Southern Ethiopia

The Omo River Valley Tribes

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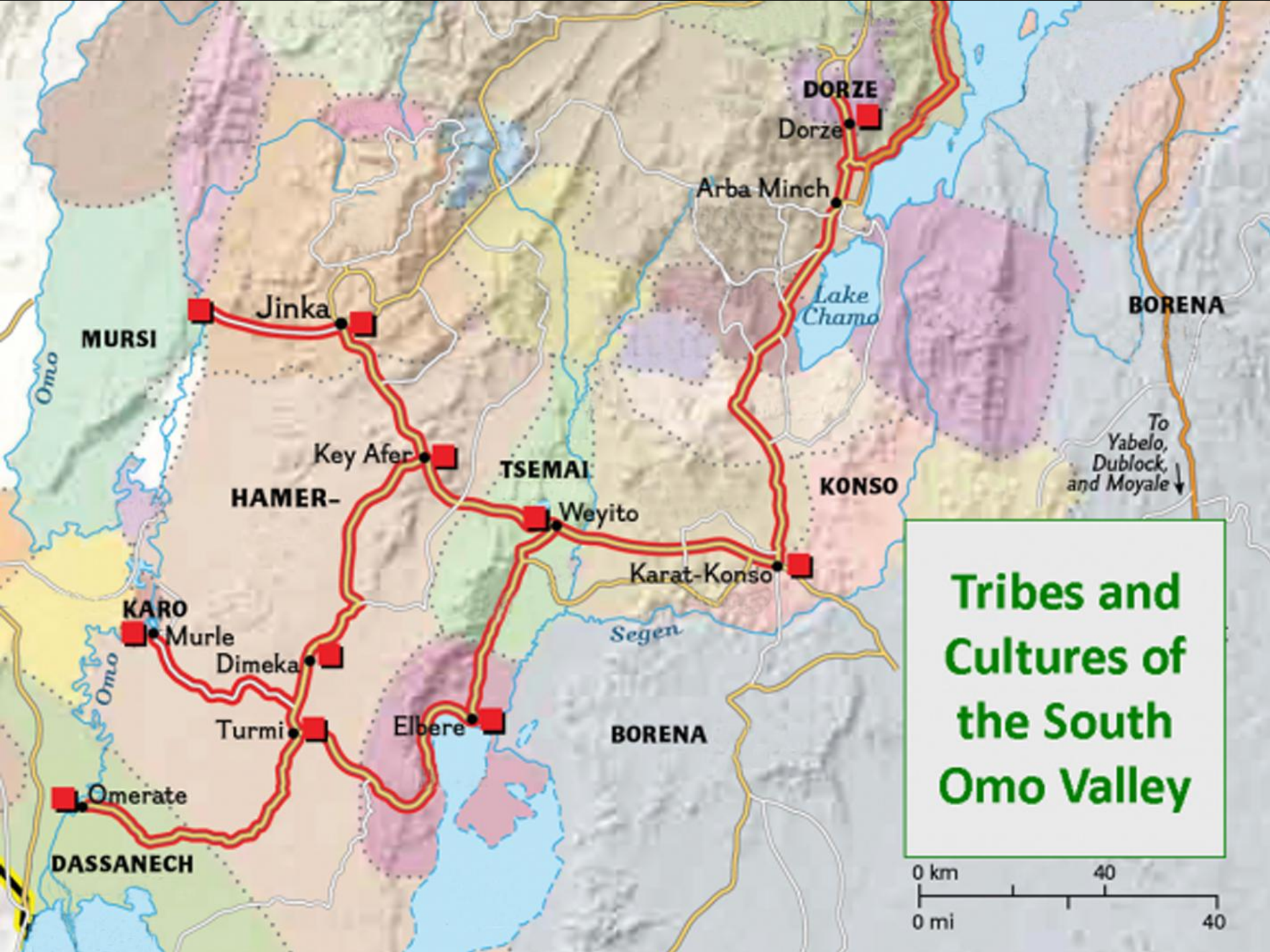
The Lower Omo Valley of Southern Ethiopia is home to some of the world's last unchanged tribal groups.

The area is a melting pot of cultures and communities and represents some of the greatest genetic variance on the continent.

Many have described the Omo as being the birthplace of mankind.

Khartoum
ERITREA
YEMEN
SUDAN
White
Blue Nile
Djibouti
Addis Ababa
SOUTH SUDAN
ETHIOPIA
Omo
Valley
SOMALIA
UGANDA
KENYA
Lake
Victoria
RWANDA


Tribes and Cultures of the South Omo Valley
DORZE
Dorze
Arba Minch
Lake Chamo
BORENA
To Yabelo, Dublock, and Moyale
MURSI
Jinka
Omo
Key Afer
TSEMAI
HAMER-
Weyito
KONSO
Karat-Konso
KARO
Murle
Dimeka
Segen
Omo
Turmi
Elbere
BORENA
Omerate
DASSANECH
0 km
40
0 mi
40

Shalla Lakes NP.

