

Simen Mountains Ethiopia

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World Heritage Site

Introduction: Simen Mountains National Park (SMNP), Ethiopia

The Simen Mountains National Park in Northern Ethiopia is an exotic setting with unique wildlife and breath-taking views on a landscape shaped by nature and traditional agriculture. The natural beauties of this region have always filled visitors from Ethiopia and abroad with awe. Gentle highland ridges at altitudes above 3600 metres above sea level (m asl), covered with grasses, isolated trees (*Erica arborea*) and the bizarre giant Lobelia (*Lobelia rhynchopetalum*) are found on the high plateau that ends abruptly at 1000- to 2000-m deep escarpments. The margins of this high plateau consist of precipitous cliffs and deep, canyon-style gorges. In some places, the escarpment forms small elevations that offer splendid natural lookout points. The spectacular views from the observation points at Gidir Got and Imet Gogo in the centre of the Park offer unparalleled panoramas along the high plateau and down to the lowland areas. Given the right meteorological conditions, views reaching up to a hundred kilometres over the valleys and the terraces of the Tekeze lowland basin are no exception. Geologically speaking, the entire highlands of the Simen mountains consist of dark Trapp basalts and bright, soft tuff. They alternate and constitute a massive complex that is more than 3000 m thick. This complex was formed by volcanic eruptions in the Tertiary Oligocene-Miocene Age some 20-30 million years ago; ever since, it has been going through processes of uplifting and erosion.

The main attraction of the Simen Mountains National Park is its biosphere: the steep cliffs and the cool climate at the altitude of the Erica tree line (3600 to 4000 m asl) have created conditions that are appropriate for the survival of an ibex species (*Capra ibex walie*) endemic to the Simen Mountains. Despite the severe restriction of their habitat over the last centuries, several hundred animals have survived up to the present. Apart from the Walya ibex, many other animal species are found in the Park, e.g. the endemic Simen fox or Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis simensis*), several birds of prey, the endemic Gelada baboon (*Theropithecus gelada*), the Klippspringer (*Oreotragus oreotragus*), and the bushbuck (*Tragelphus scriptus*). The rareness of these species formed the backbone of the concept for conservation of the area, which led to the establishment of the Simen Mountains National Park in 1969, and its listing as a World Heritage Site in 1978.

The human population living in the area adds to the distinctiveness of this special natural environment. The traditional lifestyle of the rural population and their survival in a rather harsh climate and with scarce natural resources make for the most striking impressions a visitor will have when trekking in the Park and its surrounding rural area.



Photo by Hans Humi

The Simen Mountains National Park is situated on the northwestern side of the Simen mountains massif in northern Ethiopia, roughly 900 km north of Addis Abeba. Situated on the northern edge of the central plateau of Ethiopia, the region overlooks the lowlands of the Tekeze River (also known as Atbarah in Sudan). Politically, the area belongs to the North Gonder Zone of the Amhara National Regional State. The Simen Mountains National Park itself lies in the Weredas (districts) of Debark, Adi Arkay and Janamora, and covers an area of 136 km².

Situated in the centre of a triangle formed by Gonder, Lalibela and Aksum – three major tourist attractions that are part of the 'Historical Northern Route' – the region can easily be reached from any of these surrounding towns. Entrance to the Park is through the town of Debark, a market place about 110 km north of Gonder, where the National Park Administration is located.

Location Map 1:2,000,000

Berha
 Kolla
 Weyna Dega
 Dega
 High Dega
 Wurch



Trekking preparations

General remarks

A trekking venture in the Simen Mountains National Park (SMNP) is bound to become one of the highlights of any trip to Ethiopia. To make sure that everything will run smoothly, planning ahead and organisation are essential. Most preparations can be carried out in the town of Debark. There are basic prerequisites for all, e.g., good health and the physical ability to adapt to heights between 2000 and 4500 m asl. Beyond this, a trip to the Simen Mountains can be arranged according to individual tastes. An inexhaustible range of possible journeys is available, each of which is worth being discovered.

When should one visit the Simen Mountains?

A visit to the Simen Mountains can be undertaken at any time of the year except perhaps during the rainy season, which lasts from June to mid-September. During this season, a total of 1000 to 1600 litres of rain per square metre may considerably hamper trekking activities. Muddy tracks represent a major impediment to an unproblematic trip. Moreover, up to 50 litres of precipitation per square metre per day (on average once a year) can make rivers become dangerous torrents.

Where to stay in Debark

Two hotels in Debark cater explicitly to foreign tourism: *Hotel Simen* and *Hotel Simen Park*. While both are found in the centre of the town, the latter provides some extra luxury such as hot showers and a souvenir shop. In the unlikely case that all the rooms in these two hotels are booked, several additional small pensions exist in town. They normally cater to the needs of local traders who come for the weekly Saturday market.

