**ABOUT**

**Bishoftu** (Amharic: ቢሾፍቱ) is a town and separate woreda of Ethiopia, lying south east of Addis Ababa. It was formerly known as **Debre Zeyit** (Amharic: ደብረ ዘይት) however since the late 1990s it has been officially known by the Oromo name, Bishoftu, which was its name until 1955. The town is located in the Misraq Shewa Zone of the Oromia Region, and has an elevation of 1,920 metres (6,300 ft).

Bishoftu is located 47.9 kilometres (29.8 mi) southeast of Addis Ababa along its route 4 highway

Bishoftu is also home to the Ethiopian Air Force and the Harar Meda Airpot (ICAO HAHM, IATA QHR), as well as a station on the Addis Ababa - Djibouti Railway. It has had telephone service since 1954. The city is home for the National Veterinary Institute of Ethiopia, established in 1963, the leading veterinary vaccine research and production center currently producing more than 20 livestock vaccines. Next door to the national veterinary institute is the scholl of veterinary medicine of Addis Ababa University. The Gafat Armament Engineering Complex is located here. According to the Nordic Africa Institute website, other major businesses in Bishoftu include the Ada Flour and Pasta Factory, the Pasqua Giuseppe PLC, the Salmida Leather Products Manufacturing, Ratson (Women Youth Children Development Programme), and Winrock International Ethiopia The Debre Zeyt Research Center, founded in 1953, is run by the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, specializing in agricultural research, which includes acting as the national center for research to improve the yield of teff, lentils, chickpeas, and poultry. In 2007 Bishoftu became the new home of Meserete Kristos College, a Christian college owned by the Meserete Kristos Church.

Places to visit

Mount Yerer, Green Crater Lake and Lake Hora Kiloli

Lake Bishoftu Guda, Lake Koriftu and the seasonal Lake Cheleklaka

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| **Elevation** | 1,920 m (6,300 ft) |
| **Population** (2012) | |
| **• Total** | 171,115 |