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ProjectsAbroad

FERENGE

ETHIOPIA

The Official Newsletter of Projects Abroad Ethiopia

February 2011 Issue No.33



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Welcome to February 2011 Projects Abroad Ethiopia newsletter. This newsletter aims to inform all our volunteers with news and information about the latest happenings in Projects Abroad Ethiopia, and the country in general.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who have volunteered with us so much – we really appreciate all the valuable time and great help you gave at the different placements. We would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who decided to choose Ethiopia for volunteering through Projects Abroad.

Enjoy reading this issue and I hope that you will find something that you like. Thanks to our volunteers who have shared their stories and photos with us.

We encourage everyone to join us in making the newsletter interesting and exciting by sending in your own written articles and pictures of your experiences here with us. Your stories and pictures will help others to understand and learn about Ethiopia. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact:

bikeseгнаhaileleul@projects-abroad.org

Enjoy your reading!!!!

Crater Lakes

The southern part of Addis Ababa is an industrialised area. There are several governmental and private factories here. You will enjoy the scenic countryside if you make your way towards Debrezeit town along the Akaki-Kaliti road. Some 15 kms to the south of Bishoftu Debrezeit and up on the summit of Mt. Ziquala, you will find a crater lake that is wholly undisturbed, because the monks in the monastery nearby make sure that it remains so.

Zuqualla Crater Lake

South of Addis Ababa you will find two huge mountains to your right and left.



The mountain to the left is Yerer Mountain, while the one to the right is mount Zequalla. Some 37 km away from Addis Ababa along this road you find a small town called Dukem. Past this town and just before reaching Bishoftu, a feeder road that leads

to the right takes you to mount Zuqualla. This is a volcanic hill, which is 600 meters above sea level. The gravel road that takes you to the peak of the mountain is too steep, challenging the power of your car. If your car is not a four-wheel-drive, you need to leave the vehicle to the self-claimed guards at a village called Wonbere Mariam at the foot of the mountain. It is not easy to climb up the mountain on foot. If you are a strong hiker, it will take you 2:30 to 3:00 hours to walk up the mountain. However, the return to the foot of the mountain is relatively easy and quick. The question here is what is the reward for climbing such a demanding and tiresome hill? First, if you happen to be a natural mountaineer, the hike itself is very entertaining. While climbing you can take pleasure in looking at the scenery of the surrounding area. When

you arrive at the peak of the mountain, you will come across a crater lake surrounded by a thick forest. You can reach the banks of the lake after walking down about 850 meters. It is better to come to this area with your guide. It is forbidden to swim in the Crater Lake. The area is endowed with various species of birds and so you are advised to come with your binoculars. There are also Colobus monkeys in the area. At the summit of the mountain, there is the ancient church of St. Abune Gebremenfeskidus reconstructed in 1920. This saint is colourfully commemorated thrice a year on March 14, July 12 and October 15. Hundreds of the faithful from different quarters of the country gather at this monastery during these religious festivities. Your visit to this area would be more enjoyable if it is made on one of these occasions.

Bishoftu /Debrezeit



Bishoftu is a busy town some 10 kms away from Dukem. The Ethiopian Air Force base is located in this small town. There are also several colleges here including the Debrezeit Veterinary College. Bishoftu is the nearest

recreational place to the residents of Addis. The town also has several pleasant gifts for foreign tourists. Debrezeit has about five Crater Lakes. Among these, the Hora, Bishoftu and Babugaya Lakes are reserved as resort areas. These Lakes are suitable especially for those tourists who love birds. Here you are also provided with boat services, however the resorts have temporarily disrupted rendering services due to renovation. Upon returning from these lakes, don't forget to visit the Air Force club, which has an Olympic size swimming pool as well as comfortable restaurants and bedrooms.

Recently a luxurious resort area called Kuriftu has been developed on the lake front.

Awash National Park

This is the first national park in Ethiopia, recognised under proclamation and is located on the Nazret- Djibouti route. Some 75 km from Nazret, there is the Beseka lake. Crocodiles and various sorts of birds are found in and around



the lake. The width of the lake has increased 10 times in size over the past 20 years, that is, from 3.35 square kilometres to 35 square kilometres. The town of Metehara is just past the lake and is one of the major sugar producing and processing centres of the country. A few minutes drive from Metehara, you reach Awash National Park, in the central part of the Great Rift

Valley. The park is 756 square kilometres in area and ranges in altitude from 750 meters (Awash river valley) to 2007 meters (the peak of Fentale mountain) above sea level.



VALENTINE'S DAY IN ADDIS ABABA

By Henry Guyer from Switzerland – Journalism volunteer



Ask any flower shop in North America on which day they tend to sell the most flowers, and their answer will most likely be Valentine's Day.

