



## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:  
Benjamin J. Sills, Partner Concepts  
Telephone: 410-224-7688  
Email: [ben@partnerconcepts.com](mailto:ben@partnerconcepts.com)

# Ethiopian Airlines Journeys First to Congratulate Derartu Tulu on Winning the New York City Marathon

Washington, D.C. – November 2, 2009 — Ethiopian Airlines Journeys would like to be the first to congratulate Derartu Tulu on winning the 40<sup>th</sup> running of the New York City Marathon.

With a steady wind and thousands of distant footfalls behind her, Ethiopian Olympian, Derartu Tulu, broke the tape with a time of 2 hours, 28 minutes, and 52 seconds, becoming the first woman from Ethiopia to win the New York City Marathon.

Her victory came 17 years after she became the first black African woman to win an Olympic gold medal in the 10,000 meters at the Barcelona Games, and more than a year since she nearly abandoned a comeback after the birth of her second child.

Tulu, who won her second Olympic gold medal at the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia, finished just 75 seconds in front of pre-race favorite and former two-time defending champion, Paula Radcliffe of Great Britain.

A member of the Oromo ethnic group, Tulu grew up tending cattle in the village of Bekoji in the Oromia Region of central Ethiopia. Her cousins Ejegayehu Dibaba, Tirunesh Dibaba and Genzebe Dibaba are all successful international long-distance runners, continuing the proud athletic history of the Oromo people.

“Ethiopia takes great pride in their marathon runners,” said Benjamin J. Sills, Director of Marketing for Ethiopian Airlines Journeys and a native New Yorker. “The athleticism and training commitment of these runners is truly amazing.”

Americans who wish to visit the fascinating homeland of these world-famous runners need look no further than Ethiopian Airlines Journeys. Whether it’s visiting the captivating history of the Northern route or experiencing the indigenous tribal cultures of the Southern route, Ethiopian Airlines Journeys crafts customized vacations to meet all needs. And beginning this month:

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### *About Ethiopian Airlines Journeys*

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African experiences. This is all provided with total customization, built around each traveler's preferences and interests. Call toll-free 1-866-599-3797 or visit [www.seeyouinethiopia.com](http://www.seeyouinethiopia.com) for more information.

***About Ethiopian Airlines***

Ethiopian Airlines is one of the largest airlines in Africa serving 53 destinations around the globe. As the winner of the 2007 African Business of the Year and Best African Airline Award for 2006, its service and quality are unparalleled among African airlines. Featuring five flights weekly from Washington D.C.'s Dulles International Airport, the airline offers both morning and evening departures, with the morning departure allowing seamless connections to 32 African destinations. The airline's web site provides excellent information on additional flights, services and special web fares. For more information about Ethiopian Airlines, visit [www.ethiopianairlines.com](http://www.ethiopianairlines.com).

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For information or press materials contact:

Mr. Benjamin J. Sills, Partner Concepts LLC

Telephone: 410-224-7688

Fax: 410-224-1499

E-mail: [ben@partnerconcepts.com](mailto:ben@partnerconcepts.com)