Arba Minch

Fatima

ESPRESSO
ESPRESSO

Dorze Tribe

A house in a Dorze village is referred to as an Elephant house because of its shape.

The houses can be as high as 12 meters.

They are made of timber frames with bamboo walls.

Cattle are sometimes kept within the houses.

CANAD'A

Rue

Konso Tribe

Bede village market

The Konso are mostly known for their wagas, which are wooden carvings depicting ancestral images.

As an important person dies, local carvers create a waga.

Most Konso live in the village of Karat-Konso, often just called Konso. Rings of defensive high rock walls encircle the village.

Over the centuries, the Konso have extensively terraced the surrounding hills for growing crops.

Bede

BOB MARLEY

Rue leaves

Enset - False banana

Senna

Benna

The semi-nomadic Benna number about 10,000.

They keep cattle, sheep and goats and live east of the Omo River, north of Lake Turkana close to the border with Kenya.

During the dry season the Benna collect and sell wild honey at local tribal markets.

Apple of Sodom

Mursi

The Mursi, traditionally a migratory community, have a population of around 8,000. The Mursi place considerable importance on cattle, the exchange of which marks most relationships, such as marriage.

The Mursi's cultural history is kept alive through a rich oral tradition of storytelling.

The most distinctive feature of the Mursi women is the ornamental clay disk (debhinya) worn in their bottom lip as a symbol of beauty and adulthood. When a girl is in her early teenage years, her bottom lip is cut and kept open with the clay disk until it heals. Ear lobe holes are cut at about five years old.

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ማጎ ብሔራዊ ፓርክ
Welcome to
MAGO NATIONAL PARK
-Head Quarter 27 k.m
Visitors Guide
First contact the head quarter & Get detailed Informations from the information center of the park head quarter.
come through Tour operator agencies or use insured Vehcles.
You should bring your own camp equipments & food.
Obtain a copy of reciept of an entrance fee.
Note that just after 1k.m you are in the park area. Drive slowly.
Prohibited Activities in the Park area
Collecting wild flora, fauna & their products.
Carrying machine guns.
Those activities that contradict conservation rules & regulations.

Hamar

The men of the Hamar tribe are known for their Bull Jumping ceremony. A young man who wishes to marry must jump on top of a line of 10 to 30 bulls and run along their backs four times, completely naked and without falling, to prove their worth to the family of the woman they intend to marry. After this ceremony, the man is able to marry, own cattle, and have children.

A ritual is part of this ceremony where women blow horns and shout taunts at male members of their family. The women allow themselves to be whipped until they bleed as a symbol of their devotion to the men.

The Hamar women fix their hair in short, dense ringlets and mix in butterfat and red ochre to give it a characteristic dark red colour. These tresses are known as *goscha*.

ForEquity

HEVROLET

fashion

ETHIOPI
BULLS
23

CONTENTS
100K.G

Daasanach

The Daasanach tribe are found in the most southern part of the Omo Valley around Omorate with a population of about 20,000. They live near to where the Omo River delta enters Lake Turkana.

They are primarily pastoral people, growing maize, beans, tobacco and pumpkins. During dry seasons they rely on their cattle and goats for milk, meat, and hides.

Their homes are dome-shaped, made from branches covered with hides and sometimes with iron sheeting. They have their own unique language.

Women wear pleated cow skin skirts with many decorative bead bracelets and necklaces.

Karo

The Karo are a semi-nomadic tribe with a population of around 2,000. They live on the eastern bank of the Omo River and are related to the Hamar tribe with whom they share many traditions.

The Karo were forced to adapt to cultivation (corn, beans, and pumpkins) when disease wiped out their cattle.

Their cone-shaped huts use wooden poles woven together and covered with mud with roofs of straw.

Hairstyles form an important part of the Karo culture, with men's hair being braided, coloured, and decorated in elaborate styles using feathers and flowers. Both men and women adorn themselves exuberantly with coloured beads and use chalk paint to create intricate patterns on their bodies.

Key Afar Market

Tsemay

The Tsemay are a lesser-known tribe of around 10,000 people. They decorate themselves with colourful beads. The Tsemay are closely linked to the Daasanach and the Arbore peoples.

Ari

The Ari is the largest tribal group with nearly 300,000 people who live in the northern part of Mago National Park. Most are farmers growing coffee and sorghum together with cattle raising.
Most Ari villages have full-time potters and blacksmiths.

ANE

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Say No to Early Marriage! Support GirlS Education

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The End