Simen Mountains National Park Office

The starting point for any visit to the Simen Mountains National Park is the National Park Office in Debark. This is the implementing institution for management, conservation measures and rehabilitation activities in the Park. The Park Office is the first place to go to for permits, information, travel preparation and any other form of support for visitors to the National Park. It is here that the required entrance permit can be purchased, and an official SMNP Scout contracted. The National Park Office is located on the main road in Debark, in the southern part of the town. [Coordinates: N: 13° 08.960' / E: 37° 53.677']

The address of the Park Office is:

Simen Mountains National Park Office
P.O. Box 13
Debark, North Gonder
Ethiopia
Telephone / Telefax: ++251 8 11 34 82
Email: walia.smpn@telecom.net.et

Entrance permit

All visitors to the Park must show an official entrance permit on entering the Park near Buyit Ras. This entrance permit is issued at the National Park Office upon payment of an entrance fee. The price depends on the number of days that visitors plan to spend in the National Park. A list with the most recent entrance prices, as well as the prices for many other services, can be found on the notice board at the National Park Office in Debark.

Please notice that no entrance permits are issued at the official Park entrance in Buyit Ras!

Code of conduct in the Simen Mountains National Park

In order to conserve the unique natural diversity of the Simen Mountains National Park, a set of rules has been drawn up by the local Park administration. The following is a list of the most important regulations:

- **All trips to the park must be escorted by a trained Park administration scout [compulsory]. Instructions given by the official representative of the National Park must be strictly followed.**
- **Disturbing wildlife or carrying out any activity that might disturb or destroy their natural habitat is strictly forbidden in the Park (hunting, chasing away, excessive noise, specific sporting activities such as paragliding or mountain-biking).**
- **Any activity that destroys or removes plants or flowers is prohibited. The same applies to destruction and removal of trees. At the official campsites, it is possible to buy firewood from the Park staff [Eucalyptus]. To stop the progressive deforestation of the remaining Erica forests, the purchase and use thereof has been declared punishable by law.**
- Entering the Park with domestic animals [e.g. dogs] is not permitted.
- It should be a matter of course that litter is not left behind on a trek. In most camps, Park scouts have started to dig rubbish dumps, thus making appropriate disposal possible. Your scout will know the latest regulations. Beyond this, it is not a sin to pick up one or the other leftover that previous trekkers may have unintentionally left behind. . . .
- Camping and overnight stays are only allowed on designated areas at the regular camping sites.
- All kinds of fires outside the officially designated camp areas are strictly forbidden. Special attention is necessary when smoking, as this can cause grass and bush fires.
- **A high degree of respect towards the resident population, their traditional values and their lifestyle is required. This implies absolute respect for private propriety, and a certain restraint when taking photos.**
- Please be aware of the possible long-term consequences of handing out medicine and gifts [particularly sweets] to the local population.

Further Reading

Bruce, J., 1790: Travels to discover the source of the Nile in the years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772 and 1773. 5 vols. Edinburgh.

Hurni, H. and E. Ludi, 2000: Reconciling conservation with sustainable development. A participatory study inside and around the Simen Mountains National Park, Ethiopia. Produced with the assistance of an interdisciplinary group of contributors. Centre for Development and Environment, University of Berne.

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Hurni, H., 1982: Probleme touristischer Entwicklung im Hochgebirge von Semien - Aethiopien. Jahrbuch der Geographischen Gesellschaft von Bern, Bd. 54, Bern.

