012): Addis Ababa - AwashAccommodation in guest house in Awash national park.Day 2: Awash - SemeraAccommodation for the night in the Afar regional capital of Semera.Day 3: Semera - AfderaAccommodation the night in the salt mining town of Afdera.  Day 4: Afdera - Kuso Wad - Erta 'Ale base campOff-road driving begins.Accommodation in camp at base of Erte Ale volcano in Kuso Wad village.Day 5: Climb Erte 'AleA hike (3-4 hours) up the volcano accompanied by a camel caravan. Accommodation is provided in simple shelters at Erte 'Ale summit.Day 6: Descend Erte 'Ale - Drive to Ahmed ElaWalk back to the base camp. Accommodation at Ahmed Ala, a small salt mining town on the edge of Dallol.Day 7: Dallol volcano & Salt caravansA full day at Dallol.Second night at Ahmed Ela.Day 8: Drive to MekeleDrive up out of the depression (on a good gravel road)Hotel accommodation in Mekele.Day 9: Fly back to Addis AbabaIndividual extensions can be arranged with the tour company, but this tour ends with a domestic flight back to Addis Ababa.This is an outline of the planned route for the fieldtrip. Whilst we will endeavour to keep to this itinerary it is possible details may need to change. The exact itinerary will be finalized nearer the departure date. |
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| **Organiser Details** | **Contact details***Name, Email, Telephone* |
| Fieldwork Activity Organiser / Course Leader | Charlotte Vye, British Geological SurveyAsfowossen Asrat, Addis Ababa University |
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| Departmental Co-ordinator | Tim Wright, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds |
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| Nature of visit*Size of Group, lone working, staff, postgraduate, undergraduate* | The field trip will be open for a maximum of 30 participants. These will be academics and other interested parties (from industry etc) from all over the world. |
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| **Participant Details***Attach information as separate list if required* | **Contact details***Name, Address, email, telephone, Next of Kin contact details* |
|  | Details to be confirmed after registration closes on 1 November 2011 |
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| **HAZARD IDENTICATION*****Identify all hazards specific to fieldwork trip and activities, describe existing control measures and identify any further measures required.*** |
| **HAZARD(S) IDENTIFIED** | **CONTROL MEASURES** ***(e.g. alternative work methods, training, supervision, protective equipment)*** |
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| **Nature of the site***School, college, university, remote area, laboratory, office, workshop, construction site, farm, etc* |  | A full itinerary is appended. For each day of the trip, a list of the nearest medical facilities is provided, along with their contact details. |
| A variety of geological sites will be visited. These include the active lava lake at Erta Ale volcano, and the Dallol geothermal area, as well as selected other sites en route. A full list of sites is appended. |
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| **Environmental conditions***Extremes of temperature, altitude, exposure to sunlight, potential weather conditions, tidal condition etc* |  | All participants must be made aware of the heat and strong sun. Participants will be sent a kit list before departure and will not be allowed to join the trip if they do not have appropriate clothing and sufficient HPF cream to protect from the sun.We mitigate the risk of extreme heat and high sunlight by:* ensuring that plenty of bottled drinking water is available for the party to drink (6 litres / day /person minimum)
* ensuring plenty of HPF sun cream is applied regularly
* ensuring appropriate clothing is worn (broad-brimmed hats, sun glasses, long sleeved t-shirts, long trousers, neck scarf.)
* using rehydration salts on days where the temperatures have been high.
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| 1. Extreme heat. Temperatures can reach mid-40s in the summer.2. High levels of sunlight. |
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| **Site specific conditions***e.g. cliffs, screes, bogs, featureless landscapes, local endemic infectious diseases, zoonoses etc* |  | Details of individual sites are appended. Some specific mitigation measures are:1. Steep slopes/cliff edgesThe field trip leaders will make participants aware of the potential dangers of specific sites, including steep drops.2. Difficult underfoot conditionsFor the long walk to Erta Ale, the ground is rough and can be unstable. Solid footwear is essential. All participants will be instructed to bring good strong walking boots for the trip. The walk will be undertaken during daylight hours to ensure that the path can be seen clearly.3. Volcanic or geothermal hazardsThe field trip leaders will make participants aware of potential dangers from geothermal or volcanic sites. At the lava lake, care must be taken to stay upwind of the lava to avoid noxious fumes. At geothermal sites, leaders will make participants aware of the dangers of extreme heat and noxious gases.4. Roadside geology stopsSome stops will be near roads. It is the responsibility of the field trip leaders to ensure that the party stops at safe locations and is alerted to the road hazard.5. AnimalsScorpions are fairly common. Snakes are rare, and scared of human contact. Rocks will be kicked over rather than using hands. In the case of a bite, identifying features of the snake will be noted, and a phone call will be made for advice. Larger wild animals (hyenas, leopards, ostriches) may also be encountered (although this is very unlikely). Crocodiles are potentially present at one site. These animals are likely to be scared of human contact, and so making loud noises should discourage dangerous encounters. |
| Details of specific sites are appended. There will be some long walks, particularly the hike to Erta Ale volcano. This can be difficult underfoot, and also challenging because of the potentially extreme heat. Some sites have steep slopes or are difficult underfoot. Some sites have hazardous geological features. Some stops will be near dangerous roads. Dangerous animals including poisonous snakes are present, although rare. |  |
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| **Process***Operating machinery, electrical equipment, driving vehicles, handling or working with animals etc* |  |  |
| n/a |
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| **Transport***Mode of transport while on site, to and from site, carriage of dangerous goods etc* |  | Transport will be by 4x4 vehicles rented through the Ethio-der tour company. Each vehicle comes with a reliable and responsible driver. The vehicles will be checked by the field trip leaders before departure to ensure that they of adequate standards. In particular, they will ensure the availability of seat belts for all passengers, decent quality tyres, and a good spare tyre. The party will travel in convoy. To minimise the risk of accident, drivers will be instructed to not drive for more than 3 hours without a break. They will be instructed not to exceed the 80 km/h speed limit and only to drive during the hours of daylight. |
| Ethiopian roads and driving standards are generally poor. The route will include busy city and inter-city routes, as well as remote off-road routes. There will be some long drives (see appendix).  |
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| **Equipment***manual handling risks, operation**of machinery, tools, use of specialist equipment etc* |  |  |
| n/a |
