

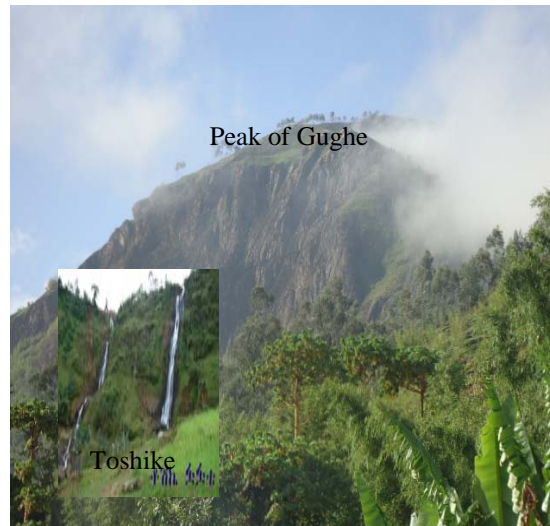
Tourist Attractions of Gamo Gofa Zone

Gamo Gofa is located in South Western Ethiopia as one of the 14 zones and 4 special woredas of the SNNPR. Regarding tourism, Gamo Gofa is placed among the first level zones containing 15 woredas and 2 reform towns which are endowed with wide varieties of tourist attraction sites. The zone is home of five among the 56 nations and nationalities of the region. The administrative capital of the zone is Arbaminch, which is one of the fast growing towns of Ethiopia. The town has international airport, 24 hrs electric light, clean tap water, gov't and private tourist service providing organizations, daily functioning public bus station, gov't & private banks and health centers and many other services. It lies at a distance of 505 Km from Addis Ababa and 275 Km from Hawassa, respectively. The town is surrounded by the rift valley lakes, Abaya and Chamo, the Nechsar national park, the Forty springs, the Arbaminch underground water dense forest, the Crocodile ranch and the Crocodile market. The following attraction sites are simply taken as the instance of the attractions in the zone.

1. Gughe and the surrounding

Gughe is one of the most popular mountains of the country with its impressive surrounding. To visit Gughe and its surrounding, the journey takes you to Deramalo woreda. Gughe is 20 Km far from the woreda's capital, Wacha. To go to Gughe, you need to have a car or motor bike from Wacha to Boyre market and then walk on foot for 30-50 minutes until you reach Gughe. Gughe, which is 4200m above the sea level stands first in SNNPR. It is the third highest mt in Ethiopia. Staying at the top of mountain, you can clearly observe the Gamo people's living style, their housing style, and the landscape at once with colorful means.

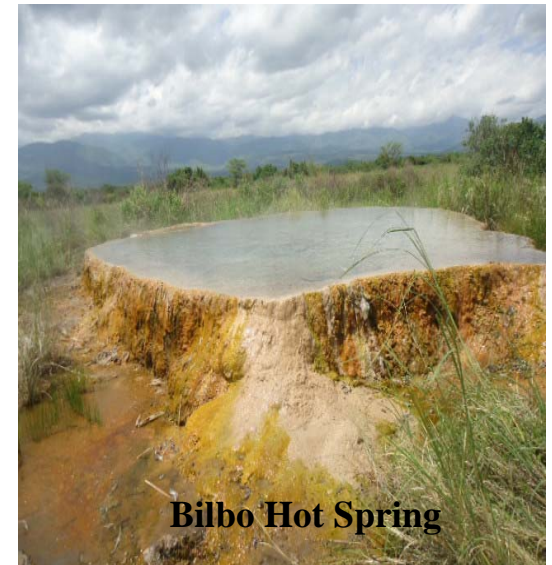
If you walk around the sides of the mt, you will have chance to see water fall sprinkles the surrounding vegetables on the even slope at the upper course of Toshike river. Be there and speak with a full confidence without any hesitation because actual observation proves the validity of the information on what has been stated above. Have a nice journey!