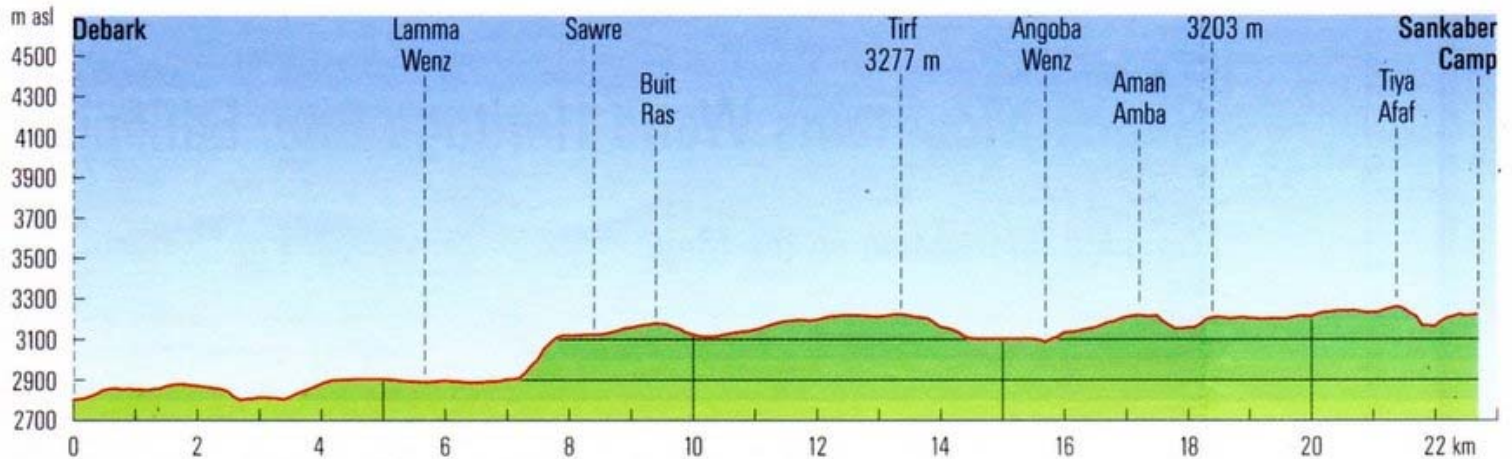
Nievergelt, B., Good, T. and R. Güttinger, 1998: A survey of the flora and fauna of the Simen Mountains National Park. Group for Wildlife and Conservation Biology, Institute of Zoology, University of Zurich.

Rüppell, E., 1838, 1840: Reise in Abyssinien, Basel.

The current text for the Simen Trekking Map was produced by Patrick Sieber and Hans Hurni, on the basis of numerous materials obtained from the staff of the Simen Mountains National Park, the Walya Guide Association, and the written sources listed above. Trekking routes were first described by Hurni (1982).

Trekking routes

From Debarq to the Simen Mountains National Park (Sankaber Camp)



A trek to Sankaber Camp and back to Debarq would normally last 3-4 days. The path from Debarq to the National Park runs along the northern escarpment over a distance of approximately three kilometres. Before the spectacular view on the escarpment is unveiled, for the first few hours the path crosses numerous, small side valleys of the Belegez Valley, which flows south of the Park. After leaving the refreshing eucalyptus groves that surround the town of Debarq, the path leads through highland pastures at an altitude of 2800 m asl. The scenery is characterised by very steep fields and scattered hamlets along the path. Cereals alternate with pasture, revealing an age-old, deeply-rooted system of rotational land use that James Bruce of Kinnard (1790) came across in the years 1770-1775 already, except that the now widespread eucalyptus trees had not yet been introduced at that time. The first physically strenuous passage is Sawre Hill, which has adequately been named 'heart-break hill'. Here, for the first time the path winds up to an altitude of above 3100 m asl. The fields on both sides of the path offer insights into traditional agricultural practices. Despite the steepness of the slope, fields are cultivated every year using oxen for ploughing. On the Sawre Ridge, the path follows the gravel road, making a detour to the left of a small hill. Nearby, travellers must pay a visit to the official entrance of the Park to show their permit. Visitors then take the path that leads above the scattered settlement of Mindigebsa, which is a century-old trail to Chennek Camp eroded by heavy rains during rainy seasons. There are possibilities to proceed northward to the escarpment, which has some spectacular observation points.

- **Tiya Afaf:** With the completion of the new gravel road that runs along the escarpment, trekking along this part of the route offers very impressive views on the lowland areas to the north. The best views are near Tiya Afaf, where the steep terrain offers splendid panoramas westward towards the distinct cliff of Tirf and to the lowland village of Adarmaz.

Just after the Tiya Afaf Viewpoint, a footpath to the left takes a shortcut, while the gravel road makes a large detour to tackle the slope. The shortcut leads down to the most narrow point of the spur, where it meets the road again. After a few more minutes along the road, one reaches **Sankaber Camp** (3240 m asl), situated on the impressive spur between the northern escarpment and the southern Wazla ravine. Sankaber Camp, still the best of all Park camps, is equipped with modest infrastructure comprising a basic tourist lodge for sixteen persons. Cooking facilities may be available there.