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| **Violence***potential for violence (previous incidents etc)* |  | We could not carry out this work without the full support of the Ethiopian and Afar governments. The local tribes-people have also been very supportive of our work. Nevertheless, a potential threat remains, as highlighted in the UK FCO travel advice (see left). Specifically, in the past there have been rare incidents of land mines and kidnapping. In addition, almost every male Afari carries an AK47 automatic weapon, which of course adds to the risk.We will take several steps to mitigate this risk. (1) Before the field trip, our local collaborators in Addis Ababa will be in regular contact with the Afar Regional Authority. They will advise of any local difficulties (e.g. fighting between rival tribes) that may make our work impossible. On at least 2 occasions in the past we have had to change our field plans because some areas are temporarily out of bounds. In both of these cases, we have been notified by the Afar administration with whom we have a good working relationship, via our local collaborators in Addis Ababa University.(2) We will be accompanied by armed police guard from the regional government office in Semara for the part of the route that is within the FCO travel advisory zone (days 3-8). We will have one police guard per vehicle. The guards also act as translators and are well known by the local communities that we visit. They will accompany us at all times, advise on safety of our plans, and be able to respond to any situations that arise. (3) For the Dallol site, which is closest to the Eritrean border, we will employ additional guards from the local military camp at Ahmed Ela. The numbers required will depend on local advice from the military camp. |
| The UK FCO currently advises against all travel within the Danakil desert area bounded by the Dessie-Adigrat road; the Dessie-Djibouti road: http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopiaThis is largely due to the potential for violence or abduction by local separatist groups.Specifically they say:“The Danakil desert: We advise against all travel to the Danakil desert bounded by the Dessie-Adigrat road, the Dessie-Djibouti road and the Ethiopian-Eritrean border. Police in the Afar Regional State confirmed that on Sunday, 08 May 2011 a truck that belonging to the Regional government hit a landmine at Kurri (aka: Korri) district, Zone 1 of the Afar Region. No causalities reported except damage on the truck. A number of landmines exploded in the Danakil in April 2009, including on the road between Afdera and Logia. A tourist vehicle travelling to Erta Ale (the active volcano) hit a landmine on 15 April 2009, killing two Ethiopians and injuring a foreign tourist.On 1 March 2007, a group of western tourists and their tour guides were abducted by an armed group near Lake Asele in the Danakil Depression region in North Eastern Ethiopia. Five of those abducted were released on 13 March. The others were released on 23 April 2007. On 20 February 2008 the Ethiopian government reported that the police had foiled the attempted kidnap of a group of foreign tourists travelling in the region.”Note: this advice has been in force since the incident in March 2007. Prior to that, the rule was similar to that of the US Government, which has restrictions as follows: “Travel is therefore restricted within 30 miles of the Eritrean border west of Adigrat to the Sudanese border, with the exception of the town of Axum, and within 60 miles of the border east of Adigrat to the Djiboutian border.” |
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| **Individual(s)***medical condition(s), young, inexperienced, disabilities etc* |  | To mitigate against potential medical issues, each participant will be given a list of medication that they are expected to bring with them (see appendix). They will be required to fill in a medical form, notifying us of any medical conditions.  |
| We do not at this stage know who will be on the field trip. Each participant is required to advise us on any specific medical conditions that may be relevant from a risk perspective. We reserve the right to refuse to take individuals if they are not deemed suitably fit for the trip. |
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| **Work Pattern***time and location e.g. shift work, work at night* |  | This work pattern does not introduce any particular additional concerns. |
| Most days will consist of elements of driving and geolocial stops.  |
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| **Permissions Required***Contact details, restrictions and details of permissions* |  | The Ethioder tour company will obtain all relevant permissions. They require details of all participants by mid-November 2011. |
| **Permissions are required to travel in the Afar region.**  |
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| **Other Specific Risk Assessments***e.g. COSHH, Manual Handling, Lone Working if so what is identified in these assessments? Are there training requirements? (cross reference where appropriate)* |  | n/a |
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| **Health Questionnaire Completed***Is it required and has it been completed, who by and where is it recorded* |  | **Each participant will be required to complete a health questionnaire before departure.** |
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| **Health Surveillance Required***Is it required and has it been completed, who by and recorded* |  | n/a |
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| **Vaccinations Required***Obtained and certificate where applicable* |  | Participants are advised to check with their local doctors before departure as to the exact vaccinations required. UK Primary recommended immunisations the following need considering:Yellow feverRabiesMeningococcalHepatitis BMalaria is endemic in parts of Afar and the Ethiopian Rift Valley. All participants are instructed to take anti-malarial drugs, and to use insect repellent with high percentage of DEET to avoid being bitten. Suffering from diarrhoea is also reasonably. There is cholera reported on occasions. This will be treated by rehydration, and by use of antibiotics if symptoms do not diminish after 24 hours. It will be prevented by ensuring that food is thoroughly cooked, and that antibacterial soap/hand wash is used regularly. |
| A range of diseases are endemic within Ethiopia.  |
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| **First Aid Provision***Requirement for first aid or specialist first aid equipment, access to medical equipment and hospitals* |  |  For each day of the trip, the nearest medical facilities have been identified (see appendix). In the remotest part of the region, a medical clinic at the BHPBilliton camp can be used in emergencies, and from there a rapid evacuation by plane can be summoned. To mitigate against other possible problems, two members of the party will be trained in expedition-level first aid. These members will travel in separate vehicles.All participants will be required to show evidence that their insurance enables them to be evacuated from the region and country. |
| Medical provision is of an extremely poor standard, with the only good clinics being in Addis Ababa. At times the party may be 12 hours from professional medical care |
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| **Additional Supporting Information** |
| **Pre-departure Briefing***Carried out and attended* |  | A full pre-departure briefing will be held in Addis Ababa. |
| **Training***Identify level and extent of information; instruction and training required consider experience of workers, details of relevant training* |  | Two members of the party will require training in expedition-level first aid. |
| First aid training required |
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| **FCO advice***Include current FCO advice for travel to the area where applicable* |  | Sub Saharan Africa