2. Bilbo Hot Spring

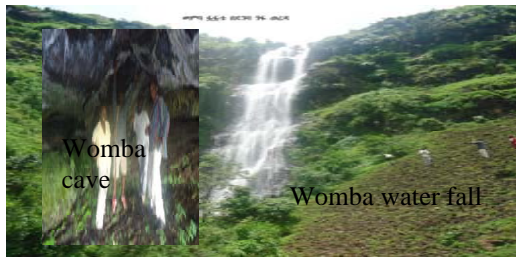
Bilbo is a form of geyser that is located inside Maze national park. It is 21km far from Daramalo woreda's capital, Wacha. To get Bilbo, you should travel an hour by car or by motor bike. The general looking of the geyser is quite unique and exceptional. One among others that makes it special is the evaporation of water without any normally observable heat. Bilbo Hot Spring is very different since it has both liquid and gaseous state of water at once without seasonal fluctuation of its volume. When the liquid state of the water springs up from ground, it releases the smoke in to the air. The released cloud of smoke covers some part of the area that can be seen from a far distance.

Some people use it as holy water while for others it serves as traditional medicine. To have the everlasting satisfaction, visit the place.



3. Womba cave and water fall

Have you ever heard the news about Womba cave and water fall? It lies 12 km NW of Sawla town. It takes about an hour and 30 minutes on foot. Crossing Womba river, you will see the surrounding which is covered with dense impressive green forest and enjoy listening the most attractive musical rhythmic sound of Womba river. As the name indicates, it is both cave and water fall. The inner part of the cave has the capacity of carrying above 500 people at once. The estimated length of the cave is 500 meter where as its gate has the height of 3 meters. In front of the cave, there is a sudden fall of water caused by beds of hard rocks in the upper course of womba river which exceeds 80 meter. 'Come on!' nature calls you to see so as to remember its special secretes.



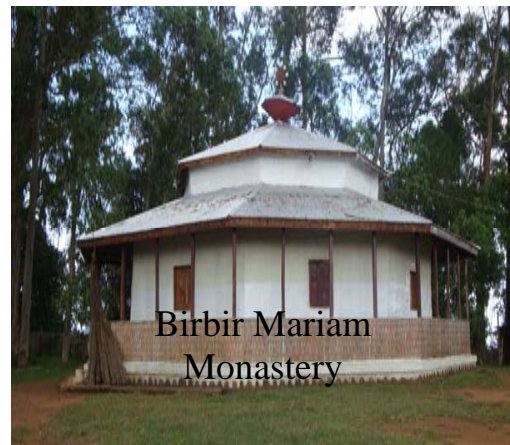
4. Karza caves

Do you want to know something about Karza caves? If so; Karza caves are situated at Demba Gofa woreda in Karza kebele. To reach the district, drive only for about 15 minutes North to Sawla town since there is a main road up to the caves. Karza caves are three small caves which are located near each other with a distance of about 3 meter interval. They were made of sandstone which was covered with salty soil from their entrance to exit. The continuation of salty soil attracts cattle to spend most of their day time inside the caves. As a result, the village people named the three entities *Deyisha*, *Meehenne Dorssa gongollo* as Goat, cattle and sheep's caves respectively. All of them are called accordingly in the names of those cattle because they always feed on their defined territory as mentioned above.



5. Birbir Mariam Monastery

The monastery is found in Mirab Abaya woreda. It exists at 67 km North West of Birbir town. Birbir Mariam is one of a few listed ancient monasteries of Ethiopia. The monastery accommodates precious and impressive aged Holy relics such as golden cross, golden umbrella, silver cross, parchment scriptures and bells. During the Italian invasion, a helicopter dropped a piece of bomb targeting to destroy the church. Fortunately, the piece of bomb fell in the compound near by the right corner of the church without causing any damage on the church properties, but has made small circular well on the plain surface of the ground which is considered as one of the great miracles. Saint Mary Holy water which cures and blesses people from various diseases and evil spirits like demons is another impressive attractions of the place. Although the monastery is called in the name of Saint Mary, currently, there are about four tabernacles which come out during annual Holy days particularly on 19th and 29th January every year. There are so many impressive assets in the monastery; therefore, take a trip to there to have endless pleasure.



Gamo Gofa Zone Culture
Tourism and Government
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Department

Tourism, Parks
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