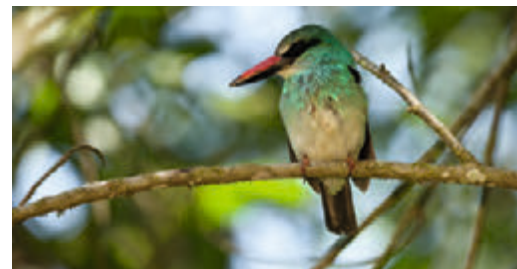


Planning a trip to Kafa

Travel period: Kafa has a temperate climate, with a rainy season from May until the end of September and a dry season from October to April. The average annual temperature is about 20°C. The best period to visit is the dry season. In late September nature presents itself in full bloom after the rain. In October and November visitors can witness the coffee harvest when local farmers collect, prepare and dry the precious fruits.

Traveling to and within Kafa: Visitors arriving at the airports of Addis Ababa or Jimma can travel on to Kafa by bus or car. For Kafa, it is recommended to hire an off-road vehicle already in Addis as there do not exist any hiring opportunities in Bonga. By car visitors can easily get around and head for the various attractions. On some of the guided tours a ride on a horse or mule is a welcome and adventurous change.

Preparations: Foreign visitors require a visa for Ethiopia. The local currency is the Ethiopian birr. Exchange is possible from the U.S. dollar or the euro at the airport of Addis Ababa or in banks. Though major health problems are rare, adequate medical precautions should be taken before the trip, including up-to-date vaccinations against Hepatitis A and B, polio, meningococcal disease and typhoid. With respect to medicine against Malaria, which may occur in Kafa, a doctor should be consulted before the journey.



KAFA Biosphere Reserve

Ethiopia's hidden treasure

Supported by:



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NABU
Charitéstraße 3
10117 Berlin, Germany
Tel. +49 (0)30.28 49 84-17 20
Fax +49 (0)30.28 49 84-37 20
info@NABU-International.de
For further information:
www.kafa-biosphere.com



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Ethiopia



Kafa Biosphere Reserve in brief

Location: southwest Ethiopia
(460 kilometres from Addis Ababa)

Extension: 760,000 hectares
(420,000 hectares of forest)

Altitude: 500 to 3,350 metres
above sea level

Inhabitants: 1 million

Capital of Kafa: Bonga
(22,000 inhabitants)

Flora and fauna:

250 plant species (e.g. wild coffee, African redwood, bamboo); 600 animal species (e.g. Colobus monkeys, lions, hippopotamuses, numerous bird species)

Diversity: one of the 34 Biodiversity Hotspots worldwide

Off the beaten track: Exploring Kafa

Evergreen **cloud forests**, towering mountains, steep valleys, thriving wetlands and gently rolling plains – **Kafa Biosphere Reserve** promises visitors a memorable and inspiring experience. One of the first UNESCO biosphere reserves in Ethiopia, it boasts an extraordinary variety of plants and animals. Kafa is also the cradle of **arabica coffee**, one of the finest coffees in the world. Indeed, around 5,000 varieties of wild coffee grow in the shade of the mighty trees in this unique environment. The rainforest – Ethiopia's green lung – and its riches have shaped the lives of **the local population** in the past and continue to do so in the present. Finding out about their culture, knowledge and skills is a journey of discovery for all the senses.

Excursions and guided tours

Kafa's overwhelming **natural beauty** is most on show in its majestic Afromontane cloud forests – the last of their kind in Ethiopia – and in its dense bamboo thickets, hot springs, caves and waterfalls. Some species of the region's rich flora and fauna are only to be found here. At the Kafa Biosphere Reserve Information Centre visitors can book various **guided tours** – from horse riding through the wild coffee forests to enthralling wildlife watching – to experience Kafa in all its facets. The diversified landscape provides a striking backdrop for hiking and trekking. Wild rivers invite to rafting, and after an exciting tour by boat, hot springs are the perfect place for recreation. From several watchtowers visitors enjoy breathtaking views and at one of Kafa's picnic places they can take a rest in the midst of nature.

The people of Kafa share a **fascinating culture** that is well worth exploring. The history of this ancient kingdom springs to life during a visit to Kafa's Open Air Museum, which features a reconstruction of the last king's residence. At the National Coffee Museum, visitors can discover the fascinating world of coffee culture at the **birthplace of coffee**. For those interested in today's life in rural Kafa there are

many opportunities to get an insight into local customs and traditions. These include an introduction to local farming, beekeeping, handicrafts, traditional coffee ceremonies and spiritual practices.

Accommodation

In Bonga several in-town hotels, like the Mankira Hotel and the Coffee Land Hotel, offer rooms for tourists. An attractive alternative just outside the town is the **guesthouse** of the Kafa Development Association (KDA). It is an ideal location for a longer stay. Situated 2 kilometres outside of Bonga, it lies within a beautiful hilly landscape. Guests stay in one of the newly renovated characteristic cottages with double bedrooms and individual bathrooms (e-mail: bonga.guesthouse@gmail.com).

Eating in Kafa

Visitors can enjoy traditional Ethiopian cuisine in many restaurants and eateries throughout the region. In hotel restaurants also Western food is available. The KDA Guesthouse offers the option to hire a cook for a meal or even the entire holiday.