Ask any of the more intimate restaurants and they will tell you that most reservations fall on one night every year: Valentine's Day. It is a day inexplicably linked with romance; the annual celebration of love and passion that is shared between two people.

In Addis Ababa the day of love is celebrated rather more mutedly. Heart-, cupid-, or dove-shaped cut-outs don't adorn the window displays of every stationery store, nor is there a collection of classic love songs blared advertisement and nauseam from the malls and shopping centers.

The subdued spirit of Valentine's Day is still alive in the capital. It is, however, not shoved in your face like in North America, but rather lies like an undercurrent in the city.

"Yes, we celebrate Valentine's Day," said Eyuel and Tizita, a young, professional and modern couple of two years. "We have done so for some years now. We will eat out at a nice restaurant. Here in Addis, we celebrate Valentine's Day but in the rural areas they don't know about it."

Asked how else he plans on celebrating the day, Eyuel adds, "I will buy flowers and chocolates."

"If I had a girlfriend," Benni, a 23-year-old Graphic Designer, said, "I would buy her perfume, flowers, and chocolates."

While not much advertising is to be seen, the flower shops along Bole road are almost entirely filled with Valentine memorabilia: bouquets of red roses, greeting cards, and white teddy bears holding hearts that say “I love you”. At Flower City, sales of cards and flowers have already begun, while Ejegaheyu at Archie’s claims that every year there is quite a high demand for her red and yellow roses while her giant boxes of chocolates prove quite popular too during the so-called day of love.

Valentine’s Day is celebrated none more spectacularly than in the renowned Amsterdam Bar and Restaurant, where on Monday they plan to shower their clients with a candle-lit night of sentimental music, a five-course dinner complete with champagne, and even a show of fireworks and a red rose for each woman. Even by North American standards, the birthplace of this holiday, this spectacle takes the cake. Candlelight dinners, music, and a snug atmosphere



are the usual staples of this holiday, yet the addition of fireworks and the lottery of prizes on offer means that they have adopted this tradition and took it up to another level. Among the prizes, they say, is a limo shuttle service and a one night stay at a five-star hotel, among other various gifts from their sponsors. Valentine’s Day is a tradition that has lasted at this restaurant for the last six years, with the last three years especially exhibiting a rising popularity. The restaurant is now booked completely full on these nights. Reservations have already begun and will only become more highly competitive throughout this weekend.

The Friendship Café and Restaurant has rather been more forthright in their advertising, choosing to display their dinner special with a large banner overlooking Bole road. Here, the special includes the Valentine's Day staple of wine and an unorthodox pizza.

Not everybody chooses to celebrate, however, on either side of the world. "Why should I only celebrate love on one day of the year? I show my affection every day," says Terni, a married IT consultant in his early thirties. "It is only made up to sell things."

It is a sentiment I have heard in many locations around the world, from Montreal, Jakarta, and, now, Addis Ababa.

Despite its opponents, Valentine's Day and the other days like it dotted in the Gregorian calendar continues to grow both overseas and within the urban centers of Ethiopia. It is one of the results of globalization, the adoption of mainly North American traditions. Whether it is good or does harm depends on the perspective of individuals but fact remains that nothing should stand in the way of celebrating the love shared between two people, whether it comes on February 14 or any other day of the year.



...bits and pieces of information of the happenings in Ethiopia.

WHAT IS HAPPENING

✓ MONTHLY VOLUNTEERS DINNER :



On February 03 - we had our monthly volunteers dinner at 2000 Habesha cultural restaurant. It was good fun and there was live Ethiopian cultural music.

✓ WORKSHOP PROGRAM :



ON February 11 – we had a workshop for teaching and care volunteers but we invited other volunteers as well. It was very good program for all .Volunteers had coffee ceremony program on the same way.

✓ CINEMA SOCIAL :



ON February 19 - Cinema Social organised by the office – Volunteers gathered at Kaldis coffee around the Bole area, had some tea , coffee and socialised with each other then went to a cinema called “Unknown” at Edna mall cinema hall. It was good cinema social and everyone enjoyed their time together.

✓ VOLUNTEER TRAVEL :



As usual and like previous volunteers this season volunteers made a visit to Northern, Southern and Eastern parts of Ethiopia with the help of Projects Abroad Ethiopia staff on how to plan the trip and make contact with local guides. They were very happy with their trips and liked the south a lot.

