

## SUBA FOREST NATIONAL PARK TOURISM DESTINATIONS VISITOR'S INFORMATION

"THE OLDEST PARK IN AFRICA", SINCE 15<sup>TH</sup>

**OROMIA IS A LAND OF BEAUTY**



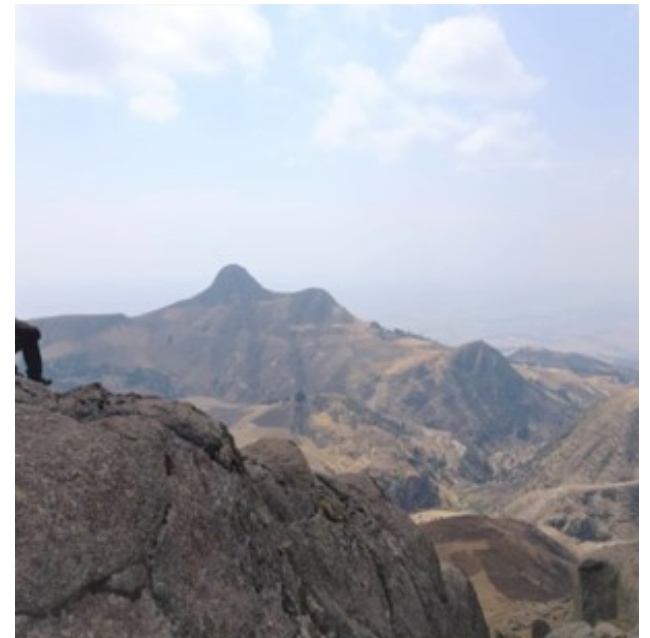
### HISTORY

Suba Forest national park is managed by Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise. Suba dry afro-montane Forest is today's real remainder of the natural high forest that have once blanketed the central plateau of Ethiopia. The area lies within geographic location of 9°89' to 9°00' North Latitude and 38°31' to 38°35' East Longitude. The history of protection of the forest goes back as early as 15<sup>th</sup> century. Even though formally protected for more than 600 years and long history of visitor's activities in the area, Suba forest was not officially declared a national park until today. The forest was designated as National Forest Priority Area during the Derg regime. At present the Forest is brought to be a national park by Oromia National Regional Government.

### UNIQUE FEATURES

Hidden just outside of the capital Addis Ababa, Suba Forest national park is the perfect getaway for hikers and nature lovers. The park's distinctive biological & geo-morphological features worth special visitor's destination in the vicinity of the capital. The impressive incredible giant towering trees such as juniper (*Juniperus procera*) and cordia (*Cordia africana*) covered by thick mosses, most of them said to be over 600 years old, the two giant endemic herbs –the *Lobelia* and *Solanecio*- on the way to the peak etc. are few to mention unique natural features of the forest. Of all the giant trees in this forest, the all-star of the park is *Juniperus procera* staggering over 50 m tall tree with up to 2m diameter at the breast height. The area is part of volcanic dome of Mount Wachecha covering an altitudinal range from 2200 – 3385 m.a.s.l. The Mogle peak (3302 masl) is an astonishing viewpoint to forest, and surrounding villages and farmlands. The highest peak (3385 m.a.s.l) called Dhamota/ Dhamocha, a massive extinct volcano, is an inspirational magnificent place towering over Addis Ababa and the surrounding areas. The southern base of the mountain offer inspiring view to the *Bacho* plain.

Let's as explore the oldest, tallest and biggest trees in Ethiopia. Suba Forest National park is an ideal place for domestic and foreign visitors interested in incredible natural features, pristine nature, birds, mammals, adventure, breathtaking in quit area, nature learning, and outdoor recreation. The forest makes you just escape from noisy city to the so quite perfect natural area. from high forest to alpine vegetation, the associated biodiversity, about 9km through forest and 5km through open landscape ascending up to Dhamocha peak (3385 masl). A trail lead to beautiful Meti Waterfall is 5km or 1hour walk through very pristine and pleasant site. Three campsites named Janhoy, Moru, and Melka, are situated at different distances to offer options of stop. The last two campsites are challenging hike. Daytrip to Suba Forest national park is among top recommended popular things to do for foreign tourists in Addis Ababa (those who have short time in Ethiopia).



