A Glimpse into an Educational Journey in Ethiopia:
The 2017 Edition.

These “Aksumite” windows of the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela are among the ornaments of one of the holiest enclaves of a place known as “African Zion.” This unique cluster of eleven churches cut from living volcanic rocks was designed as a symbolic representation of the holy city of Jerusalem. The window frames were given the form of a series of 4th century obelisks located in Aksum, the spiritual home of Ethiopia’s Orthodox Christian Church.

The Aksumite windows encapsulate the main idea underpinning this exhibition, namely to provide an entry point into shared memories and experiences of our students in Ethiopia.

Last May, a group of students and academics from the African Studies Programme and the Linguistics Department of HKU undertook a field trip to Ethiopia that was conceived as a major learning experience and knowledge exchange programme for our students. The trip comprised of a combination of visits to historical sites in Ethiopia, meetings with professors and students from Aksum and Addis Ababa Universities, as well as a series of sharing sessions about students’ life at HKU with a group of high school students in Addis Ababa.

Our students attended biweekly seminars before the trip in which they identified topics and designed research projects that they worked on during their stay in Ethiopia.

This year, Professor John Kao, VP Global of HKU, and Professor Derek Collins, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, briefly joined the team while they were on an official visit to Ethiopia and South Africa.

The field trip was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Faculty of Arts and the Hong Kong office of Ethiopian Airlines.