

Cultural Events

The major hallmark touristic events of the lower omo valley people are: Evangadi, youth's night dance practiced mainly by Hammer; Ekuli, bull jumping, an activity shared by Hammer, Bena and kara people; Donga ,stick fighting ceremony practiced by surma, mursi and body people; hekimmomor, the cultural ceremony which takes place during the transformation of power from generation to generation by Dassenech, Gyangatom, Dime and many more cultural activities that are practiced by the peoples of south omo.

Cultural Dance

There are number of events & festivals among nationalities of SNNPR .These cultural events & festivals have take place by their religious, social & cultural values respected & celebrated among the people. Cultural calendar, ideology of beliefs & worship, cultural justice & conflict resolution, settlement pattern, housing, mourning, wedding, dish, cloth & beautification etc are the cultural tourist attractions in the southern region. The major hallmark touristic events of the lower omo valley people are: Evangadi, new harvest celebration festival of hammer people



Ekuli/Bull jumping/

When a young person reaches adulthood there is an initiation ceremony called bull jumping. Several days before the ceremony, initiators pass out invitation in a form of a blade of dried grass knotted in place to indicate the day on which the ceremony will begin. It takes three days but the final day is the most important one. In the late afternoon, about thirty bulls are lined up. The naked initiate rushes towards the animals and vaults on to the first bull's back. He then runs across the line of animals. At the end of the line, he jumps down, turns round and repeats the performance in the other direction.



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The SNNPRS is gifted with all sorts of outstanding tourist attractions broadly categorized as natural, historical cultural tourist attractions. four of the world heritages sites (one is intangible); five of the major great rift valley Lakes; seven of the national parks; two of controlled hunting areas; the only crocodile Ranches. Breathtaking beauty of natural hot springs, the south- western dense natural forest , different & spectacular water falls, and together with the diverse ethnic and cultural resources set the region among the top priority tourist destinations of the country. Besides, the ancient Monasteries, churches; Mosques and the old- aged and historical stelae and caves can offer great opportunity for the development of tourism in the region



The region is characterized by an amazing ethnic diversity; 56 nations , nationalities & people (about 70% of the country's ethnic groups). The majority of them have their own characteristic cultural identities. The lower omo valley, the most fascinating cultural diversity hotspot in the world, is inhabited by 16 ethnic groups with their own living traditional practices that are ancient, real and unspoiled.

Their diverse physical appearance, characteristic body decoration, unique ornamentation and hairstyle, descriptive clothing, socio- cultural practices and rituals, and their life philosophy enthusiast every body. These ethnic groups are situated in south omo zone administrative of the region and the majorities are semi or fully pastoralists, therefore, their culture is associated with their relationship with livestock.

Body decoration and Clothing

Many of the ethnic groups decorate their body by painting body. Painting produced locally from clay and mixed with other pigments extracted from plants, locally available vegetable pigments on face, chest, arms, legs,e.t.c and clothing of the lower omo people is simple and effective a short wrap around toga, enhanced with iron rings and other craft jewelry. The women wearing a simple short skirt of lather, the hems elaborately decorated with metal works.

Hairstyles, however, are more elaborate, fashioned with razor sharp knives and adorned with a skull- cap of red mud. Hammer women wear their hair in dense ring lets smeared with mud and clarified butter and topped off with head-dress featuring oblongs of gleaming aluminum and beaten tin plates.



Hammer Dassenches, Nyangatom and Kara men form a ridge of plaited hair and clay to hold their hair feathered headwear in place. Many of the men are further decorated with tribal a cicatrizing scar which contains a number of specific symbolic messages, such as their standing in the community as young warriors or wise elders



The surma and Kara are experts at body painting. They express their artistic desires by drawing intricate designs on their own bodies, the purpose of the body decoration is either to attract the other sex or in case of the sruma for ceremonies, especially the stick fighting donga Tsemay are handsome and photogenic people that inhabit the broad weyto valley. Arbore are very closely related to the Borena and share their unique adornments such as aluminum bead necklaces. Dassenech have their own distinctive dress and decoration. They are a Cushitic speaking group of the omo valley. Their village lies on the far bank of the Omo River.