FEBURARY EVENT PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTERS

PROJECTS ABROAD ETHIOPIA OFFICE EVENT PROGRAMME - February 2011

DATE	TIME	PLACE	PROGRAMME	DESCRIPTION	EVENT IN CHARGE
Saturday, February 5	7:30 pm - 11:00pm	2000 Habesha Traditional Restaurant	Monthly volunteers Dinner	All volunteers get together for dinner and Watch Ethiopian traditional Dance.	Sami and Bikeseegn
Friday, February 11	2:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Projects Abroad Ethiopia office	Workshop for care and teaching volunteers	Workshop will organize for teaching and care volunteers.	Bikeseegn
Saturday, February 12	2:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Edna mall Cinema Hall	Watching English Cinema	There will be an English Movie and get together all volunteers	Bikeseegn
Saturday, February 19	2:00 pm - 18:30 pm	Addis Ababa University	A Visit of Ethnographic Museum.	Visit of Ethnographic Museum at Addis Ababa University - Ethnographic collection.	Bikeseegn
Saturday, February 26	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Merkato	Shopping Program	All volunteers will do shopping at the opening air market called Merkato	Bikeseegn
Saturday, February 26	7:30 pm - 11:00pm	2000 Habesha Traditional Restaurant	Monthly volunteers Dinner	All volunteers get together for dinner and Watch Ethiopian traditional Dance.	Sami and Bikeseegn

Next Month Event programme

PROJECTS ABROAD ETHIOPIA OFFICE EVENT PROGRAMME - March 2011

DATE	TIME	PLACE	PROGRAMME	DESCRIPTION	EVENT IN CHARGE
Saturday, March 5	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Merkato	Shopping Program	All volunteers will do shopping at the opening air market called Merkato	Bikeseegn
Friday, March 11	2:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Projects Abroad Ethiopia office	Workshop for care and teaching volunteers	Workshop will organize for teaching and care volunteers.	Bikeseegn
Saturday, March 12	2:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Edna mall Cinema Hall	Watching English Cinema	There will be an English Movie and get together all volunteers	Bikeseegn
Sunday, March 13	8:00 am - 11 am	The race will start and end Atlas Hotel	2011 Choice WOMEN FIRST 5km run	Women volunteers with one women staff participate on this race	Weini
Saturday, March 19	7:30 pm - 11:00 pm	2000 Habesha Traditional Restaurant	Monthly volunteers Dinner	All volunteers get together for dinner and Watch Ethiopian traditional Dance	Sami and Bikeseegn
Saturday, March 26	8:00 am - 11:00 am	Ethiopian Evangelical Church, Sar Bet.	NGO market and hand craft event	Fantastic opportunity to see and buy a wide variety of Ethiopian souvenirs. There is a huge variety of beautiful fabrics, scarves, bags, Jewelries of all sorts and styles, baskets, woven plates and dishes, wooden arts, pottery in every style with lovely decoration and much, much more.	Bikeseegn

My Time in Ethiopia

Grant Pidhaini one month Teaching Volunteer from Australia



One month seems to fly past so quickly without you even realising it, I wish time hadn't gone so fast. I would never have said that when I first arrived in Addis Ababa one month ago as a 20 year old Australian on his first overseas trip. Talking to the other volunteers I think a culture shock is inevitable for everyone when they first come to a developing country like Ethiopia, and I was no different, even though many of the other volunteers said that I seemed to have settled in with no problems at all. But the truth was I was quite shocked and uncomfortable with the dramatic cultural differences between Addis and my homeland which caused me, for the first week, to count down the days until my departure. But this feeling was very much short lived, as I quickly began to feel relaxed, comfortable and most importantly happy with where I was and what I was doing.

A big factor in this transformation can be credited to the friendships I formed with many of the other volunteers currently working in Addis with Projects Abroad. My host family have been so very supportive and welcoming and have treated me as a real member of the family. I am very grateful for the effort they put in, but they didn't understand exactly what me, as an outsider, is feeling coming into such an exotic environment. That is why the relationships with the other volunteers are so important. They have a great indication of what you must be feeling because they have been through similar circumstances themselves, also many have been brought up in a more western culture since childhood so they understand the dramatic change. I will hold these relationships close to my heart for a long time and I consider them lifelong friends from here on in. The volunteers who experienced Ethiopia with me originated from all corners of the globe - Australia, Denmark,

Canada, France, England, Tunisia, New Zealand, America and Scotland - which meant everyone brought their own culture to conversations and social gatherings which I found a wonderful thing to experience. Sharing a Macciato after work or enjoying a Saturday night out with my fellow volunteers were some of the best memories I will take home with me. We all became such a tight group.

