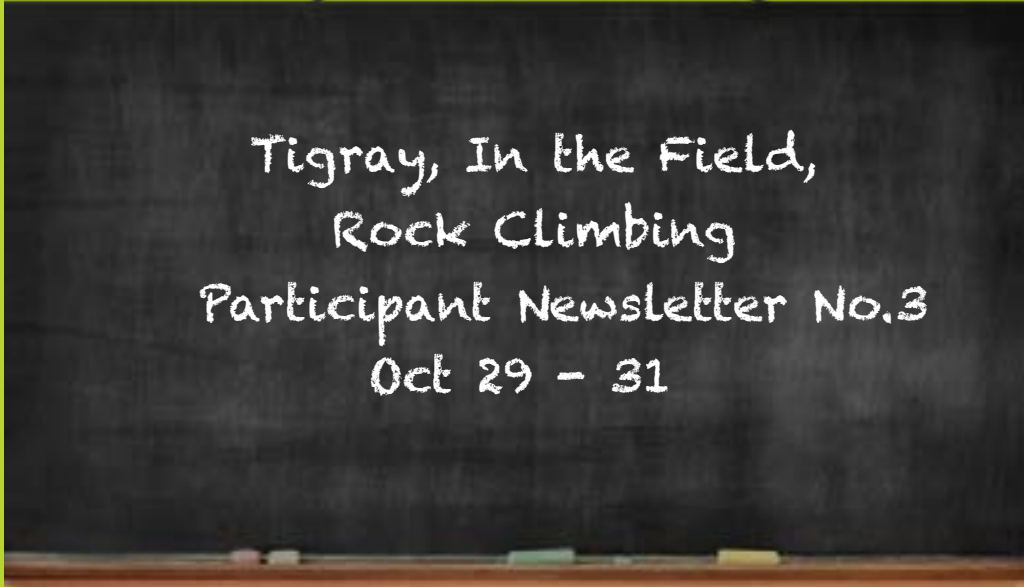




imagine ETHIOPIA

October 23 - November 5, 2011



Tigray, In the Field,
Rock Climbing
Participant Newsletter No.3
Oct 29 - 31



imagine1day™



Welcome to i1d Country

It is remarkably beautiful. I think – and I was very lucky because I rode with Teddy (Imagine Ethiopia’s incredible lead driver) most of the way and I was asking him all kinds of questions – what amazed me was just the vastness of the land that had been cultivated.

I think, visually, you’re greeted with such beauty, moment to moment, that as you drive through the hills, you’re picking your jaw up off the ground because everything is just so stunningly beautiful.

Nancy Herb, IE2011 Participant



This is ETHIOPIA

Gheralta Lodge is an Italian-Ethiopian haven for travellers venturing North into the Tigray region to discover the incredible people, culture, and history unique to this area. Imagine Ethiopia leader Ted McDonald and participants Nancy Herb and Mary Anna Noveck make use of the beautiful West verandah to recount their experiences of the last three days, as the late afternoon sun slowly starts to sink behind the Gheralta Mountain Range.

Nancy: It is remarkably beautiful. I think – and I was very lucky because I rode with Teddy most of the way and I was asking him all kinds of questions – what

amazed me was just the vastness of the land that had been cultivated. Everywhere you look, you’ve got a patchwork quilt of colors: browns, greens, mauves, sages, and every little piece of land that can be cultivated and farmed is done so. I think, visually, you’re greeted with such beauty, moment to moment, that as you drive through the hills, you’re picking your jaw up off the ground because everything is just so stunningly beautiful.

Mary Anna: And also you see things that – I mean, you would never see people using oxen and burros and donkeys and the transportation with the old wooden carts and the old wheels. You feel like

you’ve stepped back into an era that existed centuries ago. It’s things that I’ve never experienced before: people washing themselves in the river or – not only are they all cultivating the land but they’re raising their herds.

