

What's in the Danakil Depression?

DALLOL

Just shy of the border with Eritrea, **Dallol** is one of the world's most **extraordinary** natural phenomena.

Dallol is famous for its kaleidoscopic landscape of bright greens, yellows and reds. Set deep in the Danakil desert, the region looks more martian than terrestrial. It's also prime research ground for scientists looking for extremophile microbes.



ERTA ALE

Erta Ale is a basaltic shield **volcano** and is one of just six volcano's in the world that has an active **lava lake**.

Reaching Erta Ale involves a 3 hour climb from the base camp, Dodom. The climb starts at 7pm when the sun sets and the summit is reached by 11pm. Camels bring sleeping equipment to the nearby campsite adjacent to the crater rim.



SALT LAKES

The two main salt lakes in the Danakil are **Lake Karum** (aka Lake Asale), and **Lake Afdera** (aka Lake Afrera).

The two lakes are remarkably different in appearance. Lake Karum is surrounded by white salt pans and looks like an arctic desert. Lake Afdera is a more 'typical' lake and can be swam in. There is a nearby hot spring to wash off the salt!



CAMEL CARAVANS

Salt mining is the main industry of the Danakil, and **camels** are the vehicle of choice to export the salt out of the region.

Witnessing the salt extraction is a humbling experience. Under 40°C+ heat, local Afar people manually extract the salt from the pans, cutting them into blocks and loading on to the camels to be transported into the nearest town.



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