

Hosted by the Ministry of Health - Ethiopia, in partnership with COMS-A



COMS-A

# MedEdAfrica2026

JULY 6-8, 2026 | ADDIS ABABA ETHIOPIA

*Preparing Africa's Health Workforce for an Uncertain Future: Harnessing Partnerships, Technology, Innovation, and Leadership*

## Pre-Arrival Conference Travel Pack



For inquiries | [MedEdAfrica@coms-africa.org](mailto:MedEdAfrica@coms-africa.org)

[mededafrika.org](https://www.mededafrika.org)

[@coms\\_africa](https://twitter.com/coms_africa)

[in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/coms-a) COMS-A



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## Point of Contact

For all logistics and travel inquiries, please reach out to the conference secretariat:

**Email:** [mededafrica@coms-africa.org](mailto:mededafrica@coms-africa.org)

**Website:** [www.mededafrica.org](http://www.mededafrica.org)

**Inquiry form:** [click here](#)

**Real-Time Coordination:** Please join the official **MedEdAfrica 2026 WhatsApp Group**.



Scan to join  
the WhatsApp group on mobile



If you are feeling physically unwell and require urgent assistance during your time in Addis Ababa, please contact the conference secretariat immediately. See Section 10 for on-site medical services information.



## Welcome Note

Dear Delegate,

We are delighted to welcome you to the Advancing Medical Education in Africa Conference, MedEdAfrica 2026. This convening brings together academic leaders, policymakers, regulators, educators, students, industry partners, and development agencies as a dedicated continental platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation in health professions education.

MedEdAfrica 2026 is hosted by the Ministry of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in partnership with the Consortium of Medical Schools in Africa (COMS-A), and co-organized with the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), Addis Ababa University (AAU), St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College (SPHMMC), and Yekatit 12 Hospital Medical College. The conference takes place at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa from 6 to 8 July 2026.

This Travel Pack is designed to help you prepare for your arrival and make the most of your time in Addis Ababa. We encourage you to read it carefully, as it contains important information on visas, travel, accommodation, transport, and on-the-ground logistics. The secretariat remains available for any questions.

We look forward to welcoming you to Ethiopia.

Sincerely,

Conference Secretariat MedEdAfrica 2026 | Advancing Medical Education in Africa Conference





## Quick Reference Guide

<b>Conference Name</b>	Advancing Medical Education in Africa, MedEdAfrica 2026
<b>Conference Dates</b>	6–8 July 2026
<b>Conference Venue</b>	Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
<b>Conference Theme</b>	Preparing Africa's Health Workforce for an Uncertain Future: Harnessing Partnerships, Technology, Innovation, and Leadership
<b>Thematic Tracks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Leadership, Governance, African Ownership and Partnerships for Health Workforce and Systems Transformation</li><li>➤ Transformative Technologies, AI, Innovation, and Simulation-based Education in Medical Education</li><li>➤ Towards a Healthier Africa: Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH), Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Health Systems Strengthening</li><li>➤ Learner-Centered Systems: Assessment and Accreditation</li></ul>
<b>Anticipated Attendance</b>	~800 delegates
<b>Hosted by</b>	Ministry of Health, Ethiopia
<b>In partnership with</b>	Consortium of Medical Schools in Africa (COMS-A)
<b>Registration and badging</b>	<p>Registration should be done via online platform: <a href="https://mededafrika.smartevent.rw/">https://mededafrika.smartevent.rw/</a></p> <p>Accreditation and Badge collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Main lobby/entrance area of the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel</li><li>➤ Opens: 5 July 2026 at 2pm (Passport &amp; confirmation email required)</li></ul>

<b>Secretariat Contacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Email: <a href="mailto:mededafrica@coms-africa.org">mededafrica@coms-africa.org</a></li> <li>➤ Official Website URL: <a href="http://www.mededafrica.org">www.mededafrica.org</a></li> <li>➤ Digital Inquiry Form: <a href="#">Click here</a></li> </ul>
<b>On-Ground Support</b>	<p>Real-Time Coordination: Delegates will be added to an official <b>MedEdAfrica 2026 WhatsApp Group</b>, to join the group.</p>
<b>Emergency Contacts</b>	<p>General Emergency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Police: 991</li> <li>➤ Ambulance/ Red Cross: 907</li> <li>➤ Fire Department: 902</li> </ul>
<b>Health Entry Mandates</b>	<p><b>Yellow Fever Certificate Required</b> if arriving from or transiting through endemic zones. Administer vaccine at least 10 days before travel.</p>
<b>E-Visa Essentials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Official website: <a href="http://www.evisa.gov.et">www.evisa.gov.et</a></li> <li>➤ Category: Workshop/Conference Visa (CV)</li> <li>➤ What is needed before the application: Conference invitation letter. The Company Reference Code and Host TIN.</li> </ul>
<b>Required Ground Apps</b>	<p>RIDE (Primary ride-hailing network). Alternative options: Feres or ZayRide. (Note: Uber is completely unavailable in Ethiopia).</p>
<b>Conference Language</b>	<p>English. Simultaneous French translation will be available for selected sessions</p>
<b>Hotel and booking</b>	<p><b>Ethiopian Skylight Hotel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Address: Airport Road, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (approx. 5 mins from airport)</li> <li>➤ Phone: +251 11 681 8181</li> <li>➤ To get discounted rates, please use this link, the promo code is MEAF2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Weather snapshot</b>	<p>Peak rainy season (kiremt). Highs of ~20–21°C (68–70°F) and cool evening lows of ~11–12°C (52–54°F). Frequent, heavy afternoon showers; waterproof gear and light layers are essential.</p>