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| Ethiopia | Flag of Ethiopia |
| Still current at: 09 December 2011 Updated: 17 November 2011  |

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| No restrictions in this travel advice | Avoid all but essential travel to part(s) of country | Avoid all but essential travel to whole country | Avoid all travel to part(s) of country | Avoid all travel to whole country |

This advice has been reviewed and reissued without amendment. The overall level of the advice has not changed; we continue to advise against all travel to specific areas of Ethiopia and against all but essential travel to Jijiga town.[*(see travel advice legal disclaimer)*](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/disclaimer) *http://www.fco.gov.uk/content/en/travel-advice/sub-sahara-africa/ethiopia/669461282*Travel advice for this country* [Travel Summary](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#travelSummary)
* [Safety and security](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#safetySecurity)
* [Local laws and customs](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#lawsCustoms)
* [Entry requirements](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#entryRequirements)
* [Health](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#health)
* [General](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#general)

  Travel Summary[(back to top)](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia) * **We advise against all travel to:- within 10 km of the border areas with Eritrea, with the exception of the main road through Axum and Adigrat, and tourist sites close to the road (e.g. Debre Damo and Yeha- areas off the principal roads/towns within 10 kms of the borders with Sudan and Kenya- the Fik, Degehabur, Gode, Korahe and Warder zones of the Somali region where rebels groups are active and the situation remains volatile- within 10km of the Somalia border, except for the Jijjga and Shinile districts of the Somali region- the Danakil desert area bounded by the Dessie-Adigrat road; the Dessie-Djibouti road- the Gambella region outside of Gambella town itselfFor further details on the above recommendations, please see Safety and Security -** [**Terrorism/Security**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#terrorism)**and Safety and Security -** [**Local Travel.**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#localtravel)
* **We advise against crossing the Ethiopia/Somalia or Somaliland border by road.**
* **We advise against all but essential travel to Jijiga town. See Safety and Security -** [**Terrorism/Security**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#terrorism)**and Safety and Security -** [**Local Travel**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#localtravel) **(North & East Ethiopia).**
* **There is generally a low level of crime but you should avoid any large gatherings and public demonstrations, both in Addis Ababa and in regional cities and towns. Visitors should be aware that very large crowds are common in cities and towns across Ethiopia on key national and religious dates, and should remain particularly vigilant.  Pick pocketing is the main crime risk at such events. Claustrophobia may also affect some people.  Specific dates of key national and religious events you should be aware of are listed below - please see the** [**Terrorism/Security**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#terrorism) **section.**
* **The Ethiopia-Eritrea border remains closed. Several security incidents have taken place along the border. The risk of cross-border tensions increasing and the security situation deteriorating very rapidly continues.**
* **There is a general threat from** [**terrorism**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#terrorism)**in Ethiopia; attacks could be indiscriminate including places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers** **.**
* **If you wish to enter Ethiopia from Sudan in your own vehicles see Entry Requirements - Road Travel from Sudan into Ethiopia.**
* **Around20,000 people visited Ethiopia in the period 01 April 2010 - 31 March 2011. See General -** [**Consular Assistance Statistics.**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#consularassistance) **Also see Safety and Security -** [**Crime.**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#crime)
* **You should take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling. See General -** [**Insurance.**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia#insurance)

