



# BORN FREE ENSESSA KOTTEH VISITOR INFORMATION

**Ensessa Kotteh is not a visitor attraction or a zoo. We are a working wildlife rescue centre. However, we welcome limited numbers of visitors wishing to learn about our work, the importance of biodiversity and good animal welfare practices, as well as what we can all do to help.**

- Born Free Ethiopia does not charge any fees for rescue centre tours or entry into the education centre
- Tips are not accepted
- Donations towards Born Free Ethiopia's work are welcome and receipts given accordingly
- Ensessa Kotteh rules must be followed at all times.

Please call **+251 (0)11835 3563** or email **bffeinfo@gmail.com** for booking and further information (**[www.bornfree.org.uk/international-education](http://www.bornfree.org.uk/international-education)**).

**There are three types of visits to Ensessa Kotteh.**

## 1. SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

Born Free Ethiopia is dedicated to educating students about animal welfare, conservation and the illegal wildlife trade. These four-hour guided education experiences include sessions within the education centre as well as a visit to the rescue centre – **tailored towards students aged seven years and over.**

School visits must be booked in advance and school groups must arrive on time.

**Languages:** English, Amharic and Oromifa.

**Days:** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

**People:** Maximum 45 people, including students and teachers.

**Timings:** 9:00am to 1:15pm (3 to 7:15 Ethiopian time).

## 2. EDUCATION CENTRE VISIT (THE TREE HOUSE)

The education centre is open to the public on Sundays. It provides reading material, history and information on Ethiopia's native wildlife and ecosystems in three languages: English, Amharic and Oromifa. There is also a small library (coming soon), a picnic area, coffee and snack stand, and opportunities to see the abundant birds and wildlife living in the area.

In addition, but not guaranteed, there are limited opportunities to sign up for guided rescue centre visits for that day or in the future. We recommend that people book rescue centre visits in advance, to avoid disappointment. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Languages:** English, Amharic and Oromifa.

**Day:** Sunday.

**Timings:** Open 9am to 4.30pm (3 to 10.30 Ethiopian time).

**There is no guarantee of a tour of the rescue centre.**

### 3. RESCUE CENTRE VISIT

Spaces for rescue centre visits are limited and booking in advance is recommended as spaces do fill up quickly. The rescue centre tour is a 45-60 minute guided tour for a maximum of 10 people at a time. The guided tour includes visiting a number of the animals rescued from the illegal wildlife and pet trades, as well as walking through the forest and learning about the native ecosystem.

Please note that the rescued animals may stay out of sight during the tour – which is their choice. It is important to note that Ensessa Kotteh is not a zoo, rather a home for the rescued animals and we must respect them. After the rescue centre visit, people are welcome to stay and enjoy the education centre. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Day:** Sunday.

**Timings:** **10 walk-ins** at 10am and 11.30am (4 and 5.30 Ethiopian time).

**10 pre-booked** at 1.30pm and 3pm (7.30 and 9 Ethiopian time).

### CENTRE CLOSURE

Ensessa Kotteh is **completely closed** to all visitors Mondays, Fridays and during the rainy season.

### ACCESS

- The centre is located on the Ambo Road between Menegesha and Holeta
- There is a 20 minute wilderness trail walk from the entrance gate (parking area) to the education centre
- More accessible parking is available for visitors with limited mobility.

### CENTRE RULES

**Visitors are welcome to stay and enjoy Ensessa Kotteh if they follow these simple rules:**

- Your guide and centre staff will help you get the most from this experience. Please stay with them and follow their instructions at all times
- The rails protect both you and the animals. Please do not climb on them
- Keep cameras and phones well away from the fences, and leave selfie sticks in your car
- Please be quiet as our animals do not like noise
- Wild animals have special diets so please do not feed them. The wrong food can make them sick
- Respect our site and take your litter with you
- Please leave all plants and animals here, where they belong
- This area is strictly alcohol, drug and smoke free
- For the safety of our animals and visitors, no pets or firearms are allowed on site
- Toilets are located at the Tree House for your use.