Through the National Park: from Sankaber Camp through Gich Camp to Chennek Camp



A trek from Debarke to Chennek Camp and back to Debarke would normally take at least 6 days. From Sankaber Camp a path leads to Gich Camp, where visitors will enjoy the most impressive parts of the escarpment and find extensive areas of highland grasslands and heather forests. The trek starts with a descent into a depression formed by the upper course of the Wazla Valley (the Kaba fen). Two small detours to additional spots worth seeing are possible:

- **Nigus Aysimush Viewpoint:** On the way down to the Kaba fen, it is worth making a small detour to the viewpoint situated on the ridge northeast of the camp, as it offers spectacular views of the escarpment and down onto the lowlands. The shortest access is by the path leaving the main road at the sign for Menelik's Bushbuck. An alternative to this access route is the small footpath that follows the escarpment all the way from the camp. It starts at the sign-posted well in Sankaber Camp.
- **Jinbar Waterfall:** To get the best views of the impressive Jinbar River waterfall, the short trip to a small hilltop [Deche Nedala] east of the road is warmly recommended. The hiking trail leaves the road at the deepest point in the Kaba fen, crosses a small stream to the right and reaches the southern foot of the elevation. The last few metres to the top require caution, as the trail is very exposed on the flank of the incredibly steep face that leads down to the bottom of the waterfall.

After the short ascent from the Kaba fen, the path leaves the gravel road to the left, and leads through several side valleys to the Jinbar Valley. A new level of human-made landscape emerges between 3150 and 3700 m asl: the barley cultivation level. In this area, cultivation is done in a two-year cycle. One side of the valley lies fallow, while the other side is planted. Slope steepness, cultivation, overgrazing, erosive rainfall and limited land resources lead to extensive soil erosion in this area (Hurni, 1978). After crossing the Jinbar River and embarking on the ascent to the settlements of Gich, the path runs along the upper barley cultivation line – which is also the tree line – to the **Gich Camp** scouts' huts (3600 m asl).

Gich Camp is an ideal base for various excursions through highland steppe and to spectacular observation points on the ridge of the escarpment. These trips give one unforgettable views of the most impressive parts of the escarpment and offer good opportunities to observe wildlife. In the past, the stunning viewpoints above jagged cliffs also served as observation points for ibex research.

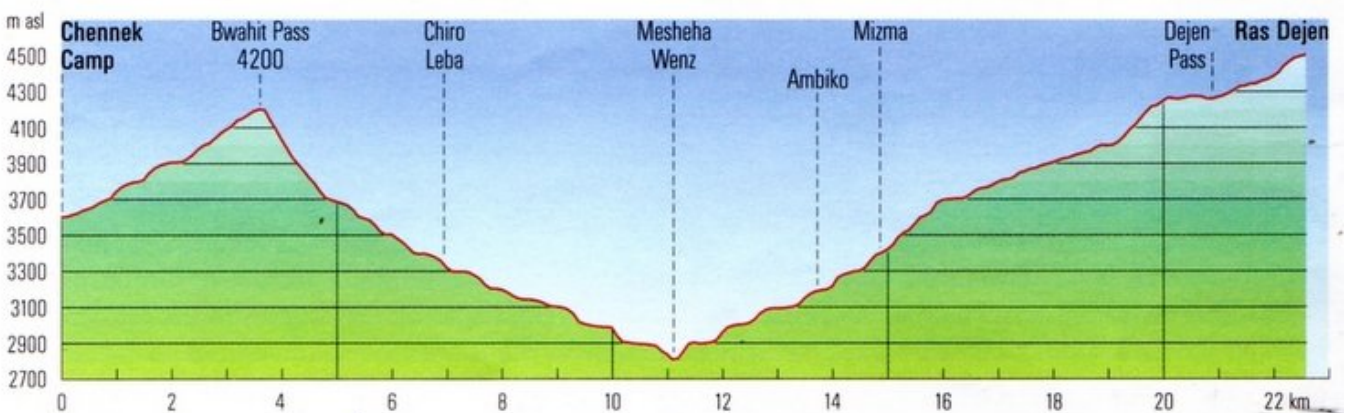
- **Gidir Got Summit:** This edge of the escarpment (3428 m asl) forms the western margin of the Gich high plateau. It offers spectacular views down to Muchila and the lowlands. Access is either on a path that follows the ridge all along, or up through the settlement of Gich – or both, which is a rewarding roundtrip from the camp.
- **Saha Summit:** Some of the most spectacular views of the escarpment are gained from the top of Saha (3785 m asl). A deep gorge leads down through the escarpment, in which the path used by local people to travel down to the lowland villages of Dirni and Antola can be made out.

- **Imet Gogo Summit:** This is the best-known observation point in the Simen Mountains (3926 m asl). Easily accessible from Gich Camp through wonderful long- and short-grass steppe, it offers spectacular views in all directions. The views down onto the lowland villages of Tiya and Truwata, and north-east across to Silki Summit are particularly impressive.

The trip from Gich Camp to Chennek Camp can be continued either on foot all along the escarpment (about 6 hours), or along the track suitable for the pack animals (about 5 hours). The second route crosses Jinbar Valley to the southern ridge of Ambaras, from where it follows the gravel road to the upper course of Belegez Valley, where the easternmost Park facility of **Chennek Camp** (3620 m asl) is located.

