

## Overview of Gamo Gofa Zone

Welcome to Gamo Gofa, one of the 14 zones and 4 special woredas in SNNPR which is 505km and 275 km far from Addis Abeba and Hawassa respectively. It includes 15 woredas with two colourful reform towns, Arbaminch and Sawla. The zone comprises numerous hot springs ,beautiful lakes ,green mountains, forests, caves, cataracts, rivers, jungles and variety of flora and fauna with pleasant climate. These makes the zone a beautiful destination for tourists.

### 1. Toshike water falls

Toshike water falls are twin cataracts that fall from approximately a height exceeding 100 meter from mount Gughe , which is the highest mountain with a peak rising about 4207 meters above sea level in the SNNPR. The cataracts are a symbol of fantastic nature of Daramalo district in Gamo Gofa zone which is 210 k m far from Arbaminch. The falls show seasonal fluctuation; in dry seasons the size of the falls decreases. Besides, the dancing( dramatic action) of gladdener plants around the falls can delight anyone who comes around . Therefore, if you want to get happiness, visit this stunning cataracts, Toshike, to enjoy yourself.



Toshike water falls

## 2. khat Forest [Caatte Wora]

It is known that khat is indigenous to Ethiopia. Many farmers are participating in cultivation of it in our country. Without planting it, khat does not grow in farmers gardens. However, this reality is inversed in our zone, that is in Geze Gofa woreda particularly in Garma kebele there is natural chat forest which covers an area exceeding 5 hectares. This natural event makes the forest to be unique. It is situated 30 km far from Bulqi town . The local community named the place as “**Caatte wora**” meaning **Khat forest**. The landscape around the chat is essential for sustainable eco-tourism. Nowadays, the job opportunity which has been created through chat cultivation in our country is very high, as a large number of people are involved in the process of growing, harvesting, sorting, packing, transporting etc. In brief, it would be worth visiting the unique forest for those who appreciate nature.



Khat Forest

### 3. Dorosso water fall

This brilliant chute is gifted for chench district, which is lying at an altitude of 2900 m and 40 k.m north of Arbaminch town. The width of the stream is changing and in dry seasons the flow of water might become less impressive, but during the rainy seasons a huge amount of water falls from the hill. The vicinity of Dorso is wooded by adorable wicker plants and other various flora. The presence of wicker and other greenery increases the impressiveness of Dorosso cataract and makes it special when compared with other cascades. So we invite you to visit our wonderful cataract, Dorosso.



Dorosso Water fall

## 4. Fura and Faragosa Natural Forest ( Reserve Area)

Fura and Faragosa is a dense mountainous forest covering an area of about 19.18 square kilometers. This forest seems a place where green economy policy has come to be implemented. It is located in Mirab Abaya district 40 k.m North of Arbaminch town. The area has been originally founded to protect natural vegetation, variety of wild animals and different species of birds from serious natural and human damages. The wild animals in the forest are Lions, Leopards, Antelopes, Monkeys and others. It is owned and managed by local communities in collaboration with government. Assuredly, the natural beauty can inspire the heart of every visitor.



Fura And Faragosa Natural Forest

## 5. The Guest Land

Have you heard this news? A piece of land about 5 hectares had been floated on the lake Abaya for some months with Mangroves, Apes, Monkeys, Hyenas etc. Then, it was attached to the other land in Mirab Abaya Korga kebele, which is situated 60 K.m North of Arbaminch town. The surrounding people were surprised by the event. They called it “**Engidaw meret**” which means guest land. Currently(2014), it is 4 years old. The size of the land gets decreasing from time to time, but its actual impressiveness still survives.



## 6. Lake Ella

Lake Ella, the surprising lake in Gamo Gofa, situated 60 K.m west of the beautiful town of Birbir. It covers an area of 32.3 hectares and includes giant trout and other living things like water fowl, Dap chick etc. The lake is unique as compared to other rift valley lakes, because the formation is different. There is a legend that istold by local elders which states “ **one day a woman from the village fetched water from lake Abaya and put it in her house. Accidentally, the pot broke and the water poured inside the home. After a few days later, the water started increasing its size and gradually became a lake.**”

which is now called lake Ella. So get the best luck, to visit the fascinating lake Ella.



## 7. Lake Abassa

Lake Abassa is one of the smallest lakes in Gamo Gofa. It's located in Dita woreda, which is 60km, 336km, and 549k.m far from Arba-minch, Hawassa and Addis Ababa respectively. The lake is 0.01 k.m long and 0.08 wide, with the surface area of 0.0008 square kilo meters. It has a maximum depth of 2-4 meters. The lake includes various aviary species like ducks, and aquatic animals. The back and forth movement of the ducks on the lake and the presence of turf in the shoreline inspiring any body who glance it wherever he was.



**Welcome to Gamo Gofa!  
We offer countless services.  
No matter whether you  
come day or night, we have  
something for you!**

**G/G/Z/Tourism & Parks  
Dev't & Utilization Core  
Business Process**

**Arbaminch**

**Tel:- 0468812046**