

BALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK – AFRO-ALPINE & HARENNA FOREST

OVERVIEW

South-eastern Ethiopia's Bale Mountains National Park protects a unique high-altitude ecosystem on the Sanetti Plateau and expansive Harennna Forest on the plateau's southern escarpment. The park is celebrated for the world's largest remaining population of Ethiopian wolf and for endemic birds and mammals such as mountain nyala and giant molerat.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sanetti Plateau: Road across the plateau reaches 4,000+ m with easy wolf-watching lay-bys and sweeping Afro-alpine vistas.
- Tullu Dimtu: Highest peak in Bale (4,377 m), often visited by short walks from the plateau road.
- Harennna Forest: Moist montane forest with bamboo, waterfalls, coffee agroforests, and black-and-white colobus monkeys.
- Rift Valley Views: Southern escarpment lookouts offer grand views on clear days.

1–3 DAY PLANS

- One Day: Early-morning drive across Sanetti for wolf searches; picnic at lay-by; short walk on the moorlands.
- Two Days: Add Harennna Forest walks and coffee-forest visits; overnight in Goba/Dinsho area or in simple eco-lodges.
- Three Days: Include Dinsho HQ trails for mountain nyala; optional summit of Tullu Dimtu; birding focus for Abyssinian specialties.

PRACTICALS

- Access: Road journeys from Addis via Shashamane–Dodola or via Adama–Assela; domestic flights to nearby cities operate periodically (check current schedules).
- Altitude & Weather:
Cold, windy plateau conditions; dry months (Oct–Feb) are clearer; rains can make tracks boggy.
- Permits & Guides: Park entry, local guides, and scouts are arranged at park gates; community guides add valuable knowledge.

SOURCES SUMMARY

Wildlife and habitat notes align with Ethiopian conservation sources and widely accepted species ranges; Bale is the flagship stronghold for the Ethiopian wolf.