- **Kurbet Metaya:** Just before visitors arrive at Chennek Camp, they can enjoy a spectacular view down onto the lowland areas to the left. This viewpoint is actually a gap in the precipitous cliff that reveals impressive views of the steep faces towards the west, and the tightly clustered houses (*tukuls*) in the village of Dihwara below the cliff.

From the National Park (Chennek Camp) to the highest summit in Ethiopia (Ras Dejen)



A trek from Debarq to Ras Dejen and back to Debarq or Adi Arkay would normally take at least 9-10 days. From Chennek Camp, the path to Dejen Pass leads to Bwahit Pass – a two-hour ascent after which the view opens to the east over Mesheha Valley to the Dejen mountain range. Although the distance seems to be modest, the summit of Ras Dejen (4533 m asl) still lies more than 11 hours of trekking away from here.

- **Bwahit Pass:** At 4200 m asl, this pass provides a good prospect back onto the impressive rock formations of Imet Gogo and Inatiye. The steep scarp towards the east offers views down to the bottom of Mesheha River.
- **Bwahit Summit:** Even better views of the scenery are available from the top of Bwahit (4430 m asl), which can be easily reached from Bwahit Pass.

After the ascent to Bwahit Pass, trekkers have to cross the Mesheha Valley. Treeless slopes, mostly planted with barley, show advanced soil degradation and bear witness to an age-old human-made landscape that caught the eye of Eduard Rüppell (1838/40). Simen is thought to have been inhabited for more than 2000 years, but the region has experienced explosive population growth only in the last few decades. With the steep descent from the vegetation limit at Bwahit Pass down to Mesheha Valley, the temperature increases noticeably. An increasing number of arid plants such as the *Euphorbia schimperiana* indicate that dryness increases towards the bottom of this mountain valley.

After crossing the chilly Mesheha River (at about 2800 m asl) – which can be impassable in the rainy season from June to September – the long ascent all the way to Dejen Pass (4,260 m asl) begins. Fortunately, the pleasant camping ground in Ambikwa (3100 m asl) divides this long ascent into two stages.

At the beginning, the path wends its way through barley fields and fallow land; later, above 3700 m asl, it leads through mountain steppe up to the limits of grassy vegetation near the pass. On the left-hand side below the pass, between 4050 and 4250 m asl, a most impressive moraine from the last ice age that took place in the Simen Mountains can be distinguished. It was formed about 20,000-14,000 years ago, when Simen mountain tops had small ice caps. The last part of the ascent from Dejen Pass to the summit runs through an impressive area of frost-rubble, where vegetation is only occasional. The summit that is nearest to Mesheha Valley is two metres higher than the one to the east, and can be reached through a thirty-metre-high chimney that can be easily climbed by anyone.

- **Ras Dejen Summit.** A far-ranging view spanning more than ten thousand square kilometres invites the visitor to stay longer on top of the Horn of Africa's highest mountain (4533 m asl). Towards the west, the steep faces of the peaks in the National Park are visible; towards the north and east, one can see Tekeze Valley, which is at a walking distance of two to three days. Towards the south, the eye roams beyond the Wereda (district) of Beyeda down into the Mesheha Valley.



Photo by Hans Hurmi



Photo by Hans Hurmi



Photo by Klaus Aerni

More extensive routes

Further ideas for visitors who intend to spend additional days in the Simen Mountains are offered below, though without details.

Within the limits of the Simen Mountains National Park, some trails follow the foot of the escarpment, passing through the villages of Dirni and Muchila. Both villages have Scout Camps run by the National Park authorities. Beware that most of the trails leading back onto the high plateau require some climbing and are not suitable for pack animals.










An alternative return route from the summit of Ras Dejen through the village of Amdir is marked on the map. Instead of returning back to Debark after visiting the Park, some people prefer to head north to reach the main road near Adi Arkay. Camping sites are proposed on the map. From Arkwasiye the trail descends down into Ansiya Valley; a further camp can be set up in Mekarebya. From there, the trail leads through Hawaza and Mulit (camp site), and then on to Adi Arkay, which is no longer far.

Another way of reaching Ras Dejen is through the Belegez Valley all the way up to Chennek Camp, leaving visits to the Gich and Sankaber Camps for the way back to Debark. Some visitors have even managed to walk all the way from the Simen Mountains National Park to faraway places such as the towns of Mekele, Aksum or even Lalibela. It goes without saying that such extensive trips require far more preparation than is necessary for a few days of trekking near Debark.

