

WELCOME TO ADDIS ABABA

Addis Ababa (meaning “new flower” in Amharic), is the capital of Ethiopia. The city is situated at 2,440 m above sea-level on a plateau surrounded by hills and mountains. Addis Ababa is Ethiopia's largest city and its administrative and communications center. It is the main trade center for coffee, the country's chief export, and for tobacco, grains, and hides.



TIME ZONE GMT +3

EXCHANGE RATE US\$1 = Birr 18. Ethiopian currency is denominated in "Birr" and "centimes".

ARRIVAL

Bole International Airport (IATA: ADD) (Phone Number: Tel: +251 (0)1 180 454), is the busiest airport in East Africa and the hub of Ethiopian Airlines and serviced by several international airlines with daily flights to Europe, the United States, and Asia as well as inter-African destinations including Accra, Bamako, Brazzaville, Cairo, Dakar, Dar-es-Salaam, Djibouti, Khartoum, Harare, Johannesburg, Nairobi and many more cities in Africa.

The airport is situated eight kilometres from Addis Ababa city centre.

For short stays, using a taxi is advised. To avoid haggling and overpricing use the yellow/cream coloured government taxis parked at the terminal. Taxis are also available outside the terminal building. Expect to pay around Birr 100 (approximately US\$6) for a ride into the city centre; make sure you agree on this fee with the driver before starting your journey.

Facilities at the airport include a bank and bureau de change, restaurants and bars, duty-free and gift shops, travel agents, a post office, and a tourist help desk. Departure Tax: A Passenger Service Charge of US\$20 is levied on all departing foreign passengers.

IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

Visas are required for all visitors/conference delegates travelling to Ethiopia, except for nationals of Djibouti and Kenya. The Government of Ethiopia requires that visitors/conference delegates from countries with Ethiopian Diplomatic Missions secure their visas from those missions. These travellers include holders of diplomatic and service/official passports as well as the United Nations Laissez-Passer (LP). If there is no Ethiopian Diplomatic Mission in the participant's country of origin, AUC will assist in obtaining a business visa on arrival, provided the following particulars are received two weeks in advance: full name, nationality, passport details - (number, date of issue and expiry); and flight details (arrival and departure). The Ethiopian Immigration Authority requires that an official letter of invitation be presented at the Airport Immigration Desk, for securing a business visa on arrival. Please note that an Ethiopian visa costs \$US20.00 per person and payment must be made in US Dollars at the time of visa issue on arrival at the Airport Immigration Desk. Holders of Diplomatic and Service/Official passports as well as United Nations LPs will receive visas free of charge.

Bank receipts for money changed must be kept securely as they may be requested upon departure.

The airport tax on departure from Bole International Airport is **\$US20.00** and is payable in cash **US dollars**.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Visitors to Ethiopia should be in possession of a valid health certificate for yellow fever. Vaccination against cholera is also required for any person who has visited or transited a cholera-infected area within six days prior to arrival in the country.

Hospitals:

- Swedish Clinic - 0113717068
- St.Gabriel Hospital- 0116 613622
- Hayat Hospital- 0116614250

SHIPPING/CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Conference participants and/or journalists coming to Addis Ababa with special equipment such as professional cameras, computers, exhibition equipment and materials should ensure that a list of these equipment, including model and serial numbers where applicable, are sent to the conference organizers. Equipment that is not cleared by the Ethiopian Customs Authority prior to their arrival may not be allowed into the country.

***ACCOMMODATION IN ADDIS ABABA- PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN BOOKED INTO JUPITER HOTEL AND COSTS OF YOUR STAY WILL BE DONE ONCE YOU CONFIRM YOUR ATENDANCE TO THE FORUM.**

Name of Hotels and Addresses	Type of Rooms	Rate
Sheraton Addis Tel :- +251 115 171717 Fax:-	Single Room	235\$ + 10% service Charge + 15% VAT
	Executive Room	325\$ + 10% Service Charge + 15% VAT
	Suite	665\$ + 10% Service Charge + 15% VAT
Hilton Addis Tel:- +251 115 170000 Fax:-	Single Room	130\$ + 10% service Charge + 15% VAT
	Executive Room	195\$ + 10% Service Charge + 15% VAT
	Suite	350\$ + 10% Service Charge + 15% VAT
Intercontinental Tel:- +251 115 505066 Fax:-	Single Room	140\$ including service charge and VAT
	Junior Room	177\$ including service charge and VAT

