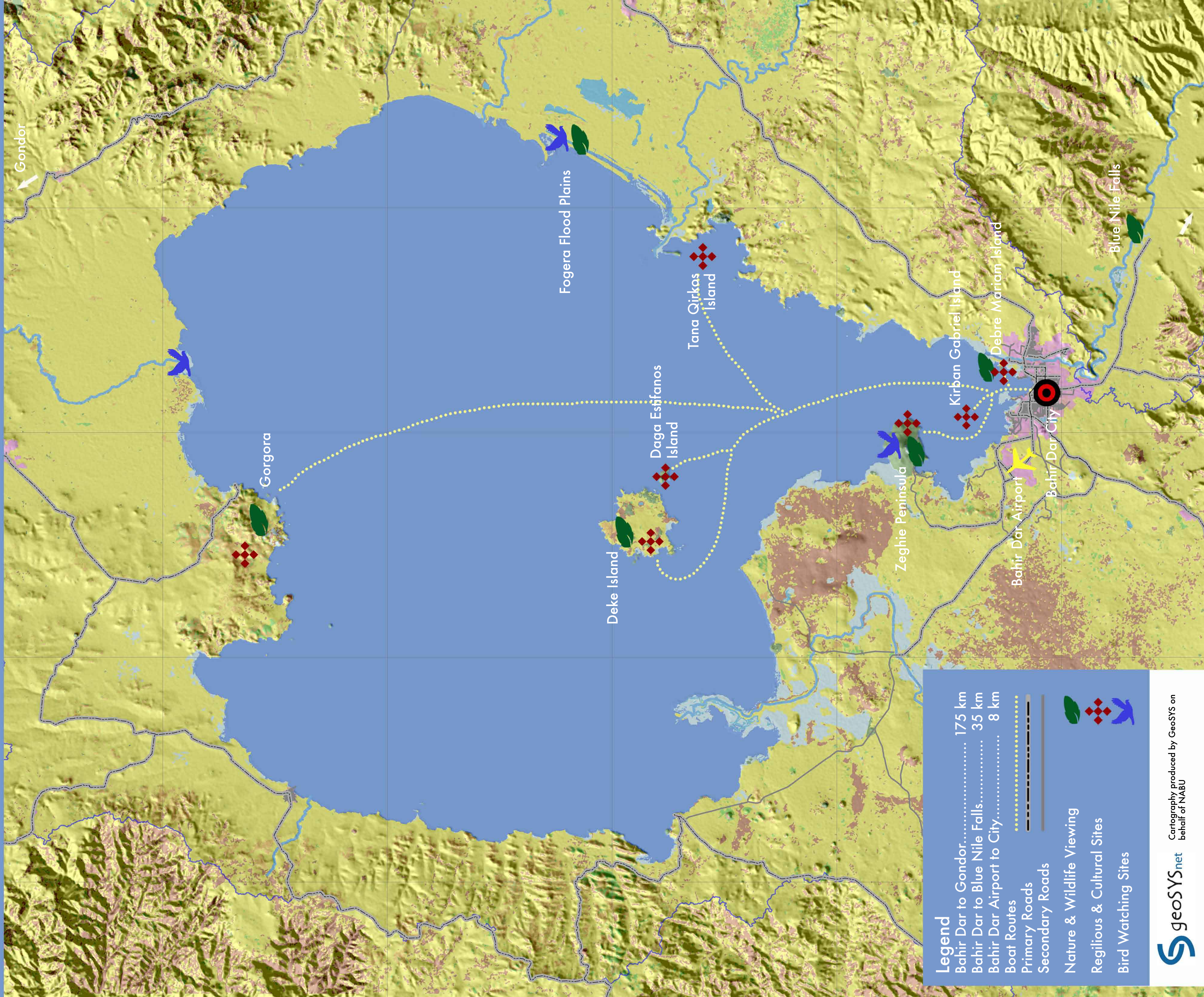




Lake Tana Ecotourism Destinations



Legend

Bahir Dar to Gondor.....

175 km

Bahir Dar to Blue Nile Falls.....

35 km

Bahir Dar Airport to City.....