Map sections covering the core (original) area of Simien Mountains National Park including the 'standard' trek from Buyit Ras to Chennek

Simen Mountains World Heritage Site, Ethiopia

Trekking Information on the Map

	Route for riding		Spectacular viewpoint/observation point
	Route for hiking (passable for pack animals)		Walya ibexes (each symbol represents 15 - 20 ibexes)
	Distance in hours		Simen foxes (each symbol represents about 10 animals, rarely seen)
	Tourist lodge (no or low comfort)		Gelada baboons (each symbol represents several hundred animals, easy to approach)
	Camping ground		

Sources of Information

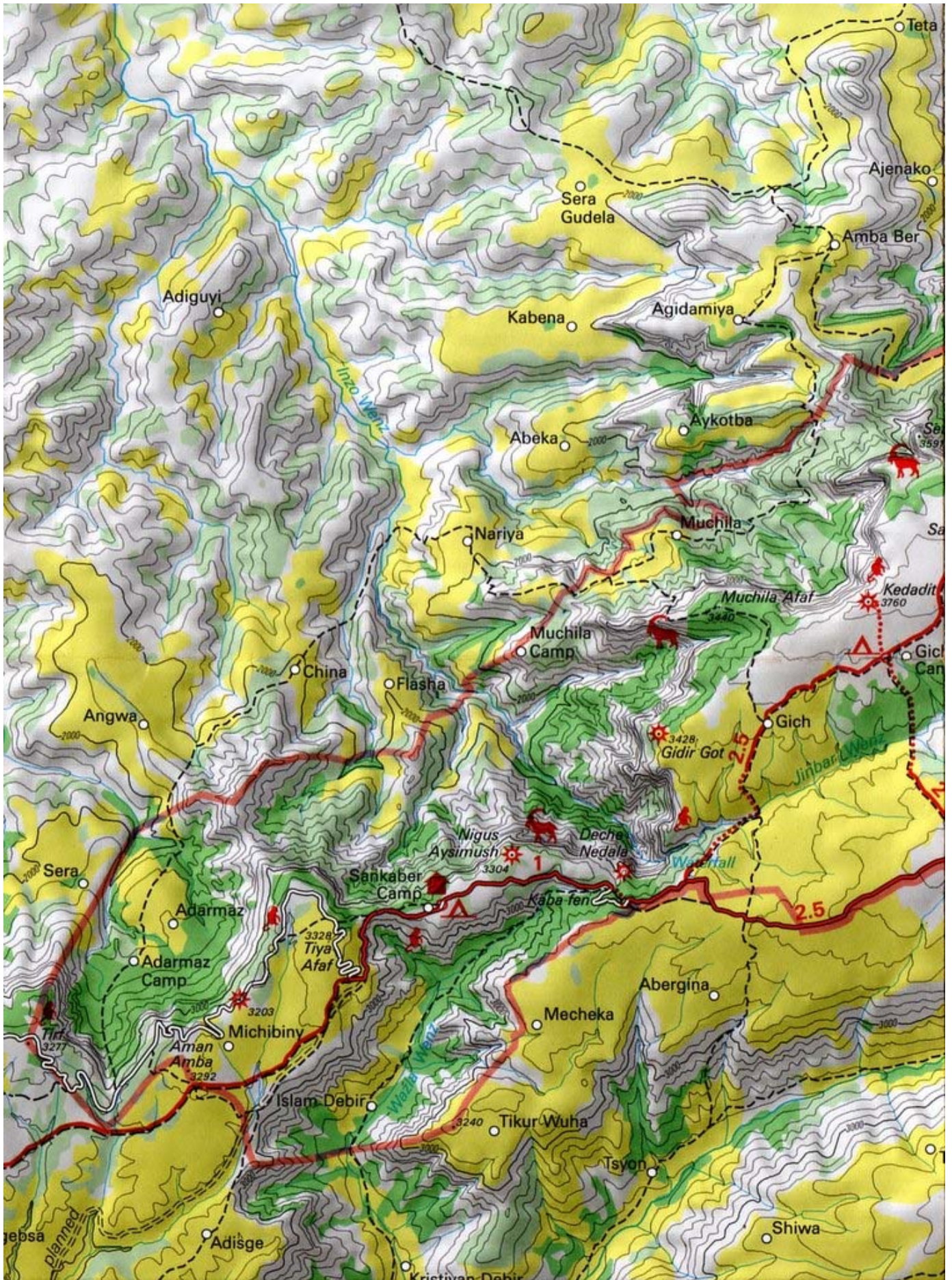
Routes and distances, location of camping grounds, and observation points: Hans Hurni, former Park Warden of the Simien Mountains National Park (1975-1977).