<b>Time zone &amp; Grid Power</b>	East Africa Time (EAT) — GMT+3. Plug Types: C, E, F (220V, 50Hz).
<b>Currency</b>	Ethiopian Birr (ETB). Standard exchange rates have recently fluctuated around 145–157 ETB per 1 USD. Cash is strongly required outside major hotels.



Important On-Ground Notice: Granular contact lines for the active on-site logistics crew will be delivered directly to registered attendees as the event window approaches. Additionally, closer to the conference dates, all registered delegates will be invited to an official MedEdAfrica 2026 WhatsApp Group to receive real-time updates, coordination alerts, and direct support from the organizing team.

If you experience acute physical distress, urgent medical needs, or unexpected travel and transit disruptions upon your arrival in Addis Ababa, please contact the secretariat immediately via the emergency channels or alert an on-site team member.



## Conference Venue and Program

MedEdAfrica 2026 takes place at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, Airport Road, Addis Ababa. The hotel features the largest hotel ballroom in Addis Ababa supported by a full conference complex with 13 halls and the latest audio-visual equipment.

### **Pre-Conference Events**

The COMS-A Annual General Meeting and Deans Meeting takes place on 5 July 2026; this is an invite-only session. Sponsored delegates and speakers are expected to arrive no later than 5 July. A COMS-A Deans networking cocktail is scheduled for the evening of 5 July (invite only).

### **Post-Conference, invite-only**

We have planned side events for selected participants taking place between 9–12 July 2026. These include the Leadership Academy Intensive Week, HPE Harmonization Workshop, Simulation Development Workshop, and MNCH & Emerging Women Leaders closed working sessions. Further details will be communicated directly to those involved.

## Conference dates and structure

Event	Date	Details
<b>COMS-A AGM / Deans Meeting</b>	<b>5 July 2026</b>	Governance meeting for COMS-A members. COMS-A Deans Dinner in the evening (by invitation).
<b>Delegate Arrival / Registration</b>	<b>5 July 2026</b>	Badge collection, check-in, and welcome orientation at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel.
<b>Conference Day 1</b>	<b>6 July 2026</b>	Opening ceremony, keynote addresses, plenary sessions, breakout and concurrent sessions, poster presentations, exhibition, and welcome reception.

<b>Conference Day 2</b>	<b>7 July 2026</b>	Plenary sessions, breakout and concurrent sessions, workshops, simulation showcases, poster presentations, and exhibition.
<b>Conference Day 3 / Closing</b>	<b>8 July 2026</b>	Plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and closing ceremony.

## **Preliminary program**

The preliminary program for MedEdAfrica 2026 is available on the conference website. Please visit the program page for the latest version, including plenary session topics, breakout session themes, speaker details, and timing:

[www.mededafrica.org/program2026](http://www.mededafrica.org/program2026)



The preliminary program is presented as a visual agenda on the website. The full detailed program, including session rooms, speaker biographies, and timing, will be shared with registered delegates by email in advance of the conference.

## **Exhibition**

An exhibition will run throughout the conference alongside the main sessions. Only delegates who have purchased an exhibition booth are permitted to display materials. Exhibitor setup begins on the afternoon of 5 July 2026 and must be completed before sessions open on 6 July 2026. All exhibitors are advised that items such as branded merchandise and simulation equipment exceeding quantity thresholds may be subject to duty taxes; organizations should be prepared to cover these costs if applicable. A separate Exhibitors' Guide will be shared with all registered exhibitors.





## Visa Information

Most international delegates will require a visa to enter Ethiopia. The recommended visa category for conference attendees is the Workshop/Conference Visa (CV), applied for online through the Ethiopian government e-visa portal. Please start this process well in advance — at least four weeks before the conference — as processing can take several business days and delays do occur.

### **Visa Exemptions**

Citizens of Kenya and Djibouti possess reciprocal bilateral agreements allowing passport-only entry without an advance visa. All other global passport holders must apply for a visa in advance or, in some limited cases, upon arrival. Delegates who are unsure should check with the Ethiopian embassy or consulate in their country before traveling.

