

Kafa Biosphere Reserve

NABU travel recommendations



Transportation to Kafa Biosphere Reserve

General information about getting to Kafa Biosphere Reserve: <http://www.kafa-biosphere.com/how-to-get-here/>

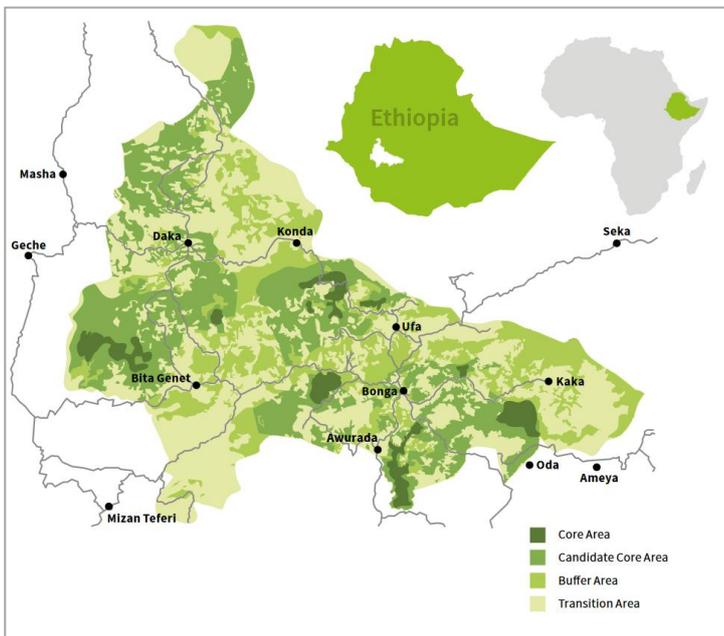


Figure 1: Map of Kafa Biosphere Reserve

By plane:

- Jimma is the next biggest city to Kafa Biosphere Reserve with flight connections. There are flights every day from Addis to Jimma by Ethiopian Airlines (<https://www.ethiopianairlines.com/AA/EN>)
- Transport from Jimma to Kafa Biosphere Reserve (150 km) should be arranged in advance; the car rental business of Mesfin Hailemichael (Phone: +251 (0) 911564414) in Bonga can be hired and arranged for collection from airport in Jimma

- Transportation from Jimma to Bonga by bus:
 - Selam Bus: <http://www.mekellecity.com/selam/>
 - Sky Bus: <http://skybusethiopia.com/site/>

By car:

- The ride on asphalt road from Addis to Bonga (the capital of Kafa Biosphere Reserve) is 450 km long and takes approx. 7-8 hours. It is advisable to drive during daylight only.
- Car and driver can be booked through different suppliers that can be found online. In Ethiopia, a rented car mostly includes a driver.

By overland bus:

- Overland buses travel daily from Addis to Bonga. The ride takes around 8-9 hours.
- Overland bus providers are:
 - Selam Bus: <http://www.mekellecity.com/selam/>
 - Sky Bus: <http://skybusethiopia.com/site/>

Transportation in Kafa Biosphere Reserve

Rental car:

- In Bonga, there is a private rental car company for Toyota Land-cruiser. Mesfin Hailemichael: +251 (0) 911564414

Accommodation in Bonga

- www.kafa-biosphere.com/accommodation/ lists all bigger hotels and guesthouses in Bonga
- Recommendation of accommodation in Bonga:
 - **KDA Guesthouse:** 2 km out of Bonga. Its 10 rooms (with own bathroom, hot water and individual/ communal verandas) are surrounded by a beautifully landscaped compound. Single/double ETB 450/600, including breakfast (no other meals available). Camping in the garden is ETB 200 per tent. Phone: +251 (0) 9-246607039
 - **Coffeeland Hotel:** Centrally located, it offers decent rooms, though often suffers from water shortage. Single/double ETB 300-400/550-800. Its restaurant and wifi connection attracts both locals and tourists. Phone: +251 (0) 47-3310010
 - **Other options** in the centre near the bus station include:
 - Mankira Hotel (+251 (0) 9-19836343, single ETB 100-220)
 - Green View Hotel (+251 (0) 9-79749970, single ETB 130)
 - The Wabegote Pension (+251 (0) 9-17550100, single/double ETB 150/300).

Restaurants in Bonga

- www.kafa-biosphere.com/places-to-eat lists all bigger restaurants in Bonga
- All the above-mentioned hotels (except of KDA Guesthouse) serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. In addition, the Kasu Bar & Restaurant and the Baro restaurant, a newly opened restaurant located a little bit outside the city center, offer a cosy cultural setting.
- For a glass of fresh juice, yoghurt, or fresh cold and warm milk, head to the Abaynish Milkbar opposite the Dashen Bank. Further up the same street Emy's Cafe has cake and some local dishes. Both places cooperate with NABU.

Sightseeing

- Visit us at the Kafa Biosphere Reserve Information Center (KBRIC) to get information about Kafa Biosphere Reserve, regional products such as coffee, herbs and spices or pottery and conservation measures.

