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**Betsega Tour & Travel**



**WELCOME TO ETHIOPIA  
TOURISM AND SOLIDARITY !**





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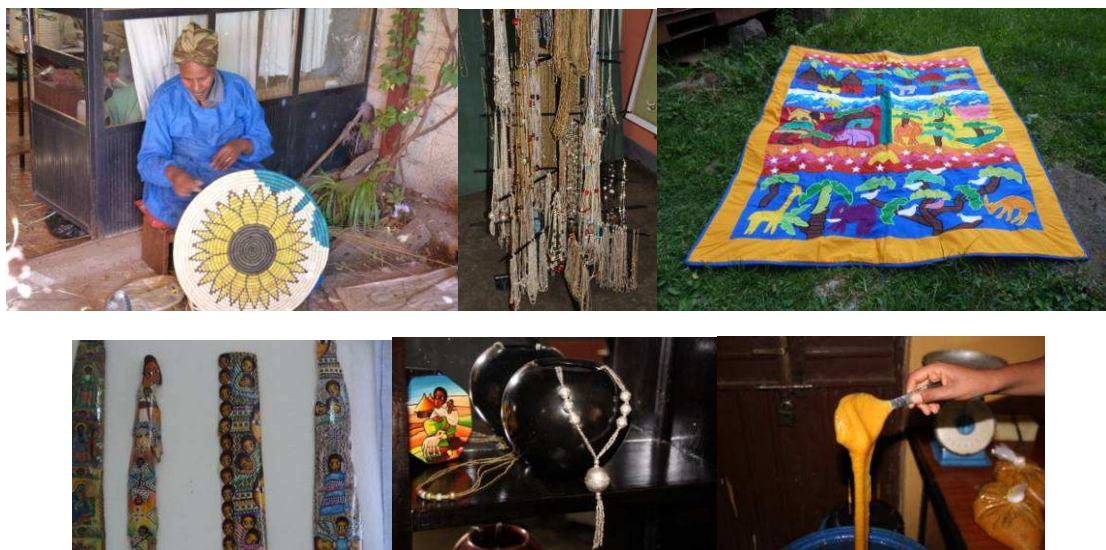
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# ***BETSEGA***

## ***PROJECTS***



***Presentation of the projects we support***

## 1. IN ADDIS ABEBA

### - **BEZA:**

BEZA is a community development association, which aim it is to offer a job in dignity to HIV positive or sick women, so that they can integrate the society and raise their children. BEZA is part of an ethiopian NGO «Entoto Beth Artisans» and is proposing entirely hand-made jewels, created from local recycled materials: Farmers are collecting old bullets they find on their fields (proof of the many fights in the northern part of Ethiopia), they make very tiny pieces out of them, to create the jewels! Women are creating necklaces etc. and integrate other natural materials such as roasted coffee beans that are vernished one by one, from hand, etc. Everything is handmade, from the paper (made with a very ancient hand technique) for the labels, to the small cotton bags in which the jewels will be wrapped when you buy them. Nothing gets lost and everything looks just beautiful! You can visit the project and see the women at work, really worthwhile!



### - **WEAVERS COOPERATIVE AND SCARVES IN SHIROMEDA :**

This project is aiming at allowing women, who were originally carrying eucalyptus wood (35 kg each!) from the top of the Entoto Mountains down to the city, running, to find another job when they cannot carry this heavy weight any longer. In order to give them the possibility to earn their living, this weavers cooperative has been created, together with a small shop where you can just spend hours looking for the scarf you are dreaming about... Be sure you will find it here! There are hundreds of them, in all possible colours, they are beautiful, good quality, and cheap!





- **GEM ART: PAINTED PIECES OF WOOD:**

Workshop of young artists, who were part of the Ethiopian Gemini Trust and now try to earn their lives with their own creations. They offer a good choice of painted pieces of wood, very original and very high quality, and are fighting to be able to become independant and live from their art... Go and have a look! The only problem is that most of the pieces are quite big and not quite easy to transport by plane, but some are smaller...