Safety and security[(back to top)](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia)**Safety and Security - Terrorism/Security** There is a general threat from terrorism in Ethiopia; attacks could be indiscriminate including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. Visitors should remain vigilant at all times, especially in crowded areas and places frequented by foreigners, including hotels, restaurants and bars. There is security around all major hotels, key government offices and major Western Embassies in Addis Ababa. Security is occasionally increased around these sites, reflecting spikes in the threat. Visitors should remain vigilant at all times, especially in crowded areas (including bus stations) and places frequented by foreigners, including hotels, restaurants and bars. Increased security at the time of the AU Summit (usually every January/February) will lead to traffic congestion, including at major hotels. Visitors could also experience delays at the airport.Visitors should avoid any large gatherings and public demonstrations, both in Addis Ababa and in regional cities and towns. Visitors should be aware that very large crowds are common in cities and towns across Ethiopia on key national and religious dates, and should remain particularly vigilant. These dates include 7 January (Ethiopian Christmas); 19 January (Epiphany/”Timket”); 2 March (Victory of Adawa); 5 May (Ethiopian Patriots’ Victory Day); 28 May (Downfall of the Derg);  11 & 12 September (Ethiopian New Year); 27 September (The Finding of the True Cross/”Meskel”). The following religious events also draw very large crowds: Ethiopian Easter; Eid (End of Ramadan); Eid Al Arafa; The Birthday of the Prophet Mohammed. The specific dates of each of these events differ each year. Some may find the size of these crowds claustrophobic, especially given the fact that large numbers of people are tightly contained in a relatively small area.  Pick pocketing is a risk.* On 5 April 2010 a British national working for IMC Geophysics International in Warder Zone in the Somali region was killed when he was ambushed near to Danot town. The perpetrators of this attack are currently unknown.
* On 14 December 2009 at around 19:00 there were two explosions in separate hotels in Kebridehar. It was reported that two people were killed and nine injured. Several suspects were caught.
* On 2 November 2009 two Save the Children vehicles were stopped and burnt in the Fik zone of the Somali Region. Passengers were inconvenienced but not harmed. The perpetrators of this remain unknown.
* On 15 January 2009 there was an explosion reported at the main bus station in the Mercato Market area of western Addis Ababa. Thirty two people were reported injured.