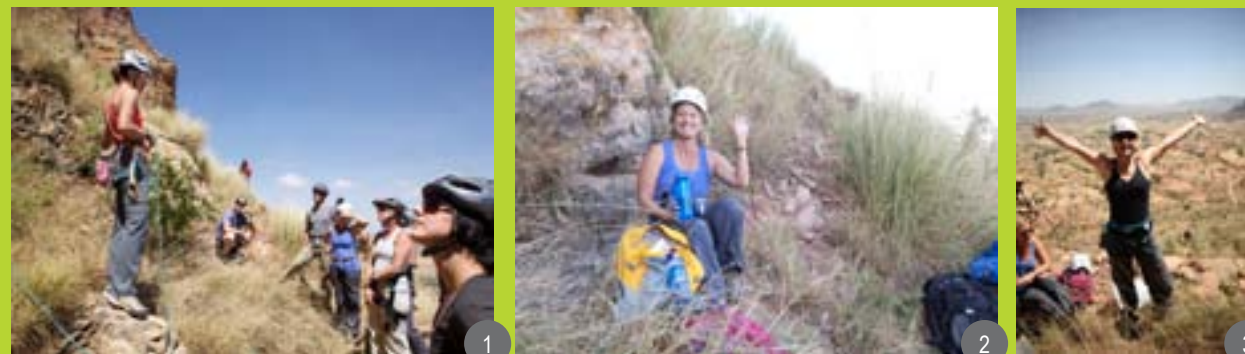
Ted: It was great to see the whole, entire part of – 420 km – that we drove. And what I’m totally blown away by, besides the beauty and the exquisite landscapes that we’re seeing, is how every inch of land is used and that’s incredible to me. Just as far as you can see in the distance, there is someone cultivating that land in the distance. I mean, it was really mind-blowing.

Way Up High



1. Michael Millard, our amazing lead driver Teddy Berhanu, Michelle Lazar, and Katie Thurmes at Gheralta Lodge
2. Driving into the sunset in Tigray
3. Gaining altitude from Lalibella to Mekelle

Our Experience



N: Ok, so I just loved it. I never, ever dreamed of rock climbing; it never even came into my world whatsoever, in any kind of way. But yesterday was such an incredible experience for me. First, was just the pure fact that I'm going to do this activity: I think it was very authentic rock climbing. And Majka was brilliant, the encouragement – and I pushed through and, you know, when I got to the top, I was so excited. I would have gone up more than just the four faces that I went up. Rock climbing: I loved it.

MA: The idea of climbing just seemed very daunting; out of my league, really. So it was, for me, very special to be able to do it and, I don't know about accomplish, but I did what everyone else did. I'm glad I went and I'm glad I'm here to talk about it. I felt really safe – everyone was there to support.

T: I'm not a huge climber, by any means, but I've done a very little bit, so it was just cool for me to think about rock climbing in Ethiopia. Just being able to say that I went rock climbing in Ethiopia is incredible and to have these exquisite views of this countryside is incredible. And I just kept wondering, why aren't there more people coming here?



1. Majka Burhardt briefs Ted McDonald, Adam Millard, Mary Anna Noveck, Nancy Herb, and Katie Thurmes before a day of rock climbing
2. Mary Anna Noveck takes a break after a climb
3. Andi McLeish in her element
4. Sapna Dayal is all smiles climbing again with Majka Burhardt

“Just being able to say that I went rock climbing in Ethiopia is incredible. And I just kept wondering, why aren't there more people coming here?”

Ted McDonald, IE2011 Leader



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T: Seeing all the work that we all have been involved with and raising money for – in the past eight months – was mind-blowing. I was awe-inspired by that day. Overall, the community was welcoming, which I think is a big deal – especially in a country like this – to be on the side of the community. And the imagine1day team here, I think, is awesome.

MA: I was fascinated to see the two schools that are next to each other and to have that comparison to see what walls and desks can do. Nothing fancy: just the basics. Seeing the future of what needs to be done, the “dass” school, and then, the teacher who was really saying how tough it was to teach in that environment, that it was not really that conducive to learning.

N: I can also say that I got a kick out of those little kids that had big smiles on their faces and they were still learning: there is still learning occurring, which is at best, at the stage where they're at, a good thing. You know, there is a school there, it's under a thatched roof – well, here we go, keep on raising money and let's get on it.

5. Sapna Dayal and Katie Thurmes start their Mekelle morning at team favorite Zemenawi
6. Nancy Herb visits Agulae Maernet's "O" Class
7. Michael Millard and his production assistants at Agulae Maernet
8. Brittany Wood presents Class 2015 High School Scholarship recipients with imagine1day bracelets that she designed and manufactured
9. Ted McDonald getting final approval on a photo with Class 2015 students

The Last Page



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