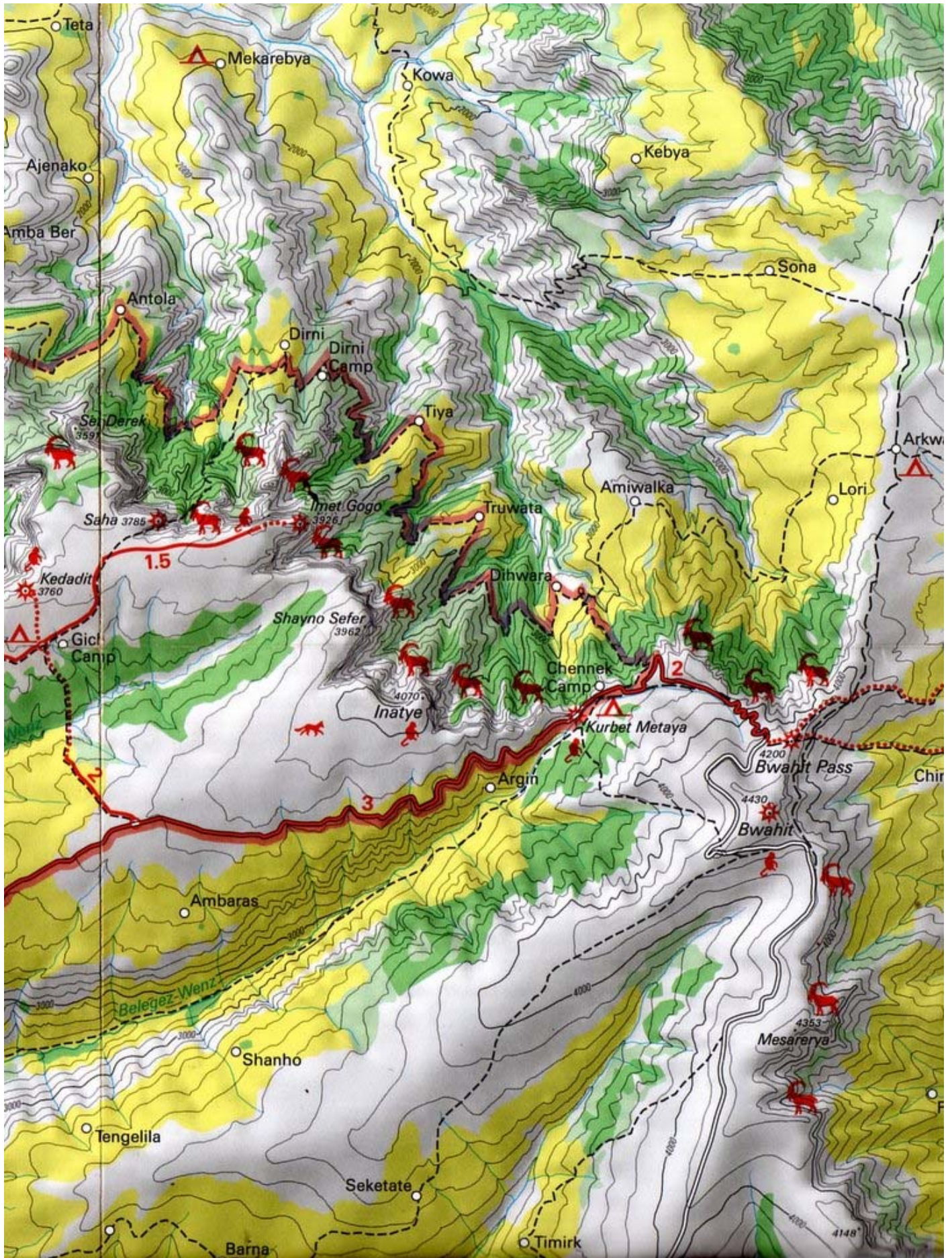
Number and distribution of wildlife: Nievergelt et al. (1996), Hurni and Ludi (2000), and information delivered by the staff of the Simien Mountains National Park (2001).

Compilation of tourist and trekking information on back cover: Patrick Sieber and Hans Hurni (2001-2003), based on Hurni (1982), information delivered by the staff of the Simien Mountains National Park and by tourist guides of the Walya Guide Association in Debark, especially Mr. Gelaye Tsega and Mr. Getinet Akalu.

Project

This second edition of the Simien Mountains Ethiopia Trekking Map is an output of a special project of the "Eastern and Southern Africa Partnership Programme" (ESAPP) implemented by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Berne, and executed by the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Berne, Switzerland in collaboration with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation (EWCO), Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI) and Amhara Regional State Tourism Commission.





