

ETHIOPIA

NORTH TO SOUTH

The rural parts of Ethiopia, especially in the north, are known for their incredible landscapes and historical sites; the kindest people; small, bustling cities; great food; and very little traffic on excellent local roads.

After riding north through Kenya's Chalbi Desert from Nairobi toward Ethiopian border town Moyale, the sight of Ethiopia approaching is sweet relief—low green hills, clouds promising rain on the fringes of the Great Rift Valley, and the Horn of Africa almost within reach.

The A2 becomes the 80 across the border and continues in straight, two-lane sections north to the savannahs of Yabelo Wildlife Sanctuary, home to zebras, cows, and many birds, but poached out of everything else. Some curvy roads, mostly tar, break off

from the 80 here and travel past UNESCO-recognized, walled tribal village Konso, and the grasslands south of twin lakes Chamo and Abaya; the roads continue to twist around these low, rising hills before arriving at the big market town of Arba Minch, just across a small, thick forest.

North of here is the city of Shashamane, which can be reached via the abundant winding dirt tracks along the Bilate River; otherwise, the 7 is a direct, tarmacked road. Shashamane is home, along with capital Addis Ababa, to a resilient community of >

→ Approaching the Simien Mountains, Amhara.