Explosive devices, such as grenades, are readily obtainable throughout Ethiopia and are occasionally used during local disputes. There is a risk of British nationals and other foreigners becoming indiscriminately caught up in attacks. Remain extremely vigilant at all times in public places, particularly at transport hubs, and check this travel advice at regular intervals. There remains a risk of similar attacks on petrol stations.Because of ongoing military activity and lawlessness in the Somali region, we advise against all travel to the Fik, Degehabur, Gode, Korahe and Warder zones. We also advise against all but essential travel to Jijiga town, due to the risk of being caught up in local instability. We also recommend against overnight stays unless in secure accommodation. A number of incidents have taken place in the Somali region in recent years, including bombs and kidnappings in which foreigners have been caught up or targeted. The last two years, however, have seen a reduction in such incidents.There has been continuing unrest, sporadic violence, banditry and inter-tribal clashes in the West and South of the Gambella region. Although the situation is improving, it remains unpredictable and we advise against all travel outside of Gambella town.In the past, groups affiliated with terrorist organisations have also been active in other border states, including Tigray, Oromiya, and Afar.You are reminded to remain vigilant with your personal security and to exercise caution.See our [Terrorism Abroad](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe/terrorism) page.**Safety and Security - Crime** Petty theft/mugging is common particularly in the Piazza or Mercato areas of Addis Ababa and is on the increase in other areas. You should exercise particular caution when visiting crowded public places and keep valuables, particularly cameras and passports out of sight. Be aware of bag and jewellery snatching, pick-pocketing and opportunistic snatching from vehicles stopped at traffic lights in Addis Ababa. See our [Victims of Crime page.](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/crime/) **Safety and Security - Local Travel** Independent travellers should keep themselves abreast of local and international news. You should avoid driving after dark in rural areas: vehicles often have no lights and livestock may be roaming the roads. This also presents a risk to pedestrians, who should remain vigilant at all times.Travellers should be aware that Health and Safety precautions, which would be standard in the UK (eg life jackets in boats, protective railings at historical sites), are rarely in place in Ethiopia. **Safety and Security - North & East Ethiopia****The Danakil desert:** We advise against all travel to the Danakil desert bounded by the Dessie-Adigrat road, the Dessie-Djibouti road and the Ethiopian-Eritrean border.  Police in the Afar Regional State confirmed that on Sunday, 08 May 2011 a truck that belonging to the Regional government hit a landmine at Kurri (aka: Korri) district, Zone 1 of the Afar Region. No causalities reported except damage on the truck. A number of landmines exploded in the Danakil in April 2009, including on the road between Afdera and Logia. A tourist vehicle travelling to Erta Ale (the active volcano) hit a landmine on 15 April 2009, killing two Ethiopians and injuring a foreign tourist.On 1 March 2007, a group of western tourists and their tour guides were abducted by an armed group near Lake Asele in the Danakil Depression region in North Eastern Ethiopia. Five of those abducted were released on 13 March. The others were released on 23 April 2007. On 20 February 2008 the Ethiopian government reported that the police had foiled the attempted kidnap of a group of foreign tourists travelling in the region.**Tigray and Afar:** With the exception of the main roads through Axum and Adigrat,and tourist sites close to the road (e.g. Debre Damo and Yeha), we advise against all travel within 10 km of the Eritrean border in the Tigray and Afar regions. On 13 March 2009 eight people were killed and 11 seriously injured when a bomb exploded on a public bus travelling from Humera to Shire. Tensions between Ethiopia and Eritrea are high and the border remains closed. Since the relocation out of Eritrea of the UN Peacekeeping Mission (UNMEE) in March 2008, the risk of cross-border tensions increasing and the security situation deteriorating very rapidly has sharpened. Exercise extreme caution if you intend to travel on the road from Addis Ababa to Djibouti, including travelling via Asaita, due to its historically high number of road traffic accidents.**Somali Region:** We advise against crossing the Ethiopia/Somalia or Somaliland border by road. We advise against all travel to within 10km of the Somalia border, except for the Jijjga and Shinile districts of the Somali region. Since the mid-1990s, insurgent groups, some affiliated with terrorist organisations, have clashed with government forces in the Somali Region, particularly in the Ogaden. Since April 2007 there has been an increase in the violence. We advise against travel to the Fik, Degehabur, Gode, Korahe amd Warder zones of the region where rebels groups are active and the situation remains volatile. We also advise against all but essential travel to Jijiga town and recommend against overnight stays unless in secure accommodation. (See Terrorism/security section above).**Safety and Security - South & West Ethiopia** We advise against all travel to areas off the principal roads/towns within 10 kms of the areas bordering Sudan and Kenya. Along the border with Kenya cross-border banditry related to the drought in the region have increased. Armed groups hostile to the Government of Ethiopia operate in several areas near the border with Kenya.If crossing into Kenya or Sudan, keep to the main road and seek advice from local authorities about travelling in convoy. If travelling overland to Kenya via Moyale, we recommend that you also consult the [FCO Travel Advice for Kenya](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/kenya1/).**Gambella:** We continue to advise against all travel outside of Gambella town due to the risk of banditry and inter-tribal clashes in the West and South of Gambella region. The situation is improving but remains unpredictable (see Terrorism/Security section above).**Safety and Security - Local Travel - Air Travel** All airport departure taxes for international flights departing Ethiopia and for internal flights within Ethiopia are included in the price of airline tickets. See our [Airline Security](http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/airtravel/airportsecurity/) page.