### **Recommended category: Conference / Workshop Visa (CV)**

The Conference Visa is a 30-day, single-entry visa issued to foreign nationals attending an international conference, seminar, or workshop in Ethiopia. The visa validity begins from your intended date of entry into Ethiopia, not from the date the visa is issued. This visa cannot be extended, so plan your travel dates accordingly.

### **Who qualifies**

The visa is issued to those invited to attend conferences organized by a ministry or department of the Ethiopian government, regional state governments, educational institutions, universities, private or government-owned organizations, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the African Union, or recognized NGOs. MedEdAfrica 2026 qualifies under this category.

### **Required documents**

- ▶ **Recent passport-size color photograph** — taken within the last six months, against a plain white background, 2x2 inches, no filters or selfies
- ▶ **Scanned color copy of your passport** — valid for at least six months beyond your intended date of entry
- ▶ Official invitation letter from the conference secretariat, addressed to you personally, describing the conference name, dates, and venue
- ▶ **Application letter addressed to the Ethiopian Immigration and Citizenship Service** — to be provided by the secretariat

- ▶ **Company Reference Code** — to be provided by the secretariat alongside the invitation letter
- ▶ **TIN certificate of the inviting organization (renewed for the current fiscal year)** — to be provided by the secretariat
- ▶ **Renewed business license of the inviting organization** — to be provided by the secretariat
- ▶ International debit or credit card for online payment (see payment note below)

### How to apply — step by step

1. Visit the official Ethiopian e-visa portal at [www.evisa.gov.et](http://www.evisa.gov.et)
2. Click 'Visa' in the top menu, then 'Apply Visa'
3. Select visa type: Workshop/Conference Visa
4. Enter the Company Reference Code provided by the secretariat
5. Select visa validity: Single Entry, 30 Days
6. Complete arrival information (entry date, departure country, accommodation)
7. Complete personal information (name, nationality, occupation, address)
8. Complete passport information
9. Review all details carefully — errors may result in rejection and require a new application and payment
10. Upload all required supporting documents (see requirements above)
11. Pay the visa fee: USD 52 (non-refundable). Ensure all documents are uploaded before paying.
12. Submit and await a confirmation email — note that the confirmation email is not your visa. Wait for the official e-Visa document to be sent.



Track application status: [www.evisa.gov.et/status](http://www.evisa.gov.et/status)

Conference Visa information: [www.evisa.gov.et/information/conferenceVisa](http://www.evisa.gov.et/information/conferenceVisa)

### Processing time and when to apply

Processing typically takes three business days, but this is not guaranteed. Submit your application at least four weeks before the conference to allow time for delays or follow-up. If you have not received your official e-Visa within three business days of submission, contact Ethiopian Immigration at [support@evisa.gov.et](mailto:support@evisa.gov.et)

## Document upload requirements

- ▶ All uploaded files must be less than 2MB
- ▶ Accepted formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG, and PDF
- ▶ Documents must be clear, legible, and properly visible — blurred or unclean images will not be accepted
- ▶ Dual nationality holders should apply using the passport they will travel with — ensure all documents are consistent

## Payment restrictions

Credit card payments from the following countries and regions may experience processing difficulties: Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Nigeria, and the Crimea region of Ukraine. If you are applying from one of these locations, consider using a card registered to an individual or organization outside these countries that allows international transactions.

### **Visa on Arrival**

Visa on arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport is available for some countries — confirm eligibility at: [www.evisa.gov.et/information/touristOnArrivalVisa](http://www.evisa.gov.et/information/touristOnArrivalVisa). This includes participants attending meetings organised by the African Union or the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Delegates should not rely on this option without confirming eligibility in advance. Contact the secretariat or the nearest Ethiopian embassy if you are uncertain.



## Travel to Addis Ababa

Addis Ababa is the capital and largest city of Ethiopia, and the diplomatic capital of Africa — home to the headquarters of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). It is one of the continent's busiest aviation hubs, with direct connections to most African capitals and major international destinations.

<b>Official language</b>	Amharic, Afaan Oromo, Tigrinya, Somali, and Afar. English is widely spoken in hotels, business settings, and tourist areas.
<b>Currency</b>	Ethiopian Birr (ETB). As of mid-2025, approximately 1 USD = 145–157 ETB (rates fluctuate; verify before travel).
<b>Time zone</b>	East Africa Time (EAT) — UTC/GMT +3 hours
<b>Altitude</b>	Approximately 2,355 meters (7,726 feet) above sea level
<b>July weather</b>	High: ~20–21°C (68–70°F)   Low: ~11–12°C (52–54°F)   July is the peak of the rainy season (kiremt). Expect frequent, heavy afternoon showers. Waterproof gear essential.
<b>Electricity</b>	Type C, E, and F plugs; 220V. Bring a universal adapter.
<b>Driving side</b>	Right



July is the wettest month of the year in Addis Ababa, with average rainfall of 200–270mm and many rainy days. Rain typically falls in heavy afternoon showers, with mornings often clearer. Pack a waterproof jacket or compact umbrella. Evenings can be cool at the city's altitude, so bring a light layer even for July.



