



Southern Ethiopia

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Paradise Lodge – Abaya Restaurant (p157)
- ➔ Venezia (p145)
- ➔ Dolce Vita Bar & Restaurant (p145)
- ➔ Harena Coffee (p152)
- ➔ Lem Cafe (p153)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Paradise Lodge (p157)
- ➔ Bale Mountain Lodge (p152)
- ➔ Buska Lodge (p172)
- ➔ Haile Resort (p144)
- ➔ Aregash Lodge (p152)
- ➔ Sabana Beach Resort (p139)

Why Go?

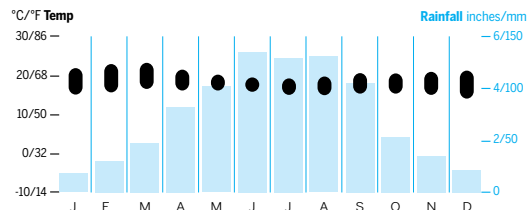
Southern Ethiopia is a canvas ripped in two. Its landscape is being torn apart by the Great Rift Valley, leaving a trail of lakes where you can go see crocodiles, hippos and birds – or just drink in the scenery from your hotel.

Move east and the Bale Mountains offer rewarding treks across a plateau amid Afro-alpine plants and rare wildlife. It's here you'll encounter the world's rarest canid, the Ethiopian wolf.

But it's the seemingly timeless tribes of the Lower Omo Valley, such as the lip-stretching Mursi and body-painting Karo, that leave the deepest impression on visitors. To meet them 20 years ago was nearly unheard of. To travel here today is very easy, but still a privilege. And if you really want to get away from it all, you can cross the Omo River and explore the Omo National Park, which feels like the world's end.

When to Go

Arba Minch



Jan–Apr Prime months for Jumping of the Bulls ceremonies.

Apr–May & Oct The rainy season around the Lower Omo Valley; travel to some villages is impossible.

Aug–Oct The wettest months in the Bale Mountains; trekking can be difficult.

Southern Ethiopia Highlights

1 Bale Mountains

National Park

(p147) Spotting the world's rarest canid, the Ethiopian wolf, while trekking this sublime national park.

2 Key Afar

(p170) Bartering for an inscribed calabash at the lively tribal market.

3 Konso Villages

(p163) Getting lost in labyrinthine traditional villages.

4 Dodola (p146)

Imagining you're in a fairy-tale forest while horse trekking on the edge of the Bale Mountains.

5 Dorze (p161)

Seeing how the Dorze people weave their houses.

6 Lake Chew Bet

(p154) Marvelling at the strength of the men who work the black ooze at this spectacular lake.

7 Mursi

Villages (p169)

Experiencing African tribal life at its most raw and wild.

8 Omo National

Park (p175)

Exploring this remote but newly accessible park before the crowds discover it's not so hard to reach after all.

9 Awasa (p142)

Dining on grilled fish and recharging the batteries in southern Ethiopia's most enjoyable city.