**Safety and Security – Local Travel - Traffic accidents:** Traffic accidents are a regular occurrence in Ethiopia and Addis Ababa specifically.  If you are involved in a traffic accident you should remain with your vehicle and call the local police.  You should avoid confrontation and await the arrival of the police to resolve the matter.**Safety and Security - Political Situation**[Ethiopia Country Profile](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia/) While the security situation is generally calm, there is a general risk of politically-motivated violence, whether in Addis Ababa or elsewhere in Ethiopia. You should avoid large public gatherings, remain vigilant in public places throughout the country (especially on national and religious days when large crowds gather) and follow local and international news. You should register with the British Embassy in Addis Ababa on arrival to help ensure our consular and crisis staff can provide better assistance to you in an emergency. See Consular Registration below. Local laws and customs[(back to top)](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia)The Ethiopian Highlands are predominantly Orthodox Christian with ‘fasting’ each Wednesday, Friday and during Lent when only vegetarian dishes are available (except in larger hotels). The Julian calendar is used and the current year is 2002. Christmas is celebrated on 7 January and New Year on 11 September. Some Ethiopians set their clocks from dawn to dusk and there is a six-hour difference between Ethiopian time and Western time i.e. 6 o’clock can mean 12 o’clock.  So take care when making appointments.   There is a large Muslim population and generally Ethiopians dress in a conservative manner. You should respect local traditions, customs, laws and religions at all times and be aware of your actions to ensure that they do not offend other cultures or religious beliefs, especially during the holy month of Ramadan or if you intend to visit religious areas.  See our [Travelling During Ramadan](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/be-a-responsible-tourist/travelling-during-ramadan) page.Ethiopian antiques need an export certificate to be taken out of the country.  Major tourist outlets in Addis Ababa can offer assistance in obtaining one. Homosexual acts (applying to both sexes) are illegal, and carry penalties of between one and fifteen years imprisonment. Drug offences are treated seriously in Ethiopia. You should not become involved with drugs of any kind.Travellers should be aware that it is illegal to carry more than 200 birr when entering or departing Ethiopia.  If you are found to be carrying in excess of 200 birr when passing through immigration you may be subject to prosecution. The penalties are tough - the money will be seized and a prison sentence is possible.   Visitors to Ethiopia must declare to customs officials at their point of entry any cash in excess of $3000 (or the equivalent in other foreign currencies). This must be done by completing a customs declaration form. Travellers departing Ethiopia in possession of more than $3000 must present a bank advice notice to customs officials if the currency was purchased from a local bank. Alternatively, the traveller must present a valid customs declaration form obtained at their point of entry. Travellers should be aware, however, that a bank advice notice or customs declaration form becomes invalid if 45 days or more have elapsed since the date of issue. For more detailed information please visit: <http://www.erca.gov.et/TRAVELERSDOLLARS.pdf>.See our [Your trip](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/your-trip/) page.Entry requirements[(back to top)](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia)**Entry Requirements - Visas** British nationals require a visa to enter Ethiopia. If you are flying into Ethiopia for as a tourist you may obtain your visa on arrival at Addis Ababa (Bole) and Dire Dawa International airports. If you are arriving by other means, or at another airport, you must obtain a visa prior to arrival, even when travelling from countries without an Ethiopian Embassy or Mission. Visa applicants in the United Kingdom should contact the [Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in London](http://www.fco.gov.uk/content/en/contact/sub-sahara-africa/dl-ethiopia). Penalties for overstaying your visa can be severe (see below - Immgration Status).**Entry Requirements – Road Travel from Sudan into Ethiopia**  British nationals wishing to enter Ethiopia from Sudan in their own vehicles require a letter from the British Embassy in Addis Ababa providing details of the passengers (names, passport details) and vehicle(s) (make, model, registration number, engine and chassis numbers). They should contact the British Embassy in Addis Ababa (addis.consular@fco.gov.uk) well in advance of their journey to request a copy of the letter and provide full details of their vehicle, passengers and voyage. This letter should be presented to officials of the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority at the border.**Entry Requirements - Passport validity** You must hold a valid passport to enter Ethiopia. Your passport must be valid for the proposed duration of your stay. No additional period of validity beyond this is required. However, it is always sensible to have a short period of extra validity on your passport in case of any unforeseen delays to your departure. You do not have to wait until your old passport expires to apply to renew it. Any time left on your old passport when you apply will be added to your new passport, up to a maximum of nine months. For passport applications in the UK, you should apply to the [Identity and Passport Service](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/how-we-advise/).**Entry Requirements - Yellow Fever Certificate** Yellow Fever vaccination certificates may be required for visitors from countries where it is endemic. Visitors to Ethiopia may be required to produce a yellow fever certificate upon arrival in a third country, following a stay in Ethiopia.**Entry Requirements - Travelling with children** For information on exactly what will be required at immigration, please contact the [Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in London](http://www.fco.gov.uk/content/en/contact/sub-sahara-africa/dl-ethiopia).