8 km

Boat Routes

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Primary Roads

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Secondary Roads

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Nature & Wildlife Viewing

Religious & Cultural Sites

Bird Watching Sites



Lake Tana Ecotourism Destinations Map



NABU, The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, is implementing the project 'For people and nature – Establishment of a UNESCO biosphere reserve at Lake Tana, Ethiopia jointly with Michael Succow Foundation from 2012 up to 2015. Lake Tana area which belongs to the higher catchment area of the Blue Nile is located in the Amhara National Regional State (ANRS) in the North West of the Ethiopian highlands (10°58' -12°47' northern latitude/ 36°45' -38°14' east longitude). The target area covers the lake adjacent areas which are part of the catchment area and comprises the three zones of West Gojam, South Goandar, and North Goandar (divided into 10 Woredas including Bahir Dar City administration and more than 135 Kebeles).

The fertile region with its thousands of years of cultural history is of national and international significance for biodiversity and cultural landscape heritage. The lake is Ethiopia's biggest and most elevated fresh water lake and as the source of the Blue Nile represents the water tower of Africa. Its water resource is the fundamnent for agriculture and fishing and feeds the surrounding wetlands.

Increasing pressure on ecosystems and their natural resources resulted in massive land degradation, erosion and eutrophication of the lake with considerable effects on flora and fauna. The project seeks to support the region to become a UNESCO biosphere reserve in order to conserve valuable habitats and cultural features and foster regional sustainable development.

Contact Information

Bahir Dar Tourism Information Center:

Bahir Dar Boat Service Association:

Bahir Dar Guides:

Zeghie Tour Guide Association:

Zeghie Peninsula Ecotourism Association:

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www.laketana-bioshpere.com



The vibrant hub of Lake Tana, Bahir Dar City is the starting point for your adventure. Explore the handcraft marketplaces, visit Emperor Halie Sessalies' Palace or take in a panoramic view of the Blue Nile River and Lake Tana from Bezawit Hill. In Bahir Dar you can find quality accommodation and experienced tour guides. You can obtain more information from the Bahir Dar City Tourism Information Center at the airport and organize tours with the Bahir Dar City Guides and the Bahir Dar Boat Service Association.

Bahir Dar City

Experience the majesty of the birth of the Nile River at the Blue Nile Falls, known locally as Tiss Isat. Bask in the mist of the 40-meter high waterfall, take in the vast surrounding nature and refresh yourself with a warming cup of Ethiopian buna or chai. Communities have established handcraft shops and tea stalls for visitors to enjoy.



Fogera Flood Plains

A haven for migratory birds, the Fogera Flood Plains is a true adventure. Virtually untouched, the rural village offers you an opportunity to see daily life on the lake.



Rising out of misty waters of Lake Tana, the Zeghie Peninsula is among the highlights of any visit to northern Ethiopia. During the boat ride, visitors leave behind the bustle of Bahir Dar and slip back in time to an ancient age. Once on shore, the peninsula offers a rich cultural experience, lush monastery forests, numerous endemic and migratory birds and an unparalleled historical journey. With four newly launched community-based ecotourism enterprises, you can have a truly authentic experience. The Zeghie Peninsula Ecotourism Association offers a range of products including: an interactive coffee tour, dining at an open air community restaurant, learning a new skill at the handcrafts demonstration site, purchasing locally produced crafts or staying overnight at the rustic campsite.

Tana Qirkos Island

Located on the eastern edge of the lake, Tana Qirkos is home to a small, male only monastery with a range of icons and frescos. According to legends, the Arc of the Covenant was kept for 800 years in the monastery. The island is also home to a church and worship area for women along with scenic views over the lake.



Gorgora

On the last frontier of Lake Tana, its northern shores, stand Gorgora. A pleasant village boasting a range of newly developed accommodation, Gorgora offers true relaxation. Visit nearby monasteries, hike in the hills or take a gentle boat ride on the lake.



Kibran Gabriel Island

The island boasts two monasteries. Kibran Gabriel is a unique 14th century monastery that showcases ancient manuscripts, crosses and other valuable artifacts. Travelers with little time can visit this nearby island to get a sense for the religious and historical significance. Men only are allowed to visit the Kibran Gabriel monastery, while women can visit Entos monastery and the museum built for this purpose.

Deka Island

The lush, forested shores of Deka Island rise out of the sparkling lake waters as you approach. Deka Island is the home of Nagra Silassie and other historical monasteries. Nagra Silassie was constructed in the 18th century by Empress Mintewab in the Gondor style. Deka Island offers a magical journey.



Daga Estifanos Island

Daga Estifanos Island is a short boat ride from Deka Island. Its male only monastery is rich with icons and frescos. The mausoleum contains the mummified remains of the bodies of five Medieval Ethiopian Emperors.

