

Introduction

It is known that Gamo Gofa Zone is one of the 14 Zones and 4 special woredas found in SNNPR. There are many features that make the zone Unique as compared to other Zones and special woreda's, out of which tourism is one. The Zone is endowed with diverse natural, cultural & historical tourist attractions that attract and initiate both domestic & foreign tourists. Of all the attractions the zone is mainly known by its natural attractions particularly **Nechisar National park**

Nechisar National Park:-

Nechisar National Park was established in an area of 514km². The Amharic 'Nechisar' means 'white grass' and refers to the central grassy plain which is always associated with Burch ell's Zebra. Apart from the strikingly beautiful setting between two of the Rift valley's spectacular lakes. On two sides and high mountain ranges on the other two sides, the park was established for several important conservation reasons. It is the only national park where significant number of critically endangered Swaynes hartebeest still survives, the only known locality of the Nechisar nightjar, with large population of hippos and crocodiles.



Zebra, a sign of motto for the Nechisar National Park

Climate:-

The rainfall in the park averages about 800mm a year, but ranges from 300mm in a very spell to more than 1200mm in the wettest season. The main wet season is April to June with a second wet period in September -October. The driest season is December to February. The temperature is with daily peaks ranging from 36-39⁰c in December -February. The lowest are 20-21⁰c in April - June.

Wild Life:-

It is the home for many wild live that get shelter like: Swaynes hartebeest, race on the verge of extinction, Zebra, flag ship species of the park. Bush buck, caracal, Dikdik, Lion etc (Over 91 mammal species). The park is also home for both aquatic and terrestrial birds like pelican, Nechisar night jar (endemic), yellow-billed stork, Marabou stork, Black headed weaver etc (around 351 sp.) of birds exist.

Generally it is a place where every activity of animals (feeding, resting, breeding, reproduction etc) is going on.

The lakes Abaya and Chamo are another interesting places of the park that crocodiles, hippos and pelicans are easily seen.

There are also places that are frequently visited and asked to be visited by guests coming from other regions.

- Arbaminch forest
- Crocodile market
- Crocodile ranch
- Forty Springs
- God's Bridge

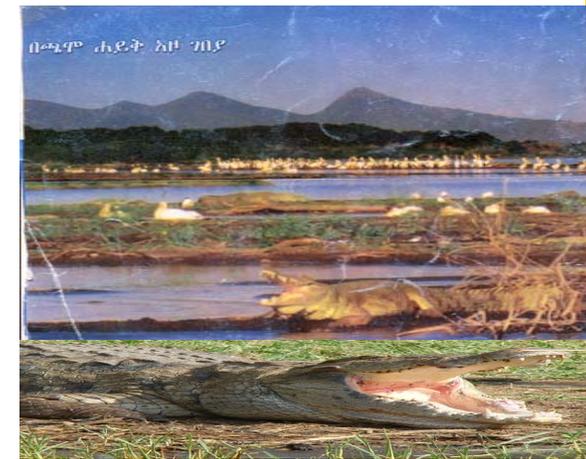
Arbaminch Natural Forest:-

It is surprising to see such a dense and large hectares of natural forest in the heart of the Great Rift valley. More over the biodiversity composition of the forest is another interesting feature of it. Indigenous trees that are hunted and exterminated in different parts of the country still exist in the forest like : Prunes africana (Tekure enchet), Cordia africana (Wanza), Adolfi fredrick (kerero), Ficus vasta(Warka), with long and staggered lianas(Harege) hanging over it. Associated with wild animals : Baboon, Colobus monkey and birds with the voice they create makes life easy and enjoyable.



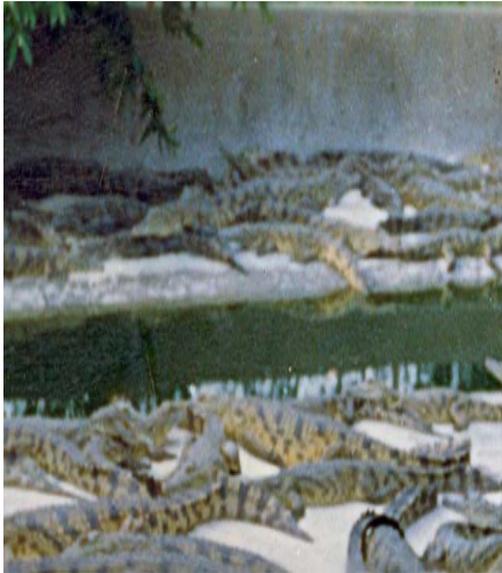
Crocodile Market:-

It is a place where significant number of crocodiles get out of lake Chamo to take sun bath. That is why it is so named **crocodile market**. Moreover hippos and pelicans are also available .



Crocodile Ranch:-

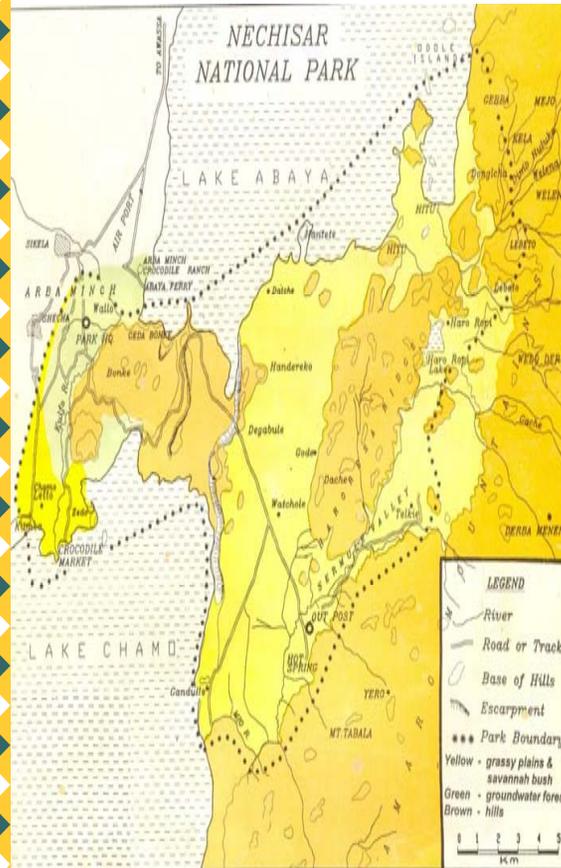
The only place in Ethiopia, where Ex-situ conservation of crocodile is carried out. They are placed according to age category so as to avoid interruption among themselves. Especially in the after noon the crocs came out of the pool and open their mouths to attract birds that pick worm from their mouth to have mutual benefit for both. In addition the arrangement of crocs calls for somebody to entertain himself.



Forty Spring:-

Found in the ground water forest of A/minch which is supported by high water table and with numerous springs along the western escarpment of the park. The name by itself implies that the name of the town “**Arbaminch**” is derived from.

Wel Come To Nechisar National Park



Map of Nechisar National Park

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