

## ***Wondo Genet trekking, excursion to the Rastafari village of Shashemene and the Senkele wildlife and bird sanctuary.***

Wondo-Genet is a popular thermal spa nestled amidst forested hills, about 18 km south of Shashemene and 24 km north of Hawassa (the capital of the Sidama region). The name Wondo-Genet means "Green Paradise." The surrounding area offers numerous attractions, including the swimming pool fed by the spring directly on the hill. The resort was built for the royal family during the reign of Haile Silassie (the last king of Ethiopia). This place is also an ideal spot for birdwatchers. A variety of forest birds can be observed here, including the Tree Pipit, Yellow-fronted Parrot, Mountain Buzzard, Banded Barbet, Ethiopian Golden Oriole, Ethiopian Salt-creeper, Abyssinian Woodpecker, Black-headed Saw-winged Stork, Spotted Tree-creeper, and many more. Also Gureza monkeys, Anabas baboons, and grivet monkeys live on the resort grounds.

Wondo-Genet is known for its hot springs and is surrounded by Ethiopian forests. It houses an arboretum and a forestry school founded in 1977 with Swedish support. This complex also houses the Essential Oils Research Center, where spices, aromatic, and medicinal plants are preserved and their properties are researched.

### ***The Rastafari community of Shashemene***

Shahemene, The Rastafari community of Shashemene, known locally as Jamaica, is located on the main street in the north of the city. It is easily recognizable by its tricolor buildings, dreadlocked residents, and the rounded vowels of Caribbean English. Rastafarians worldwide consider Ethiopia their spiritual home. Many believe that the country's last king, Haile Selassie, was a descendant of King Solomon and the Messiah. Many of these men traveled thousands of kilometers to live in their promised land. The town of Shashemene in southern Ethiopia is a pilgrimage site for Rastafarians from all over the world.

### ***Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Sanctuary***

The home of the endemic Swayne's hartebeest is located 28 km west of Hawasa. Its primary purpose is the conservation of the endemic Swayne's hartebeest. The reserve is now home to 36 mammals and 191 bird species, three of which are endemic to Ethiopia. It is skeptical to hear that Swayne's hartebeest is a member of the Hambentu clan of the Oromo people. Due to the spectacular views of the Lalima and Borena Hills, the reserve's small size, and its open terrain, it is a place in Ethiopia where sightings of Swayne's hartebeest are virtually guaranteed.

Wildlife: Swayne kudu, oribi, Bohor-reedbuck, greater-kudu, leopard.

### ***Itinerary for Wondo-Genet Trekking.***

**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-** Take an early morning flight to Hawassa (capital of Sidama State). Upon arrival, you'll drop off your luggage at your reserved hotel, visit the Lake Hawassa fish market, and take a short city tour by car.

Lunch break:

Enjoy the branch with vegetarian and vegan options and hot drinks.

After lunch, drive 28 km west to Senkele Wildlife Sanctuary for wildlife (animal encounters are accompanied by armed guards) and bird watching.

Return to Hawassa and overnight.

**Day-3** Have an early breakfast and embark on an exciting excursion to the village of Wondo-Genet. There, you'll climb mountains, meditate in the forest, bathe in natural hot springs, go bird-watching, and enjoy nature.

After lunch and an afternoon at Wondo-Genet, head to Shashemene Village (15 km) to explore the Caribbean lifestyle, socialize with Rastafarians and enjoy their slow, dramatic reggae music.

Return to the city of Hawass and stay there overnight.

**Day 4-** we travel to Hawassa Airport according to our flight schedule and fly back to Addis Ababa.

**Farwell Night:** Upon arrival in the city, we'll have lunch (if we arrive early), 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 four-day trip.

*NOTE 1*

*This trip can be extended to the Arbaminch, or Omo Valley, home to more than 40 ethnic groups. You can find more information about our Arbaminch and Omo Valley travel itinerary.*

*Note 2*

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

**What does the 4 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 Wondo- Genet tours

Total: \$ 2065 (individual price)

\*Group of 2: \$1548 per person

\*Group of 3: \$ 1393 per person

\*Group of 4-9: \$ 1253 per person

\*Group of 10 or more: \$ 1135 per person

From 25% to 45% discount for group tours

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