



Fig.7.Erbore Boys in Debibe Omo Zone

Historical Mosques: Tongola in Kaffa, Alkeso and Haji Aye in Silte, Qatbare, Aberaet & Zebemola in Gurage Zone. Besides; Nur-Ahmed of Alaba, Butajera and Dila Mosques are Very well-known recent in their architectural design and attracts many tourists.

Stelae: Stelae are among the oldest cultural heritages of the region found in most parts of the region mainly Gurage, Gedeo, Sidama, Wolita, Silte, zones & Yeme Special Woreda. The stelae are of two shapes: one with cylindrical shape, which represents male sex organ while the others are flat with engravings. These stelae attracted the interest of archeologists and potential for tourism development. Tiya stelae registered as one of the eight World Heritage Sites of the country.

Caves and Forts: Caves are found in different places of the region on the sides of cliff, near by the springs and in the middle of thick forest The most amazing caves includes Moche-Borago of Wolita, Diabeten cave of Bench-Maji, Wollo-Shola Cave of Keffa, Banelicho & Batena caves of Hadia, Dawa Cave in Kembata & Timbaro and Shekshko cave in Sheka Zone



Fig.8. Tiya stelae in Gurage Zone

A wonderful geologic occurrences and unmixed cultures/unique are found in Konso Special woreda. New-York (an eroded terrain), the walled villages, the Moras, the Olayats and Wakas are the most tourist attraction sites in the region.

The long defense Hallal walls which covers 175.5 km in length found in Dawro Zone

Paleoanthropological Sites: There are a lot of Paleoanthropological sites in the lower Omo River Basins in South Omo Zone and Konso Special Woreda. The lower Omo Paleanthropological sites registered by UNESCO as the World Heritage sites. The most important and known sites for Paleoanthropological study: Shungura (Between 3.3-0.8 million years ago), Usno & Mursi (about 4.1 mya), Kibish (younger sediments), formations. All these formations are found within lower-Omo. Fejej and Weyto formation found east of Omo river & rich with vertebrate fossils of late Oligocene and Pleistocene.

3. Cultural and Ethnic Attractions: SNNPR one of the most important regional states of the country embraces about 56 nationalities that have their own languages and cultures. The ethnic diversity is high in South-Omo Administrative Zone, where there are 16 Nationalities. The peoples have diverse & unspoiled culture in their life style, body decoration, dressing, wearing jewelries and way of life. Each of the nationalities of the region has their own, weeding, burial, religious and other cultural ceremonies. Some of nationalities are known of their special cotton cloths weaving and dressing, in addition to that making bracelets, nickels, earrings and bead. The stone and wood curving techniques of the Konso nationalities are very impressive and attractive for tourists.



Fig.9. Konso Walled Villages



**Southern Nations,
Nationalities & People's
Regional State,
Trade & Industry
Culture and Tourism Development Process**



Fig.1. Visitors on Omo River By local Boat(Omorate)



Fig.2. Hammer Girls on Market days

e-mail: south_tourism@yahoo.com
www.southtourism.gov.et
 P.o. box 1078
 Toll 251462210480/208490

Diversity of Southern Nations Nationalities and people's Regional State (SNNPRS)

SNNPRS is one of the federal regional states of Ethiopia endowed with a remarkably rich cultural, Historical and Natural diversity. The presence of more than 50 nations Nationalities and peoples (70% of the country) with an exceptional variety of ceremonies, festivals, celebrations, rituals, and other living expressions. Moreover, two of the world heritages sites; the Great Rift Valley Lakes; wildlife protected areas; hot springs; waterfalls, the south-western natural forest; Konso Cultural village, Gedeo agro-forestry practices, together with the diverse cultural resources set the region among the top priority attractions. Besides, the ancient monasteries and churches; and the old-aged and historical staele and caves can offer great opportunity for sustainable social & Economic development of the region and the country as a whole through the safest tourism industry.



Fig.3. Burchel's Zebra of Nech-Sar (Wet Season)

1. Natural attractions

Wildlife Protected Areas: The Region holds seven National Parks (Namely: Mago, Maze and Chebra-Churchura, Gibe-Sheleko, Loka Abaya, Nech-Sar, and Omo), two wildlife reserve (Tama & Chelbi), two Controlled Hunting Areas (Welishet-Sala & Murule) and different community based wildlife conservation areas.

Rivers and Lakes: The Region is fortunate in possessing a number of water basins which is certainly one of the reasons for the rich biological diversity. Omo (one of the big river in the country), Gojeb, Gibe, Bilate, Segen, Akobo and Woyto Rivers and Rift Valley Lakes such as Abaya (the largest of the Great Rift Valley Lakes of Ethiopia), Chamo (the most productive), Hwassa, Chew Bahir and Rudolf are found within SNNPRS.

These water bodies are home for crocodiles, Hippopotamus, and diverse fish's and waterfowl species. Besides, the lakes are suitable for sport fishing, boating and for other recreational purposes



Fig.4. Hwassa Lake and Visitors

Waterfalls (Cascade): The rugged nature of the terrain and the long rainy season are reasons for the formation of natural waterfalls in the region. The most spectacular waterfalls include Ajora fall: (on border of Wolita and Kembata-Tembaro), Acho fall (Gurage,) Logita and Bonora falls (Sidama), Bartta fall (Kafa), Finchiwa fall (Hadiya) and Shekshko fall (Sheka Zone).

Picture waterfalls

Cold and hot Springs: The region has numerous natural springs as well as holly and mineral waters which are curative & attractive. The Forty-Springs "Arba-Minch" (Gamo-Gofa), Wondo-Genet & Gidabo Hot-Springs (Sidama), Arto Hot-Springs (Halaba), Dadiben Hot-Springs (Kaffa), Loqe and Jatu Hot-Springs (Gurage), Wejemta and Usinka Hot-Springs (Benchi-Maji Zone).

Mountains: The Mountains of the region have magnificent scenery and are the sources of many rivers and springs as well as potential for eco-tourism development in the region.

The most glorious mountains of the Region includes: Guge mountain: one of the highest mountains in the country found in Gamo-Gofa, with pick rising about 4207m a.s.l., Germba mountain in Sidamo 3321m a.s.l., Dello mountain in Amaro Special Woreda 3232m a.s.l., Ambericho mountain in Kembata Timbaro 3058m a.s.l., and Mugo mountain in Silte Zone 3000m a.s.l. Most of these highland (Particularly the western) covered with rain forest.



Fig.5. Garamba Mountain Community Conservation Area (Sidama Zone)

2. Historical and man made attractions:

A number of **ancient monasteries and Churches** are known in the region. Most of the Orthodox Churches are of tabernacles came from the northern parts of the country and are built on the top of hills. Currently, Muhur Eyesus and Midre-Kebid Abo are used as educational center of Orthodox Churches in Gurage Zone. "Birbir Mariam" and Eli St. Gebreal in Gamo-Gofa, Isera-Bale St. Michael in Dawro, Beha Giorgis and Anderach Medahni-Alem in Kafa Zone, Yero Medahni-Alem in Amaro Special Woreda together with the recently built Churches of Hawassa St. Gebreal & Dila Chuchu St. Gebreal, attract many domestic tourists.



Fig.6. Anderacha Medhanialem Church Kaffa Zone