**Entry Requirements- Immigration status** Visitors to Ethiopia should be aware that they cannot change their immigration status once in Ethiopia.  If visitors to Ethiopia have any concerns regarding their immigration status they should contact the local immigration authorities at**Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority** P.O.Box 5741Addis AbabaEthiopiaTel: (+251-11) 1553899Fax: (+251-11) 1553209Tourist visitors to Ethiopia should be aware that they will be unable to take employment, including voluntary employment, whilst visiting Ethiopia on a tourist visa.  If visitors are caught in breach of their immigration status they may face severe fines or possible imprisonment.Health[(back to top)](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia)There are a number of hospitals in Addis Ababa but only private hospitals offer a reasonable standard of basic care for minor health problems. Elsewhere medical facilities (including dentistry) are extremely poor.Water-borne diseases and malaria are common to Ethiopia, the latter in areas of the country below 2000 metres.   Bilharzia is present in the majority of lakes in Ethiopia. Since August 2006 there have been approximately 60,000 reported cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea resulting in about 600 deaths. Drink or use only boiled or bottled water and avoid ice in drinks. If you suffer from diarrhoea during a visit to Ethiopia you should seek immediate medical attention.   Addis Ababa sits at 2,400 metres above sea level. Adjusting to the altitude may take several weeks. If you have a heart condition you should seek medical advice before travelling to Addis Ababa.  You should exercise normal precautions to avoid exposure to HIV/AIDs. See our [HIV and AIDS](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe/health/hiv) page.Seek medical advice before travelling to Ethiopia and ensure that all appropriate vaccinations are up to date. For further information on vaccination requirements, health outbreaks and general disease protection and prevention you should check the websites of the National Travel Health Network and Centre [NaTHNaC](http://www.nathnac.org/travel/index.htm) and [NHS Scotland's Fit For Travel](http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk/) or call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47. See our [Travel Health](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe/health/) page.General[(back to top)](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia)**General - Insurance** Ensure that you obtain adequate medical insurance before arrival. You should also carry a comprehensive medical pack when travelling out of Addis Ababa. Medical insurance should cover the cost of air ambulance evacuation out of Ethiopia in the event of serious accident or illness. Check any exclusions, and that your policy covers you for the activities you want to undertake. See our [Travel Insurance](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe/travel-insurance/) page.If things do go wrong when you are overseas then see our [When things go wrong](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/) page.**General - Consular registration** If you are visiting Ethiopia either on a long or short-term basis you should register with the British Embassy in Addis Ababa on arrival so our consular and crisis staff can provide better assistance to you in an emergency. Full details are on the [Embassy website](http://ukinethiopia.fco.gov.uk/en/help-for-british-nationals/living-in-ethiopia/registering-with-us). **General - Money** Credit cards are accepted at only a very few outlets in Addis Ababa.  It is not normally possible to obtain currency advances against a credit card in Ethiopia. Ensure you have an adequate supply of hard currency or travellers-cheques.**General - Consular Assistance Statistics** Approximately 20,000 visited Ethiopia in the period 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 (source: Ethiopian Ministry of Culture and Tourism). During this period 21 British nationals required consular assistance in Ethiopia, for the following types of incident: four deaths; two hospitalisations; and six arrests for a variety of offences |
|  |
| **Supervision***Identify level of supervision required e.g. full time, Periodic telephone/radio contact* |  | The trip will be run by Charlotte Vye from the British Geological Survey and Asfawossen Asrat from Addis Ababa University. They are both experienced at working in this region.The party will check in with a contact at Addis Ababa twice per day (once in the morning and once in the evening). This will be done by mobile or satellite phone. A primary satellite phone will be switched on between 7 and 8 and between 7 and 8 pm for communication to the group.The group will take at least two satellite phones, which will be carried in separate vehicles. Spare batteries / chargers will be taken also. The phones’ condition will be checked before departure from the UK, including the level of credit. The phones will be from two separate networks (Thuraya / Iridium) in case of any temporary issues with one of the networks. |
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|  |
| **Other Controls***e.g. background checks for site visits, embassy registration* |  | All participants will be advised to register with their embassy on arrival in Ethiopia. |
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| **Identify Persons at Risk***This may include more individuals than the fieldwork participants e.g. other employees of partner organisations**Copy of other Organisation’s risk assessment attached?* |  | n/a |
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| **Additional Information***Relevant to the one working activity including existing control measures; information instruction and training received, supervision, security, increased lighting, emergency procedures, access to potable water etc.* |  |  |
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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Residual Risk***Is the residual risk acceptable with the identified controls?* |  | Yes |  |
| No |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessment carried out by** | Name: |  |
| Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |
|  |
| **Names of person(s) involved in Fieldwork***N.B: This can take the form of a signed class register when large group work* | Name: |  |
| Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |
|  |
| Fieldwork Activity Organiser / Course Leader *e.g. PI, etc* | Name: |  |
| Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |
|  |

