

**ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – ICOMOS International Wood Committee Symposium,  
“A Focus on Africa”, 23 – 28 January 2019**

**Visas**

Participants should apply for a 30-day tourist visa, either in the form of an e-visa or visa on arrival for eligible countries. The fee for a 30-day tourist visa is US\$52.

**E-visa:**

E-visas can be applied for on the official government website: <https://www.evisa.gov.et/#/home>. The official processing time is 3 days, but in practice most applicants receive their visa within a single day.

**Visa on arrival:**

Nationals of the following countries are eligible for a visa on arrival:

	Argentina		Kuwait
	Australia		Luxembourg
	Austria		Mexico
	Belgium		Netherlands
	Brazil		New Zealand
	Canada		North Korea
	China		Norway
	Czech Republic		Poland
	Denmark		Portugal
	Djibouti		Russia
	Finland		Slovakia
	France		South Africa
	Germany		South Korea
	Greece		Spain
	India		Sweden
	Ireland		Switzerland
	Israel		Thailand
	Italy		United Kingdom
	Japan		United States
	Kenya		

The advantage of having an e-visa is that there is no queuing for a visa on arrival at Bole International Airport – participants just have to join the queue to get their passports stamped.

The Symposium will take place entirely within the Ethiopian Highlands: Addis Ababa is 2,400 metres above sea level, Axum is 2,130 above MASL, Lalibela is 2,500 above MASL, Maqalle is 2,250 above MASL. Tropical diseases are generally not a problem at these high altitudes.

### ***Start and completion dates of the Symposium***

***Start:*** The official start of the Symposium is the **departure time of Flight ET 162, leaving Bole International Airport (Addis Ababa) at 16:30 p.m. on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.**

***End:*** the official end of the Symposium is a reception at Zoma Museum, concluding at **19:00 p.m. on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

**Early arrivals:** participants who arrive early on 22<sup>nd</sup> January will be met at Bole International Airport and, for those participants interested in a city tour, students of the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture Building Construction & City Development (EiABC), Addis Ababa University, will be available to assist.

### ***Extended visits to Ethiopia***

For those participants who would like to spend a little longer in Ethiopia, the Symposium organisers and the tourism service provider will be happy to assist with suggestions, budgets &c:

*Tourism services provider:*

Liyu Ethiopia Tours and Travel, [liyuethiopatours@gmail.com](mailto:liyuethiopatours@gmail.com). mobile no. +251 913 997 726

*ICOMOS IWC and PROHEDEV Programme organisers:*

(1) David Michelmores, [davidmichelmores@hotmail.com](mailto:davidmichelmores@hotmail.com). mobile no. +251 947 460 040

(2) Esther Selassie Antohin, [estherantohin@gmail.com](mailto:estherantohin@gmail.com). mobile nos +251910566800, +251 944 054 833

[For example, participants may wish to attend the Epiphany (Blessing of the Waters - *Timqat*) Festival on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> January, the most famous venue for which is the Royal Bath at Gondar World Heritage Site].

### ***Cost of the Symposium***

We have kept the cost as low as possible, but there will be three internal flights which cannot be avoided, as Ethiopia is a large country - the size of France and Spain combined. The conference will be \$ 304 cheaper for those who arrive on an Ethiopian Airlines flight, as then the three internal flights will be charged at the same rate as for an Ethiopian national. Ethiopian Airlines was founded in 1946 by Emperor Haile Selassie as a joint venture with TWA and is the best airline in Africa, so there is no need to worry about the quality of service. The first flight, on Day 0 (22 January 2019), leaves Addis Ababa Bole Airport for Axum at 16:30 p.m., so the international flights of delegates must arrive in time to catch that flight.

The International Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> January is 100% funded by the European Union and will take place in the prestigious United Nations Conference Centre. Lunch and an evening reception are included. ICOMOS participants are encouraged to propose papers or posters to be presented at the Conference.

**(A) Arriving by Ethiopian Airlines: total cost \$ 955**

**(B) arriving by a different airline: total cost \$ 1,259**

The Symposium fee covers all transport within Ethiopia (internal flights, minibus, 4X4 cars, mules and muleteers), bed-and-breakfast hotel accommodation from the night of 22<sup>nd</sup> January to the night of 27<sup>th</sup> January, all entrance fees according to the itinerary, drinking water. *Not included* are lunch and dinner from 22-27 January and alcoholic drinks (however, living costs in Ethiopia are comparatively low – a typical meal with drinks might cost \$ 10).

