

A Trip to Lalibela, Dec 1 – 3, 2010



Who wouldn't want to be 7 years younger? We do, thus we dedicated 3 days for travelling and we chose Lalibela, one of the holiest cities in Ethiopia known for its rock-hewn churches build in 12th and 13th centuries.

There were 5 of us: Alon Warburg, Boaz Yuval, Greg Lanzaro, Jan Votypka, and Iva Rohousova. From Humera, we drove to Gondar where we took a plane to Lalibela, located in the Semien Wollo Zone at 2,500 meters above sea level.





In Lalibela, we found shelter in Asheten hotel (funny name for those of us who know Hebrew :-)). The hotel garden was a wonderful birdwatching spot during breakfast time. Jan and Alon took it quite seriously, they were discussing each and every feather flying around.



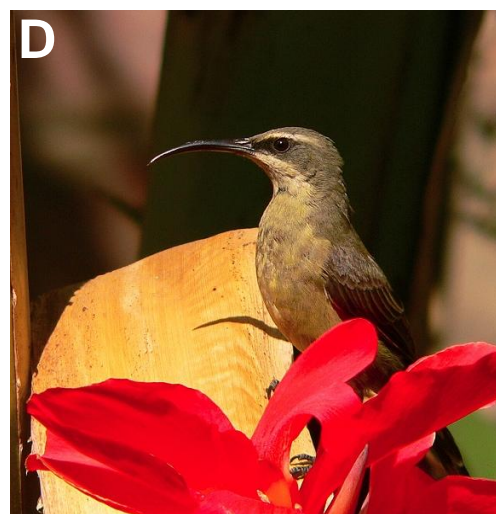
A



B



C



D



E

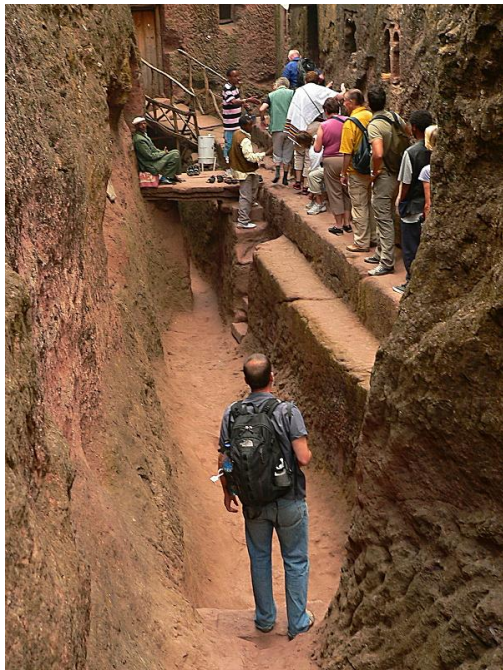


F

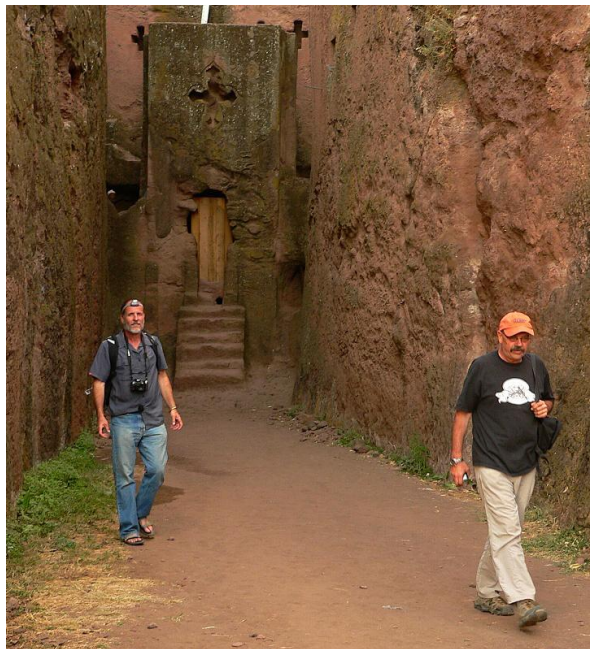
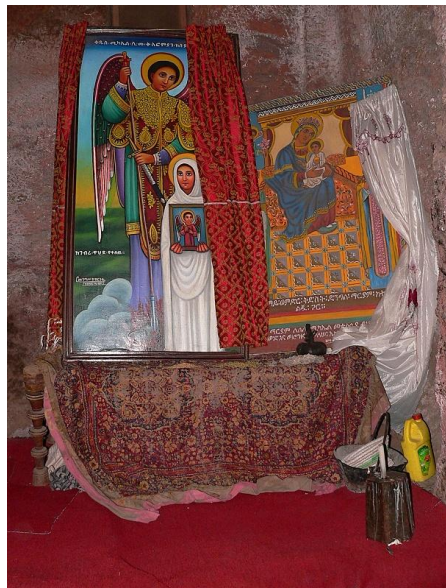
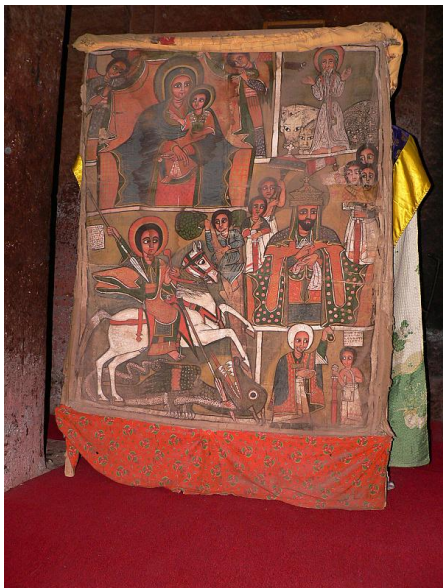
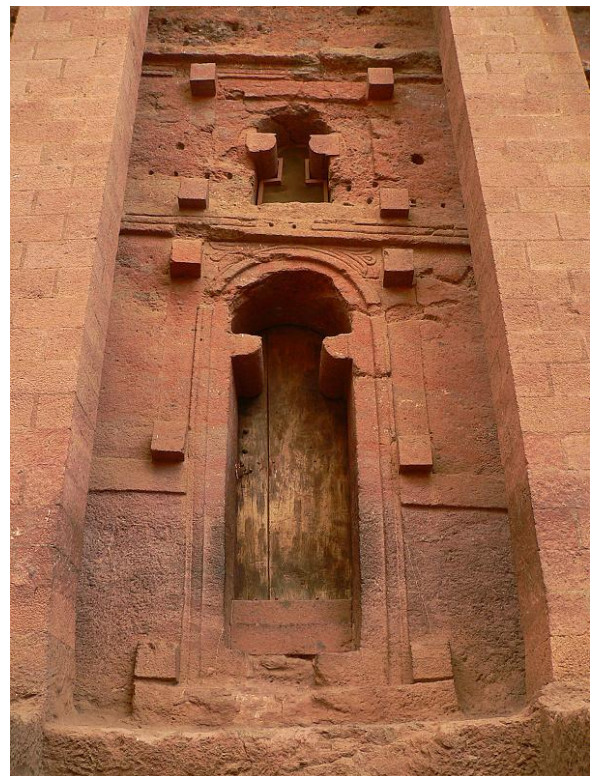
- A = Yellow-billed Kite (*Milvus aegyptius*)
- B = Blue-breasted Bee-eater (*Merops lafresnayii*)
- C = Greater Blue-eared Starling (*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*)
- D = Scarlet-chested Sunbird (*Chalcomitra senegalensis*), female
- E = ? any idea what this bird is ?
- F = Red-billed Firefinch (*Lagonosticta senegala*), male
- G = White-winged Cliff Chat (*Thamnolaea semirufa*), endemic