Flora and fauna in the Simen Mountains National Park

The varied topography of the Simen Mountains National Park offers a habitat to a wide range of animals and plants. The following is a compilation of data on some prominent endemic species found in the Park.

Walya ibex (*Capra ibex waliae*)

The Walya ibex has become a national symbol, and the species is the primary asset for tourism development in the Simen Mountains. It is endemic to the Simen Mountains, and is one of the most endangered mammal species in the world. The low number of animals, poaching, and the very restricted areas of remaining habitat threatened to eradicate the species altogether. Walya ibex live on the steep slopes and grassy ledges of the escarpment. Their number, as estimated by international experts, fluctuated from around 150 individuals in 1969 to about 400 in 1989, and to 250 individuals in 1996 (Nievergelt et al., 1998). Recent counts by the local Park staff estimate that the number of Walya ibex has risen (2003).



Photo by Bernhard Nievergelt



Photo by Bernhard Nievergelt

Walya ibex seem to react flexibly to direct pressure and to impacts on their habitat. While their main habitat was the central part of the present National Park in the mid-1960s, they expanded their habitat to the area around Sankaber and to the eastern part of the high plateau after the establishment of the National Park in 1969. Military fighting in the western areas near Sankaber in 1989 and 1990 led to intense disturbance of the animals, which was further exacerbated by increased poaching in these areas. The surviving ibex moved towards the eastern parts of the Park and beyond, and were increasingly spotted in the most inaccessible parts of the escarpment.

Most of the threats to long-term protection of the species are caused by human disturbance. In 1994, an estimated 15,000 people were living or cultivating land within the Simen Mountains National Park (Hurni and Ludi, 2000). Parts of the steep cliffs – representing the main habitat of Walya ibex – are used for (shifting) cultivation, livestock grazing and fuelwood collection. This steadily expanding human use leads to soil degradation and overgrazing, and finally to the use of areas that are only marginally suitable for agriculture.

Simen fox or Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis simensis*)

The second large mammal found in the Park is the Simen fox. This species is endemic to Ethiopia. It was already rare in the Simen Mountains when the National Park was established. In 1990, the species was registered as endangered in the Red Data Book of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The Simen fox population in the Simen Mountains is estimated to be only about 40 animals, approximately one quarter of which live within Park boundaries. Simen foxes are mostly found in afro-alpine mountain habitats at altitudes above 3600 m asl. A larger population lives in the Bale Mountains National Park in southern Ethiopia. With a total number of less than 400 animals in Ethiopia, it is questionable whether the species is in a position to ensure population viability in the long term. As with the Walya ibex, the main threat for the species is poaching and decreasing habitat.

Gelada baboon (*Theropithecus gelada*)

The Gelada baboon, also called 'The Bleeding Heart Baboon', is endemic to Ethiopia. The animals are found on most of the highland plateaus of the Simen Mountains, inside and outside the Park, and their total number has been estimated at more than 3000 animals. Due to the absence of natural enemies, the population is still on the increase. The baboons live in herds of 100 to 200 animals, and their occurrence has been reported from most highland areas above 3000 m asl. As the Gelada baboons are not too shy, the animals can easily be approached. The main diet of the Gelada baboon consists of grasses and roots. This has led to conflicts with peasants, who fear extensive destruction of their crops.



Photo by Hilda Graf



Photo by Fritz Bucher

Birds

More than 180 bird species are found in the Simen Mountains. Six species are endemic to Simen. Among the most spectacular bird species in the area are the Bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), the Tawny eagle (*Aquila rapax*) and the Thick-billed raven (*Corvus crassirostris*).



Photo by Eva Ludi



Photo by Hilda Graf

Flora

In addition to the varied fauna, the Simen Mountains boast a unique flora. Three different vegetation belts can be distinguished. The highest altitudinal belt is the afro-alpine steppe belt, found above 3700 m asl. This grassland zone is characterized by the occurrence of the giant Lobelia (*Lobelia rhynchopetalum*). Measuring up to 10 m in height, the plant grows for as long as twenty years before flowering for the first time and then dying.

The next lower altitudinal belt situated between 3000 and 3700 m asl – the Ericaceous belt – takes its name from the various forms of Erica bushes and trees that are found in this zone. The most prominent form is the giant Heath (*Erica arborea*), which was once widely found in the Park. Increasing demand for fuelwood has tremendously reduced its distribution and occurrence.

The lowest altitudinal belt inside the Park, between 2000 and 3000 m asl, is called the afro-montane forest belt. It is mainly found at the bottom of the steep parts of the escarpment, in the lowland areas to the north of the Park. This vegetation belt is characterized by sclerophyllous trees in general, and the presence of the Ethiopian Tid (*Juniperus procera*) as well as various species of Acacia in particular.