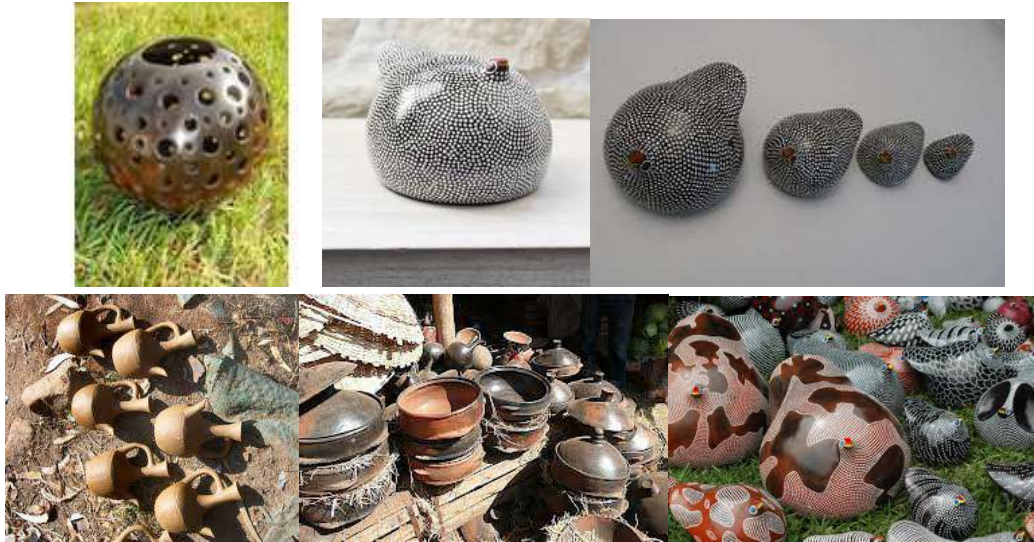
- **OSSA: PLAYING BLANKETS, CUSHION, BEDCOVERS...**

This is a very nice project, giving the chance for HIV positive women without professionnall qulaifications to earn their living by creating very pleasant colourful designs. They sew bedcovers, playing blankets for children, or for wall decoration, cushions, smaller items as well... in beautiful bright colours, using african style objects and landscapes (acacia trees, tukuls, animals). Original presents! Just visit them...



- **KECHENE POTERY:**

This cooperative is accessible to very vulnerable women without a job. They are creating very beautiful pottery, either the traditional black one (pots, plates and all kinds of decorative items) or more modern creations which have made them famous, such as the spotted hens in all sizes and now different colours. Excellent quality and you can watch the working ladies...



- **SALEM'S BASKETS:**

Salem is quite a special place. At first, this was not a social aiming project, but rather a commercial and quite luxurious place creating and selling quite expensive jewels and other «high-class» handicrafts. But one day, another NGO we were supporting for many years had to close, leaving some thirty women without any job. These women were excellent for creating baskets and really had developed perfect skills. And Salem decided to take them all over, so that they might keep their jobs! This is why we also go on looking at them working with pleasure!





## - **GEFERSA POTERY ... AND OTHER THINGS**

This is a beautiful location, a bit outside of Addis, in a wonderful eucalyptus forest, close to a small lake, a nice place to spend the afternoon...This project is giving a job to very vulnerable women: most of them make pottery, but other activities are also taking place on the site: you can picnic in the forest, share a delicious tea or coffee, and other women are creating wonderful garden furniture from Bamboo, some grow spices etc. in a very peaceful atmosphere.



There are plenty of other similar projects in and around Addis, this list is not exhaustive, and we enjoy sharing their vision of dignity and social integration with you!

## - **ZULULTA ORPHANAGE**

The children BETSEGA is sponsoring are coming from this orphanage: For every person who makes a two-weeks tour with us, BETSEGA will sponsor 6 months of school fees for one child! Axum knows the Director, and you can visit the orphanage if you have some time, it is about one hour from Addis... and there is a branch in Addis too.



## 2. IN THE NORTH

### - **AMAR ORGANIC HONEY PRODUCTION**

This organisation is coordinating the efforts of more than 700 small honey producers: together, they got organised to sell their pure honey... just delicious! This honey has a lot of success and is not often available in Addis, you better go and get it straight from the spot, close to Bahir Dar.



### - **AWRA AMBA COMMUNITY VILLAGE :**

This village is very special and is a real pioneer in Ethiopia. The chief, Ato Zumra, has always had quite new ideas in this very traditional country: full equality between men and women, for instance in sharing the everyday activities, community based support to vulnerable people, such as orphans and old people, sick people etc. and the fact that religion is an entirely personal matter: no religious office, no church in the village, no religious holidays! Work is shared by all the village people according to their abilities and the money is divided amongst all! And it works! They will welcome you, show you around, there is a small community guesthouse... with basic comfort! Immersion of some hours – or some days- is a unique experience: what an interesting social project! We like it!





### 3. IN THE SOUTH

#### - CHENCHA COMMUNITY:

CHENCHA is a village in the DORZE area, in the South, close to Arba Minch. The people got organized amongst themselves to invite the tourists to come and see their village and their way of life. They integrate them into their daily activities, such as weaving, preparing enset, a plant very similar to a banana tree, also called «wrong banana». You can sometimes visit their market place, depending on the day, and can even dress as warriors! They also have a «basic» guesthouse and sell handicrafts such as original wool hats, because Chenchas live in the mountains... and it is cold at night!

