

## Awash National Park

Awash National Park is a symbol of nature conservation in Ethiopia. The park contains valuable ecological, cultural, archaeological, geological, and economic resources. In Awash National Park, you can admire a waterfall, turquoise pools of natural hot springs, and the dormant Fentale volcano. The resulting crater, the Filwuha hot spring, the Illala Sala plain, and the Awash River with its gorge and magnificent waterfall form the park's most important ecological units. The Fentale volcano, with its 300-meter-high crater, is the highest peak in the Ethiopian Rift Valley. In its foothills are caves inhabited by spotted hyenas, literally "hyena caves." The hyena caves are among the park's attractions.

The beautiful Beisa oryx and the Soemmering gazelle are common here. Other animals include salt-billed dik-diks, greater and lesser kudus (especially in the Kudu Valley), Defassa waterbucks, warthogs, and black-and-white colobus monkeys, which prefer the riparian forests. Lions, leopards, cheetahs, black-backed jackals, caracals, servals, wild cats, and aardwolves can also be found in the park (although less easily spotted). However, with a little luck, you might spot them.

### Birds

The park's birdlife is exceptional, and many Ethiopian endemic birds can be observed. Over 460 bird species have been recorded in Awash, from the common ostrich to the rarer secretary bird and Abyssinian hornbill. The scarlet bee-eater and Abyssinian roller add bold splashes of color. And there are many more species—from raptors to forest and savannah birds. Three bustard species: Kori bustard, *Struthio*-crested bustard, and Sulphur-crested bustard; secretary bird, African goshawk, white-bellied mason, yellow-throated sea eagle, African fish eagle, seedeater, and dusky wheatear; and various species of starlings and weaverbirds.

### History of the park

Awash National Park was the first of two parks in Ethiopia to be officially recognized, following the advice of Petrides (1961) and UNESCO missions. The decision to grant it national park status was justified for the following reasons: First, most of the area in question was already protected as a private hunting reserve of His Imperial Majesty Haile

Selassie, thus providing abundant game. Second, it is an area of exceptional physiographic and geological interest, where the Rift Valley extends. Furthermore, the reserve's landscape, wildlife, and proximity to the capital, Addis Ababa, make it ideally suited as an arid lowland national park (UNESCO MISSION, 1964).

The park covers an area of 756 square kilometers and consists primarily of acacia and grassland, but also offers an interesting variety of volcanic landscapes. Easily accessible from Addis Ababa, the 756 square kilometer Awash National Park is one of Ethiopia's most visited parks. Located 211 kilometers east of Addis Ababa from the edge of the city, it takes its name from the Awash Falls near the park headquarters.

### Doho Lodge

Doho Lodge & Hot Springs is an eco-lodge located on the northern edge of Awash National Park. It offers accommodation with a selection of food and beverages. The rooms are self-contained and separated from neighbors. They are traditionally built and offer relaxation. The lodge is known for one of the best hot spring pools in the world. It is also ideal for bird watching, game drives and wildlife viewing, mountain and forest hikes, hyena spotting, and fishing.

### Itinerary

**Day -1** Upon arrival at Bole International Airport, you will be greeted by our tour guides and transferred to your booked hotel. Most flights to Addis Ababa arrive in the morning, leaving the remaining hours of the day available for a city tour of Addis Ababa. Full- and half-day tours are available on our website. Learn more about our city tours there.

If you arrive at night, the next day will be reserved for a full-day city tour of Addis Ababa.

**Day 2-** *Early in the morning, Grab coffee and snakes on the way from one of the very famous coffee shops in the town. (No time for actual breakfast.)*

Drive 254 km along the Addis Adama Expressway. After arriving in Adama, continue through Adama to Awash.

Arriving at Awash National Park, we leave our luggage at Doho Lodge and lunch break.

In the afternoon, explore the park by 4x4. Occasionally, we encounter wildlife and even hike part of the trail with armed scouts. And bird watching.

Stay over night at Doho Lodge.

**Day 3-** spend the morning at Dodo Lodge and take a dip in the natural hot spring in the modern pool with spectacular views and recreational activities.

In the morning we drive to Adama City, have lunch there and then continue to Addis.

Farwell Night: rest a bit, and enjoy an early dinner in one of Ethiopia's best jazz or (reggae optional) lounges, or in one of the most beautiful dance and folklore houses with a traditional coffee ceremony. This concludes the three-day trip.

*Note*

***This trip can be customized for, two days, with price adjustments, which may result in reduced payments.***

### **What does the 3 days tour include?**

- \*Hotel and lodge fees
- \* Air fair for domestic flights
- \*Pick up and drop off service.
- \*Transportation, including fuel and driving.
- \*Entrance fees, at all listed places.
- \*Professional English speaking tour-guide.
- \*Lunch, dinner, hot drinks and bottled water.

### **What's not included?**

- \* Alcoholic beverages not listed on the package
- \*Tips and Gratitude

All-Inclusive Cheber ChurChura Safari

Total: \$2013 (individual price)

\*Group of 2: \$1509 per person

\*Group of 3: \$1358 per person

\*Group of 4-9: \$1222 per person

\*Group of 10 or more: \$1107 per person

From 25% to 45% discount for group tours