## **Altitude — important note**

At 2,355 meters above sea level, Addis Ababa is one of the highest capital cities in the world. Delegates who are not accustomed to altitude may experience mild symptoms including headaches, fatigue, slight shortness of breath, or disturbed sleep, particularly in the first 24–48 hours. These effects are generally minor and temporary. To minimize discomfort, rest on your first day, drink plenty of water, limit alcohol initially, and avoid strenuous exertion on arrival. If symptoms are severe or persistent, seek medical advice promptly.

## **Flying to Addis Ababa**

Addis Ababa Bole International Airport (IATA code: ADD) is the main international gateway. Ethiopian Airlines is the primary carrier and one of Africa's largest and most connected airlines, operating flights from most African countries and major hubs in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

## **Discounted flights — Ethiopian Airlines**

Conference participants can access a 12% discount on both business class and economy class fares on Ethiopian Airlines. The discount applies to departures from any Ethiopian Airlines online point to Addis Ababa and does not apply to existing promotional fares.

### **Use the booking link:**

<https://www.ethiopianairlines.com/events/advanced-medical-education-in-africa-2026>

## **Before you leave**

- Check in online up to 24 hours before departure. For separately ticketed flights, check in to each booking individually.
- For international flights, arrive at the airport at least two to three hours before departure.
- Carry copies of your passport, visa, invitation letter, and itinerary.
- Plastic bags are banned in Ethiopia. Passengers arriving with plastic bags at any port of entry are required to discard them. Eco-friendly alternatives may be available at a cost.

## **Currency and money**

The Ethiopian Birr (ETB) is the sole legal tender for all day-to-day transactions in Ethiopia. As of mid-2025 and into 2026, 1 USD has exchanged at approximately 145–157 ETB, following the National Bank of Ethiopia's liberalization of the foreign exchange market in July 2024, which made the exchange rate more market-driven and variable. Always verify the current rate before traveling.



## Exchanging money

- Foreign currency exchange is available at Bole International Airport (on arrival), at major hotels including the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, and at commercial banks throughout Addis Ababa.
- USD, EUR, and GBP are the most readily convertible currencies. Other currencies may be difficult to exchange.
- Avoid unofficial money changers — all exchanges should be conducted through licensed banks, hotel exchange desks, or authorized forex bureaus.
- Exchange rates at the airport are generally less favorable than those available at city-centre banks or forex bureaus. Exchange a modest amount on arrival for immediate needs and exchange the remainder in the city.



## ATMs

- ATMs are available at Bole International Airport, at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, and at major banks throughout Addis Ababa.
- Major international debit and credit cards (Visa, Mastercard) can be used at many ATMs in Addis Ababa, though not all machines accept foreign cards — try multiple ATMs if one does not work.
- Withdrawal limits and fees vary by bank. Notify your bank before traveling that you will be using your card in Ethiopia to avoid transactions being blocked.
- ATM reliability can be inconsistent. Do not rely entirely on card withdrawals — carry some cash.



## Credit and debit cards

- Credit cards (Visa and Mastercard) are accepted at major hotels, upscale restaurants, and some shops in Addis Ababa. The Ethiopian Skylight Hotel accepts international cards.
- Cash is strongly preferred — and in many cases required — for taxis, markets, local restaurants, and any transactions outside major hotels. Do not assume card payment will be available.
- Inform your bank of your travel dates and destination before departing. Unfamiliar international transactions are often flagged and blocked as a precaution.
- Some banks apply foreign transaction fees of 1–3% per transaction. Check your card's terms before travel.



## Practical tips

- Carry a mixture of small and larger ETB notes. Change for large notes is not always available at smaller vendors.
- The Ethiopian Birr cannot be legally exported from Ethiopia. Convert unused Birr back to hard currency before departing.

## Telecommunications

Ethiopia's primary mobile operator is Ethio Telecom, which provides the widest coverage nationally. Safaricom Ethiopia also operates in major urban areas. SIM cards are available at Bole Airport and at mobile outlets throughout the city. Passport registration is required before a SIM card can be activated. eSIM options may be available through some providers — check in advance.

The Ethiopian Skylight Hotel provides Wi-Fi in rooms and common areas. Conference sessions will have internet connectivity.

## What to pack

- Light, breathable clothing for daytime — July is mild at this altitude, not hot
- A light jacket or warm layer — evenings drop to around 11–12°C (52°F) in July
- Waterproof jacket or compact umbrella — July is peak rainy season; heavy afternoon showers are the norm
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Universal power adapter (Type C/E/F, 220V)
- Prescription medications in adequate supply — pack in carry-on luggage
- Basic travel medicines: pain relief (paracetamol/ibuprofen), anti-diarrheal (e.g., Imodium), antihistamines
- Reusable water bottle — bottled water is widely available; avoid tap water



## ***Safety and local etiquette***

Addis Ababa is generally safe for visitors who take standard precautions. Remain alert in crowded areas, avoid displaying valuables, and use official taxis or hotel-arranged transport rather than unregistered vehicles.