## FLORA

Suba Forest is a national park known for its characteristic trees. The area's immense natural vegetation offers an extraordinary scenery, and pleasant temperature makes Suba Forest the unique place and ideal destination for nature visitors, environmental and ecological learners. Even though the main attraction of Suba Forest is remarkable indigenous vegetation preserved scenic and ecological values, this is not the only thing which makes Suba Forest worth a visit. More than 160 plant species have been recorded at the site whereas *Juniperus procera*, *Podocarpus falcatus*, *Olea europaea* comprises the main vegetation zone while at higher altitude *Erica arborea*, *Rosa abyssinica*, the endemic *Jasminum stans*, two giant herbs; *Lobelia gibberoa* and *Solanecio gigas*, and *helichrysum odoratissimum* with mountain grassland dominate the upper slopes. Some of the trees found in the forest that are worthy of special note are; *Myrsine Africana*, *Mytenus spp.*, *Scolopia thieolia*, *Allophylus abyssinica*, *Euphorbia*, *ampliphylla*. Giant trees are not standing single for itself, whilst provided habitat for a variety of plant and animal life forms. Varieties of understory woody species, herbs and grass form aesthetic quality of the forest that offers pleasure of experiencing indigenous floras.

## FAUNA

Suba Forest provided rich habitat for some 32 larger mammals including the most known animals such as; *Menelik's Bushbuck*, *Leopard*, *Colobus Gureza*, *Caracal*, *Serval Cat*, *Grey Duiker*, Common Warthog etc, and interesting birds of endemic which can only be found here, and near endemic species. It is a place of interest for bird lovers. A total of 186 bird species has been recorded at the site, four of which are Ethiopian endemic; *Abyssinian Catbird*, *Abyssinian Woodpecker*, *Black headed Siskin*, *Yellow-fronted Parrot*, eight near-endemic as *Black-headed Forest Oriole*, *Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher*, *Banded Barbet*, *Black-winged Lovebird*, *Thick-billed Raven*, *Wattled Ibis*, *White-backed Black Tit*, and *White-collared Pigeon*, and many more are Afrotropical highlands biome species among which 27 species are categorized under IBA criteria A3 (biome-restricted species) by Global IBA criteria. Of interest among the avifauna is *Abyssinian Catbird* – one of the finest singer of all the birds of Africa- is an icon of the birds from the area. Among the insects; more than 50 species of butterflies recorded in the forest.

## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Suba Forest national park is the unique destination offers various admirable recreational activities such as hiking, deep forest walk, opportunity to stay in natural pristine natural environment, and viewpoints from where visitors certainly enjoy tranquility of forest and the spectacular scenery, birds watching, ecological study (*plant life & wildlife*), picnicking, sightseeing, photography, museum visit, challenging sports, mountain biking etc. Stunning scenic, breath-

The longest trail starts at the park headquarter (2200 masl) heading about 9km through forest and 5km through open landscape ascending up to Dhamocha peak (3385 masl). A trail lead to beautiful Meti Waterfall is 5km or 1hour walk through very pristine and pleasant site. Three campsites named Janhoy, Moru, and Melka, are situated at different distances to offer options of stop. The last two campsites are challenging hike. Daytrip to Suba Forest national park is among top recommended popular things to do for foreign tourists in Addis Ababa (those who have short time in Ethiopia).

## NATURE LEARNING

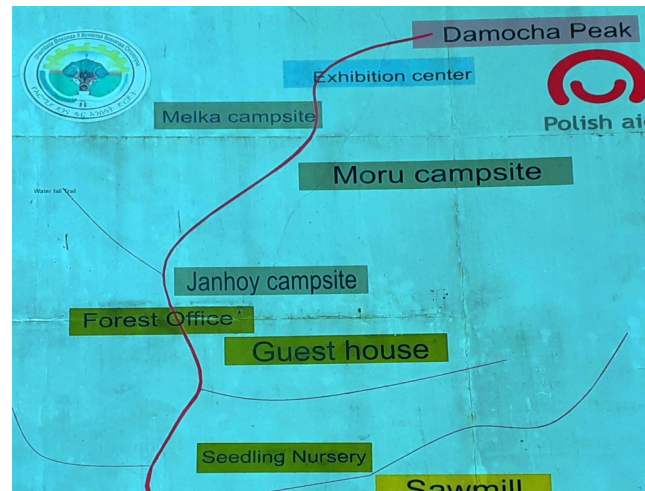
Suba Forest is best and accessible place to connect youths and kids to nature, creating the conservation voters of the future. It offers best outdoor teaching-learning experience for Schools and residents in capital Addis Ababa where opportunities to experience nature are often few.

## OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Suba Forest has special history with forestry development in the country. The first sawmill introduced in Ethiopia (established in 1908), and the first ever tree nursery in the country (established in 1957), can be visited here in Suba forest. Aesthetic appearance of Plantation forest and silvicultural treatment are among other attractions outside the natural forest. Suba Forest is smart place for ecological research, arts working, and social get-togethers. Trophies of missing animals are kept in the house situated in the forest at the place so called exhibition center.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Infrastructures and facilities in place for delivering tourism service include; suite room accommodation with 5 beds, (3 separate rooms with 5 beds, living room, kitchen, bathroom), two accommodation blocks each with two rooms, bathroom, toilet, dormitory; 4 rooms with 32 beds, and common shower room, dining room, three wonderful campsites (Janhoy, Moru, and Melka campsites).



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