My work placement, at Hillside Primary School, provided me with a great insight into the learning practices and operation of an Ethiopian school. I have to be honest, as a university student learning how to become a teacher I thought I would be a teacher's



assistant at best, helping out where I could in the classroom. But I was thrown into the deep end on day one, put up in front of the class taking entire lessons. I was very surprised with this level of responsibility and was nervous at first, but soon I loved instructing the 30 smiling faces each day. It provided me with tremendous experience, and a real sense of how to teach a totally different group of students than what I am used to. Their ability to speak English was outstanding and I was able to hold fluent conversations with even the grade one students. Bright smiles filled every class and their friendly personalities were a joy to be around each day at work, if these kids are Ethiopia's future then Ethiopia is in good hands.

With school holidays falling in the period I was there it meant I had a chance to travel outside of Addis to experience the other side of Ethiopia. I was lucky enough to travel down to the south near the Kenyan border to visit the Native Ethiopian tribes with a few of the other volunteers; Aimee, Maleke and Michelle. This journey was the highlight of my Ethiopian experience, and without a doubt the most amazing experience of my life. The trip by bus from Addis will leave your body tired and hurting from the extremely bumpy dirt roads, sending you off your seat numerous times. But once you see your first tribes person, you realise all those hours on the bus were worth it. Experiencing the tribes and having the privilege of entering their villages was a dream come true for me as I have always been fascinated with their unique culture and customs. We were even lucky enough to try some traditional Konso drinks with the Konso tribe and enjoyed some homemade coffee with the Hammer people. This was a once in a life time experience and one I'll never forget.

I will remember Ethiopia for many things, some good, some not so good. When I think of Ethiopia, I think of Injera, traditional dancing, religion, smiling faces, friendly people, negotiating for taxis, being referred to as a 'frenje' by the locals, coffee (lots of coffee), crazy traffic, beggars, homelessness, poverty, the glorious mountains in the country side, unique culture, native tribes, breathtaking landscape, amazing history and gaining some amazing friends. But when I think about it, the bad things don't hinder your time in Ethiopia, they contribute to it to make what Ethiopia is, and what makes the overall experience so different and unique.

I'm so glad I decided to venture to Ethiopia, it was an amazing experience and one I will never forget. Thank you Projects Abroad, my host family and all of the wonderful volunteers. You made my trip simply awesome.



PHOTOS IN MONTH



Portuguese
Bridge



John Volunteer and his host brother Yakob in the
morning

Workshop for Teaching and Care volunteers at the office



A car at National Museum



A cat at the host family



Tim's goodbye party

Out of Addis – For your Visit

(Taken from what is out Addis)

Babogaya Lake Viewpoint Lodge

The Babogaya Lake Viewpoint Lodge is situated near Debre Zeit, a thriving town 47 km south of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the border of Babogaya Lake, an ancient volcano filled with clear water where one can swim or kayak.

There are 8 traditionally styled rooms and most have views over the lake. Some rooms are built at the top of the old crater, while some others are down near the water's edge, built on stilts. All rooms have double beds with mosquito netting. There is also a room with two double beds for a family. Shower facilities are available.

The view of the lake is exceptional. Its surroundings are wooded and the volcano Yerer emerges from behind. There are three levels of garden offering adequate space for visitors to roam. Around 50 different birds' varieties can be viewed from the garden. The peaceful gardens and lake offer a relaxing and enjoyable place for all those who love nature.

Their food is made from fresh ingredients. The breakfast (included in room price) is served on the veranda with homemade bread, local bread, tea/coffee, fruits, local

honey, etc. It is possible to eat lunch and dinner at the lodge on request.

Lunch: a cold buffet is offered with vegetables, potatoes, eggs, rice, bread, drinks and fruits (around 60 Birr).
Dinner: two warm menus are prepared (about 120 birr).
Coffee, tea and lemon are available free at all times.

The Parking location is close to the lodge and is available free of charge.

For reservation it is better to book in advance, especially on weekends. You can call 00251 (0) 911 465 693, (where you can be answered in English, French, German, Dutch or 00251 (0) 911 864 679 in Amharic).Email lakebabogaya@live.com



MAIL BAG

From Arielle blog [by Arielle care volunteer for three months from USA]

Accommodation & Placement

Since there's only one week until I leave America (ahhh !) I figured I'd update everyone on where I'm staying and what I'll be doing in Ethiopia!



Sarah and I found out we will definitely be living together so that was an absolute relief! The house we're staying in is in Eastern Addis and sounds absolutely incredible. Our host family parents both work in insurance and have 4 children- ages 14, 12, 11 and a 5-month-old baby! Aside from all of the kids, the family also has 3 dogs! Yahoo! (obviously none of these dogs will be even remotely as cute as sake is, but they'll do ;)) The house

itself apparently has 2 buildings- one for service and the other is the main building. The family has a live-in maid who prepares all the meals (am I sure I'm going to Africa?!) and the entire house is gated off AND has hot water! I'll have more details once I actually arrive but so far this is all I know and it all sounds amazing!