- **Greetings:** A warm handshake is standard in professional and social settings.
- **Language:** Ethiopia's official languages include Amharic, Afaan Oromo, Tigrinya, Somali, and Afar. English is widely spoken in hotels, conference settings, and tourist areas. Basic Amharic: Selam (Hello); Ameseginalehu (Thank you); Yikerta (Excuse me/Sorry).

- **Dress:** Modest dress is appreciated, particularly at religious and public sites.
- **Photography:** Always ask permission before photographing individuals, especially in local communities.

## ***Emergency services***

- **General Emergency / Police:** 991
- **Ambulance / Red Cross:** 907
- **Fire:** 902



Emergency response times and capacity in Addis Ababa can vary. For medical emergencies, your hotel and the conference secretariat can also assist in coordinating rapid access to care. See Section 10.



## Accommodation

The conference will take place at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, where we have secured a conference room block for delegates. The Skylight Hotel is the largest hotel in Ethiopia, owned by Ethiopian Airlines, and offers a full-service conference and hospitality facility located approximately five minutes from Addis Ababa Bole International Airport.

### ***Ethiopian Skylight Hotel — Conference Venue and Recommended Hotel***

<b>Address</b>	Airport Road, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
<b>Phone</b>	+251 11 681 8181
<b>Booking Promo code</b>	Promo code is MEAF2026
<b>Booking link</b>	<a href="#">Book by clicking this link</a>
<b>Distance to airport</b>	Approximately 5 minutes from Bole International Airport (ADD)
<b>Rooms</b>	1,024 guest rooms and suites across multiple room types
<b>Conference space</b>	Largest hotel ballroom in Addis Ababa; 13 meeting and conference halls seating 50–4,000
<b>Facilities</b>	Indoor and outdoor pools, spa, fitness centre, 17 dining outlets, free airport shuttle, parking

### ***Sponsored delegates and speakers***

Most sponsored delegates and speakers will be accommodated at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel. Covered nights and any additional inclusions will be communicated individually by email. Do not book accommodation independently if your invitation indicates that accommodation is covered.

## *Self-funded delegates*

Delegates booking their own accommodation are strongly encouraged to book early. Availability in Addis Ababa during major international conferences can be limited, particularly at hotels close to the venue. Staying at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel is the most convenient option given that the conference takes place on-site.





## Transport

### **Airport arrival**

On arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, look for conference ushers holding a MedEdAfrica 2026 placard in the arrivals hall. Ushers will be available to assist with directions from the baggage collection area and will guide you toward your onward transport.

### **Sponsored delegates and speakers**

Sponsored delegates and speakers will be met by ushers and escorted to arranged vehicles for transport to the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel. Daily shuttle times will be communicated ahead of the conference.

### **Non-sponsored delegates**

Non-sponsored delegates are responsible for arranging their own transport from the airport. The Ethiopian Skylight Hotel offers a complimentary round-trip airport shuttle for hotel guests — confirm availability and schedule directly with the hotel when booking.



### **Getting around Addis Ababa**

#### **Ride-hailing apps**

- **RIDE:** The leading ride-hailing app in Addis Ababa, with metered fares and predominantly English-speaking drivers. Download and register before arriving.
- **ZayRide / Feres:** Alternative local platforms. These also use metered pricing and are generally reliable within the city.

**Uber is not available in Ethiopia.**

## Taxis

- Blue and white metered taxis are widely available at Bole Airport and throughout the city. Fares should be agreed before the trip, as meters may not always be used.
- Airport taxis typically cost USD 7–15 to most city-center hotels, depending on time and destination.
- ATAK taxis (sky blue) are stationed at designated ranks outside the airport arrivals gate and offer a more regulated option.
- Request taxis through your hotel's front desk when possible, particularly at night, to ensure you use a registered vehicle.

## Transport during the conference

As the conference takes place at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, delegates staying on-site will not need additional transport for sessions. Delegates staying at other hotels should plan for taxis or ride-hailing to reach the venue. Shuttle arrangements, if applicable, will be communicated before the conference.





## Meals and Dietary Information

### **Provided meals**

Morning refreshment breaks and lunch will be provided on all three conference days (6–8 July 2026). The Ethiopian Skylight Hotel operates 17 dining outlets spanning Ethiopian, Italian, Arabian, and Asian cuisine, giving delegates a wide range of options for dinners and other meals at their own cost.



### **Dietary requirements**

If you have specific dietary requirements or allergies — including vegetarian, vegan, halal, gluten-free, or other needs — please indicate this on your registration form. The conference team will do its best to accommodate all reasonable requirements. If you have not yet communicated a dietary requirement, please contact the secretariat at [mededafrika@coms-africa.org](mailto:mededafrika@coms-africa.org) as soon as possible.

