## NATURE AND CULTURE



## Natural highlights

## **Cultural highlights**

- important ecosystems: freshwater lake, estuaries and streams, traditional agricultural lands, wetlands; church forests
- spectacular landscape: Ethiopia's largest lake, in
- rich history stretching back to the 13/14<sup>th</sup> century
- political and spiritual centre of the Ethiopian Christian faith

total 37 islands, Blue Nile Falls, hot springs

## unique flora and fauna:

- around 300 bird species
- hippos, Nile monitors, monkeys
- 21 endemic fish species to Lake Tana
- over 180 woody plant species

• very important resting and feeding site for birds that migrate between Europe, Asia and Africa

- historical monasteries on twenty islands, some dating back to the 13th century
- handcrafts, annual festivals, lifestyles of the local community (coffee ceremonies, local markets, etc.)
- Bahir Dar ("by the sea" in Amharic) is the regional capital of Amhara, bustling town