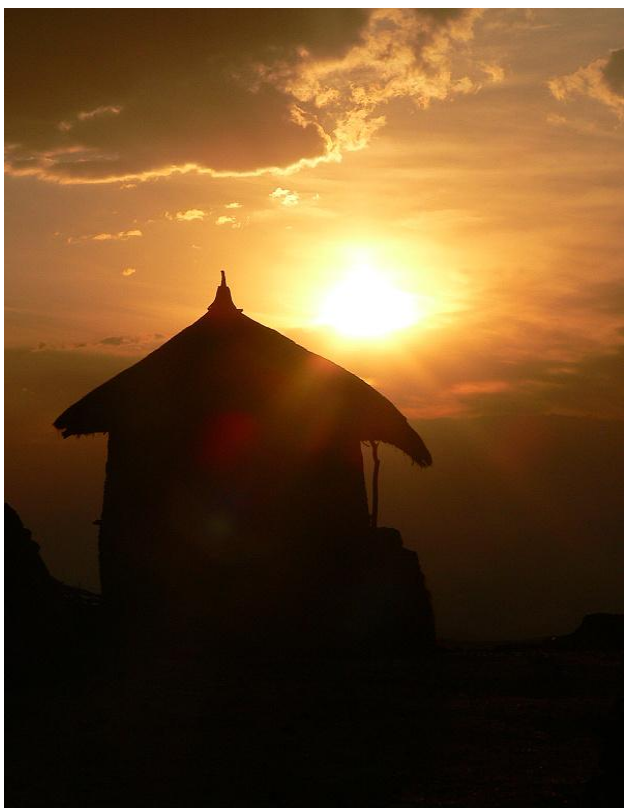
G



Through the ticket office we entered the first big group of Lalibela rock churches - the Northwestern Group. (from the left) Alon, Boaz, Jan, and Greg followed our young local guide Abush very carefully. He took us through the labyrinth of breathtaking churches cut out from the solid rocks. Unfortunately the masonry skills are forgotten ...



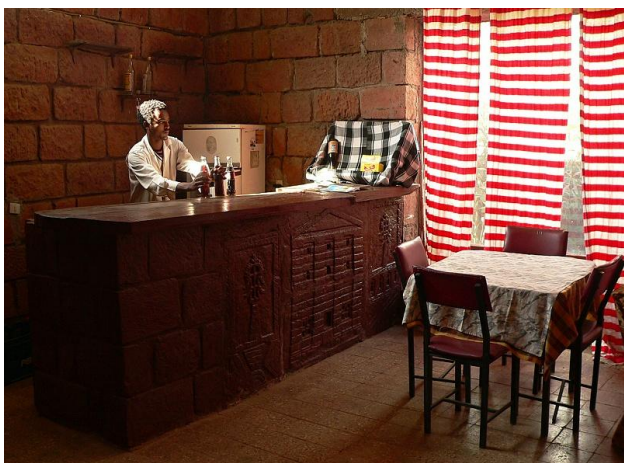
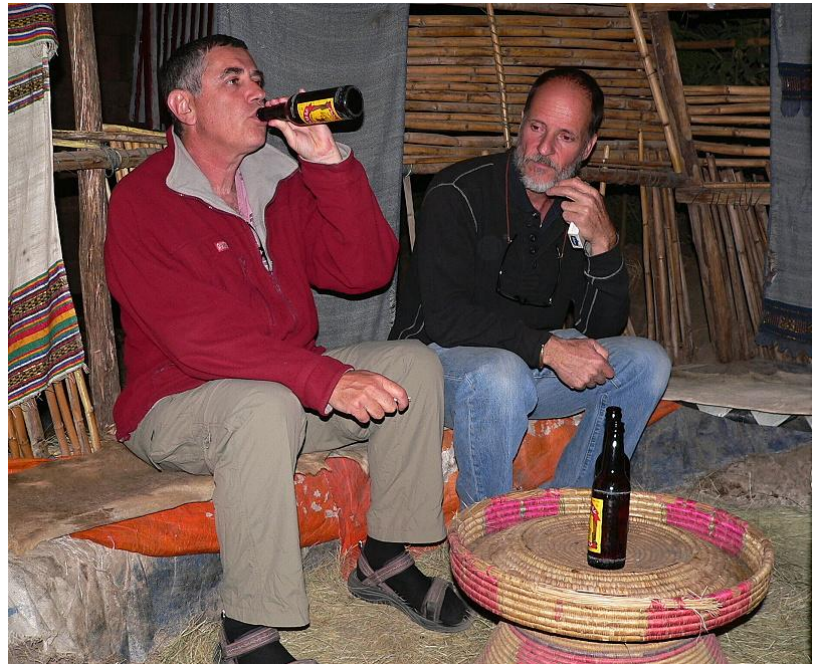
Exit. The end of today's tour. To be continued tomorrow.



