

HAWASSA CHRONICLES

EDITION 02 | 12TH APRIL 2010

THE ROAD TO HAWASSA

Monday morning we had a sparse breakfast at around six in the morning with Ethiopian coffee and an enormous amount of cholesterol in the form of eggs. When satiated, we packed our belongings and grouped in waiting for our two minivans. We left early in order to skip the notorious morning traffic around Addis Abeba. After our drivers insisted they would need no help and, after trial and error, successfully managed to secure our property, we were off on a beautiful trip through the Great Rift Valley - a valley that starts in Ethiopia and runs all the way south to South Africa created by two tectonic plates moving away from each other.



On our way on prime asphalt we stopped on several occasions to munch on the sublime scenery and food alike. We passed large Bilharzia infested lakes, great planes stuffed with cacti and camels, a Rastafarai enclave and lake Langano in which I took a refreshing dive and ate freshly caught Tilapia fish (don't fret! This is the only lake without nasty parasites that want to proliferate in one's orifices).

Curious thing 'bout life inside Ethiopia is, that, contrary to many a Western world, people are not merely travelling from one location to another but actually living life on the street in every imaginable way. Watching from inside the minivan as we sped on with 120 km/h (estimate, because the speedometer was broken and no gps signal could be triangulated) time passed quickly and satisfactorily.

On entry, Hawassa proved to be an American styled city with blocks of flats and smaller residents interconnected through asphalt and awash with 'Bakshas' (Tuk Tuk aka Rikshah aka ...). Once at our hotel, we refreshed ourselves and I was pleasantly introduced to a mixed juice of super fresh pineapple, avocado, oranges and lime... the perfect foundation for beer, beer and more beer...

The night passed pleasantly, albeit my dear boss Detlef managed to compete effectively with the sawmill next door. *wink wink*



DID YOU KNOW THAT ISUZU TRUCKS ARE CALLED AL QUAIDA TRUCKS BECAUSE THE BREAK DOWN ON THE ROAD AND CAUSE QUITE A FEW ACCIDENTS?