Even better than my accommodation is my placement; I'll be volunteering at a non-profit organization called OPRIFS, which was started to help street children, namely girls. It seems like most of the girls I'll be working with have been sexually abused and/or raped and have been sent to OPRIFS for help, safety and shelter. But this placement is right up my alley and I'm so excited to be working with young women. Sarah and I will be working here as an extra set of hands- playing with the children and helping out with anything else the staff need.

I think that's about all I know as of right now, and of course I'll have much more to update once I actually arrive in lovely Addis Ababa!! Although I'm not sure how much internet I'll actually get out there, I will try and update as often as possible so keep checking back to read about my adventures!!

Social Media – Projects Abroad Ethiopia office

Join our official Facebook Group: Projects Abroad
Ethiopia – The Official Group

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=21209375096>

Read our monthly newsletters.

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/ethiopia/newsletters-from-ethiopia/>

See what is going on with Projects Abroad! Read
our Country Blog!

http://www.mytripblog.org/mod/blog/group_blogs.php?gl=true&group_guid=2873

HUMAN EVOLUTION TIMELINE in ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIAN MONEY

Ethiopia's currency is called birr. It's divided into 100 cents in 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, and there are 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 birr notes.



One Birr note



Five Birr note



Ten Birr note



Hundred Birr note

ART GALLERIES ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN EXHIBITION WORKS OF ART IN ADDIS ABABA.

Name of the gallery	Address	Location	Visiting Days/hour
Abyssinia Art Gallery	251-911-213059	Inside Addis Ababa museum compound	Monday - Saturday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Abyssinia fine Art school and studio	251-911- 235810 251-911-577570	In front of Nazareth school	-
Addis art studio	251-911-619416	Opposite to Ras Amba Hotel	-
Alem Gallery	251-911-641352	Inside Alem Cinema (bole road)	-
Artistic Glass Center	251-115-518400 Ext.632	Lobby at Addis Ababa Hilton	-
Assni Art Gallery	251-111-117360 251-111-238796	Omedla Road	-
Chilot Art Gallery	251-115-533329 251-113-712443	Kazainchis	-
Contemporary Ethiopia Art Bazart pan Africa Gallery	251-116-186333 251-911-201755	Around Rwanda Embassy	Monday - Saturday
Dams Art Studio	251-114-666199 251-911-252075	Beklobet near showa Bakery	Monday - Saturday
Dream Gallery	251-911-215333	Dream club-Elsa (Wollosefer)	Monday - Saturday
Eatale art studio	251-911-611769 251-911-674046	Near Fasika Restaurant	Monday - Saturday
Goshu Art Gallery	251-116-614747 251-116-610397	Near Atlas hotel	Monday - Saturday
Habesha Art Studio	251-111-112137 251-111-233394	Opposite to Ras Amba Hotel	Monday - Saturday
Image Africa Gallery	251-116-638744	Tana Building (Bole Road)	Monday - Saturday

	251-911-657431		
Lucy/ Dinknesh/ Gallery and Recreation center	251-112-530121	Near Repi Medehanialem	Monday - Saturday
	251-911-203585	(Sebeta Road)	
Makush Gallery	251-115-526848	Mega Building	Monday - Saturday
	251-115-526855		
Rico's Digital Art Center	251-115-539462	Bole Road	Monday - Saturday
Sal Interior and Gallery	251-911-238696	Emewodish Building in front of International Evagelical Church	Monday - Saturday 8.30 - 7.00
Saron Studio	251-911-601584	Near Meskel Flower	-
	251-911-605289		
	251-115-514829		
Shaloms Art Studio	251-911-227992	Behind Atlas	Monday - Saturday
	251-116-624254		9.30-6.30 pm
Universal Gallery of Arts and Exotic Garden	251-116-185575	Near Atlas Hotel	Monday - Saturday
	251-911-215489		8.30 am - 6.30 pm
	251-116-185575		
Untitled Art Syudion	251-911-689163	Wollo Sefer	Monday - Saturday
	251-114-401079		
Wasyhune Art Gallery	251-111-117554	At the panoramic View on Entoto Mountains	-
ZEWD Ethiopian Creations	251-116-186258	South Africa street	-
Zoma Contemporary Art Center	251-113-210898	Mekanisa	-

Source: Ministry of culture and Tourism and what's up Addis a monthly business Guide published by –cactus plc.