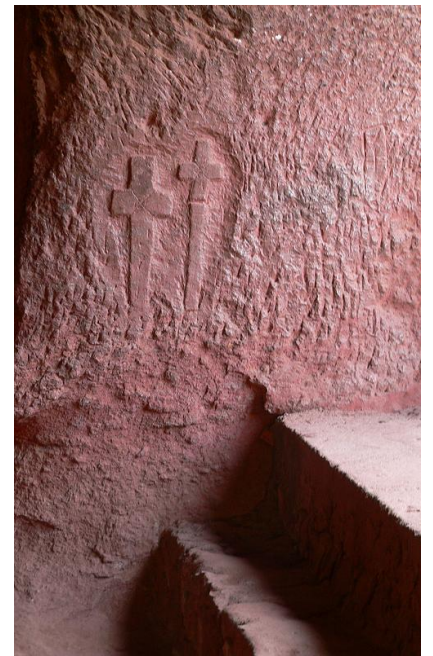
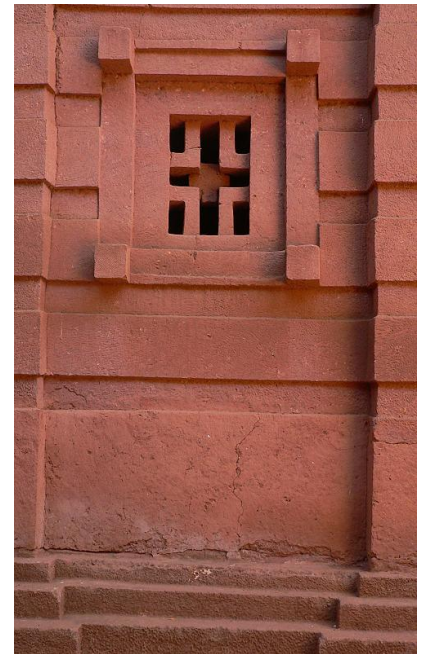
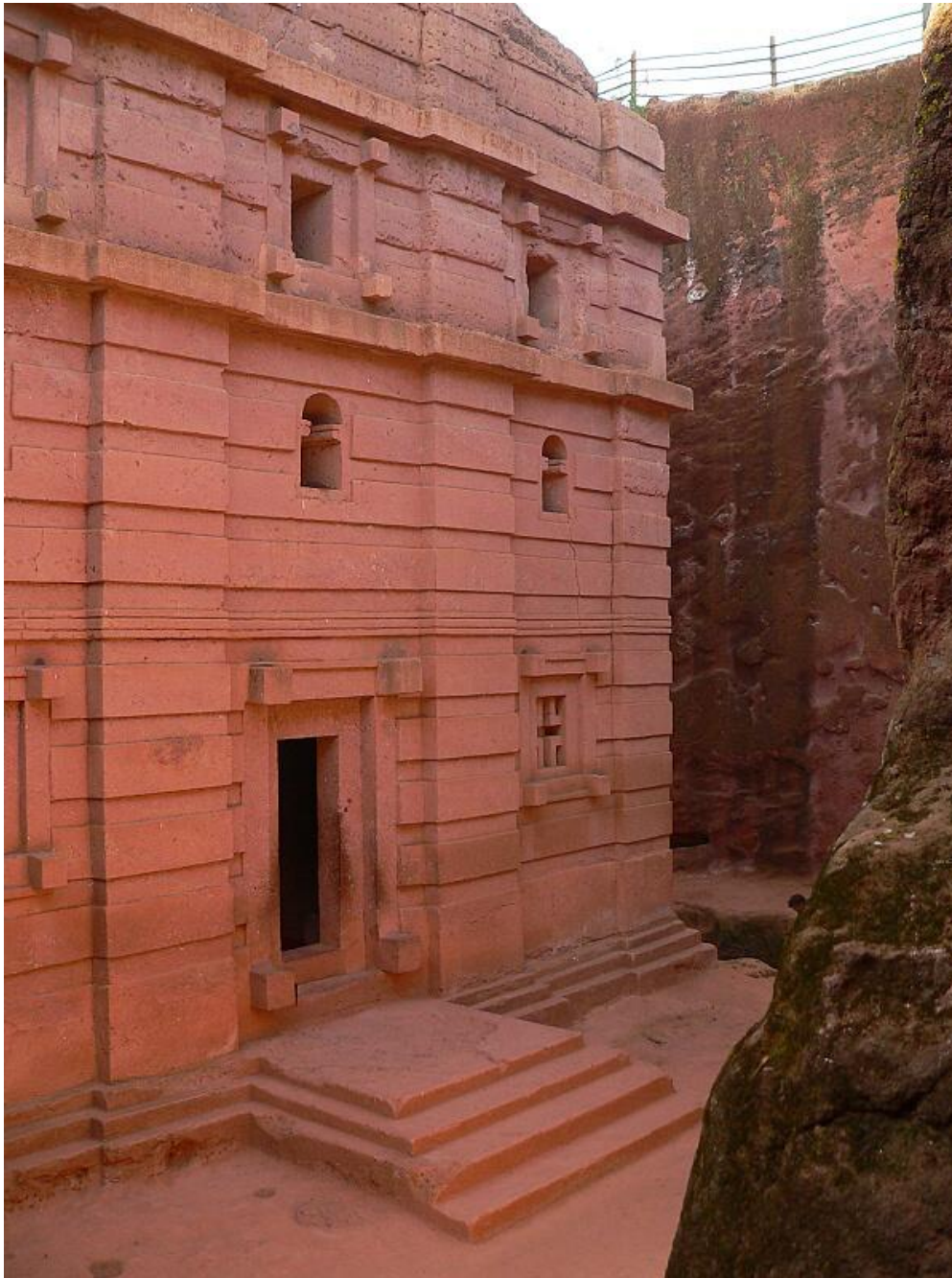
Dinner time !!!