	Executive Room	316\$ including service charge and VAT
*Dream liner Tel:- +251 114 674000 Fax:- +251 114 674001	Single Room	80\$ including service charge and VAT
**Kings Hotel * Tel:- +251 113 711300 Fax:- +251 116 623884	Single Room	50\$ including service charge and VAT
	Suite	62\$ including service charge and VAT
Jupiter Hotel Tel:- +251 115 527333 Fax:- +251 115 526418	Single Room	80\$ including service charge and VAT
	Executive Room	150\$ including service charge and VAT
*Dream Liner Hotel offers shuttle service to participants during the meeting. **The only hotel near to African Union Commission is Kings Hotel.		

ICT SERVICES

The AUC Conference section is setup to provide Internet connectivity to WiFi enabled laptops and personal computers. Participants are welcome to take advantage of these services.

Technical support for presentations must be arranged in advance.

Please be advised that Blackberry services are not available in Ethiopia.

MOBILE PHONE SERVICES

Participants are encouraged to come to Addis Ababa with their dual band mobile handsets (900/1800 MHZ). Ethiopian Telecommunication Company offers SIM Cards with pre-charged airtime. The total package, which costs \$US 50.00 includes \$US 12.00 airtime.

***FOOD FACILITIES AVAILABLE WITHIN THE AUC COMPOUND: PLEASE NOTE THAT LUNCHES WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE MEETING**

The Congo Hall Cafeteria - Opening hours: 08:15 - 14:30. Only Ethiopian currency (Birr) is accepted.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY

Electric supply in Ethiopia is 220-240 volts, 50 cycles AC accessible via 13-amp, two-pin (Italian) socket.

GETTING AROUND IN ADDIS ABABA

There is a large and efficient network of blue and white taxis that cover the city which are easy to hail from the side of the road. The cost ranges from Birr 50 for short trips, to Birr500 or more for a longer trip or having the taxi wait for you. Negotiation is the norm and you often have to press quite hard to get a bargain as a foreigner. They can be contracted for a full day, just negotiate. When in doubt, ask a local, even a local foreigner!

Walking is still the preferred and more sensible method of transport around this city though beggars can be bothersome. The road names are few and often don't match the ones written on maps, so it is best to navigate by using landmarks.

Car hire can be organised through international agencies in Addis Ababa and a full valid international license is required and the license from country of origin must be endorsed locally. Drivers must be a minimum of 18 years old.

GUIDELINES ON PERSONAL SECURITY AND SAFETY

Personal security is an individual responsibility. Using common sense and being alert can reduce risks. The aim of these security and safety guidelines is to provide visitors and conference participants, with the necessary personal security advice, making them aware of the existing security rules and regulations that apply within the AUC Compound and in Addis Ababa.

Addis Ababa, unlike other developing State capitals, has a low record of common crimes. The city is considered to be one of the safest capitals in Africa. However, for your safety, please maintain a high state of vigilance at all times. Petty theft, pickpockets and purse snatching are common crimes when opportune. They can occur at any time of the day and night; be alert and follow these simple rules:

- Keep to the main parts of Addis Ababa and do not be tempted to go to places that you are not sure of;
- Keep to the main roads and avoid short cuts down back alleys, etc.;
- Do not display high value jewellery, especially on the street. It may lead to unnecessary attacks; and
- Never walk alone at night in the centre of Addis Ababa, even for a short distance. Always take a taxi. Yellow taxis with green stripes are advisable in this case.

CLIMATE

Addis Ababa has a Subtropical highland climate. The city possesses a complex mix of highland climate zones, with temperature differences of up to 10 °C, depending on elevation and prevailing wind patterns. The high elevation moderates temperatures year-round, and the city's position near the equator means that temperatures are very constant from month to month.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C	23	24	25	24	24	23	21	21	21	22	23	23	23
Average low °C	9	10	12	12	12	11	11	11	11	10	8	8	11
Rainfall mm	17	36	68	89	76	124	259	278	174	41	8	10	1,180
Avg. rainy days	3	5	7	10	10	20	27	26	18	4	1	1	132

World Meteorological Organisation (UN)