### **Food and water safety**

Drink bottled water only and check that the seal is intact before consuming. The hotel restaurants operate to international food safety standards. If dining outside the hotel, exercise caution with street food, unwashed produce, and unpasteurized dairy products, as these are common causes of travelers' food poisoning.

### **Prayer facilities**

A dedicated prayer room will be available at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel for delegates who wish to observe prayers during the conference. The room will be clearly marked at the venue. Inquire at the registration or information desk for directions upon arrival.



## Medical Services

### ***On-site medical assistance***

A first-aid station with trained medical personnel will be available throughout the conference to respond to health concerns and provide basic emergency support. In the event of a serious medical need, arrangements will be made to transfer delegates to a qualified medical facility in Addis Ababa.

If you require medical assistance at any point during the conference, please inform the nearest member of staff or volunteer, who will direct you to the mobile clinic immediately.

### ***Altitude awareness***

At approximately 2,355 meters above sea level, Addis Ababa is one of the highest capital cities in the world. Delegates not accustomed to altitude may experience mild symptoms including headaches, fatigue, or slight shortness of breath in the first 24–48 hours. These typically resolve quickly. Rest on your first day, stay hydrated, and limit alcohol until acclimatized. If symptoms are severe or persistent, seek medical assistance without delay.

### ***Medical insurance***

The conference organizers do not provide medical or travel insurance. All medical fees and consultation costs are the responsibility of individual delegates. We strongly encourage all delegates to obtain comprehensive travel health insurance before departing. Insurance should ideally:

- ▶ Take effect from the date you depart your home country
- ▶ Cover medical treatment in Ethiopia
- ▶ Cover emergency medical evacuation and treatment within Africa
- ▶ Cover repatriation to your home country or country of residence

Delegates on regular medication for chronic conditions should travel with an adequate supply, preferably in their carry-on luggage.

## **Emergency contacts**

- ▶ General Emergency / Police: 991
- ▶ Ambulance / Red Cross: 907
- ▶ Fire: 902

### **If you feel unwell during the conference**

If you feel unwell at any point, please inform the nearest staff member, volunteer, or the information desk immediately. You will be directed to the on-site mobile clinic for assessment. Do not hesitate to ask for help — the medical team is on-site throughout all three conference days. If your condition requires hospital care, the on-site ambulance will arrange for transfer to the designated referral hospital in Addis Ababa.

### **Fire and evacuation**

In the event of a fire or required evacuation, please follow instructions from staff and venue personnel calmly. Do not use elevators. Proceed to the nearest emergency exit and assemble at the designated assembly point outside the venue. Emergency exits and evacuation routes will be clearly marked at all entrances.

### **Reporting food safety concerns**

If you suspect a food safety issue — such as contaminated food or a foreign object in your meal — please report it immediately to the information desk or a member of staff. Do not discard the item; preserve it for inspection. If you feel unwell after eating, proceed to the on-site mobile clinic.



## Inclusion and Accessibility

MedEdAfrica 2026 is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all participants, including those with disabilities or specific access requirements. We encourage delegates to inform the conference secretariat of any needs in advance so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged.

### **Venue accessibility**

The Ethiopian Skylight Hotel is designed to accommodate delegates with reduced mobility. Key accessibility features include:

- Step-free access to the main entrance, conference halls, exhibition areas, and registration desk
- Accessible guest rooms with widened doorways and grab rails (please request at time of booking)
- Elevator access to all conference levels
- Accessible toilet facilities on each floor of the conference venue

If you use a wheelchair or have specific mobility requirements and plan to stay at the Skylight Hotel, please indicate this when making your reservation so that an accessible room can be assigned.

### **On-site support**

Conference ushers and volunteers will receive basic disability awareness orientation and can assist with wayfinding, carrying items, or accessing session rooms.

### **Advance requests**

To help us prepare appropriately, please contact the conference secretariat at least four weeks before the conference if you require any of the following:

- Wheelchair-accessible transport from the airport or between hotels
- Sign language interpretation (Ethiopian Sign Language or International Sign)
- Assistance with seating preferences in plenary or breakout sessions

- ▶ Large-print program materials or alternative formats
- ▶ Permission to bring a personal assistant or carer (no additional registration fee will be charged for a support person)

Email [mededafrica@coms-africa.org](mailto:mededafrica@coms-africa.org) with the subject line “Accessibility request – [Your name]”.

### ***Travel and local infrastructure note***

While central Addis Ababa and major hotels are reasonably accessible, pavements, pedestrian crossings, and public transport outside the venue may present challenges for wheelchair users or those with limited mobility. Ride-hailing apps (RIDE, ZayRide) do not currently offer a dedicated accessible vehicle category. Delegates with significant mobility needs are strongly advised to stay at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel (the conference venue) to minimize external travel.

### ***Questions or concerns***

If you are unsure whether your needs can be met, please reach out. We will be honest about what we can reasonably provide and work with you to find practical solutions.