Appendix 1. Detailed Itinerary

This appendix identifies some of the major stops on the field trip, along with their coordinates. There may be additional stops between these major localities, and the details of specific sites are subject to change due to adverse weather, security, or other local information.

Number, Day, Location description, Nearest hospital/clinic, Communication method,

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Day: 1.1  | Site: Kone Caldera | Coordinates: 39.711E, 8.826N |
| Communication: Mobile/Satellite | Hospital/Clinic: Nazret Hospital (1.5 hours by car)British Embassy Clinic, Addis Ababa (4 hours by car)  |
| Description of site and any particular hazards:Kone caldera is a dormant volcano intersected by the (quiet) main road. Particular hazards are road traffic and steep slopes. These hazards will be mitigated by ensuring off-road parking and that the group stays away from the caldera cliff edges. |
| Day: 1.2 | Site: Metahara fissures | Coordinates: 37.893E, 8.911N |
| Communication: Mobile/Satellite | Hospital/Clinic:Nazret Hospital (1.5-2 hours by car)British Embassy Clinic, Addis Ababa (4-4.5 hours by car) |
| Description of site and any particular hazards:The Metahara fissures site is next to a lake. Large open fissures and tilted fault blocks can be seen. Care must be taken as the ground can be rough underfoot and to avoid falling into a fissure. Crocodiles are present in the lake, but should disperse on hearing loud noises. The group should stay together and make plenty of noise. |
| Day: 1.3  | Site: Awash falls | Coordinates: 40.012E, 8.843N |
| Communication: Mobile/Satellite | Hospital/Clinic:Nazret Hospital (1.5-2 hours by car)British Embassy Clinic, Addis Ababa (4-4.5 hours by car) |
| Description of site and any particular hazards:This is a site where the powerful Awash river has some rapids and a small drop (5-10 m). There is a danger from slippy rocks near the falls. The group leader should advise on safe locations to view the falls. |
| Day: 2  | Site: Drive from Awash to Semara | Coordinates: Main road to Semara. Semara is at 41.012E, 11.780N  |
| Communication: Mobile/Satellite | Hospital/Clinic (times from Semera):Nazret Hospital (6-7 hours by car)British Embassy Clinic, Addis Ababa (9-10 hours by car) |
| Description of site and any particular hazards:Any stops on this day will be roadside viewing stops. The main road is relatively quiet, but traffic does consist of large trucks and can be busy in the towns on the route. Care must be taken by the group leaders to ensure that stops are safe for the entire group. |
| Day: 3 | Site: Semara to Afdera | Coordinates: Afdera at 40.866E, 13.193N |
| Communication: Mobile/Satellite | Hospital/Clinic (times from Afdera):Nazret Hospital (9-10 hours by car)British Embassy Clinic, Addis Ababa (12-13 hours by car)Dese hospital (6 hours by car)Clinic at BHPBilliton (6-7 hours by car)Mekele Hospital (9 hours by car) |
| Description of site and any particular hazards:Much of this day will be spent at Semara, where police guards will be collected before departure to Afdera. The route to Afdera consists of good-quality paved roads. Some geothermal sites may be visited on this route. At these sites, the leader should advise on where it is safe to walk. |
| Day: 4  | Site: Kuso Wad village | Coordinates: ~40.506E, 13.409N |
| Communication: Mobile/Satellite | Hospital/Clinic:Clinic at BHPBilliton (3-4 hours by car)Mekele Hospital (6-7 hours by car; quicker using BHP plane) |
| Description of site and any particular hazards:To reach Kuso Wad will involve driving off road, but along a well-travelled route. The village is at the base of Erta Ale volcano. Local guards and translators are essential for safe passage in this area. |
| Day: 5  | Site: Erta Ale Volcano | Coordinates: 40.633E, 13.603N |
| Communication: Mobile/Satellite | Hospital/Clinic:Same as from Kuso Wad (Day 4) but with up to 4 hours hike in addition. |
| Description of site and any particular hazards:A long hike over tricky ground is required to reach the summit of Erta Ale. The elevation gain is not large, but the temperatures can be very high. The route is tricky to follow and local guides are essential. The group shold stay together wherever possible. A reasonable level of physical fitness is required. At Erta Ale there is a large lake of convecting magma. It is held within several nested calderas (cliffs), whose edges should be avoided. The lava lake emits mildly noxious fumes, and camp should be set upwind of the lava lake to avoid these fumes. There is no plan to sample lavas from the lake directly, and if participants wish to do this then they should conduct their own full assessment of the risk of this activity. |
| Day: 6 | Site: Erta Ale - Ahmed Ela | Coordinates: (Ahmed Ela) 40.279E, 14.084N |
| Communication: Mobile/Satellite | Hospital/Clinic:Clinic at BHPBilliton, in Ahmed ElaMekele Hospital (~3 hours drive or 20 minutes by plane) |
| Description of site and any particular hazards:This day begins with the hike back to the base of Erta Ale, from where the vehicles will depart. See Day 5 for description of hike. The drive is again off road, but along well-travelled paths. Again, local guides are essential for safe passage. |
| Day: 7 | Site: Dallol volcano and hot springs | Coordinates: 40.302E, 14.234N |
| Communication: Mobile/Satellite | Hospital/Clinic:Clinic at BHPBilliton (up to 30 minutes by car)Mekele Hospital (~3.5 hours drive or 20 minutes from Ahmed Ela by plane) |
| Description of site and any particular hazards:Dallol volcano and hot springs is a site with many geological formations, including hot springs. The springs represent the biggest potential hazard and the trip leaders should advise on safe routes through the geothermal areas, where scalding hot waters and noxious fumes may be present. This site is the closest to the Eritrea border, and additional military guards from the camp at Ahmed Ela should accompany the group. |
| Day: 8  | Site: Ahmed Ela - Mekele | Coordinates: Mekele at 39.475E, 13.493N |
| Communication: Mobile/Satellite | Hospital/Clinic:Mekele hospital (0 hours) |
| Description of site and any particular hazards:This day mostly involves a drive back to Mekele from Ahmed Ela. There will be roadside geology stops, and care should be taken to ensure these are safe for a large group. The road is a good quality gravel track. |

**Appendix 2 - Contact details for Hospitals / Clinics.**

Our local coordinator will provide a complete list which will be added shortly.

**Appendix 3 - List of medication / personal first aid equipment recommended.**

Some of these are only available by prescription in the UK.

Imodium

Diaralyte or similar rehydration salts

Antiseptic wipes / cream

Wound closure strips

Miolin and tape

Miconazole cream

Assorted plasters

Paracetamol / Ibuprofen or similar

Ciproflaxin (for stomach upsets)

Malarone (anti-malarials)