- Right next to the Kafa Biosphere Reserve Information Center, there is the Medicinal Plants Garden with about 70 different plant species. The garden is a learning site to inform about the botany and traditional medicinal use of medicinal plants in Kafa.
- Information about Kafa's cultural history gives the Kafa Open Air Museum in Bonga. It is on top of a hill with a wonderful view over the valley and Bonga.
- The National Coffee Museum is currently set up in Bonga. This museum will be used as a centre for research on *Coffea arabica* and a guide for the visitors through the world of coffee production.
- The street market in Bonga is every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The merchants offer a wide variety of products from food to fabrics and decorations.
- Suggestions for sightseeing and tours in Kafa are listed in our Visitors' Guide: http://imperia.verbandsnetz.nabu.de/imperia/md/content/nabude/international/visitor_guide_2015_final_web.pdf

Guides

- It is advisable to hire a guide to move around Kafa Biosphere Reserve for translation and directions.
- Makira Tour Guides Association offers tours. Tours can be booked by contacting one of the guides: Atirse Atto (+251 (0) 9-21221877), Bereket Kochito (+251 (0) 9-10549934), Demisew Mengistu (+251 (0) 9-35109619), Samriwet Gezahegn (+251 (0) 9-12015852), or Yitay Abebe (+251 (0) 9-45024333).
- Average rate/day is around 150 Birr

Visa Formalities

- For entering Ethiopia, a visa is needed in most cases. Depending on the purpose for entering Ethiopia (e.g. tourist, business), there are different visa regulations. Please check the visa regulations with your nearest Ethiopian Embassy.
- Visas on arrival are available only for tourists at Addis Ababa (Bole) International airport. It costs approximately \$US50 for 1 month and \$US75 for 3 months (Euros, US dollars and Ethiopian birr are all accepted). All other categories of visit must get a visa from the Ethiopian Embassy closest to their place of legal residence before travelling. Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of entry into Ethiopia. Make sure you have two blank pages in your passport on arrival.
- If you travel to Ethiopia as a tourist you are not able to take employment, including voluntary employment. If you are caught in breach of your immigration status you may face a severe fine or possible imprisonment.
- To obtain a business visa for Ethiopia you may require prior approval from the Ethiopian Department of Immigration and Nationality Affairs office before submitting your application to the Ethiopian Embassy. You should check the latest instructions with your nearest Embassy.
- Penalties for overstaying your visa can be severe.
- Information from the Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin can be found here: <http://aethiopien-botschaft.de/>

Health and Safety

- It is advisable to visit a health professional some weeks before your trip to Ethiopia to check whether any vaccinations (e.g. yellow fever) or other preventive measures are needed.
- Malaria is common in areas of the country below 2,000 metres so we would advise to get Malaria prophylaxis.

- Bilharzia is present in most of the lakes in Ethiopia. We thus advise not to swim in the lakes.
- Water-borne diseases are common. We advise to drink or use only boiled or bottled water and avoid ice in drinks.
- Hospitals in Addis Ababa can provide adequate care. Facilities in Kafa provide only basic medical services. However, there is the Gebre Tsadic Shawo Bonga Hospital and a drug store in Bonga which provide fundamental care. An American clinic, Chiri Health Center, is located 24 kilometres south of Bonga in the Decha woreda and, if the situation arises, would be the best option for primary medical care.
- It is advisable to have adequate travel health insurance which includes medical emergencies and evacuation.
- If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 907 and ask for an ambulance. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you are referred to a medical facility for treatment. It is also possible to contact your embassy if serious care is needed.
- It is also advisable to check the latest travel advice from your home country. The travel advice from the German Foreign Office is accessible via: <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de>

Further NABU information

- General information about Kafa Biosphere Reserve: www.kafa-biosphere.com
 - Information material to download: <http://www.kafa-biosphere.com/downloads/>
- Kafa Biosphere Visitor's Guide Book: http://imperiamd.net/imperia/md/content/nabude/international/visitor_guide_2015_final_web.pdf
- Facebook page of Kafa Biosphere Reserve: <https://www.facebook.com/ComeToKafa>
- Information about NABU's work in the Kafa Biosphere Reserve: <https://en.nabu.de/projects/ethiopia/kafa/area/index.html>

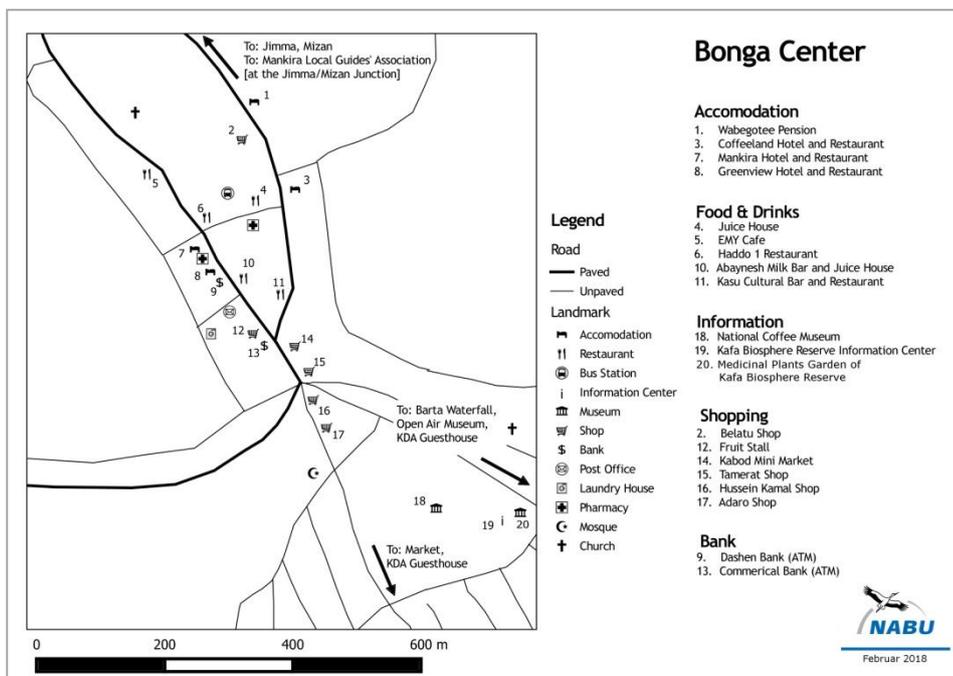


Figure 2: Map of Bonga Center