## Explore Ethiopia

Ethiopia is one of Africa's most historically and culturally rich destinations. As the only African country to have maintained its sovereignty throughout the colonial era, and as the birthplace of coffee and home to some of humanity's oldest fossils, it offers a uniquely layered travel experience. Its capital, Addis Ababa, is a dynamic, fast-evolving city with a vibrant arts scene, diverse cuisine, and significant cultural landmarks. Whether you have a few free hours before or after the conference, or plan to extend your stay for a weekend, Ethiopia offers memorable experiences for every traveler.

### *In and around Addis Ababa*

Feel the Vibrancy of Africa's Diplomatic Capital

If your schedule allows only a few hours of exploration, the following attractions are easily accessible from the conference venue and offer an excellent glimpse into Ethiopia's history, culture, and heritage.

- **National Museum of Ethiopia** — Home to 'Lucy' (Australopithecus Afa-rensensis), the 3.2-million-year-old hominid fossil that transformed our understanding of human evolution. The museum also features archaeological treasures, historical artifacts, and collections of Ethiopian art that provide insight into the country's rich past.
- **Unity Park** — Located inside the Grand Palace at the heart of Addis Ababa, Unity Park features a bonanza of historical, natural and cultural attractions. The sprawling park includes recreational facilities such as zoos which harbor black-maned Ethiopian lions, ostriches, peacocks, cheetahs, wild dogs and gelada baboons, among others. From historical buildings dating back to the time of Emperor Menelik II, to different pavilions showcasing the unique cultures of Ethiopia, and an aquarium featuring a beautiful collection of aquatic animals, Unity Park offers quite a spectacle for tourists seeking a myriad of attractions in one place.
- **Entoto Park** — Enclosed in a vast expanse of land at the peak of Addis Ababa, Entoto Park is one of the city's newest attractions ideal for nature lovers and thrill seekers. Thanks to the myriad of recreational facilities and the natural charm of the place, Entoto Park has become one of the must-visit parks in Addis. Some of its amenities include playing grounds, cinema, restaurants, cafes, artificial lake, art galleries, spas and other facilities where visitors can enjoy a number of indoor and outdoor activities.

- **Palace Museum** — The National Palace, a historic landmark in Addis Ababa, was built in 1955 to commemorate Emperor Haile Selassie's Silver Jubilee. More than just a building, the Jubilee Palace is a living relic, reflecting Ethiopia's royal heritage. This historic place recently underwent a restoration and reopened as a Palace Museum. Its exhibits include historical objects, including artifacts, kitchen utensils, books, ceremonial robes, and vehicles to mention but a few.
- **Friendship Park** — is a beautiful new park built a stone's throw away from the Grand Palace. This vast green space has stairways, running alongside meticulously designed flower belts crossing the park's hilly landscape. An artificial lake sheltering fish and ducks also sits at the center, adding beauty to the park, besides dancing water fountains which are open on special occasions. Friendship Park also has additional amenities for visitors to enjoy.
- **Holy Trinity Cathedral (Kidist Selassie)** — An architectural masterpiece, Holy Trinity Cathedral is the second-most important place of worship in Ethiopia, ranking behind the Old Church of St Mary of Zion in Aksum. Built in the 1930s and 1940s near the Ethiopian Parliament, the cathedral features an architectural mastery and is adorned with numerous statues of saints and angels. Its interior is embellished with beautiful icons created by the renowned Ethiopian artist, Afewerk Tekle. The cathedral's grounds hold the tombs of Emperor Haile Selassie, his wife Empress Menen Asfaw and other notable national figures.
- **Ethnological Museum** — Located on the grounds of the former Imperial Palace at Addis Ababa University, the Ethnological Museum houses extensive collections of Ethiopian art, culture, and history. In addition to an imperial residence, the museum features a variety of tribal heritage of Ethiopia through a rich collection of artifacts. The museum's collections, considered among the finest in Africa, offer deeper insight into Ethiopia's layered history.
- **Merkato** — Merkato is a dynamic marketplace reputed as the largest in Africa. It is a vibrant center of trade where thousands of vendors sell a wide array of goods, from traditional Ethiopian spices and textiles to modern electronics and household items. The market is a sensory overload, filled with the sounds of bargaining, the aroma of fresh coffee, and the sight of colorful fabrics. Merkato is not just a place for commerce but also a cultural melting pot, where people from different regions of Ethiopia converge.



## Beyond Addis Ababa

Experience the Wealth of Ethiopia's Natural & Cultural Attractions

Delegates wishing to extend their stay are encouraged to explore some of Ethiopia's most iconic destinations.