It was quite easy to choose the place: Unique restaurant was closed, Selam Bar had not been open yet, and we did not want to stay in the hotel bar. Thus we ended in the Dirb Restaurant decorated as a tukul, traditional cone-shaped hut with thatched roof.

Top: Boaz tasting St. George beer and Alon, bottom: Jan and Greg.



Lalibela - the Southwestern Group of Churches





The most famous rock-hewn church in Lalibela and in Ethiopia - Bet Giyorgis - exceptional masonry skills !!!



Worshippers above the St. George church

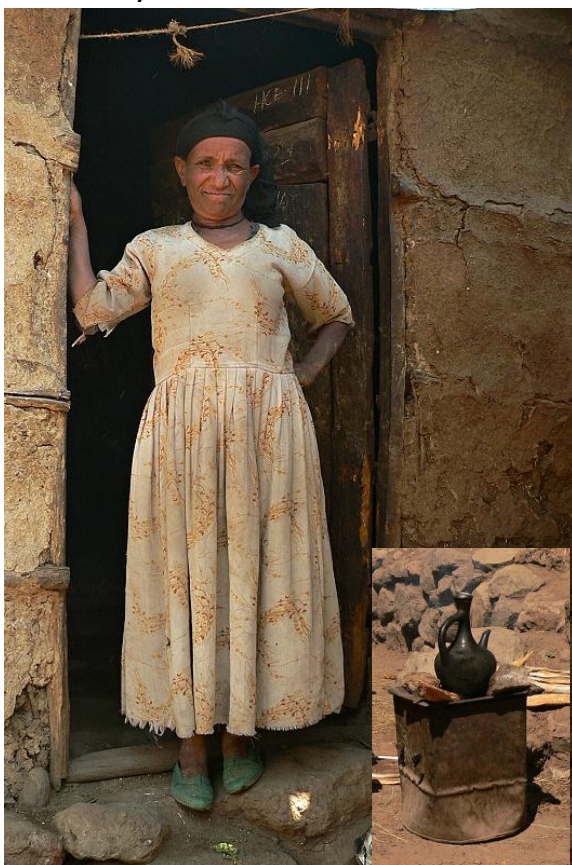


St. George, the patron saint of Ethiopia.



on the market: cooking ware, vendors with donkeys, chilly, grains, herbs, and plastic ware

This lady invited us to her home. Inside the hut, she prepared coffee for us and her son Alex told us about his dream to become a cow veterinarian. Another lovely day in Ethiopia ended. But now, it's time to go home.



የቢሮ መገኛ ጥራጥራ ሰሌዳ								
Flight movement schedule								
የመጣታ				የመሄዳ				
የቢሮ ቁጥር	ከ	የመጣታ ሰዓት	ከ	የቢሮ ቁጥር	ወደ	የመሄዳ ሰዓት	ከ	ቀን
flight number	from	arrival time	from	flight number	To	departure time	from	Date

On the Lalibela airport, our flight to Addis Abeba had not been displayed yet. So we had time for another pleasing Ethiopian coffee. Greg enjoyed the coffee till the last drop and so did we. Finally, our plane arrived and we had to leave this corner of Ethiopia.



Ethiopia from above - somewhere between Lalibela and Addis Abeba