- **Lalibela** — Often referred to as the “New Jerusalem,” Lalibela is a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring 12th-century monolithic rock-hewn churches. While the churches of Lalibela are among the most remarkable architectural feats in Africa, the most striking church, Bete Giyorgis, is carved in the shape of a cross and stands out as a highlight of site. The surrounding escarpments are ideal for hiking, and the small eco-lodges and community guesthouses make Lalibela well suited for ecotourism.
- **Aksum** — Aksum is renowned for its remarkable stelae field, where colossal obelisks, dating back to around 400 BC, soar into the sky. This World Heritage Site is a must-visit for history enthusiasts. The biblical Ark of the Covenant is also believed to have been housed in a sanctuary near the Church of St Mary of Zion, one of Ethiopia's most sacred places of worship.
- **Simien Mountains National Park** — Simien Mountains National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a land of dramatic landscapes where you can encounter rare species, such as the Gelada Baboon, Ethiopian Wolf, and Walia Ibex. Marvel at towering cliffs, deep valleys, and the iconic Ras Dashen, Ethiopia's highest peak. Birdwatchers will rejoice with over 180 species, five of which are endemic to Ethiopia. Trekking through the park also gives you a chance to see incredible wildlife and scenery.
- **Bale Mountains National Park** offers spectacular landscapes, unique wildlife, and a rich cultural heritage. Trek through lush forests, moorlands, and the Sanetti Plateau while watching rare bird species. Hikers can conquer the highest peak. Enjoy horseback riding and immerse yourself in the local Oromo culture. The park is an adventurer's paradise, home to endemic species like the Ethiopian Wolf, Mountain Nyala, Walia Ibex, and Menelik's Bushbuck, promising memorable experiences in nature.
- **Danakil Depression** — One of the hottest and most geologically active places on earth, the Danakil Depression is a unique place with active volcanoes, sulfur springs, and salt flats. One of the most remarkable features of the Danakil Depression is the Erta Ale volcano, renowned for its persistent volcanic activity. Its southern crater holds one of the world's few permanent lava lakes, offering a rare and mesmerizing experience. With its surreal landscapes, dramatic geothermal features, the Danakil Depression is a must-visit destination for adventurous travelers. The place requires a licensed guided tour.

- **Omo Valley** — Home to dozens of distinct ethnic groups, the Omo Valley is one of the world's most culturally diverse regions. Each tribe boasts its unique language, traditions, and lifestyles offering unparalleled immersive experience for visitors. These tribes exhibit unique culinary practices, traditional clothing, and intricate body decorations that have been preserved for centuries. The Lower Omo Valley is also a significant paleontological spot and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Wanchi-Dendi Ecolodge** — The breathtaking Wanchi Crater Lake, located 98 km west of Addis Ababa, has always been a tourist magnet. With the building of the Wanchi-Dendi Ecolodge, a fresh air of ecotourism has been breathed into the serene destination. The sprawling ecolodge features tukuls featuring local designs, presidential suites, meeting rooms, restaurant, bar, wellness center, gym and thermal pool. Visitors can also enjoy a variety of activities organized by the local community, such as horse riding, pony trekking, and traditional boat excursions.
- **Chebera Elephant Paw Lodge** — is one of the astounding tourist facilities built in recent years. Built on 10 hectares of land at the entrance of Chebera Churchura National Park, the lodge is designed to provide unparalleled service to visitors and event organizers seeking top class service. The lodge has presidential villas with private swimming pools, VIP villas, standard rooms, meeting rooms, restaurants, lounges as well as wellness centers nestled in the midst of serene nature. The lodge is equipped with offices for wildlife researchers and features a towering observation deck. Moreover, the grounds are adorned with intricately crafted statues of various wildlife species.
- **Halala Kella Resort** — Located in the Dawro Zone, Halala Kella is a state-of-the-art resort built with fascinating design which blends modern architecture with traditional house styles peculiar to southern Ethiopia. The amenities of Halala Kella include villas, convention center, museum, restaurant and bar as well as a sunset deck where visitors enjoy the captivating sight of the sun setting in the picturesque skyline of the area. The presidential and standard rooms, which face a man-made lake, are designed to provide guests a delightful and refreshing stay in the resort. Guests who visit Halala Kella can grab a souvenir from the artifacts shop in the resort, as a token of their stay in this majestic place.

## ***Cuisines and Coffee***

As a land of rich cultural diversity, Ethiopia offers a culinary adventure like no other. Its vast array of dishes caters to various dietary needs with delicious stews, often meat-based but with plenty of vegetarian options. Cultural restaurants in Addis invite visitors to savor authentic Ethiopian cuisine and beverages. And no visit to Ethiopia is complete without experiencing its world-renowned coffee culture, where every cup is accompanied by the warm hospitality of Ethiopians.

## ***Tourism resources***

**Ethiopian Airlines Holidays (travel packages):** [www.ethiopianholidays.com/packages/et](http://www.ethiopianholidays.com/packages/et)

**Official Ethiopia tourism website:** [www.ethiopia.travel](http://www.ethiopia.travel)

**Ethiopian Immigration and e-Visa portal:** [www.evisa.gov.et](http://www.evisa.gov.et)



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We look forward to welcoming you to  
**Addis Ababa in July 2026.**



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